

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



Institute

AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Gecko, UK



Photo: Richard Haughton

Four male performers portray four very familiar human beings, each driven by a desire to care and be cared for.

Institute, from UK physical theatre company **Gecko**, is an astonishing performance combining witty choreography, artful imagery and ingenious stagecraft. Through spellbinding movement, the work examines the role of care in our society, with a particular focus on mental health.

Creator and Artistic Director, **Amit Lahav**, asked the company: *“What does it mean to care for one another in a busy world of high-pressure targets and expectations; to lose everything and everyone? Where do you turn?”*

Set in a mysterious place of dark shadows and towering filing cabinets that gradually reveal their secrets over the course of the show, performers collide in an extraordinary world of movement and exquisite storytelling. Martin longs for one more breath with Margaret. Daniel climbs higher and higher over a towering world but will he fulfil his ambition? Stuck in this beguiling maze of officialdom they lurch from one outrageous task to another. But who is giving the orders?

Their state of mind is reflected in an atmospheric set design and a powerful soundtrack by longstanding collaborator **Dave Price**. Set within a Kafkaesque puzzle that’s bewildering and beautiful, *Institute* is filled with theatrical surprises and transformations that will make audiences laugh and gasp in equal measure.

Formed in 2001, Gecko is an award-winning and internationally-acclaimed physical theatre company who create visual, visceral and ambitious theatre. Gecko strives to make its work open to interpretation and put audiences at the heart of the narrative.

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Created by Amit Lahav
Producer: Rosalind Wynn
Production Manager: Nathan Johnson
Performers: Chris Evans, Amit Lahav, Ryen Perkins-Gangnes, François Testory
Set Design: Rhys Jarman and Amit Lahav
Lighting Design: Chris Swain and Amit Lahav
Original Music: Dave Price
Associate Directors: Rich Rusk and Helen Baggett
Sound Designer: Nathan Johnson
Costume Supervisor: Amy Cook
Technical Stage Manager: Andres Velasquez
Company Stage Manager: Tanya Stephenson
Lighting Operator: Gareth Green
Musicians: Dave Price and James Alsopp
Solo Vocalist: Francois Testory
Ritual Dance Vocals: Chris Evans and Amit Lahav

Supported by Arts Council England and Ipswich Borough Council. Institute is a Gecko production. Co-commissioned by Derby Theatre, Warwick Arts Centre and New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich. In association with DanceEast and Northern Stage.

Where Seymour Centre, Everest Theatre
When 25–28 January at 7:30pm
Duration 75mins, no interval
Tickets General Admission \$56 + booking fee
Suitable for ages 14+
Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
sydneyfestival.org.au/institute

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