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Shock Therapy Productions would like to acknowledge the support of ALS Norge. For more information about ALS and Locked In Syndrome (LIS) or to make a donation go to:
www.alsnorge.no



SHOCK THERAPY
PRODUCTIONS

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ÅBNE SCENE



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LOCKED IN

WHEN THE ONLY KEY IS IMAGINATION



FEATURING **SAM FOSTER**
AND **JOHANNE FOSSHEIM**
DIRECTED BY VERONICA NEAVE



DIRECTORS NOTES

DIRECTED BY VERONICA NEAVE

Locked In takes its inspiration from two true stories 'Ghost Boy' by Martin Pistorius and 'The Diving Bell and the Butterfly' by Jean-Dominique Bauby who both shared their experiences of living with Locked-In Syndrome in memoir. Locked-In syndrome (LIS) is a condition in which a patient is aware but cannot move or communicate verbally due to complete paralysis of nearly all voluntary muscles in the body except for the eyes.

"However much I tried to beg and pleas, shout and scream, I couldn't make them notice me"

These two stories epitomised hope and gratitude under the most extreme adversity. Yet in this living hell there seemed to be an untapped reservoir of human imagination. This is a challenging story of love, commitment and tragedy while at the same time an inquiry into the way in which we perceive (or fail to perceive) the beauty and detail of the world around us.

The process by which we tried to bring these sentiments to life on the stage was based on tasked based improvisation. Starting with extensive research into Locked-In Syndrome and visceral provocations from the books themselves specific physical tasks were set and investigated through improvisation. Because Locked-In Syndrome robs the person of language it was a conscious decision to not rely on words but to create a script of physical connections. The limitations of the condition encouraged us to re-imagine silence and awakened our senses to the infinite possibilities hidden in the stillness.

"I can listen to the butterflies that flutter inside my head. To hear them one must be calm and pay close attention, for their wingbeats are barely audible. Loud breathing is enough to drown them out"

VERONICA NEAVE - DIRECTOR



FEATURING

JOHANNE FOSSHEIM

Johanne Fossheim is a Norwegian actress working in Norway, Australia and Denmark. She just received an International Film Award as Best Supporting Actress in the U.S. Her one-woman's piece *Skaptroll* was given a 6 out of 6 (terningkast 6) at Vinterlysfestivalen, Nordland Teater (2014).

Bergens Tidende also gave the same acclaim to her interpretation of a 12-year-old boy (lead role) in *Rekneprinsen* (Hordaland Teater, Bergen 2016).



SAM FOSTER

Sam Foster is an award-winning director, actor and stunt performer from Australia. He is the Co-Founder of Shock Therapy Productions along with Hayden Jones (Associate Director - *Locked In*).

Sam has over 14 years experience working as a professional in theatre and film. He was awarded a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Award and a Taurus World Stunt Award for his work as a stunt performer in *Mad Max - Fury Road*.

Sam was also awarded a Matilda Award (Australia) for Best Director for Shock Therapy's 2015 production of Martin McDonagh's play *The Pillowman*.



CREATIVE TEAM

PRODUCER **Shock Therapy Productions**
DIRECTOR **Veronica Neave**
PERFORMERS **Johanne Fossheim & Sam Foster**
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR **Hayden Jones**
SOUND DESIGNER **Guy Webster**
AV DESIGNER **Nathan Sibthorpe**
LIGHTING DESIGNER **Geoff Squires**
PHOTOGRAPHY/DESIGN **Saffron Jensen**