



MIMELONDON

SUPPORTING VISUAL THEATRE

From 12 January to 6 February 2027 MimeLondon highlights seven outstanding circus, physical and visual theatre productions from continental Europe and the UK, at the Barbican Theatre and Pit, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, The Place and Sadler's Wells East. At the Barbican Cinema Buster Keaton's classic silent movie, *The General* returns with a new, electronic music score by Haiku Salut.

From 9 – 31 January a series of expert-led workshops in mask, clown, comedy, corporeal mime, devising and puppetry complements the performance season.

Opening the Barbican programme, Belgium's **Compagnie Modo Grosso** presents *Tout/Rien* (Barbican Pit 12 – 16 January). In a mesmerising circus of objects, Loïc Faure invites us to slow down and surrender to the moment as he manipulates chains, needles, wool, volcanic stones, sand, magnets - and juggles time itself. Circus stripped back to its most elemental ingredients: movement, matter, light and wonder.

At the Barbican Pit, **Andrew Dawson** revisits *Absence and Presence* (19 – 23 January) his timeless meditation on loss, memory and the enduring presence of those we love. When his father's body lay undiscovered for ten days in 1985, Andrew was left with a complex mixture of grief, guilt and love. Twenty years since its première, he brings a deepened perspective to a work that continues to resonate. With music by Joby Talbot.

French-Norwegian company, **Plexus Polaire** brings *A Doll's House* to the Barbican Theatre (3 – 6 February), its fourth production in association with MimeLondon/London International Mime Festival. Ibsen's drama takes place in a world where reality and illusion collide. Life-size puppets, actors, music, video and startling visual effects heighten every emotion, transforming the familiar story into something deeply unsettling. And then there are spiders...

Buster Keaton's silent-movie classic *The General* returns to the Barbican Cinema (31 January) for one performance only, with a new, electronic score composed and performed live by **Haiku Salut** - multi-instrumentalists Gemma Barkerwood, Sophie Barkerwood, and Louise Croft who describe themselves as "instrumental dream-pop-post-folk-neo-everything"

MIMELONDON

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In *Food* (13 – 17 January) at Southbank Centre's Purcell Room, Austria's **Michael Zandl** and his circus-theatre company invite us to a feast where art can literally taste delicious and scenery is there for the eating. As humanity sweeps across the planet, everything is up for grabs, everything is edible, everyone wants more and everyone gets stuffed in a hilarious reflection on contemporary consumerism.

At Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall, art and life blur in *Inhale Delirium Exhale* (23 – 24 January), a delirious act of creation, destruction and renewal from Belgium's representative at the 2026 Venice Biennale, **Miet Warlop**. Dance-theatre, live art and a mile of sensuous silk and cashmere combine in a world of chaos and beauty.

At Sadler's Wells East, UK physical theatre company, **Gecko**, brings its acclaimed *Kin* (20 – 23 January) back to London. At a moment when the issue of migration is once again the hottest topic, *Kin* powerfully captures its humanity and how we hold, reinvent or erase our identities to survive in a foreign land. Drawing on the lived experiences of Gecko's artistic director, Amit Lahav, *Kin* asks what we carry with us, what we leave behind, what is the cost of becoming someone new.

Leading UK circus-theatre company, **Ockham's Razor** returns to The Place with its 2026 MimeLondon and Edinburgh Fringe Festival hit, *Collaborator* (19 – 23 January). For 20 years the company's two artistic directors, Charlotte Mooney and Alex Harvey have been lifting, catching, carrying, stepping on and around each other. They have been dropped and have picked each other up. An irreverent, physical and heartfelt dive into navigating a relationship and the negotiation involved in making stuff, for anyone who has tried to make something with someone else, a decision, a work of art, a life.

Weekend Workshops at Shoreditch Town Hall

From 9 – 31 January a series of expert-led workshops in mask, clown, comedy, corporeal mime, devising and puppetry complements the performance season.

Sat 9-Sun 10 Jan

Ockham's Razor: Meaning and Movement Masterclass

Led by Charlotte Mooney and Nathan Johnston from leading UK circus-theatre company Ockham's Razor, a two-day masterclass exploring techniques of partner work and lifting, the crossover between circus and dance, and understanding and interpreting images within movement. For circus or dance graduates and professionals with experience of partner work and lifting. Not suitable for beginners.

Sat 9-Sun 10 Jan

Vamos Theatre: Revealing The Mask

A creative, high energy and inspiring workshop for anyone interested in mask theatre, but especially actors and theatre practitioners, giving participants a thorough introduction to full mask technique. Vamos is dedicated to making work based on stories of real people, and its productions are rooted in true-life experiences and events. Led by Vamos Creative Producer, Honor Hoskins.

Sat 16-Sun 17 Jan**Nola Rae: The Clown Speaks Without Words**

Britain's most famous mime/clown provides an insight into how to work without text and how to become an articulate mover able to express visual ideas with maximum clarity. There will be mime, improvisation, eccentric moves and fancy footwork. Participants will discover aspects of the clown that are universal, as well as exclusive to themselves. Suitable for the enthusiastic student of visual comedy, professional or amateur, who is reasonably fit and not afraid to move.

Sat 16-Sun 17 Jan**Told by an Idiot/John Wright: Going Beyond Yourself**

John Wright is an award-winning international teacher and theatre-maker, co-founder of both Trestle Theatre and Told by an Idiot. His work has been seen at the National Theatre, the RSC, the Royal Court, the Almeida and the Royal Opera House. His workshop starts from the belief that 'Play' is the mechanism through which we mess with ideas, take risks and make discoveries. Participants will explore what Jacques Lecoq called the six levels of Play: Realism, Clown, Bouffon, Tragedy, Farce and Melodrama. For devisers and intending devisers with experience of theatre making.

Sat 23-Sun 24 Jan**Spymonkey: Theatre of the Funny**

Spymonkey have made people laugh in the UK, Europe, USA and all over the world, in theatres, circuses and opera houses. They've worked alongside Sacha Baron Cohen, Naomi Campbell, Ronnie Corbett and Fiona Shaw. They believe that everyone can be funny. Using their own unique games and exercises this workshop is an introduction to the key concepts at the heart of Spymonkey's *Theatre of The Funny*. Suitable for all levels of experience, from novice to seasoned professional.

Sat 30-Sun 31 Jan**Gecko: Devising Physical Theatre**

Internationally acclaimed physical theatre company, Gecko, offers the chance to experience what lies behind its unique, visceral and poetic style of theatre, and understand how its shows are made. You will be nurtured and challenged in Gecko's artistic decision-making, and will move, have fun, express, and connect with yourself and others through creative discovery. Prospective participants interested in deepening their devising knowledge and experience must be students of theatre, drama, dance, movement, choreography, multidisciplinary arts, or have graduated within the last three years. Not suitable for beginners.

Sat 30-Sun 31 Jan**SUE BUCKMASTER, THEATRE-RITES: Core Skills of Puppetry and Object Animation**

Sue Buckmaster, puppetry expert, author, dramaturg and Artistic Director of the award-winning Theatre-Rites leads this two-day Puppetry intensive, exploring 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. For participants with experience of performing, and some experience or a very strong interest in including objects/puppets in their work.

5-Day Workshop at Hackney Empire

Mon 11-Fri 15 Jan

THEATRE RE: Week-long Intensive

As Theatre Re celebrates 15 years of making original visual theatre, Artistic Director Guillaume Pigé invites performers, drama students and recent graduates to join a week-long immersion into the physical training and creative practice at the heart of Theatre Re's internationally acclaimed work. The intensive approach offers an opportunity to connect with a community of performers and collaborators interested in ambitious, visually and physically driven work.

Further information and press ticket enquiries to:

Barbican

Andrew Dawson *Absence and Presence*

Modo Gross *Tout/Rien*

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Plexus Polaire *A Doll's House*

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Sadler's Wells

Gecko Kin

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Southbank Centre

Michael Zandl *Food*

Miet Warlop *Inhale Delirium Exhale*

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The Place

Ockham's Razor *Collaborator*

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