

a little space

— The Film —

Film Information

A Little Space is a piece that has been made by two of the UK's most exciting theatre companies, Gecko and Mind the Gap.

The show was created as a theatre production and has now been made into a film.

Mind the Gap has been creating world-class theatre from its home in Bradford for over 30 years. The company has an internationally respected method and way of working and is considered a leader in learning disability arts and artists. A Little Space is their first physical theatre production.

Founded in 2001, Gecko is an award-winning company, led by Artistic Director Amit Lahav. With a growing ensemble of international performers and makers, they create work through collaboration, experimentation and play. A Little Space is their second associate production following the international success of *The Dreamer* in 2016.



The Show

A Little Space is 55 minutes long.

There are five performers; four women and one man.

The performance combines theatre and dance and the story is told through movement rather than language. The story is not linear, that is, it does not progress in a straight line from start to finish, but instead focuses on different characters and stories at different points. We want audiences to have their own ideas about the show.

The words that are spoken are not as important as the feelings that the characters are expressing.



The Story

Being 'alone' can mean many different things to different people. Some people love being 'alone', for others it's isolating and incredibly difficult. The full range of emotions connected to being 'alone' was the starting point for making the show. We listened to the cast, and structured the show around their thoughts and feelings.

We wanted to create a story using imagery and emotions to encourage the audience to think about how they feel about being alone.

A Little Space is a show with a simple set of stories, which take place in an apartment block filled with identical rooms. The people that live there are struggling with their own understanding of the world. But we are inviting our audience to be imaginative and to consider the complexities of being alone and being together. Being connected and disconnected and how every human is brilliantly different in their own view of the world. These themes have been experienced and heightened by many people during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Characters

SPOILER ALERT - The characters are as you see them. They are who you want them to be. For us, the starting point for each of them was as follows, but you may not want to read about them until after seeing the film...

The Caretaker / Care Giver / Mother - a semi-mythical character who looks after all the people in the building like a helpful landlady. She is fascinated by humans and ultimately wants connection and joy.

Charlotte - a woman who has spent so much time alone in her room that the room has literally begun to grow onto her. We can hear her somewhere in the building, but will anyone take a moment to check to see if she is okay alone in her room?

Lorraine and Paul - a couple doing their best to live together in their small apartment. Lorraine dreams of a world beyond the dark little room. She works hard and desperately wants Paul to join her in a life with more joy. Paul isn't working, he finds his escape in endless hours of TV, an addiction that will no doubt have an effect on his health, his sanity and their relationship.

JoAnne - a young woman who finds herself back in the room she never wanted to return to, following a tragedy in her life. Nothing feels right in the room and nothing will be right until she is able to see it in a new way.

All these characters have been created using the experiences of the performers.

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



What to Expect

Expect the unexpected.

We wanted to make something strange. We wanted to make something challenging for the creative team and the audience. Creating theatre in this way is about crafting a series of gifts and offerings for an audience.



The Set

The set is a room which is both totally weird and utterly normal. There is everything you would expect in a regular apartment – a bed, a table, a chair, a television and a sink. The room is a constant reminder that the characters are real people.

We wanted to make this 'ordinary' room a little 'extraordinary' so the room is tilted, and the floor is at an angle. Plaster has been ripped off the walls showing pipes all around the sides. This is a room we can see through, where sounds travel through the pipes and 'caretakers' buzz around, in between floors, interfering with the residents. Where dreams and nightmares are made visible and where nothing is entirely normal.

There are trap doors in the floor, which some of the performers disappear into and then reappear somewhere else.

Lighting

The show is dark, and light is used to draw attention to specific scenes. We use colour and specific angles for the lights to show the different spaces in the apartment.

The lighting is used to build the world of the story and to guide the audiences' eyes as they try to work out where they are in this strange world.

Lighting also becomes a character of its own in *A Little Space*. Bulbs help make feelings clear for the characters, and to some extent, light represents truth and healing – a theme that came out through the devising process as the lighting design was created during rehearsals.

Sound

The sound design is our script. It was developed while we were devising the story. Creating the sound is an opportunity to play with, and powerfully express, inner thoughts as well as opening up the imaginative world and the dreams and anxieties of the characters. The layers of sound have also let us weave these seemingly independent stories together.

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

Spoken language is used during the show but is not the main way the story is told. Often words are muttered and sentences are not finished. Language becomes part of the soundscape to help the feelings in the scene rather than tell the story. Don't worry if you don't understand everything that is said.

As well as language, breath is another important part of the show. Breath offers a way for the performers to connect both to one another and to the choreography. We all breathe so we can all connect to this human act.



Further Information

To get a sense of the film you can watch the trailer by clicking the image below.



You can also see a little space Sound World information, which is available on request by sending an email to arts@mind-the-gap.org.uk

Gecko & Mind the Gap would love to know what you think of the film. Please come and talk to us if you have any questions or write to us at arts@mind-the-gap.org.uk

Follow Mind the Gap on social media



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A Mind the Gap and Gecko co-production



Commissioned by The Space



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