

Hello, I'm Lindsey Butcher and I'm artistic director of the European Aerial Dance Festival. I'm a white, cisgender older woman with short, asymmetric cropped silver white hair, and I wear hearing aids. This short video is for anyone coming to this year's EADF in August who'd like to know more about the event. The venue, what to expect and some practicalities in advance.

We want you all to feel extremely welcome. We'll come back on how to get to the venue towards the end of the video, but let's start at the wonderful Worthing Pavilion, home of the EADF. There are steps leading directly up to the front of the building, or alternatively, there's a wheelchair accessible ramp leading up from the right side of the building.

Pass around the front of the building, past the box office on your right, and you'll come to a set of double crash doors that open outwards. These are wide enough for a powered wheelchair to pass through, and you've arrived. Welcome. Come on in.

Directly in front of these doors will be a table and a friendly person waiting to greet you. Most probably Paul, who's already handled all of your bookings. Paul is a white, middle aged man with brown medium length hair, buzzed short on the sides. He has a brown beard. Once at the venue, you'll be asked to register, agree and sign the terms and conditions and then you'll be given your EADF Welcome Pack. Most of the activities will happen in the main space of the Pavilion Theater, which gets transformed into an aerial playground for the two weeks of the festival.

The main space is divided into five sections spaces B to F, with classes happening simultaneously in each. From the main entrance and registration desk if you follow the wall around to the right and pass through another set of wide double doors, you'll reach a non aerial space called the Atrium Dance Studio or Space A, where the majority of the non aerial classes will happen with the exception of a few warm ups and warm downs.

We've designated one area as a low sensory break space. This is accessible through a final set of double doors and on the far side of space a this will be curtained off. Have bean bags, floor cushions and made us comfortable as possible. We will strive for this to be a quiet space. Unfortunately, quietness cannot be guaranteed at all times due to many factors, so we are part of the access team at the festival.

And I'm Vicky and this is Welly We're part of a small team that are going to be there all the way through the festival, but with a particular focus on week one. So we'd like to tell you a little bit about our role there. So we are artists. We are used to doing access support. Between us, and we've got a lot of experience.

We've got aerial experience dance experience theatre experience. So I think everybody will find somebody that they're able to work with, or that they'd have a bond with and be able to talk to. Essentially what we want to do is we want you to come and we're going to help you feel settled and like you can get the most out of the festival.

That's what we're there for. And that could be support within your session, within your class. So a bit more information, working with your teachers and with yourself. It could be actually to orientate around the festival within the space at the festival. And we would also, if possible, like to help you just feel like you can connect with your peers and find those kind of support networks between yourselves as well.

So we can't offer 1 to 1 personal assistant support, but we can do general stuff between the team for you. We'll have interpreters. We could do simple audio description, for example, but that's why it's important to come and talk to the team about your needs as soon as possible, so we can get as much of that in place as possible for you.

So if you need any more information, get in touch with info@gravity-levity.net and you can get in touch, however that's good for you. Voice note, email however however you want and the more information the better for us. So don't feel like, oh, I'm actually filling in this huge form. It's much better for us to have as much information before as possible, and we're looking forward to seeing you at the festival.

Back in the main space, on the same side of the building from where you arrived, there are two sets of gendered toilets, each of which have 17 steps down. Entrances to both are located on the back wall of the venue and assigned. There are also three accessible bathrooms in the venue. The first of these is located between the main space and the Atrium Dance Studio.

It is gender neutral and suitable for a powered wheelchair to pass through. This bathroom has space below the sink, grab rails and a baby changing table. Please note there is no adult size changing table in the building. The remaining two accessible bathrooms are accessed through the Atrium Dance studio space and are located in two gendered toilets. They each have grab rails.

If you'd like more details about what the infrastructure of the Worthing Pavilion does and does not provide, there's more information available on their website, the links to which can be found at the bottom of the EADF home page, under the heading A New Home for EADF.

For those of you traveling to the Pavilion Theatre by public transport, the number 700 bus will drop you off right outside the venue. If you're traveling from Worthing train station, after exiting the ticket barrier, turn left out of the station. There's a zebra crossing directly in front of you. Go across this towards the Railway Hotel and then keep going left along this road you'll pass a five story red brick building on your right.

Once you reach the end of this building, there'll be a footpath again on your right. Follow this footpath to the end. There'll be a construction site on your right, and directly ahead there'll be two sets of traffic lights. Cross over at the traffic lights and turn left. Then follow the road around to the right. Stay on this same road and it will take you all the way down to the seafront.

Keep going down this road for approximately ten minutes. On this road you'll pass the town hall and museum on your right, and the Connaught Theater and Cinema on your left. At the end of the road, turn right and cross over towards the seafront at the traffic lights. The Pavilion Theater is almost directly in front of you, just slightly to the left.

If you're driving and require accessible parking, Steyn Gardens is the closest car park that has disabled bays. Alternatively, Grafton Car Park, which is directly above the Marks and Spencer store to the left and across the road as you exit the venue, also has disabled parking bays. There are blue badge holder bays along the seafront. So that was just a quick guide to the EADF and what you might expect prior to and during the festival.

There is also a PDF word doc transcript of this video in our Frequently Asked Questions, under accessibility, should you require that. If you've still got any questions after watching this video, please don't hesitate to contact myself or Paul. info@gravity-levity.net or info@eadf.co.uk. We want you all to feel extremely welcome and I can't wait to meet you all.