

PRESS RELEASE

Gecko's *Missing* returns to Battersea Arts Centre to finish the run interrupted by fire in 2015



Chris Evans and Anna Finkel at Battersea Arts Centre, credit Morley von Sternberg

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6-15 September / Grand Hall, Battersea Arts Centre / [tickets](#)

Trailer [here](#) / images [here](#)

In September 2018 award-winning physical theatre company Gecko marks the opening of Battersea Arts Centre's theatre programme in the newly refurbished Grand Hall with *Missing*, the original run of which was interrupted by a disastrous fire of the Grand Hall in March 2015. *Missing* is part of the venue's celebratory [Phoenix Season](#).

With generous help from Gecko's audiences and the theatre industry, *Missing's* set was rebuilt in just 8 days ahead of a Mexico tour. The Battersea Arts Centre performances will be the show's first UK sharing since the fire.

Amit Lahav, Artistic Director of Gecko and creator of *Missing* said: "On the 13th March 2015 during a very successful return to Battersea Arts Centre with our show *Missing* - a fire broke out which ultimately destroyed the Grand Hall and all the physical elements of our show. As the bell tower crashed through the roof I remember finding myself kneeling on the road thinking 'what do I do now!?' (...)

All those years of kinship and graft between Gecko and Battersea Arts Centre really meant something in the days that followed the fire; it was clear we were not going to suffer, this was not an option for David Jubb, Richard Dufty and the whole Battersea Arts Centre team. (...)

I have never felt so much love and affection for Gecko as in the days that followed the fire from colleagues, venues and arts companies around the country and around the world. It was strangely one of the most uplifting and affirming experiences of my life. Battersea Arts Centre has played a pivotal role in Gecko's voyage and I am very proud to have been a part of its legendary gift to art makers all over the country"

Read Amit Lahav's full statement in Notes to editors below.



Since devising in 2012, *Missing* has toured to Russia, China, Georgia, Malta, Colombia, Mexico, Hong Kong, Macau and across the UK, including a hugely successful 2013 Edinburgh Fringe run. It is the oldest Gecko show currently touring.

"A kind of restless delirium, dense with poetic effect." ★★★★★ The Guardian (Sanjoy Roy)

"Together they generate a tingling energy." ★★★★★ The Times (Donald Hutera)

"With this flawless production, Gecko have created a wonderful, beautiful roller coaster ride into the murky word of memory." ★★★★★ What's On Stage (Moirra Hunt)

"The choreography is bewitching." ★★★★★ The Skinny (Callum Madge)

Missing offers its audiences a deliciously warped journey into the depths of the human psyche as it follows Lily, a woman whose soul appears to be decaying. She is very successful in life and love but something is missing... the ghosts of her past haunt her as she witnesses how her parents fell wildly in and out of love and the consequences this mixed cultural relationship has had on her life.

In the unique Gecko style, *Missing* features jaw-dropping choreography and tantalising multilingual vocal landscape as it invites the audiences to pause and consider how far we have strayed from who we are and where we came from.

Gecko celebrates its 17th birthday this year, having developed 7 full-length shows, including its recent and most ambitious, *The Wedding*. The company has toured the world to a great critical acclaim and continues to do so; it has just finished a tour of East Asia with *Institute* and *The Wedding* ahead of taking *Missing* to Thessaloniki Forest Festival in Greece.

/ENDS

Notes to editors:

Missing by Gecko at Battersea Arts Centre

6-15 September 2018 at 8pm (2.30pm Saturday matinees)

Tickets from £15 available to book [here](#).

Running time: 70 minutes (no interval)

Age guidance: 14+

Some smoke, strobe and haze effects will be used during the performance.

Q&A with Gecko after the show on 11 September and 13 September.

The talk on 13 September will be BSL interpreted by Martin Fox-Roberts.

Friday, 7 September and matinee on Saturday, 15 September are relaxed performances.

Read about Battersea Arts Centre's Phoenix Season [here](#), full press release [here](#).

Missing

Created by: **Amit Lahav**

Producer: **Rosalind Wynn**

Devising Performers:

Chris Evans

Anna Finkel

Amit Lahav

Katie Lusby

Ryen Perkins-Gangnes

Set Design: **Rhys Jarman** and **Amit Lahav**

Lighting Design: **Chris Swain** and **Amit Lahav**

Original Music: **Dave Price**

Associate Director: **Rich Rusk**

Sound Designer: **Enzo Appetecchia**

Costume Supervisor: **Amy Cook**

Musicians: **Dave Price, Ben Hales, Sam Burgess, Al Cherry & Finn Peters**

Solo Vocalist: **Georgina Roberts**

Gecko is an award-winning and internationally-acclaimed physical theatre company, led by Artistic Director Amit Lahav.

A Gecko show is visual, visceral, ambitious theatre crafted to inspire, move and entertain. Gecko strives to make their work wide open to interpretation and put their audience at the heart of the narrative.

Amit has created an organic devising process that oscillates between intense periods of experimentation, making brave leaps, learning and failing and including choreography, writing, storyboarding and reflection. Every stage includes sonic and technical development alongside the choreography.

With an expanding ensemble of international performers and makers, Gecko works across diverse age groups, nationalities and forms. The company tours nationally and internationally and continues to develop strong partnerships around the world.

Beyond the stage, Gecko aspires to open the doors on their process via every possible avenue, be it digital, in schools or through one-to-one relationships with their audience.

To learn more about Gecko's cast and creatives, click [here](#).

To download high-resolution pictures and watch full-length videos of past shows, click [here](#).

Gecko is supported by Arts Council England and Ipswich Borough. *Missing* is a Gecko Production co-commissioned by New Wolsey Theatre Ipswich in association with Warwick Arts Centre and DanceEast. Ideas originally developed with Kanopy Dance and the University of Wisconsin.

Statement from Amit Lahav, Artistic Director of Gecko and creator of *Missing*:

“A life in the arts can be extremely rewarding; a world of imaginative leaps, bold expression, honesty and craft. It can also be lonely and scary; self-doubt, excruciating funding conundrums, running an organisation and exhaustion. I have always advised young companies to begin building a network of strong relationship as a key investment for growth and resilience.

On the 13th March 2015 during a very successful return to Battersea Arts Centre with our show *Missing* - a fire broke out which ultimately destroyed The Grand Hall and all the physical elements of our show. As the bell tower crashed through the roof I remember finding myself kneeling on the road thinking ‘what do I do now!?’

15 years ago, Gecko began its journey at Battersea Arts Centre with its first show *Taylor's Dummies* - we were outrageously ambitious and pushed the building hard to create something unique. At the time I probably didn't appreciate just how up for it everyone was and how willing they were to match us step by step (surely everyone loves making theatre as much as I do!). It's only after many years that you realise not every building you enter has that appetite and courage. *Taylor's Dummies* had two sell out runs and we then embarked on the adventures of show number two: *The Race* - completely reconfiguring the main house. BAC was the perfect nest and playground for Gecko's early years.

It seems that you only really find out how resilient and meaningful your relationships are when you're in trouble or in great need. All those years of kinship and graft between Gecko and BAC really meant something in the days that followed the fire; it was clear we were not going to suffer, this was not an option for David Jubb, Richard Dufty and the whole Battersea Arts Centre team.

So, returning to my first point about starting out - I discovered that, when it comes to resilience, investing in your relationships is sort of all we have as artists - I have never felt so much love and affection for Gecko as in the days that followed the fire from colleagues, venues and arts companies around the country and around the world. It was strangely one

of the most uplifting and affirming experiences of my life. Battersea Arts Centre has played a pivotal role in Gecko's voyage and I am very proud to have been a part of its legendary gift to art makers all over the country."

ABOUT BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE

Battersea Arts Centre is a public space where people come together to be creative, see a show, explore the local heritage, play or relax. The organisation's mission is to inspire people, to take creative risks, to shape the future.



Battersea Arts Centre encourages people to test and develop new ideas with members of the public – a process called Scratch. Scratch is used by artists to make theatre, by young people to develop entrepreneurial ideas and as a helpful process for anyone who wants to get creative.

The area of South West London and the old town hall in which Battersea Arts Centre is based, are rich in heritage. From April 2016 the organisation is custodian of the Wandsworth Collection, using creativity to explore the past and imagine the future.

Scratch has been adopted as far afield as Sydney and New York and shows and projects developed by people at Battersea Arts Centre travel across the UK and the world. The organisation has successfully sparked new approaches to creativity across the globe.

Each year Battersea Arts Centre

- Welcomes over 160,000 people to its building
- Inspires the local community to get creative including 3000 young people
- Works with over 400 artists to put on over 800 performances and tour at least 10 shows and projects

bac.org.uk | [@battersea_arts](https://twitter.com/battersea_arts)

For more information and to set up interviews please contact The Corner Shop PR: Magda Paduch at magda@thecornershoppr.com / 0758 316 4070 or Will Moss at william@thecornershoppr.com / 0131 202 6220.