

## **Missing Pre-Show Information**



Image: Richard Haughton

**Missing** is performed in the Grand Hall. The Grand Hall has step-free access through the entrance and a lift to the Balcony (higher level seating). There is also an accessible toilet located near the Grand Hall.

There is step-free access into the main foyer of our building, and to the Scratch Bar with accessible toilet facilities on the ground floor.

### **Relaxed and BSL Interpreted performances**

**Missing** will have relaxed performances on Friday 7 September at 8pm and on Saturday 15 September at 2pm. There will also be a BSL interpreted post-show discussion on Thursday 13 September.

Our relaxed performances mean you are free to move about, make noise and come and go during the performance.

There is a chill-out space available if you need a quiet moment.

You can also pick up a pair of ear-defenders from one of our Welcome Team if it gets too loud.

You can find out more about our building before your visit by looking at our access page on our website: [bac.org.uk/yourvisit/access](http://bac.org.uk/yourvisit/access).



Image: Robert Golden

***Missing*** is a Gecko production. Gecko was founded in 2001 and is an award winning and internationally acclaimed company, led by Artistic Director Amit Lahav.

Gecko is a physical theatre company, which means that our performances are a combination of theatre and dance. Our mode of storytelling is very visual, using movement rather than language. Our stories are not linear from A to B and we like our audiences to have their own interpretations of the shows.

Multiple languages are used in all of our shows so we don't expect everyone to understand every word. In fact, the words that are spoken are not as important as the emotional message that the character is expressing. Set design, lighting, sound and music are also integral elements of a Gecko show and all feed in to the story.

## 1. The show

*Missing* is 70 minutes long and does not have an interval.

There are 5 performers. The central character is Lily. The other 4 performers play multiple different characters including Lily's colleagues, husband, parents, and a mysterious man who tries to help Lily.

*Missing* follows the story of Lily, a woman who appears to have everything – a high-flying job, a good-looking husband and plenty of friends. But Lily has been trying to suppress her past and she is haunted at work and at home by images of her family and childhood. By studying her family heritage Lily relives how her parents fell wildly in and then out of love, and the consequences that this mixed cultural relationship has had on her own existence.



Image: John Zhang

The show is partly inspired by Gecko's Artistic Director Amit Lahav's experience. He says:

“To me *Missing* is the story of growing up and witnessing the break-up of my parents, it's about my cultural identities and how I remember significant elements of my childhood, which form important pillars in who I am. It's also about how memory works and how we choose what to remember and it's about how all of that resonates as a human being living in these times.”

There is no one right meaning to take from the show. We have had many different responses and interpretations from audience members depending on how the show relates to an individual's life. We love this difference and hope you will tell us what the show means to you.

## 2. What to expect

*Missing* is visually impressive and often fast moving. The main method of storytelling is through movement rather than words. The movement allows the performers to convey the emotion of a scene and is used to portray a fight between lovers, frustration and being overwhelmed to name a few.



Image: Robert Golden

*Missing* also draws on flamenco and so flavours of this passionate dance style and music are present in the show.

Spoken language is used throughout the show but is not the main method of storytelling. *Missing* uses English, Spanish, French, Italian, Hebrew, Hungarian and German. Often words are muttered or sentences incomplete. Language becomes an equal layer of the soundscape with the intention of aiding the emotion of a scene rather than defining narrative or meaning. Don't worry if you don't understand everything that is said.

Added to language is the use of breath, which is another integral element of our shows. Breath offers a way for the performers to connect both to one another and to the choreography and acts as a universal form of communicating emotion – a guttural and instinctual human act.

### 3. The Set

The set takes us to different places in Lily's world.

Lily's home appears on the **left** of the stage – it is drab, unremarkable and claustrophobic. We see Lily and her husband here, but this space is also invaded by thoughts of work and memories that Lily has tried to forget.



Image: Robert Golden

On the **right** of the stage we see the world of the mysterious man. It is a strange world, which lights up around Lily and seems to see into her soul. The man is able to generate images of Lily as a grown woman, and also as a child. Lily finds this world confusing but she trusts the mysterious man.



Image: John Zhang

There are 2 moving platforms in the show, which are able to transport the characters across the space. They add to a sense of Lily not being in control of her own destiny.

At the back of the stage there is a higher level, where we see memories from Lily's childhood, almost as if in a frame or movie picture. This is mirrored by different sized frames, which are brought on stage to transport us back in time and present the story of Lily's parents.



Images: Robert Golden

#### **4. Lighting**

The show is very dark and light is used to draw attention to specific scenes. As well as traditional theatre lighting, Gecko plays with putting light in unexpected sources, such as a coffee cup, or around the edges of the frames.



Strobe is used at 3 different points in the show, although the frequency is set to the longest setting so the effect is more like an extended flash.

The first use has 3 bursts of 0.5 seconds and the following 2 uses have just 1 burst. There are also flashing lights in some scenes and haze is used throughout the show.

#### **5. Sound**

Sound and music are key elements of the show and feature throughout, with some scenes being loud.

The theme of memory is represented by sourced music, including Spanish flamenco, and the intoxicating rhythms of the Alcatraz dance from Peru, and Joropo from Colombia and Venezuela. The warmth of a Spanish evening permeates the sound world, we hear crickets, the murmured sound of conversation and a child singing, all of which suggest a sense of family intimacy that feels lacking in the fast-paced modern world of business that Lily occupies.

But we also hear fierce arguments as Lily's parents separate and her world is permanently changed. And, just as images of her childhood haunt Lily, so too do sonic memories – a childhood song, her mother's voice, rhythmic clapping - until she can no longer ignore her past.

To get a sense of the show you can watch the trailer here:

<http://geckotheatre.com/missing/>

You can also see Gecko's Sound World information, which is available on their show page on BAC's website.

Gecko would love to know what you think of the show. Please come and talk to us if you have any questions or write to us at [info@geckotheatre.com](mailto:info@geckotheatre.com) or Twitter [@GeckoTheatre](https://twitter.com/GeckoTheatre).

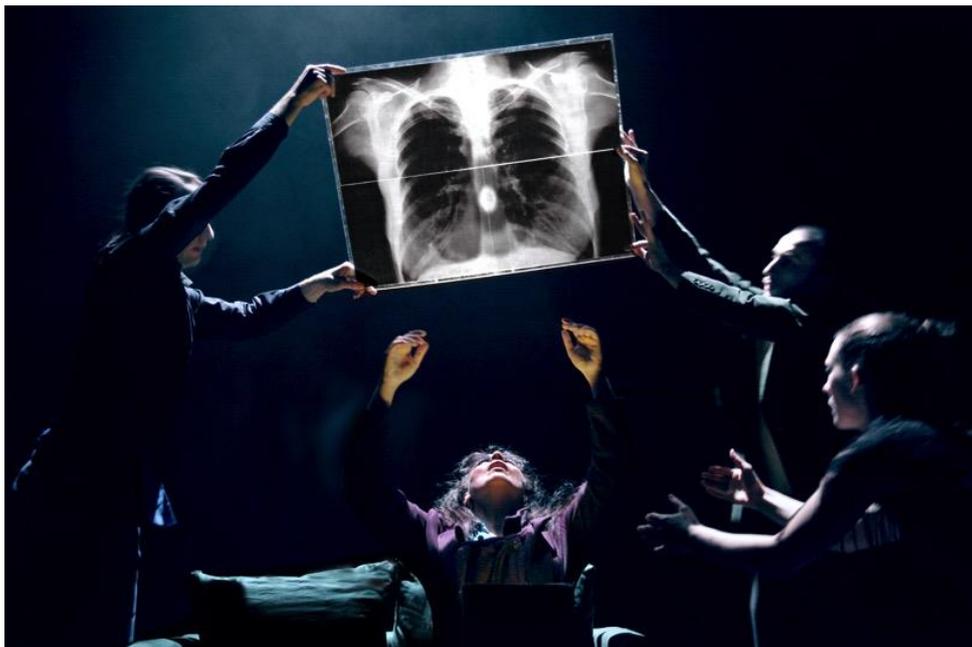


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