



AUTIN  
DANCE THEATRE



**Trailer**





***Up in the Sky*** is a thrilling aerial adventure for families, where dance takes flight and imagination knows no bounds! Performed on a giant 7-metre circular structure, 6 incredible performers leap, spin and soar through the skies in a playful tale about 2 siblings, finding your way, and what makes us feel at home. Co-created with young people, this bold new show blends spectacular aerial movement, music and magical visuals to inspire hearts of all ages. Gather round, look up, and join us for a journey above the clouds!

**Previewing at festivals in summer 2025.**

**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

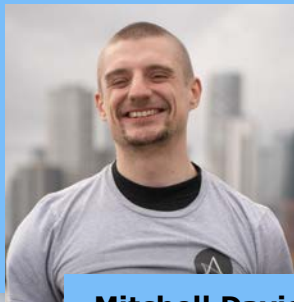
**Aerial Dance Mentor:** Lindsey Butcher (Gravity & Levity)

**Music:** Richard Shrewsbury (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

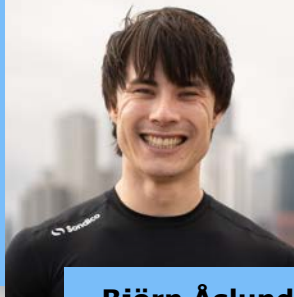
**Performers:** Mitchell Davis, Will Hodson, Travis Smith & Björn Åslund



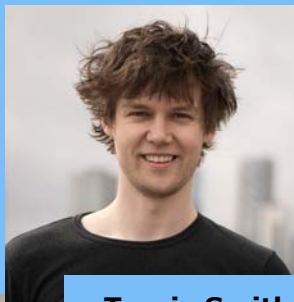


**Mitchell Davis**

Mitchell Davis is a contemporary dance artist based in London. They first discovered dance through a Balletboyz workshop at school, where the blend of athleticism and artistry immediately captivated them. Mitchell trained at Trinity Laban and later completed a placement with Motionhouse during their time at Northern School of Contemporary Dance. Professional credits include Motionhouse, Southpaw Dance Company, and performances for Burberry at London Fashion Week. Passionate about both performance and education, Mitchell has led and assisted classes for a wide age range. Dance continues to be a grounding and empowering force throughout their life and creative journey.

**@mitchelldavis\_\_****Björn Åslund**

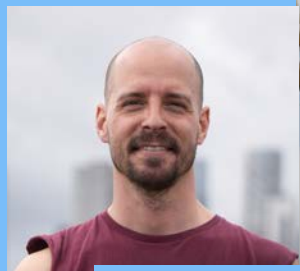
Björn Åslund (he/they) is a queer dancer, performer and creator of Malaysian Chinese and Swedish heritage, originally from Aotearoa (New Zealand). A graduate of the New Zealand School of Dance (2019), Björn has performed across Australasia and has been based in the UK since 2023. Their practice spans ballet, contemporary, dance theatre and cabaret, alongside experience in circus, jazz and musical theatre. Credits include DeNada Dance Theatre, Garsington Opera and The Royal Opera and Ballet. Björn is also an active creator, developing collaborative work for fringe festivals and youth companies with musicians and interdisciplinary artists.

**@theeverchangingboy****Travis Smith**

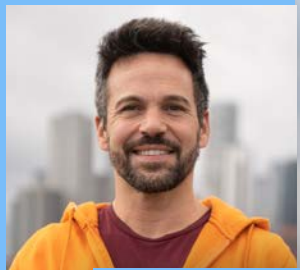
Travis Smith is a working-class artist from the North of England, currently based in London. His dance practice blends contemporary with Hip-Hop and breakdance, shaped by a strong passion for music and composition. Musicality sits at the core of his work, informing both his movement and creative expression. Travis is a physical and committed performer, bringing intensity and presence to his practice. At the heart of his approach is a strong sense of kindness and authenticity.


**Will Hodson**

Will is a freelance dance artist based in Birmingham, originally from Eastleigh, Hampshire. He began his training at Northern School of Contemporary Dance and graduated with First Class (Hons) from the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance, later completing a Master's degree at the University of Chichester while touring with MapDance. Will has performed nationally with 2Faced Dance Company, working with artists including Alleyne Dance, Fleur Darkin and Tamsin Fitzgerald. He has also worked with ZoieLogic Dance Theatre, Luke Brown Dance, Tribe and Shaper Caper, and is currently collaborating on a range of projects with Autin Dance Theatre.

**@willhodson**

**Jamie Higgins**

Jamie Higgins is a professional aerial dancer with over a decade of experience in the circus and dance industry. Jamie trained as a dancer, and then an aerialist and has found the marriage between these two art forms to be highly complimentary. After graduating London Contemporary Dance School (2008), Jamie has spent the last 15 years performing all around the world, his expertise have given him the chance to perform at The Royal Opera House, Bregenz Opera house, Opera de Lille, performing with some amazing companies, Gravity & Levity, Fidgetfeet, Levantes Dance Theatre, and performing in shows such as The Olympics, The Commonwealth Games, Bear Grylls arena tour (Endeavour).

**@jjhiggins87**

**Johnny Autin**

Johnny Autin trained in contemporary dance at the National Conservatoire in Paris. He is Artistic Director of Autin Dance Theatre and Puppetry Director for \*Tales from Acorn Wood\* (UK tours 2022–2023) and the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony. With over 20 years' experience, Johnny is an award-winning choreographer and dance leader, known for multidisciplinary work across professional, community, and educational settings. He has been commissioned by international organisations including British Council, Dance Hub Birmingham, and Muda Africa. He is Associate Dance Artist at Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) and a trustee of Dancefest, using dance to inspire, educate, and empower communities.

**@johnny.autin**



**Autin Dance Theatre**, led by acclaimed choreographer Johnny Autin, is an award-winning Birmingham-based charity. ADT creates socially inclusive, multi-disciplinary performances blending storytelling, physicality, and large-scale designs. Known for productions like *Out of the Deep Blue* and *Parade - The Giant Wheel*, ADT engages communities in theatres and outdoor spaces. In 2025, it unveils *Up in the Sky*, an aerial dance exploring resilience and belonging.



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# AUTIN DANCE THEATRE

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