

Mime London



contemporary visual theatre

2026 season

MimeLondon

supporting contemporary visual theatre

Welcome to MimeLondon, an occasional series of curated international physical and visual theatre. The 2026 season runs 21-31 January.

Like our previous, long-running venture, London International Mime Festival, MimeLondon promotes work that's edgy and unusual, created and performed by exceptional artists. As well as performance and film, the season offers specialist workshops led by experts in their fields.

Scheduled building work at the Barbican makes this longstanding partner venue's theatres unavailable to us this January, but we're excited to be collaborating with Sadler's Wells East for the first time, plus regular venues The Peacock, The Place and Shoreditch Town Hall. In the present, artistically risk-averse climate we thank all our venue partners for their enthusiastic support in bringing the excitement of new forms and experiment to London audiences.

Coming in October 2026: We are delighted to be collaborating with the Southbank Centre to present the UK premiere of French circus-theatre company Baro d'evel, with its award-winning hit QUI SOM (WHO ARE WE)?

Helen Lannaghan & Joseph Seelig
MimeLondon Directors



'Too amazing for words - it's the best physical theatre from around the world'

Time Out

'One of the pleasures... has always been its flagrant disregard for British theatre's tendency to put art into boxes... constantly tempts us out of our comfort zones'

The Guardian

'An enormous impact on British theatre'

WhatsOnStage

'January in London always means the varied, zany mime festival, when international performers can be enjoyed without a language barrier... I invariably leave the mime festival invigorated and touched'

Quentin Letts

MimeLondon.com >

Photo: Compagnie Le Fils du Grand Réseau

Bigre / Fishbowl

© Fabienne Rappeneau

Front cover photo: Gecko The Wedding

© Malachy Luckie

Gecko

The Wedding

Sadler's Wells East
Wed 21 > Sat 24 Jan

Wed - Sat 7.30pm. Sat mat 2.30pm

BOOK NOW >

We are all married, bound by a contract.
But what are the terms of this relationship?
And can we consider a divorce?

The Wedding is inspired by the complexities of human nature: the struggle between love and anger, creation and destruction, community and isolation. Everything is laid bare for the audience to see in this reimagined version of physical theatre company Gecko's highly successful production, which was a huge sellout hit at LIMF2019.

In a blur of wedding dresses and contractual obligations, Gecko's extraordinary ensemble of international performers guide audiences through a dystopian world in which we are all brides, wedded to society.

Combining movement, imagery and provocative narratives in Gecko's trademark style, *The Wedding* brings matrimonial contracts into question with an emotionally charged and spectacular performance.

We all want to believe in our journey, but where are we heading?
Is it too late to stop, to go back, to fall in love, to start again?

Runs 75 mins/no interval

Age guidance: 14+

After-show discussion Thu 22 Jan (BSL interpreted)

geckotheatre.com

Photos: © Malachy Luckie



'There's a terrific ensemble at work in a show that bursts with the joy of union'

The Guardian

'It's glorious, honest and funny, performed with heart and presented with distinct style'

Official London Theatre

'Heart pounding drama... get ready to be blown away'

The Reviews Hub

Workshop:

Gecko leads a 2-day workshop

Shoreditch Town Hall

31 Jan-1 Feb

View trailer >



Sadiq Ali Company

Tell Me

The Place

Fri 23 > Sat 24 Jan

London Premiere

Fri - Sat 7.30pm

BOOK NOW >

From the makers of the five star *The Chosen Haram* comes *Tell Me*, a striking fusion of circus, dance and theatre.

Through Chinese Pole and aerial artistry, *Tell Me* follows a woman navigating her HIV diagnosis, her hopes, her dreams, her fears and ultimately her reality living with the virus in 2026. This highly physical performance draws from the lived experience of director Sadiq Ali as both a circus artist and HIV activist who creates intimate yet visually spectacular performances.

Tell Me challenges outdated perceptions and offers audiences a fresh perspective on HIV, one rooted in courage, beauty and possibility.

Runs 60 mins/no interval

Age guidance: 14+

Content warning: contains haze/smoke, strobe and flashing lights, references to illness/death, alcohol consumption, partial nudity and adult themes.

Aftershow discussion Fri 23 Jan

Produced by Turtle Key Arts

sadiqsadiq.com

'An astonishing fusion of circus and storytelling'

Fest Mag -

on *The Chosen Haram*

'Powerful, strong and sensual'

The Queer Review -

on *The Chosen Haram*

'Beautifully choreographed, totally unmissable'

The Recs -

on *The Chosen Haram*

View trailer >



Compagnie Le Fils du Grand Réseau

Bigre/Fishbowl

Sadler's Wells
Peacock Theatre in Holborn
Wed 28 > Sat 31 Jan London Premiere
Wed - Fri 8pm Sat 5pm

BOOK NOW >

For the single occupants of three neighbouring attic flats with paper-thin walls, nothing in daily life seems to go to plan. Small mishaps quickly become disasters amidst a deluge of brilliant physical gags, explosions, fires and storms.

Fishbowl / Bigre won France's prestigious Molière Award for best comedy of the year and has since toured internationally including a sold-out season at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Runs 85 mins/no interval
Age guidance: 8+
After-show discussion Wed 28 Jan
(BSL interpreted)

pierreguillois.fr/en/spectacle/bigre/

Photos: ©Fabienne Rappeneau



'Each twist and turn of the narrative is so perfectly observed. It's akin to watching a full-colour, live-action silent movie, complete with an upbeat score and some wonderfully constructed physical gags. It's Mr Bean meets Rising Damp'

The Stage

'The laughs just keep on coming'

Le Figaro

'Neighbours in an apartment block squabble, fall in love and steal each other's biscuits in a delightful piece of comedy theatre'

The Guardian



[View trailer >](#)

Ockham's Razor

Collaborator

The Place

Thur 29 > Sat 31 Jan London Premiere

Thu-Sat 7.30pm

BOOK NOW >

Ockham's Razor returns with an intimate duet crafted and performed by its two Artistic Directors, Alex Harvey and Charlotte Mooney. For 20 years they have been making circus together, lifting, catching and carrying; stepping on and around each other. They have dropped each other and picked each other up.

Featuring two performers and a suspended frame: this is a show about creation and compromise. An irreverent, highly physical and heartfelt dive into navigating a relationship and the negotiation involved in making stuff.

For anyone who has ever tried to make something with someone else: a decision, a work of art, a life.

Collaborator: noun. Similar: co-worker, associate, colleague, partner, confederate, ally, teammate, assistant, helper, quisling, fraterniser, colluder, conspirator.

Runs 55 mins/no interval

Age guidance: 11+

After-show discussion Thu 23 Jan

Contains some spoken text

Fri 30 Jan BSL interpreted performance
signed by Jeni Draper

After-show discussion Fri 30 Jan (BSL interpreted)

ockhamsrazor.co.uk

Photos: Kai Cummings

Funded by Arts Council England and in
association with MimeLondon and
The Lowry, Salford

Created, Directed and Performed by Alex
Harvey and Charlotte Mooney
Produced by Alison King, Turtle Key Arts
Choreography by Nathan Johnston
Design & Equipment Concept -
Ockham's Razor
Costume Design - Tina Bicât



'Full of joy, wonder and delight.'

The Guardian on Ockham's Razor

**'There's something magical
about Ockham's Razor'**

Evening Standard

**'Thrilling aerial theatre from the
trailblazing Ockham's Razor'**

The Times



View trailer >

Baro d'evel

Qui Som/ Who Are We?

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

Wed 14 > Fri 16 Oct UK Premiere

Wed-Fri 7.30pm

BOOK NOW >

Extraordinary circus-theatre for the 21st century.

From award-winning French theatre company Baro d'evel comes this explosion of humour, colour, a dazzling, high-energy collision of dance, theatre, music, and clay. Welcome to a world where acrobats, clowns, musicians, and sculptors conjure a joyful, poetic universe of wonder.

Qui Som (Who are we)? Is a celebration of community and the wild power of dreaming, a waking-dream ceremony which invites you to lose yourself, rediscover yourself, and ask again: Who Are We?

Premiered to acclaim at the 2024 Avignon Festival, the show was met with standing ovations and has since delighted audiences wherever it has played. Now it makes its UK debut.

Runs 2 hours/no interval

Age guidance: 8+

Under-12s must be accompanied by an adult at the Southbank Centre. Content warning: contains strong language, loud music, flashing lights and nudity.

barodevel.com

Photos: Jerome Quadri, Christophe Reynaud del Lage

Presented by the Southbank Centre,
in collaboration with MimeLondon

Authors: Camille Decourtye and Blai Mateu Trias
With Lucia Bocanegra, Noémie Bouissou, Rita Carmo Martins, Julien Cassier, Camille Decourtye, Alima Hamel, Dimitri Jourde, Blai Mateu Trias or Claudio Stellato, Marti Soler, Voleak Ung, Guillermo Weickert.
Collaboration in directing: Maria Muñoz and Pep Ramis / Mal Pelo
Collaboration in dramaturgy: Barbara Métais-Chastanier
Set design and costumes: Lluç Castells
Lighting design: María de la Cámara and Gabriel Paré / Cube.bz
Musical collaboration and sound creation: Fanny Thollot
Musical collaboration and composing: Pierre-François Dufour
Material / colour research: Bonnefrite
Ceramic percussion engineer: Thomas Pachoud
Ceramist: Sébastien De Groot
Technical management: Romuald Simonneau
Accessoirist, Ceramist: Benjamin Porcedda
Stage management: Mathieu Miorin
Lights management: Enzo Giordana
Sound management: Cholé Levoy
Dresser: Alba Viader
Cook: Ricardo Gaiser
Managing director / Promotion: Laurent Ballay
Production administrator: Caroline Mazeaud
Production manager: Pierre Compayré
Administration assistant : Élie Astier
Production: Baro d'evel

'Breathtaking acrobatics and just as many spectacular falls. From the moment the performers appear in their clay-whitened outfits, their faces hidden beneath unfired terracotta pots transformed by their skilful fingers into monstrous heads, all bets are off. Chaos reigns...'

La Provence

'The members of Baro d'Evel strike a chord with the way they navigate the world's bewildering chaos. Their responses? Beauty, (bitter) humour... spectacular acrobatics, and show us incredible, Burtonesque, elongated insect-like creatures''

LeNouvelObs

View trailer >



Murray & Evans Lecture

Reclaiming mime from the condescension of posterity

St Anne's Church Soho W1D 6AF
and online via Zoom

Sat 24 Jan 7.30 - 9pm

BOOK NOW >

This talk by **Mark Evans** and **Simon Murray** will be presented in the form of a performative conversation around the themes, ideas, perceptions, contexts, personalities, histories and controversies enshrined in their recently published book, *Mime into Physical Theatre: a UK Cultural History 1970 – 2000*.

Mark and Simon will reflect on how and why mime has often been the object of derision or disdain from both the university sector and – in a different way – within popular culture. They will consider the complex cultural conditions which framed and gave rise to these practices, and some of the key figures (both artists and other cultural workers) and organisations involved in performing and enabling this work. Drawing upon their own experiences as professional performers, teachers and theatre makers in the 1980s and '90s, and later as academics, they will offer a blend of analysis, history, personal stories and documentation in relation to mime and its bastard and unruly child, physical theatre.

Their conversation will reflect on the intersections between gender, class, sexuality and race in the making and performing of this work, the significance of often heated debates about training for mime and physical theatre, and the reasons for the campaigning zeal of mime activists in the late '70s and '80s in Scotland, Wales and across the UK, including, of course, in London and the South East.



Mark Evans is Professor of Theatre Training and Education at Coventry University. After training in Paris with Jacques Lecoq, Philippe Gaulier and Monika Pagneux in the early 1980s, Mark worked on the London Fringe until moving full-time into teaching. He has published widely on Jacques Copeau, Jacques Lecoq, UK mime and physical theatre, and actor and performer training. He wrote the critical introduction to the 2020 edition of Jacques Lecoq's seminal book 'The Moving Body'.

Simon Murray is Honorary Senior Research Fellow in Theatre Studies at the University of Glasgow. He trained with Philippe Gaulier and Monika Pagneux in Paris (1986/87) and was a professional performer and theatre maker for 12 years working in the fields of mime and physical theatre.



STR lectures are free and open to the public. You don't have to be a member, but it is essential to book to attend in person or join via Zoom. Links to the livestream will be emailed to those who have booked and also added to mimelondon.com before it starts.

Photo: Lindsay Kemp & David Houghton in *Flowers* photo by Richard Houghton

Sherlock Jr + Cops

Buster Keaton Double Bill Film Screening

Barbican Cinema 1

Sun 25 Jan 1pm & 3pm

BOOK NOW >

**Silent Film with live piano accompaniment
by John Sweeney.**

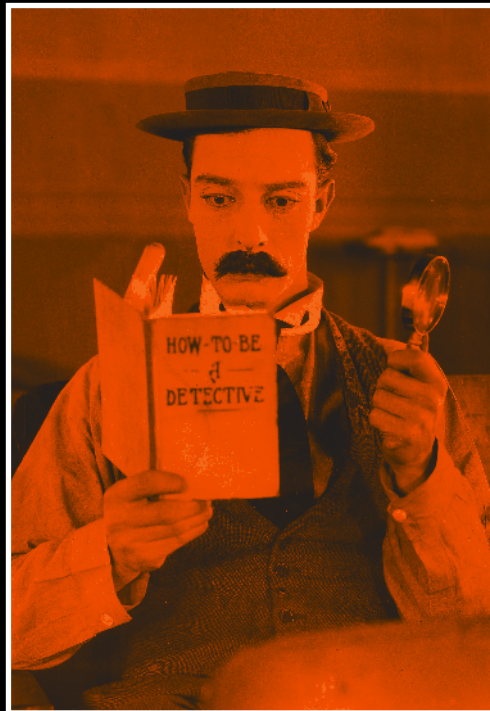
Hilarious sight gags and jaw-dropping stunt work, in a double-bill of Buster Keaton comedies, screened with live piano from John Sweeney.

Though clocking in at under an hour, *Sherlock Jr* (1924) is the match of any of Keaton's feature-length films, with an ingenious central conceit that doubles as a reflection on cinema itself. In it, he plays a dreamy projectionist who one day falls asleep on the job, leaves his body, and walks into the screen and into the film he is projecting.

Rhyming the surreal with the Kafkaesque, we screen *Sherlock Jr* with the earlier *Cops* (1922) in which Keaton, mistaken for a bomb-throwing anarchist, is chased across LA by hordes of police officers – the very image of an unfairly pursued hero vs. the implacable faceless forces of authority.

US 1924 Dir Buster Keaton 45 min
Digital projection Cert (U)

US 1922 Dirs Eddie Cline, Buster Keaton 20 min
Digital projection Cert (U)



View trailer >

Workshops 2026

MimeLondon brings the chance to study different physical and visual theatre skills with leading practitioners. You'll find puppetry, commedia, clown, mime and devised theatre - there's something for all levels of experience, so dive in! If you are interested in participating in one of the festival's workshops and require access support in order to do so, please email access@mimelondon.com with details and with any questions. We will endeavour to accommodate your access needs. The venue has step-free access and accessible toilets.

Photo:
Guillaume Pigé / Theatre Re



RACHAEL SAVAGE / VAMOS THEATRE *Revealing The Mask*

2-day workshop

Sat 17 - Sun 18 Jan 10.30am - 4pm
Shoreditch Town Hall
380 Old Street London EC1V 9LT

£175 (£150 concessions)
For participants 18+

[Book Now >](#)

Vamos Theatre, the UK's leading full mask theatre company, is holding a one-off talent development residency as part of this MimeLondon season. Delivered by Vamos Theatre's Artistic Director Rachael Savage, *Revealing the Mask* is a workshop for everyone, especially actors, performers and theatre practitioners, a creative, high energy and inspiring physical session that will give participants a thorough introduction to full mask technique.

Through exercises and shared exploration, the workshop introduces mask characterisation, mask physicality, and techniques such as clocking, stillness and isolation, helping to build confidence and understanding of mask performance.

More advanced full mask skills and a deeper understanding of the form will also be covered, through exploring devising in full mask individually, and as a mask ensemble. Vamos Theatre devises and tours accessible, humorous and fearless work which showcases the best in full mask performance.

The company is dedicated to making work based on stories of real people, and productions are rooted in true-life experiences and events. At the heart of Vamos Theatre's ethos is a commitment to working practices that engender genuineness, generosity, respect and consideration of others.

Established in 2006, Vamos Theatre is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, and is based in Worcester, UK.

vamos theatre.co.uk >



Workshops 2026

NOLA RAE The Clown Speaks Without Words

2-day workshop

Sat 24 - Sun 25 Jan 10.30am - 5pm
Shoreditch Town Hall
380 Old Street London EC1V 9LT

£175 (£150 concessions)
For participants 18+

[Book Now >](#)

A comedian tells a joke.
The clown is the joke.

Nola's workshop will be an insight into how to work without text, paying special attention to becoming an articulate mover able to express visual ideas with maximum clarity. All parts of the body (and mind) will come into play. There will be mime, improvisation, eccentric moves and fancy footwork. Students will have the chance to discover aspects of the clown that are universal, as well as exclusive to themselves. The aim will be to build a character that is not trying to be funny but just is.

Suitable for the enthusiastic student of visual comedy, professional or amateur, who is reasonably fit and not afraid to move.

Students must wear loose fitting clothes and flexible shoes. Bring one juggling ball. Red noses optional.



Born in Sydney, Nola Rae immigrated to London in 1963. Trained at the Royal Ballet School in London, she danced at Malmö Stadsteater and at Tivoli Pantomime Theatre in Copenhagen before turning to mime, studying with Marcel Marceau in Paris. In 1974 she founded the London Mime Theatre with her partner Matthew Ridout and premiered her first solo show in France at the Nancy Festival in 1975. To date Nola has toured her work to 69 countries.

As a teacher, she has lead mime and clowning workshops worldwide. With Joseph Seelig, Nola instigated the London International Mime Festival which presented ground-breaking visual performance from 1977 to 2023. In 2008 she was appointed an M.B.E. for her services to Drama and to Mime by the late Queen Elizabeth II.

GUILLAUME PIGÉ / THEATRE RE Extending Possibilities

5-day workshop

Mon 26 - Fri 30 Jan 10am - 5pm
Shoreditch Town Hall
380 Old Street London EC1V 9LT

£475 (£425 concessions)
For participants 18+

[Watch the intro video >](#)

[Book Now >](#)

For this week-long intensive workshop, our leading question will be: how to extend the realm of what's possible for the actor on stage?

Inspired by the work of Etienne Decroux and his assistants, as well as building on Theatre Re's critically acclaimed repertoire, we will explore concrete ways to unlock the full expressive potential of the body. Through playful and rigorous training, participants will learn how to use liberating and clear vocabularies to create highly physical work.

Each day will begin with physical conditioning, then progress towards ensemble work, technique, repertoire, and culminate in the opportunity to devise a short presentation true to the Theatre Re process.

This five-day workshop is led by Guillaume Pigé (Theatre Re Director and RADA Associate Teacher) along with core Theatre Re members. It is designed for professional and semi-professional performers, actors, dancers as well as visual artists, students and recent graduates. No previous experience of Corporeal Mime is required to join, only your curiosity and playfulness.

Guillaume Pigé is the Artistic Director and founder of Theatre Re. Originally from France, he has been living in the UK for the past 18 years. He trained with theatre



makers and directors such as Andrew Visnevski, Steven Wasson, Corinne Soum, Daniel Stein and Thomas Leabhart.

His practice looks at intimate, difficult to talk about and sometimes taboo life experiences, and turns them into moving, viscerally physical, visually striking poetic theatre to address global human challenges.

His work has been performed in more than seventeen countries, notably at The Cervantino Festival (Mexico), Hong Kong Arts Festival, New Victory Theater (USA), National Taichung Theatre (Taiwan), National Centre for Performing Arts (China) and London International Mime Festival (UK). He has been an Associate Teacher at RADA since 2011 and is regularly invited to give workshops about Theatre Re's creative process and physical language throughout the UK and internationally.

[theatrere.co.uk >](http://theatrere.co.uk)

Workshops 2026

SUE BUCKMASTER / THEATRE-RITES Core Skills of Puppetry and Object Animation

2-day workshop

Sat 31 Jan - Sun 1 Feb 10.30am - 5.30pm
Shoreditch Town Hall
380 Old Street London EC1V 9LT

£175 (£150 concessions)
For participants 18+

[Book Now >](#)

This 2-day Puppetry intensive will explore the relationship between the visible performer and the puppet/object on stage. It will consider what an actor or dancer or puppeteer needs to focus on when sharing the stage with an animated object, including presence, focus, manipulation techniques and poetic metaphor. It will introduce the participants to a wide range of styles of puppetry including 3 person operated figures.

Sue Buckmaster is the Artistic Director of the award-winning Theatre-Rites, a puppetry expert, author and dramaturg and the fifth generation of theatre practitioners in her family. She has directed over 30 theatre and site-specific productions for Theatre-Rites within the UK and internationally, as well as directing both Chotto Dosh and Chotto Xenos for the Akram Khan Company.

For participants aged 18+ with experience of performing, and some experience or a very strong interest in including objects/puppets in their work. The workshop involves physical participation.

theatre-rites.co.uk >



GECKO Devising Physical Theatre

2-day workshop

Sat 31 Jan - Sun 1 Feb 10.30am - 5.30pm
Shoreditch Town Hall
380 Old Street London EC1V 9LT

£175 (£150 concessions)
For participants 18+

[Book Now >](#)

Suitable for students of theatre, drama, dance, movement, choreography, multidisciplinary arts or those who have graduated within the last three years interested in deepening their devising knowledge and experience. Join internationally acclaimed physical theatre company Gecko for a special weekend residency to dive into their unique, visceral and poetic style and explore how they devise and create movement and tell stories.

Led by Gecko's highly experienced devising performers, our Residencies are a practical and engaging exploration of the processes and performance techniques we use when creating a show. They are the perfect opportunity to experience first-hand the tools used by the company to devise and create our productions.

Through preparation, ensemble building, serious play, simple beginnings and highly physical, dynamic tasks and activities, we focus on methods for creating movement for performance. We delve into the use of breath and language to express, and open doors to accessing emotional spaces safely. Participants will be nurtured and challenged in their artistic decision-making, and will move, have fun, express, and connect with themselves and others through creative discovery.



We are excited to work with open hearted, curious, creative and collaborative individuals. Gecko is committed to diversity, inclusion and equality within the arts and welcomes participants from all backgrounds.

geckotheatre.com >

MIMELONDON 2026

BARBICAN
CINEMA

SADLER'S WELLS EAST
SADLER'S WELLS PEACOCK

THE PLACE

ST ANNE'S
CHURCH

SHOREDITCH TOWN HALL

JAN

Sat 17

Sun 18

Mon 19

Tue 20

Wed 21

Thu 22

Fri 23

Sat 24

Sun 25

Mon 26

Tue 27

Wed 28

Thu 29

Fri 30

Sat 31

FEB

Sun 1

GECKO
THE
WEDDING

21 - 24 JAN
SADLER'S
WELLS
EAST

SADIQ ALI CO.
TELL ME

23 - 24 JAN
THE PLACE

SOCIETY FOR
THEATRE
RESEARCH

MURRAY &
EVANS
LECTURE

RECLAIMING
MIME

24 JAN
ST ANNE'S
CHURCH
& ONLINE

CO. LE FILS
DU GRAND
RESEAU
BIGRE/
FISHBOWL

28 - 31 JAN
SADLER'S
WELLS
PEACOCK
THEATRE

OCKHAM'S
RAZOR
COLLABORATOR

29 - 31 JAN
THE PLACE

WORKSHOPS AT
SHOREDITCH
TOWN HALL

VAMOS
THEATRE
17 - 18 JAN

NOLA RAE
24 - 25 JAN

GUILLAUME
PIGÉ
THEATRE RE
26 - 30 JAN

SUE BUCKMASTER
THEATRE-RITES
31 JAN - 1 FEB

GECKO THEATRE
31 JAN - 1 FEB

COMING IN
OCTOBER

BARO D'EVEL
QUI SOM (WHO
ARE WE)?

14 - 16 OCT
SOUTHBANK
CENTRE'S
QUEEN
ELIZABETH
HALL

photo: GECKO The Wedding

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