SING WITH
extraordinary bodies

Information Pack
for Singers & Choir Leaders
What is Doing Things Differently?
Doing Things Differently is a new event for Bristol and the South West that will be held in September 2016. The event will help to move us closer to a true reflection of the diversity of the population on stage and in performance, sharing ideas that are changing the face of performance regionally and nationally.

Presented by Bristol City Council and Diverse City, we are working with artists and audiences across Bristol to bring together a programme of things to see, do and learn from.

**Weighting** by Extraordinary Bodies, will be the main feature at Castle Park on the 17th and 18th September.

From inspirational talks, to practical 'How to' workshops, there will also be groundbreaking shows like you've never experienced before. The Full programme will be announced throughout July 2016.

Check out the website for regular updates: [www.doingthingsdifferently.org.uk](http://www.doingthingsdifferently.org.uk). You can also subscribe to our [Doing Things Differently newsletter](mailto:) to receive the latest updates by email.

What is Extraordinary Bodies?
Extraordinary Bodies is a partnership between Cirque Bijou and Diverse City, who worked together on the launch of the Sailing events in Weymouth for the London 2012 Olympic Games, creating a show for 11,000 people.

Extraordinary Bodies is a UK based professional integrated circus company. We make circus for every body. Our company is made up of performers of every age and every type of body.

What is Weighting?
Combining circus, dance and theatre, **Weighting** is an Extraordinary Bodies performance that tells the story of an Extraordinary family who make new discoveries in the face of love and loss. The show celebrates risk-taking, transformation and questions the right time to let go. Directed by Billy Alwen and Claire Hodgson, **Weighting** fuses circus, dance and theatre into a 45 minute show, complete with a beautiful musical score played by a five-piece band and written by Dom Coyote and Ted Barnes.

How do I sing in Weighting?
Everywhere **Weighting** tours we create a local integrated community choir that performs the song ‘Moments and Memories’ during the finale of the show. Anyone can join in and learn the song at rehearsals in the lead up to the show. No previous singing experience is required; we do ask that you attend at least three rehearsals and the dress rehearsal.
**When are the performances?**
*Weighting* will be performed at Castle Park on the 16th, 17th and 18th September.

- **Friday 16th September** 6:00pm Invited dress rehearsal
- **Saturday 17th September** 2:00pm & 6:00pm Shows
- **Sunday 18th September** 12:00pm & 3:00pm Shows

You will need to be able to come to the performance days. Attending every performance is not necessary, but we do hope you can make as many as possible.

We will let you know the ‘call’ times nearer the event. We usually ask people to be on site at least an hour and a half beforehand to warm up with the choirmaster, Colin. Refreshments will be available.

**When are the rehearsals?**
Rehearsals will take place on the following days. You will need to attend at least 3 rehearsals, but we encourage you to attend as many as you are able to!

- **Saturday 23rd July**
  11am – 1.30pm or 2.30pm – 5pm
  The Station, Silver Street, BS1 2AG

- **Sunday 24th July – BSL Interpreted rehearsals**
  11am – 1.30pm or 2.30pm – 5pm
  Trinity Centre, Trinity Rd, BS2 0NW

- **Saturday 13th August**
  11am – 1.30pm or 2.30pm – 5pm
  The Station, Silver Street, BS1 2AG

- **Sunday 14th August**
  11am – 1.30pm or 2.30pm – 5pm
  Barton Hill Settlement, 43 Ducie Rd, BS5 0AX

- **Sunday 11th September**
  11am – 1.30pm
  Zion Centre, Bishopsworth Road, BS13 7JW

All rehearsals are fully accessible. Please let us know if you have any specific access requirements.
**Why do you need a community choir?**
We want to celebrate every body, disabled or not. Everyone is extraordinary and we actively encourage the idea that circus and performance is available to everyone. We believe community engagement is key to changing people’s perceptions and working from within the local community is a great place to start. We need your help to spread this message!

**What if I run my own choir?**
You can attend a rehearsal with Colin, or receive music and lyrics and teach your own choir. Just bring them along on the dress and to the performances!

Colin is happy to Skype or offer telephone support should you need it. More information can be seen [here](#).

**What do I need to do?**
You will sing the song ‘Moments and Memories’ as part of the company during the finale of the show. You will learn a part of the song in rehearsals and by practicing at home. You will be given all of the things you need. You will be given your part, the lyrics, recordings and song sheets. These are available in a hard copy, by post or via email.

**Do I need to have sung before?**
No singing experience is needed – just an open heart and mind.

**Do I need to be part of a choir?**
No, you can come on your own. This is a great opportunity to meet new people of all experiences and backgrounds.

**Are three rehearsals enough?**
You can come to as many as you like – three is the minimum! But our Choir Master, Colin Rea will bring the song together during rehearsals. Colin is very experienced and has over 15 years in education settings and the performing arts industry. He has delivered children’s choirs for Bill Kenwright’s Joseph tour and Evita amongst others. He also runs his own company Big Noise Chorus Ltd.

**Can I rehearse on my own?**
Yes, each voice part has been recorded individually so that you can rehearse your own part. Once you know your own line well enough, you can then listen to the full recording to try to hold your own line amongst the other voices.

**I don’t read music, does this matter?**
No, you can learn by listening to the rehearsal music. The written score of Moments and Memories is available for those who read music.
What do I need to wear?
Wear the outfit that makes you feel special. We want you to look amazing. Any colour, any style is welcome - glamour is the key word. Sequins, dinner suits, bow ties, ball gowns, cocktail dresses, feather boas, silk gloves, jazzy waistcoats - all welcome. If it’s your very favourite football strip, jeans with a shirt that makes you feel fantastic – wear it!

What will happen on the day of the show?
Singers will be given a full schedule and a ‘call sheet’ for the timings of the shows. You will be asked to attend several hours before the performance to warm up, have a technical rehearsal and run through the finale a few times all together. You will be given refreshments, a place to rest when not rehearsing and somewhere to store bags. The site will be secured but we ask that people do not bring any valuables that they cannot keep on their person as we cannot accept responsibility for any lost or stolen items.

Can my family watch the show?
Yes, of course! You can invite friends and family to the show – in fact, we positively encourage this! We will hand out flyers so that you can publicise the event.

What do I do if I suddenly can’t make a rehearsal or performance?
Please contact Rachel Adams as soon as you can, to let her know you are unable to make it. (Contact details at the end of this document).

How will you contact me?
We can email, text or call you depending on what is best for you. Just let us know your contact details. There is a form on our website to leave your contact details, you can fill this in here.

There will also be a Doing Things Differently Facebook event page, which we will announce information on.
We will be on Twitter too: @diversecity1 #doingthingsdifferently

Will I have to fill any forms in?
It is not obligatory, but we do invite our choir to give us feedback on their experience after the event. We have a questionnaire that we ask people to complete but we can support you with this.

For more information, song sheets, lyrics and any other information contact Rachel Adams, Participation Producer, on r.adams@diversecity.org.uk or call 07877 581 740.