



AUTIN
DANCE THEATRE

A captivating fusion of physical theatre, vertical and aerial dance, and symbolic storytelling – *Up in the Sky* elevates outdoor performance to new heights.

PROMO PACK 2026/2027



Large scale



Music



Great For Families



Aerial Show



Easy Read Guide



Speech Free



Loud Moments





Up in the Sky is an awe-inspiring outdoor aerial dance theatre production that tells the story of a group of young men, as they navigate challenges of displacement and change. Performed by 6 exceptional performing artists on a stunning 7-metre circular truss, this unique show blends aerial dance, dynamic storytelling, and flying props to captivate audiences of all ages. Through themes of climate migration, resilience and connection, the performance offers an immersive 360-degree viewing experience that inspires hope and togetherness. With extensive community engagement, workshops, and co-creative elements, **Up in the Sky** is an unmissable spectacle celebrating the power of human connection and adaptability.

Get ready to look up!  **Up in the Sky** is a brand-new aerial adventure for families; a bold and, beautiful outdoor show filled with flying performers, magical moments, and heart-warming surprises.

Set around a giant 7-metre circular structure, 6 incredible performers leap, spin, and soar through the air in a thrilling story about getting lost, finding each other, and discovering where we truly belong. Expect breath-taking aerial choreography, playful visuals, and plenty of "wow" moments — all co-created with young people.

This uplifting, 35-minute spectacle is perfect for families and children aged 5+, and invites audiences to gather close, dream big, and take flight together.



TOURING 2026/27 Available now for bookings



Preview performances (summer 2025): Basingstoke Festival, Oxford (Dancin' Oxford), Walsall (WOW! Fest), Birmingham as headliner for Birmingham Weekender (produced by Birmingham Hippodrome and the Bullring), and South Wales with Awen Cultural Trust; reaching 25,000+ people across varying open public spaces including local council parks, university campuses, city-centre high streets and shopping-centre squares.

Available for booking for UK touring in 2026/27
hello@autindt.co.uk

ABOUT US

Autin Dance Theatre (ADT) is an innovative, award-winning dance company and registered charity based in Birmingham, UK, led by acclaimed choreographer Johnny Autin. The company creates, produces, and tours socially inclusive, mass-participatory movement projects across the UK and internationally.

ADT's mission is to inspire, educate, and effect social change—transforming lives by engaging underserved local communities and young people through its outreach programmes, while taking audiences on unforgettable journeys through its awe-inspiring public performances. The company is committed to fostering deep and lasting connections with the communities, partners, and audiences it serves.

Known for its unique blend of contemporary storytelling, striking physicality, multidisciplinary creativity, and large-scale design, ADT delivers work in theatres, public outdoor spaces, and unconventional settings alike. From dynamic outdoor processions to immersive site-specific performances, the company captivates audiences with its bold artistic vision.

Critically acclaimed productions include *Out of the Deep Blue*, *Street Games*, *Brimstone the Dragon*, and *The Giant Wheel*—works that have helped establish ADT's reputation for impactful community engagement and artistic excellence.

The company is proud to collaborate with local councils and regional venues to produce 2 major regional public events in 2026: *Light Up Fest* in Birmingham (Sat 21 Feb 2026) and *WOW! Fest* in Walsall (Fri 3 & Sat 4 July 2026). In 2026, ADT will also premiere two exciting new works: *Up in the Sky*, a groundbreaking aerial dance production featuring a colossal seven-metre rig, exploring themes of displacement, resilience, and belonging and *Zig Zag!*, a non-verbal dance-theatre duet brimming with levity, crisp physical comedy, object manipulation, and flashes of partner acrobatics.



TESTIMONIALS

"Set up was a dream – the whole team are so kind and can't do enough to make things happen. The rig was mega, so impactful, and sparked conversations even while being built. It looked stunning in the space."

Nicola Edwards
Awen Cultural Trust

"Up in the Sky made a bold contribution to our programme. The aerial elements landed strongly, and the set produced great images. The show holds space and had great wow-factor moments."

Matt Evans
Birmingham Hippodrome

"Up in the Sky was brimming with energy, with hugely impressive physicality and visually stunning moments. The 7m circular rig was a real eye-catcher, drawing huge audiences across both performances. The performers were incredibly talented and produced truly stunning work."

Claire Thompson
Dancin' Oxford

"Fast, energetic, and bold – Up in the Sky is an uplifting and inclusive production, rich in storytelling and daring in its themes. The epic structure combined with exciting choreography creates a truly memorable audience experience."

Festival Programmer

QUOTES

SHOW MARKETING

**IMAGES****VIDEOS****TRAILER**

- We will supply the organisation/festival with marketing copy, images and promotional videos.
- A marketing plan will be made available in addition to pre-written copy for social media advertisement including images, short videos and longer promotional trailers.



CREATIVE TEAM

Director/Choreographer: Johnny Autin

Senior Producer: Annalise McIntyre

Learning & Participation Coordinator: Natasha Boyes

Set Design & Construction: Total Solutions & Marcelle Porteous

Head Rigger: Jamie Higgins

Rigging Consultant: Simon Edwards

Aerial Dance Mentor: Lindsey Butcher (Gravity & Levity)

Music: Richard Shrewsbury (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

PRODUCTION INFORMATION



- **Up in the Sky** is suitable for family and festival audiences (5+)
- **Show duration:** Playing time approx. 35 minutes
- The company can perform the full show up to a **maximum of 2 times per show day**, with a minimum of 90 mins between the end of 1 performance and the start of the next one.
- Minimum playing space for **performance**: 20m x 20m (open to the skies above) on flat and even surface. (any terrain works: grass, sand, etc.)
- The company requires access for 2 x vans to be able to drop off the set/truss onto/next to the performance stage.
- Parking spaces are required for up to 3 vehicles depending on cast & crew
- Number of people on the road (7): 4 Performers, 2 on stage-riggers and 1 technical manager.
- The company will require X powered Top speakers on stands, subs, mixing desk cables and extension leads

Please note:

Unfortunately, we are not able to perform in heavy rain & strong winds (i.e. anything from 25km/hour and above) due to the structure. But we are able to perform the show in light rain.

[**TECH SPECS**](#)



INREACH

Up in the Sky invites local groups and community performers to become part of the magic by performing *under the structure* as an integral part of the event. This is not a separate outreach or workshop programme – it's a true *inreach* opportunity that brings participants directly into the heart of the performance. Schools, youth dance groups, and community ensembles can create short, themed curtain-raisers (on the ground) that connect beautifully with the show's visual world and storytelling. This shared performance experience offers an unforgettable moment for local participants to perform alongside professional artists, elevating community involvement and audience connection in a powerful, creative way.



For more information about 'inreach' participatory programme please email our education manager: Natasha Boyes natasha@autindt.co.uk

One Structure, Many Moments

The **Up in the Sky** rig is more than a set; it is a 7-metre circular centrepiece that can transform your site into a true gathering place. Keep it in situ to frame a dramatic opening or closing moment, and use it across the day as a shared platform for other programmed acts — from live music and spoken word to aerial and dance. Its bold silhouette creates instant focus and amplifies atmosphere, while our team provides full technical and on-site support for seamless changeovers. This enhanced, place-making use of the structure is available for an additional fee and can be tailored to your site, schedule and partner artists.



For more information please email hello@autindt.co.uk



AUDIENCE ACCESS

Please note that the show doesn't contain any text or spoken word. All the storytelling is expressed through movement and physicality.

Accessibility is at the heart of *Up in the Sky*. The performance and participation activities are designed to be welcoming and inclusive for everyone. Each event features an **Accessible Viewing Area** with clear sightlines and close proximity to the action, ensuring an enjoyable experience for all audience members. We offer **Touch Tours** before performances, giving blind and visually impaired members of the public the chance to explore key elements of the aerial rig, meet performers, and experience the textures and materials that bring the story to life. An **Easy Read Guide** is also available, providing clear and simple information about the show's themes, characters, and structure. We strongly encourage and support the coordination of **Live Audio Description** and **BSL interpretation** for opening and closing speeches, the main performance, and "inreach" activities, working closely with event partners to make this possible. Our team is committed to creating an environment where all audiences can feel included, informed, and inspired.

Link for access to Show Programme and Easy Read Guide
<https://amazing.autindt.co.uk>





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