





Welcome to **WOW! Fest** – Walsall Outdoor Wonders Festival

I'm delighted to welcome you to a celebration of dance, community arts, and outdoor spectacle—right here in Walsall, in the beautiful Arbo', on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 July 2025.

Over two unforgettable days, the park will come alive with spectacular performances: aerial dance, dynamic street theatre, interactive family shows, and thought-provoking physical theatre. From giant designs to sign-spinning spectacles, from curious phone-free creatures to collaborative community choreography—WOW! Fest transforms the Arboretum into a stage and a playground for the imagination.

But WOW! Fest is more than a festival—it's a celebration of our shared stories, a space for playful curiosity, and a platform for community voices and emerging talent from across the West Midlands.

Come as you are. Tell your family and your friends. Let's explore, dance, play, feel, and connect—together.

We're so glad you're here.

With energy, imagination, and gratitude,

Johnny Autin

Artistic Director, Autin Dance Theatre | **WOW! Fest**

FRIDAY 18TH JULY

SPOTLIGHT STAGE

12 PM

Linden Dance Company

Caged
12:00-12:30

1 PM

Autin Dance Theatre

Up In The Sky
12:45 - 13:20

2 PM

Ascension Dance Company

The Other Side
13:45 - 14:25

3 PM

Feet Off The Ground

Creature Comforts
14:30 - 15:00

4 PM

Linden Dance Company

Caged
16:30 - 16:55

5 PM

Feet Off The Ground

Creature Comforts
17:15 - 17:45

6 PM

Autin Dance Theatre

Up In The Sky
18:15 - 18:50

7 PM

NEXT GEN STAGE

Schools & Community groups

12:30 - 12:45

Schools & Community groups

13:30 - 13:45

Blacksmith Academy CIC

Muay Thai

13:45-14:00

WORKSHOPS

Ascension Dance Company

Parkour workshop
12:00 - 12:30

Autin Dance Theatre

Mawimbi workshop
14:00 - 14:30

FREE

WORKSHOPS

Autin Dance Theatre

Mawimbi workshop
16:15 - 16:45

Ascension Dance Company

Parkour workshop
17:45 - 18:15

SIGN SPINNING

Mercurial Dance

Sign Spinning
11:45 - 12:00

Mercurial Dance

Sign Spinning
14:30 - 14:45

Mercurial Dance

Sign Spinning
15:30 - 15:45

Mercurial Dance

Sign Spinning
17:00 - 17:15

Mercurial Dance

Sign Spinning
18:00 - 18:15

SATURDAY 19TH JULY



SPOTLIGHT STAGE

11 AM

Feet Off The Ground

Creature Comforts
11:15 - 11:45

12 PM

Linden Dance Company

Caged
12:00 - 12:25

1 PM

Autin Dance Theatre

Up In The Sky
12:45 - 13:20

2 PM

Ascension Dance Company

The Other Side
13:45 - 14:25

3 PM

Feet Off The Ground

Creature Comforts
14:45 - 15:15

4 PM

Linden Dance Company

Caged
15:30 - 15:55

5 PM

Autin Dance Theatre

Up In The Sky
16:15 - 16:50

6 PM

Ascension Dance Company

The Other Side
17:15 - 17:55

NEXT GEN STAGE

SHOW 1 from 11:30

Schools & Community groups

NEXT GEN STAGE

SHOW 2 from 13:30

Schools & Community groups

NEXT GEN STAGE

SHOW 3 from 16:00

Schools & Community groups

WORKSHOPS

Autin Dance Theatre

Mawimbi workshop
11:30 - 12:00

Ascension Dance Company

Parkour workshop
12:15 - 12:45

FREE

WORKSHOPS

Autin Dance Theatre

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15:15 - 15:45

Ascension Dance Company

Parkour workshop
16:15 - 16:45

SIGN SPINNING

Mercurial Dance

Sign Spinning
11:45 - 12:00

Mercurial Dance

Sign Spinning
13:00 - 13:15

Mercurial Dance

Sign Spinning
14:30 - 14:45

Mercurial Dance

Sign Spinning
16:00 - 16:15

Mercurial Dance

Sign Spinning
17:00 - 17:15

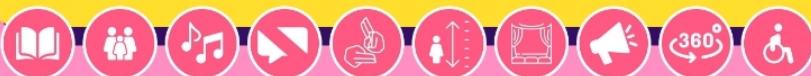
SPOTLIGHT STAGE

UP IN THE SKY

Autin Dance Theatre

Experience Up in the Sky, a breathtaking outdoor aerial dance performance exploring themes of resilience, displacement, and hope. Witness dynamic aerial choreography and captivating storytelling on a striking 7-metre truss structure. Perfect for families and young audiences, this immersive show inspires connection and celebrates the strength of the human spirit.

@autindt



Age: 5+

Friday 18th July 2025

12:45 & 18:15

Saturday 19th July 2025

12:45 & 16:15

CAGED

Linden Dance Company

West Midlands dance company Linden Dance promotes positivity, individuality and empowerment, championing diverse perspectives, backgrounds and creative voices in a strong, physical movement language which brings together Afro-fusion and Contemporary dance styles. Their explosive new outdoor dance piece CAGED follows four characters on a journey from solitude to connectedness. Performing inside and around a 3m high metal "birdcage", the four performers explore ambiguous worlds of entrapment and safety, a delicate balance that ultimately leads to feelings of hope and reconciliation. The emotive themes are reflected in an athletic, daring physicality and a punchy soundtrack.

@linden.dc



Age: 5+

Friday 18th July 2025

12:00 & 16:30

Saturday 19th July 2025

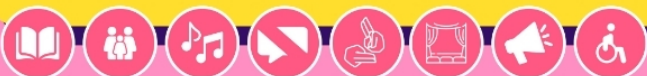
12:45 & 16:15

THE OTHER SIDE

Ascension Dance Company

'The Other Side' is about selfishness and as humans, our desire for more. The Other Side is a highly physical outdoor performance that tackles the ideas of bridging difference and divides in order to all benefit. Watch the performer realise that the only way to succeed will be by finding a way to work together, support each other and lift one another up.

@ascensiondanceuk



All Ages

Friday 18th July 2025

13:45 & 15:30

Saturday 19th July 2025

13:45 & 17:15



CREATURE COMFORTS

Feet off the Ground

This family friendly outdoor show follows Flynn, whose phone is consuming her mind, squashing her imagination and flair. Absorbed in her phone, she doesn't notice the appearance of a large, mysterious four-legged creature.

Can she stop scrolling and start strolling with this magnificent creature? Will she leave behind her creature comforts and enter a world full of fun and magic! Come and celebrate the power of play, friendship and imagination.

@feetoffthegrounddance



Age: 3+

Friday 18th July 2025

14:30 & 17:15

Saturday 19th July 2025

11:15 & 14:45

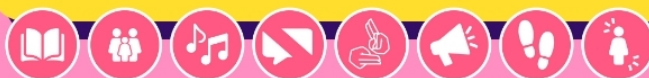


SIGN SPINNING

Mercurial Dance

An arts activism piece that seeks to bring a change to the high and rising levels of mental health conditions in young people: creating work that seeks to re-address the ways young people regain positive mental health by connecting them to the power of dance, movement and embodiment.

@mercurialdance



Age: 5+

Friday 18th July 2025

11:45, 14:30, 15:30, 17:00 & 18:00

Saturday 19th July 2025

11:15, 13:00, 14:30, 16:00 & 17:00



Digital Programme & Easy Read Guide

bit.ly/WOWfest-programme



POETIC LICENSE

*Linden Youth Dance Company,
soloist; Lily Reyes.*

12:30

SACRED SHADOWS

*Fortis Academy students, created in collaboration
with Autin Dance Theatre*

12:35

SACRED SHADOWS

*Fortis Academy students, created in collaboration
with Autin Dance Theatre*

13:30

POETIC LICENSE

*Linden Youth Dance Company,
soloist; Lily Reyes.*

13:35

MUAY THAI

Blacksmith Academy CIC

13:45



NEXT GEN STAGE

SATURDAY 19TH JULY

1ST SHOW

DISCONNECTED

Stowlawn Primary School with their performance in collaboration with Linden Dance Company and Autin Dance Theatre.

11:30

SEASONS WITHIN

Connection Dance with their performance created in collaboration with Autin Dance Theatre

11:35

LANGUAGE OF THE UNHEARD

Linden Youth Dance Company

11:40

TWO WORLDS APART

Connection Dance

11:45

AFRO FUSION DANCE

AfroCave Dance

11:50

2ND SHOW

AFRO FUSION DANCE

AfroCave Dance

13:30

TWO WORLDS APART

Connection Dance

13:45

LANGUAGE OF THE UNHEARD

Linden Youth Dance Company

13:50

SEASONS WITHIN

Connection Dance with their performance created in collaboration with Autin Dance Theatre

13:55

DISCONNECTED

Stowlawn Primary School with their performance in collaboration with Linden Dance Company and Autin Dance Theatre.

14:00

3RD SHOW

DISCONNECTED

Stowlawn Primary School with their performance in collaboration with Linden Dance Company and Autin Dance Theatre.

16:00

SEASONS WITHIN

Connection Dance with their performance created in collaboration with Autin Dance Theatre

16:05

LANGUAGE OF THE UNHEARD

Linden Youth Dance Company

16:10

TWO WORLDS APART

Connection Dance

16:15





 PORTABLE TOILETS

 FIRST AID STATION

 QUIET SPACE


 FOOD VENDOR

 INFORMATION POINT

 LOST CHILD POINT

 EXTERNAL STALLS

 DRINKING WATER STATION


 WOW! FEST SHOP

 LEVEL UP LOUNGE

STAGES & PERFORMANCE SPACES

 AUTIN DANCE THEATRE
UP IN THE SKY

 NEXT GEN STAGE

 LINDEN DANCE COMPANY
CAGED

 ASCENSION DANCE COMPANY
THE OTHER SIDE

Everyone at Autin Dance Theatre would like to thank our funders, partners, and supporters—including all the incredible individuals and organisations who backed our recent crowdfunding campaign.

Your belief in our vision for this festival has helped bring it to life. We are forever grateful, and we hope you enjoy every moment of **WOW! Fest 2025**.

Funders



Funded by UK Gov, Walsall Council, Walsall MakerFest Fringe 2025, Arts Council England, West Midlands Combined Authority, Wellbeing Walsall, Healthy Walsall, Crowdfund Walsall, WS4 Dental Care, Optimax, Backstage Trust, Sport England & The Foyle Foundation

Partners & Supporters



Walsall Arboretum, Black Country Dance Hub, OPUS - Outdoor Places Unusual Spaces, Caldmore Community Garden, FABRIC, Birmingham Hippodrome, STEAMhouse - Birmingham City University & Royal Birmingham Conservatoire



Find out more about **WOW! Fest**
autindt.co.uk/wow-fest/