

# THE MIDLANDS ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

WOLVERHAMPTON & BLACK COUNTRY

# What's On

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ISSUE 350 FEBRUARY 2015



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interview inside...



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# February 2015

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**What's On**  
MAGAZINE GROUP



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## Carl Fogarty to lead Bike4Life Fest

I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here! winner and seven-times World Superbike champion Carl Fogarty is appealing to riders from across the region to join him at this year's Bike4Life Fest. The twenty-three mile motor-bike procession from Shrewsbury to RAF Museum Cosford takes place on Sunday 26 April and will be raising funds for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity (MAAC). Last year more than eight thousand bikers, their families and friends from across the UK took part in the event, making it one of the biggest and best biker rides in the country.



## Bach Choir extends invitation

Birmingham Bach Choir is inviting singers from across the West Midlands to join its annual Come And Sing event this month. Taking place at Selly Oak Methodist Church on 7 February, the afternoon event explores Faure's Requiem via an informal workshop/rehearsal led by the choir's Musical Director and conductor, Paul Spicer. Also in attendance will be Birmingham Conservatoire soloists Elizabeth Adams and Tim Emberson. A booking form and more information about the event can be found at [www.birmingham.bachchoir.com](http://www.birmingham.bachchoir.com)



## Dudley Canals celebrates visitor success

Dudley Canal Trust enjoyed a significant increase in visitor numbers last year. A twenty-three percent rise in the last quarter of 2014 is being attributed to the success of the Trust's annual Santa boat trips. The boats sold out as early as November, with extra dates being added to cope with demand. Continuing to expand its visitor offer, the Trust has revealed numerous new attractions



Lucy and Christopher Key

## West End professionals looking for local talent

As West End Resident Director and Worldwide Associate Director of hit musical Les Miserables, Christopher Key is no stranger to the world of musical theatre and all it entails. Now Christopher and his wife Lucy are looking to share their skills and extensive knowledge of the industry with youngsters from Shropshire who have a passion for the performing arts. The Much Wenlock-based couple recently launched Key Theatre Academy at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn, for young people aged between eleven and twenty-one. The Saturday performing arts course is run by West End professionals, including leading lady Erica Deakin, whose credits include Mamma Mia!, Billy Elliot, Oliver! and Spend, Spend, Spend. Using its direct link to the West End, television and film, Key Theatre Academy is promising to be a local performing arts course like no other. Anyone wishing to register or find out more can do so by emailing [info@keytheatreacademy.com](mailto:info@keytheatreacademy.com)

for the coming season, including a sound-and-light show in the famous Singing Cavern. The new show is being launched during this month's half-term holiday. An 'exciting' programme of events is also planned for the remainder of the year.



## New display explores aviation during the First World War

A new exhibition area celebrating the achievements of Britain's air services has been unveiled at the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford.

A permanent fixture at the museum, First World War In The Air allows visitors to find out about the often-overlooked role of air power during the 1914/18 conflict. Stories from the men and women who served and protected the nation, documents, film and photographs all feature in the exhibition, illustrating the way in which aviation changed the character of war forever. Highlights of the display include three iconic First World War aircraft - the Sopwith Pup, Sopwith 1 1/2 Strutter and the Bristol M.1c. Also displayed are personal items belonging to Second Lieutenant Kevin Robert Furniss of the RFC, who lived only a few miles from Cosford, in Wolverhampton.

## Hippodrome boss steps down after twelve 'exciting and rewarding' years

Birmingham Hippodrome's Chief Executive, Stuart Griffiths OBE, has announced he's to step down after twelve years in his current post to become Programming Director for Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG). Stuart will join ATG in July and will work alongside Michael Lynas (Managing Director, Content) to deliver top-quality productions to the group's thirty-nine venues, including Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre and the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent. Commenting on his time at the Hippodrome, Stuart said: "I feel hugely privileged to have had the opportunity to work with a fantastic team at Birmingham for over twelve years, which have been the most exciting and rewarding of my career. I've been very lucky to have been generously supported throughout that time by wonderful colleagues and Trustees".





## Exhibition explores railway links in the 1800s

An exhibition of lithographs, original sketches and wash drawings by John Cooke Burne (1814-1896) is to be displayed at the Coalbrookdale Gallery in the Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

Drawn from the collections of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and the National Railway Museum, *To Check The Tide Of Prejudice* (showing from 30 April to 10 September) explores how Burne's work presented the railway in a picturesque fashion for the very first time. It also provides a rare glimpse into the construction of early railways and the lives of the navigators who built them.



## Second outing for after-hours festival

Organisers behind a UK-wide series of events celebrating arts, culture and heritage have added a new date to the calendar. Museums At Night, which traditionally takes place in May, will now also take the form of a two-day festival on 30 and 31 October. Now in its seventh year, the event offers visitors an opportunity to explore museums, galleries and historic spaces out of hours, and also features a series of programmed events.

To find out what's happening in your area, visit [www.museumsatnight.org.uk](http://www.museumsatnight.org.uk)



## A Summer In The South at The REP

This month sees two of Britain's most acclaimed actors come together to host a tribute to one of France's greatest writers. Robert Powell and Sian Phillips will pay homage to Sidonie-Gabrielle Collette in *A Summer In The South* at Birmingham Repertory Theatre on 15 February. Devised and directed by Midlands theatre critic Richard Edmonds, the two-hander is described as 'fusing dark and disturbing stories with colourful and amusing ones to create a haunting mosaic of prose and dramatised passages'.

*A Summer In The South* made its debut at Bromsgrove Festival. It's since received a warm welcome at the Edinburgh Festival and Hampstead's Kenwood House.



## Faith In The Forest...

Multi-talented songstress Paloma Faith has announced she's to perform at the Forestry Commissions series of outdoor concerts this summer.

The Perfect Contradiction star will play seven woodland locations, including Cannock Chase Forest in Staffordshire (10 July) as part of Forest Live. Income from ticket sales is spent protecting, improving and expanding England's forests and woodlands, increasing their value both to people and wildlife. Of her involvement in the events, Paloma said: "I'm so excited to do the forest tour. I did it before and had such a wonderful time. We're so very lucky in Britain to have such a beautiful and diverse landscape, and I'm so excited to play for you there again. See you all in the summer!"

For further information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/music](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/music)

### IN BRIEF

#### Wiggle away in the West Midlands

Leading charity Action For Children has announced it's teamed up with The World Of Eric Carle™ to encourage West Midlands children's centres, nurseries and groups for the under-fives to host a Giant Wiggle on 19 March. The event will celebrate the UK's most-read children's book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*™. Brigitte Gater, UK West Director of Children's Services at Action For Children, said: "By hosting a sponsored Giant Wiggle you will help us to support vulnerable children, young people and families in the heart of communities in the West Midlands and across the UK."

A similar event in March 2014 raised £80,000 for Action For Children. For more information on how to get involved, visit [www.actionforchildren.org/giantwiggle](http://www.actionforchildren.org/giantwiggle)

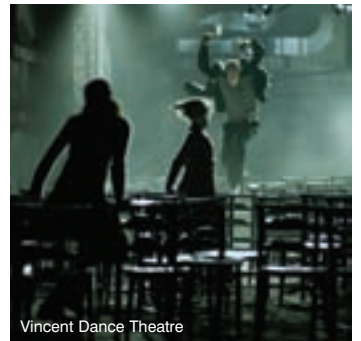
## Dempsey to star in Arthur Miller classic

Michael Brandon, the star of 1980s TV cop show *Dempsey And Makepeace*, is next month taking top billing in Arthur Miller's *A Bridge Too Far* at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre (24 to 28 March). US-born Brandon, who in real life is married to his *Dempsey And Makepeace* co-star Glynis Barber, will play Alfieri in Miller's chilling masterpiece. Jonathan Guy Lewis takes the role of Eddie Carbone in the Touring Consortium Theatre Company production.

## DanceXchange announce new season

All-male troupe 2Faced Dance, Charlotte Vincent's Dance Theatre and a production from award-winning director Benji Reid feature amongst an eclectic and exciting spring programme from Birmingham-based DanceXchange.

A sure-to-be highlight, and bringing the passion and heat of Spain to the Hippodrome's Patrick Centre, flamenco star Jesus Fernandez promises a nostalgic view of his home town in a piece of work titled *Cadiz* - a high energy performance of music and dance. For further information on the spring programme, visit [www.danceXchange.org.uk](http://www.danceXchange.org.uk)



## Plans for Brierley Hill Civic Hall unveiled

Dudley Council has approved a partnership agreement allowing a community group to run Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

As part of an entertainment masterplan, the authority has agreed that Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (DCVS) can manage the running of the building for an initial eighteen-month period. It's hoped that DCVS will use its community contacts to bring more shows, acts and business to the complex. The council will consult with community groups throughout the pilot period to evaluate how well the project is working.



# Simon Stephens

playwright talks about adapting *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time* for the stage..

It's a decade now since Mark Haddon's groundbreaking book, *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time*, snuck out of the publisher's warehouse and surprised everybody. It was an unlikely novel, with an even less likely leading lad. What at first appeared to be a naïve narrative soon revealed itself to be the personal testimony of a fifteen-year-old boy with Aspergers syndrome. It was a work of fiction, but it was so lovingly researched you'd never have known it. Contesting Haddon's claim that the story was 'un-stageable', playwright Simon Stephens took on the task of adapting *The Curious Incident*... for the stage.

Directed by the award-winning Marianne Elliot, of *War Horse* fame, the play opened at the National Theatre in 2012 to tremendous acclaim.

What's On caught up with Simon ahead of the show's arrival in the Midlands this month as part of a national tour.

“

*I was daunted by the book's celebrity and fascinated by the challenge of how one dramatises a novel.*

”



**What inspired you to adapt Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time* for the stage?**

Mark asked me to write it for him. I was immensely flattered, as I loved the book and had been inspired by it in earlier plays before I'd even met him. I was daunted by the book's celebrity and fascinated by the challenge of how one dramatises a novel. I also very much wanted to find out what Christopher's parents looked like, and thought a good way of doing that would be to dramatises them.

**How did you set about adapting a novel which Mark himself had described as 'un-stageable'?**

The innate dramatic charge of his dialogue means his work is eminently stageable. I spent some time trying to separate the narrative from the prose of the book. I worked through it and listed all of the events that happened in the story. I then spent some time transcribing the direct speech. I had this hunch that in the direct speech there would be clues as to the book's dramatic heart. It was through this that I came up with the idea of using Siobhan as a narrator. She's one of only three people in the novel who read Christopher's book, and her viewpoint is so much like that of the novel's readers. I also think that the idea of a favourite teacher is one many people can relate to. She's a peripheral character in the novel but central to the play.

**What do you think the story is about and why does it appeal to readers and theatre-goers?**

I think it's a story about family. It's about what it's like to raise a child or be raised; to parent or have parents. I also think it's a celebration of the capacity for bravery in the most unlikely of environments. Stories of bravery and stories of families both resonate.

**How much did you and Mark collaborate on the stage adaptation?**

Hardly at all. He told me I could do what I wanted. While he was supportive, I kept a beautiful distance. He read early drafts and was very encouraging.

**Tell us something about the staging and why you think Marianne Elliott was the right choice to direct the play...**

Marianne has an innate sense of democracy. She combines a fearlessly and ferociously theatrical imagination with a real concern for her audience. She and designer Bunny Christie, together with the rest of the artistic team, committed completely to trying to get into Christopher's head and dramatises his world from within. That's what watching the play feels like. It feels like you're in Christopher's brain.

**How involved were you with the creative process?**

I was at a fair few rehearsals - mainly to offer occasional re-writes and a very few insights into the progression. Marianne and her team were so robust that they didn't need me too much. I mainly turned up late and made tea.

**How do you feel about the show touring around the UK and Ireland?**

It means the world to me. The whole notion of the tour seems to resonate beautifully with Christopher and his sense of adventure and bravery in the novel. The book is a road story and we're hitting the road. That it started at the Lowry in Salford, so near to where I was born and raised, means the world. I took sixteen members of my family, including my ninety-four-year-old Grandma, to opening night. In fact the show started at the Lowry just so she could see it!

**How did you feel about the success of the show; from the Cottesloe - the National Theatre's smallest space - to the West End and then on to Broadway?**

I'm very proud of it. And proud that we never compromised anything to have it succeed. It wasn't our intention to succeed with the play. We just tried to tell the story as well as we could. I think the bravery and sense of experiment comes through in the performance, and the idea that bravery like that appeals to people is inspiring.

**Do you have particular connections with any of the venues that *Curious* is touring to?**

Well, I was brought up in Stockport, not far from Salford. I went to university in York between 1989 and 1992, and my mum and her side of our family is from Belfast.

**I understand you were a teacher? How did that inform your writing, and how did you make the leap from teaching to becoming a playwright?**

I think both writing and teaching operate from the same optimism. The writer and the teacher work from the assumption that they can make the world better and can change people. I loved teaching. The kids I taught continue to live with me in my imagination and inspire my work. I never stopped writing while I was teaching. After a while, Ian Rickson at the Royal Court Theatre read my plays and asked me to be his resident dramatist, a post which I willingly accepted and took up in January 2000. I do still see some of the teachers I worked with and occasionally some of the kids I taught.

**Who was your favourite teacher and how have they influenced your life?**

A teacher called James Siddely taught me A-Level General Studies. He was the first person I ever told that I wanted to be a writer and he encouraged me without reservation. Late in his life, he came to see several of my plays in Manchester and we would have lunch. That was very special. He remains an inspiring presence in my work.

**What other projects are you working on at the moment?**

I've four new plays opening this year. *Carmen Disruption* at London's Almeida Theatre in April. *Song From Far Away*, performed by Toneelgroep Amsterdam, opens in Sao Paulo in March. A play called *Heisenberg* opens in New York, and then a version of Ödön von Horváth's *Karsimir And Karoline*, that I've called *The Funfair*, opens at Manchester's HOME Theatre in May.





**“** *I've met the Queen, but I was more excited about meeting Vera Lynn and Liza Minnelli* **”**

# Jodie Prenger

having a whip-cracking time as Calamity Jane...

Jodie Prenger was catapulted to overnight fame after winning the BBC TV series *I'd Do Anything*. Her subsequent performance as Nancy in Cameron Mackintosh's West End production of *Oliver!* earned her great critical acclaim - as did her portrayal of the Lady of the Lake in Monty Python's *Spamalot* and Dolly in the tour of *One Man, Two Guvnors*.

Jodie's now back on the road as the whip-cracking Calamity Jane - a role made famous by her all-time idol - and visits the Midlands both this month and next.

**What's On recently caught up with the Blackpool-born actress/singer to find out more...**

**How does the stage version of Calamity Jane differ from the 1953 film?**

All of the great music is there but sadly Doris Day is not, so audiences have to put up with me. A few of Sammy Fain's songs didn't make it into the original film due to editing, but they're here in the musical and they're brilliant. There's one called *Careless With The Truth*, which everyone who sees the show thinks is such a phenomenal number. They think they remember it from the film but it never featured. There's another one with Frances Fryer, the guy who comes into town dressed as a woman. He's got a brilliant song, *Everyone Complains About The Weather*. And there's a serenading song

about Adelaide Adams which is just butter. I know people have seen the film but they're actually getting more for their money when they come and watch the show.

**You're a big fan of Doris Day. What's it like playing a role made famous by one of your icons?**

It was quite daunting stepping into her shoes because I don't just love the woman, I adore her. But it's been so lovely playing to such warm audiences. It's a really warm show, more so than any other show I've done. It's just got that magic about it. We get audiences aged from four to one hundred-and-four who come and sing along. It's got

something that I've never experienced in a show before.

**Do you share any character traits with Calamity Jane?**

I Googled Martha Jane, the original Calamity Jane, and yeah, I think we're very similar. Everything bar being an alcoholic and a smoker - Martha, that is. Oh, and I think they referred to her as a prostitute... She was fiery and probably spoke her mind too much.

**How do the demands of playing Calamity compare to previous roles?**

It's tough physically and it's very full on. I think the longest time I'm off stage is about



two minutes. In other shows, you get to go backstage and powder up your make-up and get ready to go back on. Not with this show. Once the buckskins are on, they stay on. But it's great and I never get tired of it. I think that's due to the brilliant cast. I'm on stage and doing a show but I'm still able to listen to Sioned play the piano and pick up the sax. Then Bobby comes along and does the weather dance, which always amazes me. And then there's Tom, who's just a brilliant Bill Hickok. All of these characters are just a delight to share the stage with. For me, that's what keeps it alive.

**We hear that audiences get to enjoy your instrumental skills...**

I play spoons, I play the ukulele and, wait for it, I have a tinkle on the ivories. In for a penny, in for a pound, that's me.

**Are all of these new-found skills?**

I could play the piano but I only read a little music, so it's mainly by ear. Not literally of course, that would be quite painful! The ukulele is only a few chords, in all fairness. As for the spoons, I learned to play watching YouTube, believe it or not. It's amazing. When you're working with these magical maestros, you do actually pick up quite a bit, but much of it was a learning curve for me. I love a challenge.

**Do you have a pre-show routine to psyche yourself up before going on stage?**

I think it's just getting out there and getting on with it. It's a lovely cast and we have a lovely vocal warm-up. Then it's just a case of - pardon the pun - cracking on with it.

**The road to fame was a bit of a winding one for you. When you finally arrived, was it all you'd expected it to be?**

Yes, and then some. One thing that I did expect was that everybody would be snobby, but they were just so welcoming. For me, performing in the West End has been like gaining another big family. I expected it to be hard work. My nan always used to say 'Get your sleeves rolled up and get stuck in', and that's what I've always done. I've always worked really hard at everything I do, and hopefully it pays off.

**Was the overnight success that came with winning I'd Do Anything easy to deal with?**

It shocked me. I hate the saying 'it was like a whirlwind', but it was. I have hardly any recollection of the night I won. I went into genuine shock. I hate being called famous; I just feel grateful that the show gave me the opportunity to do the things I've always dreamed of doing. I think if you keep your feet firmly planted on the floor you'll have a great time. I think there are people out there who want to be famous just for the sake of being famous, and that's so, so wrong. I enjoy just enjoying it.

**Which stars had a big effect on you as an adolescent growing up in Blackpool?**

It's nice to have someone who you can look up to as a kid. When I was growing up, I looked up to people like Bette Midler, Doris Day and Liza Minnelli, who I love so much. I even looked up to Danny La Rue! I mean, drag queens have a lot to answer for in my

life. Oh, and then there was Vera Lynn, who I actually met. I accosted her in a toilet and that was awful. I was a physical wreck and did a curtsy. She was like the Queen. I've met the Queen, but I was more excited about meeting Vera Lynn and Liza Minnelli.

**So do you ever get star-struck working in the West End?**

I always say, we all come into this world the same way and we all go out the same way, but yes, there are a couple of occasions where that's happened. One was meeting Vera Lynn, the other was Liza Minnelli. Both times I went a bit silly and cried after meeting them. The rest of them I'd take for a fish and chip butty.

I always remember meeting the Queen. I went 'Hiya, Your Highness'. I don't know what she must have thought but she was lovely. Two weeks later she came to see One Man, Two Guvnors, so I must have said something right.

I think I'd probably go to pieces if I met Doris Day. I'd probably have convulsions. Ironically, she's now doing what I'd like to do. I've had three dreams in life. I used to be twenty-two stone and my first goal was to lose weight and be healthy. That I achieved on The Biggest Loser. My second was to star in the West End as part of an ensemble, never thinking I'd be a leading lady. My third is yet to happen, and that's to open my own animal sanctuary. That's my bucket list, with other bits in between. That's exactly what Doris Day has done; she's opened an animal sanctuary in California, which I think is just amazing.

**Is that last goal attainable quite soon?**

No, not in the near future. It would require total commitment and I'd have to hang up my hat, which I'm not ready to do yet, but definitely in the future.

**What's your most vivid memory from the first time you stepped on to the West End stage to play Nancy?**

My nerves. I was so unbelievably nervous that night. My mum's still got the picture of the first bow I ever took, and when I look at my face it's just pure happiness. When it's 'a dream come true', it's very difficult to put into words, and that's exactly how it was with that night.

**You've been referred to on a number of occasions as 'one of the best-loved leading ladies in the West End'. Does it feel surreal when you hear people talking about you in that way?**

We just all get on. If you lead a happy ship and you have a good time it makes the job half the trouble, it really does. I've been lucky. In all the shows I've done, they've been like big families. I probably play the mother hen, which is a nice role to play.

**In Oliver! you were described as 'the nation's Nancy'. What qualities do you think made people take you to their hearts?**

I really don't know. Maybe it's because I speak my mind. It's nice to be important, but it's important to be nice, even when you're having a bad day and you want to tell people to go and stick it where the sun don't shine. You've just got to roll up your sleeves like my nan said and get on with it. I'm still

me and I don't ever want to change.

**If things hadn't panned out the way they did, what do you think you'd be doing now?**

I'd probably have started my animal sanctuary a lot earlier than planned and still be singing in gay bars. They were the only places where I could sing my big show tunes and get away with it. I loved it when I used to start up New York New York or Don't Rain On My Parade. I'd still be singing those songs because I genuinely loved doing it.

**All of which has earned you quite a big gay following...**

Yeah, I think I'm a trapped drag queen myself. My nan used to know Danny La Rue. I remember being there when I was really young, seeing the big season shows with Brian Conley and Russ Abbot and thinking 'wow, this really is entertainment, it's live, it's great'. I remember my nan taking me to see 42nd Street when it was on at the Winter Gardens. It's all of those little memories from being a child. Of course, growing up in Blackpool I did see quite a few drag queens. I think that's probably where it all stems from.

**So was becoming a performer always on your radar?**

I think it's either always in you or it's not. I can't watch a film or a show without twitching. Even when I'm putting petrol in my car, and I often don't realise that I'm doing it, I'm swaying from side to side to the music. I think it's just in me - I can't help it. So thank you to all those people who pay to buy a ticket. You're paying to feed my addiction to being on stage. Forget the fags and the booze, just give me a show tune!

**Were your parents always supportive of your ambition to perform?**

Yes, they were always very encouraging - but then they supported me just as much when I was training as a nail technician. When it came to performing, my obstacle was that I went to an all-girls school. Sadly, in those early days as a performer, I played lots of leading men. Nancy was my first female leading role.

**What advice would you give to someone hoping for a career in musical theatre?**

Gain as much knowledge as you can. Don't limit yourself to one thing. Maybe try TV or straight theatre. Get as much experience as you can and always have a back-up plan, like I do. Not only will I have an animal sanctuary, the nails will be amazing!

**You've mastered Nancy in Oliver!, the Lady of the Lake in Spamalot, and now Calamity Jane. What other roles have you got your eye on?**

There are a couple of things that are coming up, but I'm not able to say anything - apart from that it's all quite exciting. It's a bucket list for a leading lady - but Calamity runs until the end of this year, so I'll be cracking my whip for quite some time yet.

Calamity Jane shows at **New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham**, from Tues 17 to Sat 21 February, and **Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent**, from Tues 10 to Sat 14 March



“I’m rude, I swear and can be very harsh, but I’m not that crude. I tend not to do graphic sex stuff, because it doesn’t make me laugh.”



# Jo Caulfield

brings her Uninformed Opinions to the Midlands...

**One of the most successful and instantly recognisable female comedians in the country, Jo Caulfield is a regular on TV favourites *Mock The Week*, *Have I Got News For You* and Michael McIntyre’s *Comedy Roadshow*. About to head out on tour with her latest show, *Uninformed Opinions*, Jo recently took time out to chat to *What’s On*...**

**Tell us about your uninformed opinions...**

I’d imagined I would slowly get wiser over the years, but have now realised that doesn’t happen. Information just leaves my brain continually. I think I realised that a couple of years ago, watching quizzes on TV. I remember thinking, ‘oh, I like a quiz. I’m quite intelligent, I’m well read...’. Then I realised I didn’t remember anything. Now I find quizzes quite annoying. I just watch them to see if there are actually people more stupid than me. I’m also always adamant that I’m right about something, and I never seem to learn that I’m nearly always wrong. Especially when it comes to directions and who’s in what films. I never seem to learn

that I don’t actually know that sort of thing, but I like being consistently wrong about most things. It doesn’t bother me. I still like to make rash judgements about things. For example, someone will talk about a book and I’ll think ‘I haven’t read it but know the gist of it’. Then maybe I’ll start arguing about it. Then I realise I’m really up to my neck with it and think to myself, ‘why did I say I’d read it?’

**When did you first realise you were funny?**

I always liked being funny. I think that’s the thing with a lot of comedians. Even as a kid I’d get a thrill out of it, like if I did something

that would make my mum laugh, or if I was funny at school amongst friends. I think I got more of a kick out of it than was normal for a well-balanced person.

**Were you quite a show-off as a child?**

I was one of those odd kids who would show off amongst my group. I could be quite shy in other areas. I remember a teacher saying to my mum that she’d seen me with my peer group and I wasn’t the way I was in class, where I’d be very quiet. I also moved around a lot as a kid and went to different schools, and saying something funny was a way of breaking the ice with new classmates. I think quite often comics



aren't show-offs. They like attention, of course they do - it's an insane thing to do if you don't like attention - but it's a different kind of thing. You might not necessarily be the most showy off person in the room, but on stage is where you find it.

#### How did you get into comedy?

I never really knew what I wanted to do, so drifted around. I was a waitress for ages and worked in nightclubs. I would always try and be funny there, more so if I made goods tips at night. I would be really fun then, but I didn't really know that comedy was a thing you could do as a job. I liked comedy, but there wasn't much that I related to. Growing up, I really liked Dave Allen, which I think is very odd for a seven-year-old girl. I liked Les Dawson too, but what he did seemed a different thing and not something I could do. Then I went to a comedy club and saw Jack Dee. Without realising the craft involved in what he was doing, I thought to myself, 'that's just a bloke talking; I could do that'. He made it seem like he was just your mate, moaning about stuff. I thought that seemed do-able. Also, the way into comedy seemed very simple. It wasn't like you had to pass exams. You just had to phone someone up and say 'can I do an open spot?', and they'd say 'yes, come down in a month and do it'.

#### You're talking about a time when there weren't many female comedians about. Did you feel daunted entering what was predominantly male territory?

I didn't even think about it. It didn't even occur to me that that was the case. I think you're blissfully unaware that you're very bad, which is just as well. The first time I did it was for a competition, which I won. That happens to a lot of comedians on their first gig because they're so full of enthusiasm. The audience find you endearing because you don't know what you're doing. And you don't even know that you don't know what you're doing. After that, I became aware that I didn't know what I was doing and realised 'I have to learn to do this'. When I look back at it now, I'm amazed that audiences didn't heckle more and weren't more horrible. The only way to do comedy is in front of people, and they've come for a night out. Even if you're only doing five minutes, those five minutes could ruin their evening.

#### What's the best heckle you've ever received?

I don't think people heckle as much as people imagine they do - and when they do, it's often in a positive way. I've never really had a good 'bad one'. You don't really remember what they say. It's usually something unintelligible, or you repeat what they say and get out of it quite easily, because they're very drunk and they've never done this before. In terms of the interactions I've had with the audience, I've found out all sorts of amazing things about people. I'm very into asking questions, particularly of couples. I like talking about relationships and what people argue about. That can turn into a whole audience discussion. Again, that's about uninformed opinions. I like to make judgements, and get the audience to decide whether what somebody does for a living is worthwhile or not. There have been moments where people tell you something and you think,

'oh, that's really personal, and I don't know whether we should go into this'. But if they're open to it, then we do. That's then really exciting for the rest of the audience. It makes it live, because we all come out knowing a lot more about each other than we did at the start of the evening.

#### How long does it take you to suss out an audience and maybe who to target?

You can sort of see who looks eager. The last thing you want to do is talk to somebody who doesn't want to be talked to. Often people's body language offers them up to you. Sometimes there can just be something about someone that's slightly quirky and you're drawn to that. It's a strange thing to talk about - but when you're doing it, you just kind of know where to go.

#### Is it usually the people at the front?

At comedy clubs people generally sit at the front because they want to. But often at a tour show, it can be because they were the last ones in and they've been put in those seats. I always ask if people have chosen to sit where they're sitting. That way, I know that people aren't necessarily sitting there because they want you to talk to them. They're sitting there because they've been put there and they're terrified, so I'll leave them alone and see who looks more open. Then again, sometimes people can want to be involved too much. You have to slap them down a bit and say, 'it's not about you. It's about me!'

#### You've also written material for a diverse range of people...

I've only consistently written for Graham Norton, and that's because I knew him beforehand. When he got a pilot years ago, I did the warm up. They had trouble finding writers - the men at that time were writing for people like John Inman, and it was a very old-fashioned sort of 'gay'. So they said to Graham: 'Jo knows you and she knows the show, let's try her out'. I did trials as a writer, then stayed for years and years and years doing it. Graham's intonation is so strong, and I find it quite easy to know what he would think about things and who he would like. In the writers' room, there would be me and the other writer throwing the lines in Graham's voice. Graham would sometimes add things and maybe change things. It was a very easy process because he had such a strong style, so you knew where you were. Then I got into doing things for myself, which actually excited me more. I decided I didn't just want to be a writer for other people. I wanted to perform more myself, so I moved towards doing that.

#### Are you a different person off stage to on stage?

People who know me would say I'm very similar. It's maybe a bit 'heightened', though. It's like being in a pub on a good day - when you're with your mates, saying stuff and everything seems funny. You're opinionated and outrageous. It's a sort of heightened version of yourself. How I am on stage is how I'd like to be all the time.

#### Does the excitement you feel when you're on stage ever become exhausting?

It can do - especially when I'm doing a tour show, because I do the whole evening on

my own. Then afterwards I'll chat to people. I'm interested in the people who're interested in me. I also think it's polite. All of a sudden I'll realise I'm exhausted - but to say that seems so indulgent when you compare it to what some people have to do for a living. It's the adrenaline that tires me out - and the travelling. That was something I didn't consider when I moved to Edinburgh.

#### How would you define your audience?

A lot of the time I look at them and think, 'oh, they're like me'. Through Twitter you can get to know the people who come to see you. I often have conversations with people where I find we have similar opinions and sometimes the same taste in music. I think that the people who come to see me are more often than not quite cynical. They'd probably like to have a good old rant about stuff. Something which I find quite weird is the family element. People come with their teenage kids - but I think a lot of that stems from when I was doing Mock The Week. Teenagers really like the show, and they'd come to see me because of that - often with their parents, because I'm of their age group. I think it's really nice. There's also another level of fun to be had in terms of who's most uncomfortable with certain elements of my material.

#### Are there boundaries to your comedy?

I think you have them in your head. I always question where the comedy's coming from. Is it coming from a good place and is it a worthwhile target? I wouldn't say to people 'don't do jokes like this' just because I personally choose not to do them. I'm rude, I swear and can be very harsh, but I'm not that crude. I tend not to do graphic sex stuff, because it doesn't make me laugh. I always say I don't do fluids, because I don't find that funny. I also think it's quite childish. I don't think people are shocked by that kind of humour anymore. When comics think that they're being shocking, I just want to say, 'we're not shocked; we're just bored and find it distasteful'.

#### Do you ever squirrel away material for the future?

I should do. Other people are more organised than me. Other people will try something out, and if it works, they'll squirrel it away for their next tour. I tend not to be able to stop myself using it, because I'm excited by new things.

#### Do you recycle much of your material?

I do from a long time ago. When we moved house I found all of these comedy notebooks in which I'd written down set lists and ideas - stuff from maybe fifteen years ago. Suddenly I'm thinking 'that's a really good idea, and I could probably do it better now. It's obviously something I dropped, and I know the reason I did that was probably because I didn't know how to make it work then. But now I think I can make it work and maybe even add more.'

Jo Caulfield plays **mac**, Birmingham, Fri 13 February; **Comedy Junction**, Sutton Coldfield, Fri 20 March; **Theatre Severn**, Shrewsbury, Thurs 30 April



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## Entertainment



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Monday 9 March  
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### Brendan Cole A Night to Remember

Sunday 29 March  
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Symphony Hall  
£19.50 – £39.50 plus transaction fee\*



### Lord of the Dance Dangerous Games

Friday 22 May –  
Tuesday 26 May  
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### Supreme Fabulettes Viva La Divas

Friday 29 May  
8pm  
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## Classical



### Camerata Salzburg and Nicola Benedetti play Mozart

Thursday 12 March  
7.30pm  
Symphony Hall  
£9.50 – £40 plus transaction fee\*



### Last Night of the Spring Proms

Sunday 15 March  
3pm  
Symphony Hall  
£14.50 – £37.50 plus transaction fee\*



### Heath Quartet Haydn, Janáček and Tchaikovsky

Tuesday 9 June  
7.30pm  
Town Hall  
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### The Piano Guys

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# Music

## Ólafur Arnalds

Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 24 February

If you've been enjoying the second series of Broadchurch on ITV1, you'll already be familiar (even if you don't know it) with the work of Ólafur Arnalds. He wrote the show's score. Arnalds also wrote the score for the first series, picking up a BAFTA in the process, and has contributed music to hit Hollywood movies Hunger Games and 300: Rise Of An Empire.

The Icelandic composer/performer first burst on to the music scene back in 2007, garnering plenty of praise for debut album Eulogy For Evolution. He's since been widely praised for his impressive line in genre-crossing compositions, blending classical, pop and ambient/electronica influences to create a unique musical language.



## Curtis Stigers

Lichfield Garrick, Staffs, Thurs 5 February  
The Jam House, Birmingham, Wed 11 February

If his silver hair and chiselled jaw aren't enough to make an impression on you, his breathy, husky voice surely will be. Famous for the song This Life, better known to thousands of Sons Of Anarchy fans as the theme tune to the hit show, Curtis has been around since the 1990s, first entering the public psyche with the pop hit I Wonder Why. Since 2001 he's made a name for himself as a jazz singer, so much so that he was named Jazz Artist Of The Year 2007 by BBC Radio Two. He plays the Garrick with the support of his band.

## Mariachi El Bronx

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 6 February

This six-piece are the Mexican alter-ego of Southern Californian hardcore punk band The Bronx. They've achieved enormous praise for their re-imaging, and released their third Mariachi album in 2014. Having recently toured the country supporting gypsy group Gogol Bordello, they now make a welcome return to the UK for this headline tour.



## Kaiser Chiefs

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Fri 6 February

This is a band that needs no introduction - particularly since lead singer Ricky Wilson became a judge on BBC One's The Voice. Primarily inspired by new wave and punk rock music of the late 1970s and 1980s, the band have released five original studio albums, including Employment (2005) - which reached number two on the UK album chart - and Education, Education, Education & War (2014). Having kicked off 2015 supporting one of the world's biggest rock groups, Foo Fighters, in Brazil, the band have a busy few months ahead of them. Not only do they have a string of UK and US tour dates, they're also currently working on their sixth studio album. Public Service Broadcasting support.

## You Me At Six & All Time Low

Genting Arena (formerly LG Arena), Birmingham, Tues 10 February

"We can't wait to hit the road with All Time Low," says You Me At Six frontman Josh Franceschi. "It's the tour we know our fans want, and we're so excited to be doing a full arena tour."

All Time Low's frontman Alex Gaskarth is similarly enthused by the prospect of the joint venture: "We've never managed to hit up the UK with the hometown boys in You Me At Six, so this is going to be a really amazing experience. I think the fan bases will come together and make the shows unforgettable."

With main influences including American rock bands Blink-182, Incubus and Thrice, You Me At Six released debut album Take Off Your Colours in 2008, enjoying success with the singles Save It For The Bedroom, Finders Keepers and Kiss And Tell. They've since released a further three albums, including last year's Cavalier Youth.

American pop punk giants All Time Low, meanwhile, are not a band to rest on their laurels, touring pretty much all year round. They followed up their 2005 debut album The Party Scene with a further four albums, and are due to release latest offering Future Hearts in April.

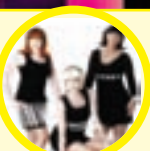




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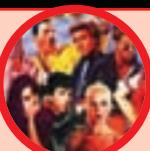


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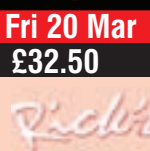


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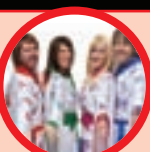
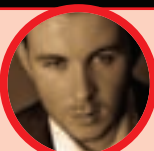


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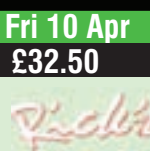


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An Abba Tribute

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with The The Montellas

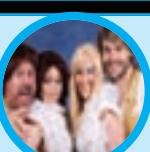


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**THU 5 FEB** + JOHNNY COLE + SIVVE ASSET  
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## Music PREVIEWS

### Jennifer Crook

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury,  
Sun 22 February

Featured in The Guardian's Folk Music Treats For Summer 2014 list, Jennifer's album *Carnforth Station* offered a winning blend of concert favourites (including *Black Fly*) and brand new material, all of which provided her incredible singing voice with plenty of opportunity to shine. The singer, songwriter, composer and multi-instrumentalist is an outstanding harpist, and composed much of the crowd-funded album on the lever harp. Presenting music informed by both English and American influences, she covers traditional folk topics such as love, loss and hope.



### Martin Simpson

Stafford Gatehouse, Mon 2 February

In the late 1980s, guitarist Martin Simpson waved a fond farewell to his successful career on the British folk circuit to start a new life in the States, where he improved his blues technique and worked with some famous names. He's now back home on this side of the pond, where he's best known for his work alongside the likes of June Tabor, Steeleye Span, The Albion Band and Richard Thompson. A virtuoso guitarist, Simpson's exploration of the innovatory always gives his audience something to chew on.



### The Script

Genting Arena (formerly LG Arena),  
Birmingham, Thurs 26 February

Comprising lead vocalist/pianist Danny O'Donoghue, vocalist/guitarist Mark Sheehan and drummer Glen Power, the Irish pop rock band formed in 2001, and have pretty much been going from strength to strength ever since. Their 2008 eponymous debut album, featuring hit songs *The Man Who Can't Be Moved* and *Breakeven* (*Falling To Pieces*), set them up for a career in which their music's been featured in all manner of popular TV series, including *90210*, *Ghost Whisperer*, *Waterloo Road*, *EastEnders*, *Made In Chelsea* and *The Vampire Diaries*. Frontman Danny O'Donoghue, meanwhile, appeared as a coach in the first two series of BBC One's Saturday night talent show, *The Voice*. This latest Script tour comes in support of the trio's fourth album, *No Sound Without Silence*. Labrinth support.



### Ryan Adams

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Sat 28 February

American singer-songwriter, musician and producer Ryan is a former member of alternative country band *Whiskeytown* and rock ensemble *The Cardinals* - but it's undoubtedly as a solo performer that he's enjoyed his greatest successes. Heading out on his own with the critically acclaimed *Heartbreaker* album in the year 2000, he's gone on to compile a further thirteen solo offerings, the latest of which was released in September last year to considerable critical acclaim.

### Damien Barber & Mike Wilson

The Hive, Shrewsbury, Sun 8 February

On a rare break from the mighty *Demon Barbers* and *Wilson Family*, Damien and Mike deliver a rich, shared repertoire of traditional songs - plus offerings from modern folk writers such as Bellamy, Ewan MacColl and Mike Waterson. With a nomination for Best Duo at the BBC Radio Two Folk Awards 2012 and forty-plus years of experience to recommend them, it's safe to say that this is a show well worth catching.

### 10cc

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
Mon 16 February

Legendary British art rock band 10cc was formed in 1972 and initially consisted of four musicians - Graham Gouldman, Eric Stewart, Kevin Godley and Lol Creme. The band's major successes were achieved in the following few years, when they majored in subversive pastiche, singing love songs in which they declared they weren't in love and performing a reggae number on the subject of being terrified of black people. At the height of their powers, they brilliantly blended wit, musicianship and invention with suitably melodic hooks - although it's fair to say their music has perhaps aged less well than the sounds and lyrics of some of their contemporaries.



### King Charles

The Institute, Birmingham, Fri 6 February  
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 7 February

King Charles, born Charles Costa, is a singer-songwriter from West London. In 2009 he became the first ever Brit to win the International Songwriting Competition in Nashville (for his song *Love Lust*). Following this victory he was signed by Universal Republic and recorded debut album *Loveblood*, released in May 2012. He's since been showcasing his psychedelic indie-folk sound at venues across the UK, and is busily recording his eagerly awaited second album - in support of which comes this current UK tour.



### Ezio

The Robin, Bilston, Thurs 12 February

Started up by Italian-born Ezio Lunedei and Mark 'Booga' Fowell in Cambridge, folk band Ezio has stylistic similarities to Van Morrison and Jeff Buckley. Lead singer and composer Lunedei has an uncanny ability to talk about the male condition, temptation and vulnerability - qualities that no doubt played their part in making Tony Blair a fan, a fact revealed by the former Prime Minister on *Desert Island Discs*. Forerunners on the acoustic scene, Ezio boast a style all their own, mixing rock and folk with intelligent lyrics, rhythmic power and acoustic melodies.



# Music LISTINGS

For full listing information on gigs, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## SUN 1 FEB

**KOSHEEN** The Institute, Birmingham  
**THE STUMBLE** Lichfield Guildhall, Staffs  
**JOE** O2 Academy, Bham  
**OCTOBER FILE** The Rainbow Venues, B'ham  
**ONE LIFE LEFT** The Roadhouse, Bilston  
**UNLIMITED VOICES** Birmingham Town Hall  
**PORCHLIGHT SMOKER** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**GARETH JONES** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury  
**THE CHEATING HEARTS & THE TERRORSAURUS** Hare & Hounds, B'ham

## MON 2 FEB

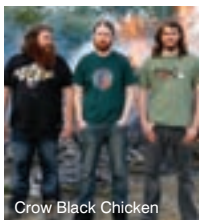
**MARTIN SIMPSON** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**JEFFERSON STARSHIP** The Robin, Bilston  
**AMBER RUN** The Rainbow Venues, B'ham

## TUE 3 FEB

**SAM BAILEY** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**SONGHOY BLUES** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
**PHIL BATES** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**NAT JOHNSON & FRIENDS** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**MIKE ADLINGTON SEXTET** The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

## WED 4 FEB

**TRANSATLANTIC SESSIONS** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**DREAMON DREAMER** The Ooblock, Birmingham  
**SALLY BARKER** The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham  
**LUCAS D & THE GROOVE GHOST** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**CROW BLACK CHICKEN** The Robin, Bilston



Crow Black Chicken

## THU 5 FEB

**THE SECURITY PROJECT** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**SONGBIRD - THE EVA CASSIDY STORY** Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent  
**TOYAH WILLCOX** The Robin, Bilston  
**RAE MORRIS** The Institute, Birmingham  
**LUKE JACKSON** Hare &

Hounds, Birmingham  
**CURTIS STIGERS** Lichfield Garrick, Staffs  
**BLACK RIVERS** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**SAXON** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**SILENCE THE SPIRIT** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**MOOD INDIGO** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**WAKE UP CALL, GLASS BULLET, THE 3RD DEGREE & PURPLE STEREO** The Roadhouse, B'ham

## FRI 6 FEB

**THE LIBERTY LIES** The Ooblock, Birmingham  
**KAISER CHIEFS** Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**LYDIA GLANVILLE QUARTET** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**BEN PORTSMOUTH IS ELVIS** The Robin, Bilston  
**BEAR'S DEN** The Institute, Birmingham  
**HANNAH FERMOR** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury  
**THE STAFFORDSHIRE BAND - CLASSICAL BRASS** Forest Arts Centre, Walsall  
**THE CLASSIC ROCK SHOW** Birmingham Town Hall  
**KING CHARLES** The Institute, Birmingham  
**JOE GODDARD** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**DAVID GARSIDE** The Actress & Bishop, B'ham  
**PORTRAIT** The Asylum, Birmingham  
**SOLID SOUL** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**QUILL** Lichfield Garrick, Staffs  
**DRESSED TO KILL - THE TRIBUTE TO KISS** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**COLDPLACE** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**MARIACHI EL BRONX** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**DOLOMITE MINOR & BABY STRANGE** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**THE NAKED BEATLES** Route 44, Birmingham

## SAT 7 FEB

**SOLID SOUL** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**SID PEACOCK AND SURGE ORCHESTRA** mac - Midlands Arts Centre  
**THE GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND** Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent  
**JOE LONGTHORNE** Lichfield Garrick, Staffs  
**THE COUNTERFEIT STONES** The Robin, Bilston  
**HAYSEED DIXIE** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**THE JAKE & ELWOOD** -

**BLUES BROTHERS TRIBUTE** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**ONE NIGHT ONLY** The Institute, Birmingham  
**CASH (JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE)** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**CAPITAL SUN** The Actress & Bishop, B'ham  
**MICHAELA WYLDE** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury  
**ONE NIGHT ONLY** The Institute, Birmingham  
**KING CHARLES** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**GORGON CITY** The Institute, Birmingham  
**SPACE WITCH** The Asylum, Birmingham  
**GREEN BAY - TRIBUTE TO GREEN DAY** Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock Chase  
**ICONIC 80'S** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**INCLEMENT QUARTET** Symphony Hall, B'ham  
**SLIMKID3 & DJ NU-MARK** The Ooblock, B'ham  
**MAJOR TOMS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**DAZ-I-KUE & ADAM ROCKERS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**BRONWYNNE BRENT** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**THE ROVING CROWS** Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire  
**MODERN MINDS** The Rainbow Venues, Bham  
**MOTORKILL & THE SCREAMIN' ABDABZ** Route 44, Birmingham

## SUN 8 FEB

**LIFESIGNS** The Robin, Bilston  
**HUDSON TAYLOR** The Institute, Birmingham  
**NAOMI PUNK** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**BLACK DYKE BAND** Symphony Hall, B'ham  
**36 CRAZYFISTS** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**CASA LATINO** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**DAMIEN BARBER & MIKE WILSON** The Hive, Shrewsbury  
**BAILEY MCCONNELL & RYKER SEAR** The Institute, Birmingham  
**ANDY O'BRIEN** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury  
**HANK WANGFORD TRIO** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

## MON 9 FEB

**GAZ COOMBS** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**SAINT RAYMOND** The Institute, Birmingham  
**WATTER, HOLY SONS, LILACS & CHAMPAGNE** The Ooblock, B'ham  
**ALEXANDER** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## TUE 10 FEB

**YOU ME AT SIX & ALL TIME LOW** Genting Arena (formerly LG Arena), Birmingham  
**FALSE LIGHTS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**KENT DUCHAINE** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THE KENNY GARRETT**

**QUINTET** Town Hall, Birmingham  
**ELLA ROOKE TRIO** The Spotted Dog, B'ham

## WED 11 FEB

**THE ILLEGAL EAGLES** Wolverhampton Grand Theatre  
**WILLE AND THE BANDITS** The Robin, Bilston  
**SLOW CLUB** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**KATE TEMPEST** The Rainbow Venues, B'ham  
**CURTIS STIGERS** The Jam House, B'ham  
**EDWINA HAYES & ROSALIE DEIGHTON** The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham  
**OMG LIVE!** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**I IS CINEMA** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## THU 12 FEB

**THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**MOTOWN'S GREATEST HITS - HOW SWEET IT IS** Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent  
**HAGLEY SCHOOL - THE MUSIC OF ELTON JOHN** Birmingham Town Hall  
**BLACK LABEL SOCIETY** The Institute, B'ham  
**EZIO LUNEDI & BOOGA** The Robin, Bilston  
**HAMELL ON TRIAL** The Institute, Birmingham  
**CROWN THE EMPIRE** The Asylum, Birmingham  
**THE THREE DEGREES** Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock  
**EMBRACE THE CHAOS** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**THE PARIS 1940S** The Jam House, B'ham  
**THE SONGS OF NICK DRAKE** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**CAPITAINE ETC.** Ort Cafe, Birmingham  
**LEVERET mac** - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

## FRI 13 FEB

**SUPREME QUEEN** The Robin, Bilston  
**VIEON & CATALAN** The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham  
**THE ILLEGAL EAGLES** Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent  
**LIBBY GILKSMAN** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury  
**'ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS** Crewe Lyceum  
**JACK SAVORETTI** The Institute, Birmingham  
**SONGBIRD - THE EVA CASSIDY STORY** Lichfield Garrick, Staffs  
**DEEP LOVE FOUNDATION** The Salopian, Shrewsbury  
**STICKY WICKETT LITTLE BIG BAND** Lichfield Guildhall, Staffs  
**THE GODFATHERS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**ROCKET** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THE KILLERZ** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**THE TREMBLING WILBURYS** The Roadhouse, Birmingham

**MACY GRAY** Birmingham Town Hall



**MIKE ADLINGTON QUIN-TET** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**MORAL PANICS** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**BLAIR DUNLOP** Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham  
**RICKY COOL & THE IN CROWD** Moochers, Stourbridge  
**FREE AT LAST** Route 44, Birmingham  
**THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

## SAT 14 FEB

**ROCKET** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**SCOTT BRADLEE & POST-MODERN JUKEBOX** The Institute, Birmingham  
**RICHARD & ADAM** Wolverhampton Grand Theatre  
**T'PAU FEATURING CAROL DECKER** The Robin, Bilston  
**SOUL JUNCTION** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**GRUFF RHYS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**KICK UP THE 80'S** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**36 CRAZYFISTS** The Asylum, Birmingham  
**RYAN LESLIE** The Institute, Birmingham  
**HEIDI BROWN** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury  
**LEVI WEAVER** The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham  
**MC TRIGGA, PRETTY P, CAPPO AKA SHAYDEE, DJ SLY, MC BASSMAN, SUB ZERO AND MORE...** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**HOT CLUB DE SWING** Alfie Birds, Birmingham  
**MALLEN** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**GET STONED** Route 44, Birmingham

## SUN 15 FEB

**BARBARA DICKSON** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**JETTBLACK** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**THE DUBLIN LEGENDS** Birmingham Town Hall  
**WAVE PICTURES** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE USED** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**ANDY O'BRIEN** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury  
**THE SUNDOWNERS** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
**SOUTHERN TENANT FOLK UNION** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**WALK OF FAME (THE BEATLES)** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**THE BORN AGAIN BEATLES** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**LET VENGEANCE RISE** The

Roadhouse, B'ham

## MON 16 FEB

**10CC** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**CHELSEA GRIN & VEIL OF MAYA** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**SIGNUM SAXOPHONE QUARTET** Town Hall, Birmingham

## TUE 17 FEB

**STUART FORESTER, CAROL ANDERSON & JOE TOPPING** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**D'ANGELO** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**SONS OF BILL** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE CRIBS** The Ooblock, Birmingham  
**BEN MARKLAND'S ORTET** The Jam House, B'ham  
**KIERAN MCLEOD'S NEW WORLD** The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

## WED 18 FEB

**ENTER SHIKARI** Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**GEORGE EZRA** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE DECEMBERISTS** The Institute, Birmingham  
**GOSPEL CENTRAL** The Jam House, B'ham  
**BELINDA O'HOOLEY & JIM BOYES** The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham  
**GET INUIT** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## THU 19 FEB

**THE BLUES BAND** The Robin, Bilston  
**SONGBIRD - THE EVA CASSIDY STORY** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**DON BROCO** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**BARBARA DICKSON** Lichfield Garrick, Staffs  
**SHAKATAK** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**BLOSSOMS** The Ooblock, Birmingham  
**REMI HARRIS PROJECT** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**JEFF AID** The Roadhouse, Birmingham

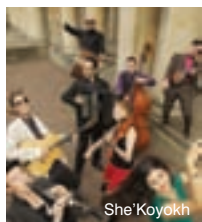
## FRI 20 FEB

**SHOWADDYWADDY** Lichfield Garrick, Staffs  
**U2-2** The Robin, Bilston  
**MICROBABY** The Salopian, Shrewsbury  
**HANNAH FERMOR** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury  
**DARKSIDE - THE PINK FLOYD SHOW** Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire  
**BEYOND THE BARRICADE** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**TV ON THE RADIO** The Institute, Birmingham  
**OCCOBER & GUNNERS** LAW Route 44, B'ham  
**TRU GROOVE** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**FRED ZEPPELIN** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**BOX O SNAKES & PURE PURPLE** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**MARTIN TROTMAN'S JUST GROOVE** Symphony Hall,

Birmingham  
**THE SLEAFORD MODS**  
 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**ESSENTIAL HOLLIES** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**LAST CHANCE SALOON** The Blue Piano, B'ham  
**JOSEPH CAPRIATI** Next Door, Birmingham

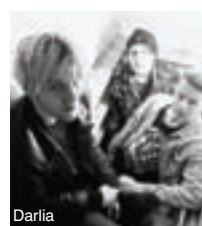
## SAT 21 FEB

**DARKSIDE - THE PINK FLOYD SHOW** Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire  
**SHE'KOYOKH** Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School



She'Koyokh

**TRU GROOVE** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**JOE LONGTHORNE** Crewe Lyceum  
**ELKIE BROOKS** Birmingham Town Hall  
**PETE ROCK** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**BLACKHEART** Birchmeadow, Broseley, Shropshire  
**LIZZIE AND THE BAN-SHEES** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**LET'S HANG ON** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**OCEAN COLOUR SCENE** Symphony Hall, B'ham  
**QUILL** The Robin, Bilston  
**STARS OF THE COMMITMENTS** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**BEFORE YOU EXIT & CHRISTINA GRIMMIE** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**PURPLE ZEPPELIN** Lichfield Garrick, Staffs  
**GEORGE THE POET** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**EARTH & BLACK SPIRITUAL** The Oobleck, Birmingham  
**H. HAWKLINE** The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham  
**RED SHOES** Lichfield Guildhall, Staffs  
**ANDY MILLS** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury  
**THE EVERLY BROTHERS & FRIENDS TRIBUTE SHOW** Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock  
**THE ASSIST** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**ONE STOP BOOGIE - 70S V 80S** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**DARLIA** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent



Darlia

**DOMINIC J MARSHALL** Trio The Hive, Shrewsbury  
**CANARD DU JOUR**

Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**THE STARVING RASCALS** Moochers, Stourbridge  
**GENERATIONS** Route 44, Birmingham

## SUN 22 FEB

**JENNIFER CROOK** Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury  
**ROCK OF AGES EXPERIENCE** The Robin, Bilston  
**THE JAM PACT & INCREDIBLE SKANK BROTHERS** The Robin, Bilston  
**SIX TIME CHAMPION** The Flapper, Birmingham  
**ORLA GARTLAND** The Institute, Birmingham  
**THE DUNWELLS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**ROBBIE JONES** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury  
**ENRAPTURED, VEXXEN, OF BLUE SKIES AND YOUTH AND MORE...** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**KATHRYN ROBERTS & SEAN LAKEMAN** Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

## MON 23 FEB

**WALSALL JAZZ ORCHESTRA** Forest Arts Centre, Walsall  
**FIGHTSTAR** The Institute, Birmingham  
**ANDREW MCMAHON** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**FORT HOPE** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**WE ARE CARNIVORES, ALBURN & THE ALWAYS** The Flapper, Birmingham

## TUE 24 FEB

**OCEAN COLOUR SCENE** Symphony Hall, B'ham  
**RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**ÓLAFUR ARNALDS** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**OND** The Institute, Birmingham  
**EMPIRE** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**GEORGE CROWLEY'S CAN OF WORMS** The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

## WED 25 FEB

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Crewe Lyceum  
**THE JESUS & MARY CHAIN** The Institute, Birmingham  
**LEDDRA CHAPMAN** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
**GABBIDON** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**MICHAEL CHAPMAN** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**MONOMYTH** The Oobleck, Birmingham  
**TROYKA** mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham  
**THE BONFIRE RADICALS** The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

## THU 26 FEB

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Crewe Lyceum  
**FAIRPORT CONVENTION** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**THE SCRIPT** Genting Arena (formerly LG Arena), Birmingham

The Script - Genting Arena (formerly LG Arena), Birmingham



**CROWS & CROSSES** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**BLUE NATION O2 Academy**, Birmingham  
**KEZIASOUL** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**DELS** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**YEARS & YEARS** The Institute, Birmingham  
**LINDSAY ELL** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**COLOSSEUM FEATURING JON HISEMAN, CHRIS FARLOWE, CLEM CLEMPSON, DAVE GREENSLADE AND MORE...** The Robin, Bilston  
**DEATH FROM ABOVE 1979** The Institute, B'ham  
**DEL CAMINO** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**SIVU** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
**AUGUST ALSINA** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**YAK** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**ALASDAIR ROBERTS** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**VINCENT FLATT'S FINAL DRIVE** Route 44, B'ham

## FRI 27 FEB

**MARIA SCHNEIDER JAZZ ORCHESTRA** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**FAIRPORT CONVENTION** Birmingham Town Hall  
**PEOPLE ON VACATION** The Institute, B'ham  
**FAITH EVANS** The Institute, Birmingham  
**RESPUBLICA, HARMFOOL, DIEREVERS AND ASH-BORN** Route 44, B'ham  
**JOE MCELDERRY** Crewe Lyceum  
**REACH OUT TO MOTOWN** The Robin, Bilston  
**SLOW CLUB** The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham  
**THE BEAT BROTHERS** The Jam House, B'ham  
**THE KICKSTONES** The Sallopian, Shrewsbury  
**LABOUR OF LOVE - UB40** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**JILTED GENERATION** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**MIKE COLLINS QUARTET** Symphony Hall, B'ham  
**MA POLAINE'S GREAT DECLINE** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**JOE SEAGAR** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury  
**THE JASON REBELLO TRIO** Maidment Auditorium,

Shrewsbury School, Shropshire  
**BLUE NATION O2 Academy**, Birmingham  
**KEZIASOUL** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**DELS** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

## SAT 28 FEB

**THE BEAT BROTHERS** The Jam House, B'ham  
**TRIO DA KALI** mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**LEFT FOR RED** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**RADIO CLASH** The Robin, Bilston  
**RYAN ADAMS** Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**THE MERSEY BEATLES**

**SHOW** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**THE HAIR ROCK EXPERIENCE** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**BROKEN WITT REBELS, SILVERSHORES, TOMMO BARNES, SHAUN WALSH AND THE PLAGIARISTS** The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham  
**PALMA VIOLETS, FAT WHITE FAMILY, THE AMAZING SNAKEHEADS & SLAVES** The Institute, Birmingham  
**TOCHA** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury  
**THE DUBLIN LEGENDS** Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock  
**THE COMMANDMENTS** The River Rooms,

Stourbridge  
**THE BLACK HOUNDS** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**GAVIN JAMES** The Institute, Birmingham  
**HARPER'S FERRY** The Blue Piano, B'ham  
**MARMOZETS** The Institute, Birmingham  
**RORY MCGRATH AND PHILIP POPE** The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire  
**THE HAIR ROCK EXPERIENCE** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**TRISH CLOWES' TANGENT QUINTET** Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**IVOR & LYN'S CLASSIC ROCK DISCO** Route 44, Birmingham

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### Shropshire

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**THE BUTTERMARKE, SHREWSBURY**  
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**THE EDGE ARTS CENTRE, MUCH WENLOCK**  
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**HENRY TUDOR HOUSE SHREWSBURY**  
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**THE HIVE, SHREWSBURY**  
 01743 234970  
**LUDLOW ASSEMBLY ROOMS**  
 01584 878141  
**THEATRE SEVERN, SHREWSBURY** 01743 281281  
**THE PLACE, OAKENGATES, TELFORD** 01952 382382  
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### Staffordshire

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### Worcestershire

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 01527 577330  
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 01905 613336  
**THE RIVER ROOMS, STOURBRIDGE**  
 01384 397177

For additional information and to find out What's On at these venues.  
 Visit: [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)



## what's on...

### Comedy Nights

Starring Romesh Ranganathan and Ben Norris, with compere Andrew Ryan

12 February 2015, 8.00pm  
Tickets: £5 if purchased in advance/£7.50 for tickets purchased on the night.  
Concessions: £5 for students

Starring Ivan Brackenbury and Ian D. Montfort, with compere Laura Lexx

5 March 2015, 8.00pm  
Tickets: £5 if purchased in advance/£7.50 for tickets purchased on the night.  
Concessions: £5 for students

### Jazzlines

Emily Saunders  
– ESB Outsiders

Vocalist Emily Saunders is widely considered one of the most distinctive and refreshing voices of today  
12 February 2015, 5.00–6.30pm  
FREE Foyer Event

Peter Edwards Trio

Peter Edwards is a 2014 MOJO Best Jazz Act nominee and his debut album 'Safe and Sound' is among MOJO's top 10 jazz albums of 2014  
5 March 2015, 5.00–6.30pm  
FREE Foyer Event



Laura Wright

The nation's favourite sporting soprano makes her debut headline appearance at the Bramall Music Building. She'll be performing some favourites from her past albums as well as songs from her recently released album 'Sound of Strength'  
24 March 2015, 7.30pm  
Tickets: £20

### Classical

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

Join the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra for an afternoon of beautiful classical music, including the Brahms Concerto for Violin and Violoncello and Holst the Planets suite  
15 March 2015, 3.00pm  
Tickets: £15  
Concessions: £12 or £5 (students and under 16s)

English Symphony Orchestra with Tamsin Waley Cohen on violin

Tamsin Waley Cohen, one of today's most popular artists, returns to the ESO after her triumphant debut with the orchestra in 2013, for a performance of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto  
29 March 2015, 3.30pm  
Tickets: £20  
Concessions: £15 over 60s and £5 for students

A full list of events can be found at: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/bramall](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/bramall)  
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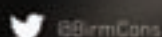
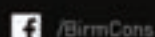
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## Skryabin and the Russians Festival

Wed 11 – Sun 22 Feb  
Birmingham Conservatoire

Birmingham Conservatoire invites you to let Skryabin get under your skin in the centenary year of his death. His mature style is intoxicating, richly exotic, sensuous and mystic, informed by his extraordinary life and the pursuit of theosophy and synaesthesia. Featuring performances from Susan Gritton, Thomas Riebl, Peter Donohoe, Julian Jacobson, and a world premiere of Dmitri Smirnov's *Dialogue in the Dark*.

[www.bcu.ac.uk/Skryabin](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/Skryabin)



View the latest trailers on line



## Skryabin And The Russians Festival

Various venues, including Birmingham Conservatoire, Wed 11 - Sun 22 February

Sir Adrian Boult once described the works of Alexander Skryabin as 'evil music'. So there's more than a touch of irony about the fact that it's Birmingham Conservatoire - regular users of the city's Adrian Boult Hall - who're mounting this series of concerts to commemorate the centenary of the now-celebrated Russian composer's death.

Finding his inspiration in the music of Polish composer Frédéric Chopin, Skryabin developed a somewhat controversial style which not only reflected his fixation with mysticism but also with Synaesthesia - the neurological phenomenon in which senses can combine to 'see' sounds. Although greatly celebrated both during his lifetime and nowadays, Skryabin hasn't always been flavour of the month in the West. Adrian Boult's claim that the composer's music was 'evil' reflected a perspective that was much in evidence during the 1930s.

Commenting on this month's festival, Daniel Browell, the Conservatoire's Associate Head of Keyboard, said: "Highlights by Skryabin include *Le Poème de l'extase*, the Piano Concerto performed by Ashok Gupta, Peter Donohoe's recital of the complete sonatas and a talk by our resident Skryabin expert Simon Nicholls. We will also connect to other Russian composers throughout the festival, such as Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Kapustin and Medtner." Musicians performing at the festival include Susan Gritton, Peter Donohoe, Julian Jacobson and Thomas Riebel (pictured), who'll be exploring the mystical style of Skryabin's work.

## BBC Philharmonic

Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 6 February

The BBC Philharmonic is no stranger to Hanley, regularly visiting from its base in Salford's MediaCityUK. Alongside its Potteries appearances, it also performs an annual season of concerts at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, and has most of its annual output broadcast on Radio Three. This latest Stoke-on-Trent visit sees the orchestra presenting a programme featuring Haydn's Overture, Windsor Castle, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 (Emperor) and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 (Scottish). Netherlands pianist Hannes Minnaar is the soloist. Juanjo Mena conducts.



## The Orchestra Of The Swan featuring Peter Donohoe

Birmingham Town Hall, Wed 11 February

The Orchestra Of The Swan's legion of dedicated followers have been understandably thrilled by the involvement this season of Peter Donohoe, who's joined OOTS (as the orchestra's entirely happy to be known) as Associate Artist.

One of the world's foremost pianists, Peter is here performing alongside the orchestra in a concert which features: Haydn's Symphony no7 in C 'Le Midi'; Beethoven's Piano Concerto no3 in C minor; and Haydn's Symphony no101 in D 'The Clock'.

## Ireland Trio

Maidment Hall, Shrewsbury School, Sat 14 February

This memorial concert for Shrewsbury music lover Lilly Grabner features her music-composer son Ric, one of whose works is included in the programme (his Piano Trio No2). Ric introduces the event with a Meet The Composer talk, after which the Ireland Trio swing into action. Comprising three members of innovative collective New Music Brighton - Ellie Blackshaw (violin), Peter Copley (cello) and Adam Swayne (piano) - the trio was formed to mark the one hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of John Ireland's death.

## Europa Galante

Town Hall, Birmingham, Thur 19 February

Hailed by BBC Music Magazine for its 'wonderful esprit, bravura and finesse', Europa Galante has established itself as a powerhouse performer when it comes to the work of its great compatriot, Antonio Vivaldi. Here presenting the composer's best loved of baroque concertos, *The Four Seasons*, the orchestra is led by Fabio Biondi, its musical director. Biondi founded the group in 1990, to fulfill his desire to form an Italian period instrument ensemble that performed both baroque and classical repertoire.



## Trish Clowes' Tangent Quintet

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Sat 28 February

"It isn't easy to make things happen in jazz," says Shropshire-born saxophonist and composer Trish Clowes, "but it's usually possible to find a way if you really want it enough."

High-profile trailblazer Trish is certainly making things happen. Her sound has been described as an exploration of a fascinating hinterland between jazz and contemporary classical music. Its quiet intensity manages to speak not only to lovers of traditional jazz but also to those who yearn for something a little more modern. "For me, it's important that music transports you to a different place and makes you think," continues Trish, who enjoyed her tenure as BBC Radio Three New Generation Artist. "I'm less concerned with whether I like it or not."







# Birmingham International Piano Festival 2015

Hosted by

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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**March  
6-8th  
2015**

March 6, 1.10pm **Piano4Hands**

March 6, 7.30pm **Cropper Welsh Roscoe Trio**

March 7, 7.30pm **Francesco Piemontesi**

March 7, 7.30pm **Back to Basle Orchestra**

March 8, 3.30pm **Nikolai Demidenko** with the European Union Chamber Orchestra



Tickets on sale now: [birminghampianofestival.com](http://birminghampianofestival.com)

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\*£3 transaction fee, plus £1 (optional) postage, will be charged on all bookings except purchases made in person at the Town Hall or Symphony Hall Box Office

## The Songbook

Friday 27 February 2015, 7.30pm  
CBSO Centre, Birmingham

Conductor: **Jonathan Berman**

Sopranos: **Gillian Keith / Rebecca von Lipinski**

**Jonathan Harvey:** You

**Milton Babbitt:** Quatrains

**Gerald Barry:** Crossing the Bar (world premiere / BCMG Sound Investment commission)

**Thomas Adès:** Life Story

**Kurt Schwertsik:** Human Existence...  
Der Herr weis was der Will  
singt meine schwäne

**Harrison Birtwistle:** White and Light;  
Night; Tenebrae

**Olga Neuwirth:** The Cartographer Song

**Poul Ruders:** Alone

**Osvaldo Golijov:** Sarajevo

**Detlev Glanert:** Contemplated by a Portrait  
of a Divine

**Niccolo Castiglioni:** Vallis Clausa

**Salvatore Sciarrino:** Due Risvegli e il Vento

**Aldo Clementi:** Wiegenlied

**Franco Donatoni:** An angel within my heart

This special Songbook programme is a rare opportunity to hear a hand-picked selection of 17 songs for soprano and small ensemble and a new 'song' by composer Gerald Barry.

Free pre-concert talk from 6.30-7pm.

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# Classical LISTINGS

For full listing information on classical concerts, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**CBSO FAMILY CONCERT: AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MINUTES** Presented by Alistair Malloy & featuring Julian Wilkins (conductor), Sun 1 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**UNLIMITED VOICES** Featuring two hundred singers from the Birmingham area, Sun 1 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

**THOMAS TROTTER CONCERT & BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE CHOIR** Programme includes works by Howells, Holst, Vaughan Williams & Kodaly, Mon 2 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

**LIANG SHANG PIANO RECITAL** Programme includes works by Bach, Beethoven & Glinka, Tues 3 Feb, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

**CBSO: FROM THE DANUBE TO THE RHINE** Programme includes works by Schubert, Mozart & Schumann, Thurs 5 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**CENTRE STAGE: ABERG, ARLIDGE, GUILLAUME & TYLER** Programme includes works by Haydn & Schubert, Thurs 5 Feb, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**LYDIA GLANVILLE QUARTET** Fri 6 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**BBC PHILHARMONIC** Programme includes works by Haydn, Beethoven & Mendelssohn, Fri 6 Feb, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**FLIGHTS OF FANCY: ROSE CONSORT OF VIOLS** Programme includes works by William Byrd, Antony Holborne, John Ward & Alfonso Ferrabosco II, Fri 6 Feb, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**CBSO FROM THE DANUBE TO THE RHINE** Programme includes works by Schubert, Mozart & Schumann, Sat 7 Feb, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**BIRMINGHAM JUNIOR CONSERVATOIRE ORCHESTRAL CONCERT** Programme includes works by Tchaikovsky &

Mozart, Sat 7 Feb, Adrian Boult Hall, B'ham

**THE KENNY GARRETT QUINTET** Tue 10 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

**PETER DONOHUE AND BEETHOVEN'S C MINOR CONCERTO** Featuring Orchestra Of The Swan. Programme includes works by Haydn & Beethoven, Wed 11 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

**CBSO: SHOSTAKOVICH UNCOVERED** Presented by Paul Rissman and featuring Andris Nelsons (conductor), Wed 11 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**SKRYABIN AND THE RUSSIANS FESTIVAL** Twelve-day event where audiences can experience the works of the great Russian composer & pianist, Wed 11 - Sun 22 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

**MANCHESTER CAMERATA** Featuring Gabor Takacs-Nagy (conductor) & Hannah Roberts (cello). Programme includes works by Bizet, Elgar & Mozart, Thurs 12 Feb, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**COLLABRO** English musical theatre boy band who wowed the Britain's Got Talent judges & viewers with their renditions of classic tracks, Thurs 12 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**PETER WHELAN & SIMON SMITH LUNCHTIME RECITAL** Programme includes works by Dutilleux, Field (arr. Jancourt), Grovlez, Piazzola & Saint-Saëns, Fri 13 Feb, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Taking place as part of Skryabin and the Russians Festival, Fri 13 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

**IRELAND TRIO** Featuring Ellie Blackshaw (violin), Peter Copley (cello) & Adam Swayne (piano). Programme includes works by Haydn, Ric Grabner, Beethoven &

John Ireland, Sat 14 Feb, Maidment Hall, Shrewsbury School

**CBSO: WAR AND REVOLUTION** Featuring Eleanor Dennis (soprano) & Andris Nelsons (conductor). Programme includes works by Elgar & Shostakovich, Sun 15 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**CHAMBER ENSEMBLE & GAMELAN ENSEMBLE** Sun 15 Feb, Bramall Music Building, B'ham

**SIMON JOHNSON: WAR AND PEACE** Programme includes works by Holst, Eben, Langlais & Reubke, Mon 16 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

**MR APOLLO** Featuring Pete Holder (vocals, guitar, mandolin), Paul Miller (viola, vocals), Ian Rushbury (vocals, bass) & Craig Shipley (drums), Mon 16 Feb, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**TRIO VOLANT** Mon 16 Feb, The Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury

**SIGNUM SAXOPHONE QUARTET** Programme includes works by Sibelius, Glasunov, Ligeti, Barber & Gershwin, Mon 16 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

**HEATH QUARTET** Programme includes works by Haydn, Janáček & Dvořák, Tues 17 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

**DANTE QUARTET** Programme includes works by Haydn, Debussy &

Bartok, Wed 18 Feb, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**EUROPA GALANTE PERFORMS VIVALDI'S FOUR SEASONS** Thurs 19 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

**CBSO: SCHUBERT, STRAUSS & DVORAK** Featuring Andris Nelsons (conductor) & Elspeth Dutch (horn), Thurs 19 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**CBSO FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSICS: OPERA GALA** Featuring works by Wagner, Dvorak, Rossini, Verdi, Mozart, Puccini, Tchaikovsky, Gounod, Bizet, Leoncavallo & Borodin, Fri 20 Feb, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**MIDLAND CHAMBER PLAYERS** Programme includes works by Mozart, Fri 20 Feb, Birmingham & Midland Institute

**THE KLEE STRING QUARTET** Programme includes works by György Kurtág & Mendelssohn, Fri 20 Feb, Birmingham Conservatoire

**ROSANNA TER-BERG & LEO NICHOLSON** Sat 21 Feb, Moor Park, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA: MAHLER'S FIRST SYMPHONY** Featuring Edward Gardner (conductor) & Denis Kozhukhin (piano), Sun 22 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**MAGICAL MOZART BY**

**CANDLELIGHT** Mozart masterpieces performed by the European Baroque Ensemble and Singers, Sun 22 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**ALEXANDER PANFILOV IN RECITAL** Programme includes works by Debussy, Schumann, Ravel & Stravinsky, Wed 25 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

**ALMA GUITAR QUARTET** Wed 25 Feb, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

**CBSO MAHLER'S SIXTH SYMPHONY** Programme includes works by Berg & Mahler, Thurs 26 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**CBSO PLAYERS** Featuring Byron Parish (violin), Kate Setterfield (cello), John Humphreys (piano). Programme includes works by Shostakovich & Mendelssohn, Thurs 26 Feb, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**THALLEIN ENSEMBLE & RICHARD BAKER** Evening featuring no fewer than eight world premieres, Fri 27 Feb, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

**NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE** Programme featuring works by Bushra El Turk, Michael Zev Gordon, David Ibbet, Daria Zwiatkowska & David Önaç, Fri 27 Feb, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**BCMG: THE SONGBOOK** Rare opportunity to hear a hand-picked selection of seventeen songs for soprano & small ensemble, Fri 27 Feb, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

**CBSO: MAHLER'S SIXTH SYMPHONY** Programme includes works by Berg & Mahler, Sat 28 Feb, Symphony Hall, B'ham

**ST DAVID'S DAY CONCERT** Featuring Denbigh Male Voice Choir, Llagwym Male Voice Choir, Bethan Owen (sopra-

no), Trevor Lloyd Evans (baritone) and compere Carole Green, Sat 28 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**TRISH CLOWNES' TANGENT QUINTET** Comprising Trish Clowes (saxophones), Gwilym Simcock (piano), Alex Munk (guitar), Calum Gourlay (bass) & James Maddren (drums), Sat 28 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

## Classical Box Office

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Andris Nelsons (CBSO) - Symphony Hall, Birmingham



Hannah Roberts with Manchester Camerata - Stafford Gatehouse Theatre



# Comedy

## Seann Walsh

Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire,  
Sat 14 February

Seann Walsh is such a popular comedian he could even give Real Madrid a run for their money when it comes to the acquisition of silverware. The award-winning star of television shows such as *Mock The Week* and *Russell Howard's Good News Extra*, Seann's been likened to the legendary Billy Connolly in terms of his gift for storytelling. His jokes aren't bad either, with two examples being as follows: "I don't understand swimming. You don't see fish going for a walk" and "Are city centre beat officers police who rap?"



## Stand Up For Tommy Mundon

Brierley Civic Hall, Dudley, Tues 17 February

This sure-to-be-lively evening of comedy is being held in tribute to Black Country laughter-merchant Tommy Mundon, who passed away last year at the age of eighty. Tommy was one of the stars of the ever-popular *Black Country Night Out* comedy show, and performed on the circuit for over fifty years. The tribute night is being held in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice and features performances from, among others, Alan 'Aynuk' Smith, Bev Pegg, Mel Thomas, Marlene and Maggie O'Hara.

## Mick Ferry

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury, Wed 11 February

Highly regarded not only as a stand-up but also a compere, Mick has peddled his cynical brand of humour on BBC One's *Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow*. He's also enjoyed the experience of 'being a film star', having appeared in Ken Loach's *Palm D'Or*-nominated movie, *Looking For Eric*. He's an old-style comedian in many ways, his dour manner a throwback to the days when blunt northern funnymen were ten-a-penny, while his humour is derived from a fairly pessimistic outlook on life. "There's no message in this show," he declared at one of his gigs. "There's no moral lesson; there are just some jokes. And if you need a comedian to tell you how to think and treat other people, then you should take a \*\*\*\*ing hard look at yourself."



## Dara O'Briain

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Fri 27 February

Charismatic, fast-talking and very, very funny, Dara O'Briain is a former biggest-selling comedian at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He's also a familiar face on the telly, thanks to shows like *Mock The Week* and *Have I Got News For You*. Jokes include: "If we were truly created by God, why do we occasionally bite the insides of our mouths?" and "Even though you're still allowed to smoke in your own house, do you have to stub it out when a burglar breaks in, as your house is now his workplace?"

## Paul Foot

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
Fri 28 February

Not so much a teller of gags, Paul Foot's routines involve him sharing with his audience the seemingly random and intriguingly surreal thoughts that make their way through his ever-busy mind.

"I'd like to do a TV show," he told [comedy.co.uk](http://comedy.co.uk) by way of example, "in which I enter an unsuspecting family's house at dinner time, violently upturn tables, hurl all the crockery and food at the walls and scream 'Oh how the tables have turned!'."

On the subject of television shows, Paul admits he doesn't appear on anywhere near as many as some other comedians. "People know when a TV show needs me and the phone will ring. Quite often I'm in the bath, though, or smashing specially purchased greenhouses with a golf club in the garden."



## Comedy Box Office

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# Comedy LISTINGS

For full listing information on comedy gigs including times and dates visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**STEPHEN K AMOS** Sun 1 Feb, The Courtyard, Hereford  
**DAN EVANS, KATIE MULGREW, GEOFF NORCOTT AND MARK OLVER** Sun 1 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**JOHN RYAN, MIKE NEWALL AND TONY VINO** Sun 1 Feb, Crewe Lyceum  
**JOHN SHUTTLEWORTH** Mon 2 Feb, Crewe Lyceum  
**BRIGHT CLUB COMEDY NIGHT** Mon 2 Feb, The REP, Birmingham  
**JOHN SHUTTLEWORTH** Tues 3 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**OMID DJALILI** Wed 4 Feb, Lichfield Garrick  
**RUSSELL KANE, STEVE BUGEJA, SUZY BENNETT** Wed 4 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**JIMEOIN** Thurs 5 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**NISH KUMAR, DAVID TRENT AND COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 5 Feb, The Glee Club, B'ham  
**JOE LYCETT, ALFIE MOORE, JON PEARSON, DAVE POLLARD AND ANDY KIND** Thurs 5 Feb, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Staffordshire  
**JOHN ROBERTSON, ROMESH RANGANATHAN, PHILIP SIMON AND CARLY SMALLMAN** Thurs 5 Feb, The George Hotel, Lichfield  
**ALAN CARR** Thurs 5 Feb, Theatr Hafren, Newtown, Powys  
**AL MURRAY** Fri 6 Feb, Regent Theatre, Stoke-On-Trent  
**JIMMY CARR** Fri 6 Feb, De Montfort Hall, Leicester  
**LEO MUHAMMAD, MELANIE GAYLE AND MR BLAIR** Fri 6 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham  
**JULIAN DEANE, STEVE**

**BUJEGA AND CHRIS CHOPPING** Fri 6 Feb, The Courtyard, Hereford  
**STEWART LEE** Fri 6 Feb, Malvern Theatres  
**JOHN SHUTTLEWORTH** Fri 6 Feb, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury  
**JOHN FOTHERGILL, DAVE TWENTYMAN, NISH KUMAR AND DAVID TRENT** Fri 6 - Sat 7 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**RHODRI RHYS, STEVE SHANYASKI, MARK NELSON AND BOBBY MAIR** Fri 6 - Sat 7 Feb, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**MARK WATSON** Sat 7 Feb, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**STEWART LEE** Sat 7 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**CHRISTIAN O'CONNELL** Sat 7 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**BARRY DODDS, ADAM ROWE, DANA ALEXANDER AND RAY PEACOCK** Sat 7 Feb, Players Bar, Birmingham  
**SILKY, JAMES REDMOND, DAVID LONGLEY AND RUTH E COCKBURN** Sat 7 Feb, Coventry Showcase  
**ARTHUR SMITH, MATT RICHARDSON, KATHERINE RYAN AND TIERNAN DOUBLE** Sat 7 Feb, De Montfort Hall, Leicester  
**COMEDY CLUB FOR KIDS WITH TIERNAN DOUBLE, HOWARD READ AND IAIN STIRLING** Sat 7 Feb, De Montfort Hall, Leicester  
**ANDREW LAWRENCE** Sun 8 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**DAVID O'DOHERTY** Sun 8 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**ROUGH WORKS- NEW MATERIAL NIGHT** Sun 8 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**LOUDEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT** Mon 9 Feb, The Blue Orange

Theatre, Birmingham  
**DAVE TWENTYMAN PLUS COMICS TBC, COMPERE HARRIET DYER** Tues 10 Feb, Rose Villa Tavern, Birmingham  
**SHAZIA MIRZA, HELEN THORN, JULIET MEYERS AND MAUREEN YOUNGER** Wed 11 Feb, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**MICK FERRY, PAUL MCCAFFERY AND MARK OLVER** Wed 11 Feb, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury  
**ROY CHUBBY BROWN** Thurs 12 - Fri 13 Feb, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**STEPHEN K AMOS** Thurs 12 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**AL MURRAY** Thurs 12 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**STEWART LEE** Thurs 12 Feb, De Montfort Hall, Leicester  
**DANA ALEXANDER, BEN NORRIS, DANNY BREAKLEY PLUS COMIC TBC** Thurs 12 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**DANA ALEXANDER, BEN NORRIS, SUZI RUFFELL AND GARETH RICHARDS** Fri 13 - Sat 14 Feb, The Glee Club, B'ham  
**ROMESH RANGANATHAN, BEN NORRIS AND ANDREW RYAN** Thurs 12 Feb, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham  
**OMID DJALILI** Fri 13 Feb, Symphony Hall, B'ham  
**JO CAULFIELD** Fri 13 Feb, mac, B'ham  
**VALENTINES EVENING WITH DIBBI & FRIENDS** Fri 13 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham  
**KATHERINE RYAN, CHRISTIAN REILLY, PHIL DINSDALE AND PETER BRUSH** Fri 13 - Sat 14 Feb, Jongleurs Comedy Club, B'ham  
**JIMEOIN** Fri 13 Feb, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**HENNING WEHN** Sat 14 Feb, Crewe Lyceum  
**ZOE LYONS, ELEANOR TIERNAN, ANDREW BIRD AND MC DANNY MCLOUGHLIN** Sat 14 Feb, Players Bar, Birmingham



Mark Watson - Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**ROY CHUBBY BROWN** Sat 14 Feb, Bedworth Civic Hall  
**DYLAN MORAN** Sat 14 Feb, Stratford ArtsHouse, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**ANDREW O'NEILL** Sat 14 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**SEANN WALSH** Sat 14 Feb, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire  
**IMRAN YUSUF, PETE OTWAY, KAI HUMPHRIES AND KELLY KINGHAM** Sat 14 Feb, Coventry Showcase  
**KEN DODD** Sun 15 Feb, Crewe Lyceum  
**JOSIE LONG** Sun 15 Feb, The Electric Cinema, Birmingham  
**TOADALLY FREE COMEDY!** Mon 16 Feb, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham  
**STAND UP FOR TOMMY MUNDON WITH AYNUK, BEV PEGG, MEL THOMAS, MARLENCE, MAGGIE O'HARA, BARRY SMITH, DANDY, KEN WOOD AND DOUG PARKER** Tues 17 Feb, Brierley Civic Hall, Dudley  
**BRENDON BURNS** Tues 17 Feb, The Electric Cinema, Birmingham  
**ALUN COCHRANE** Wed 18 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**JOHN SHUTTLEWORTH** Wed 18 Feb, New Vic Theatre, Stoke-On-Trent  
**JOSIE LONG** Wed 18 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**STEVE SHANYASKI, STEVE WILLIAMS AND COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 19 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**SEANN WALSH** Thurs 19 - Fri 20 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**STEVE SHANYASKI, STEVE WILLIAMS WITH ANDY ROBINSON PLUS COMIC TBC** Fri 20 Feb, The Glee Club, B'ham  
**AL MURRAY** Fri 20 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**RICH HALL** Fri 20 Feb, Stratford ArtsHouse, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**KATHERINE RYAN, SIMON FEILD, SURNAME AND SURNAME, CHRIS PURCHASE** Fri 20 Feb,

Lichfield Garrick  
**MILTON JONES** Fri 20 Feb, De Montfort Hall, Leicester  
**SIMON AMSTELL** Fri 20 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall  
**MITCH BENN** Fri 20 Feb, mac, Birmingham  
**CHRIS COX** Fri 20 Feb, Evesham Arts Centre, Worcestershire  
**ANDREW BIRD, EDDY BRIMSON, JIM CAMPBELL AND PAUL MCCAFFREY** Fri 20 - Sat 21 Feb, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**BARNSTOMERS COMEDY NIGHT - LINE UP TBC** Sat 21 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**JIMMY CARR** Sat 21 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**COMEDY IN THE MET** Sat 21 Feb, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**JIMEOIN** Sat 21 Feb, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford  
**ANDY ROBINSON, STEVE SHANYASKI, STEVE WILLIAMS AND COMIC TBC** Sat 21 Feb, The Glee Club, B'ham  
**JOHN MOLONEY, SOPHIE HAGAN, DAVID TRENT AND TOM WRIGGLESWORTH** Sat 21 Feb, Players Bar, Birmingham  
**SUSAN CALMAN** Sat 21 Feb, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**LOL COMEDY CLUB WITH MC DAMION LARKIN** Sat 21 Feb, Regent theatre, Stoke-on-Trent  
**SEAN PERCIVAL, DANNY WARD, TONY BURGESS AND LUKE GRAVES** Sat 21 Feb, Coventry Showcase  
**THE LAUGHING SOLE - COMEDY CLUB FOR KIDS** Sun 22 Feb, mac, Birmingham  
**STEPHEN K AMOS** Sun 22 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**MALCOLM STENT IN THE AFTERNOON** Mon 23 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex  
**OMID DJALILI** Tues 24 Feb, Crewe Lyceum  
**MILTON JONES** Wed 25 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**LLOYD LANGFORD** Wed

25 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**JOKE THIEVES** Thurs 26 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**BOB MILLS** Thurs 26 Feb, The Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield  
**ANGELA BARNES, PAUL MCCAFFREY AND COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 26 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**ANGELA BARNES, PAUL MCCAFFREY, ROBIN MORGAN AND OWEN O'NEILL** Fri 27 - Sat 28 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**LLOYD LANGFORD** Fri 27 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**PATRICK MONAHAN** Fri 27 Feb, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**RICHARD HERRING** Fri 27 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**DARA O'BRIAIN** Fri 27 Feb, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**MARK THOMAS** Fri 27 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**PAUL FOOT** Fri 27 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**JIM SMALLMAN, JOE ROWNTREE, RAY MEARNES AND PHILBERTO** Fri 27 - Sat 28 Feb, Jongleurs Comedy Club, B'ham  
**BARBARA NICE** Fri 27 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex  
**MAXINE JONES** Sat 28 Feb, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**ANDY PARSONS** Sat 28 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**RICH WILSON, VIKKI STONE, CHRIS MCCAUSSAND AND MATT REED** Sat 28 Feb, Players Bar, Birmingham  
**THE LOVELY MEN SPRING COLLECTION** Sat 28 Feb, mac, Birmingham  
**RORY MCGRATH & PHILIP POPE** Sat 28 Feb, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire  
**TOM DEACON, JOHN RYAN, ROBERT WHITE AND JAMALI MADDIX** Sat 28 Feb, Coventry Showcase

Stephen K Amos - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury







TUE 10 - SAT 14 FEB

**EDWARD SCISSORHANDS**

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WED 18 - SAT 21 FEB

**SERENADE**

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£19 - £47

TUE 24 - SAT 28 FEB

**Coppelia**

**BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET**

£16 - £30

WED 4 - SAT 7 MAR

**WNO**

Chorus!  
with Lesley Garrett

The Magic Flute  
Mozart

Hansel & Gretel  
Humperdinck

£16 - £49

TUE 10 - SAT 21 MAR

**TOP HAT**

£19 - £45

FRI 13 - SUN 15 MAR

**DINOSAUR ZOO**

£12.50 - £15

WED 25 - SAT 28 MAR

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NEW YORK TIMES

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# Theatre



## The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 10 - Sat 14 February; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 17 - Sat 21 February; Birmingham Hippodrome, Tuesday 26 May - Sat 6 June

This National Theatre stage adaptation of Mark Haddon's award-winning novel bagged an impressive seven Olivier Awards in 2013 and has met with almost universal acclaim. At its centre is the character of fifteen-year-old Christopher, a boy who describes himself as "a mathematician with some behavioural difficulties". Initially coming under

suspicion after discovering the lifeless body of his neighbour's dog, Christopher decides to investigate the crime, and embarks on a journey that will change his world forever...

*Read the interview with playwright Simon Stephens on page 6.*

## Jeeves And Wooster: Perfect Nonsense

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 4 - Sat 7 February;  
The REP, Birmingham, Mon 9 - Sat 14 March

The delightful world of PG Wodehouse is here brought to the stage in a production that's enjoyed huge success in the West End. Featuring an engaging cast of quirky characters, it finds Bertie Wooster being unwittingly called on to play matchmaker when a country house weekend takes a turn for the worse. To add to his problems, Bertie needs to steal a silver cow creamer from Totleigh Towers. Needless to say, the ever-dependable Jeeves is on hand to save his employer's blushes...

*Read the interview with Robert Webb at [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)*



## The King's Speech

The REP, Birmingham,  
Wed 25 February - Sat 7 March

King George VI has a stammer. He also has to make his first wartime radio broadcast following Britain's declaration of hostilities against Germany. Desperate to overcome his affliction, the king turns to Lionel Logue, an Australian speech and language therapist who, as the pair work towards a common goal, gradually becomes his friend... Based on the Oscar-winning movie of the same title, *The King's Speech* is here co-presented by The REP and Chichester Festival Theatre. Jason Donovan stars as Logue, with Raymond Coulthard (Mr Selfridge, Hotel Babylon) taking the role of King George.





# entertainment CANNOCK CHASE

February – March 2015

at the **PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE**

February

## THE THREE DEGREES

Thursday 12th February  
7.30pm • £25

## EVERLY BROTHERS & FRIENDS TRIBUTE

Saturday 21st February  
7.30pm • £15 • Conc £14

## MAGICAL MOZART BY CANDLELIGHT

Thursday 26th February  
7.30pm • £19 • Conc £18

## DUBLIN LEGENDS

Saturday 28th February  
7.30pm • £20



March

## STARS FROM THE COMMITMENTS

Saturday 7th March  
7.30pm • £20

## NATHAN CARTER

Wednesday 11th March  
7.30pm • £22.50

## GERVASE PHINN

Tuesday 17th March  
7.30pm • £18



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by Simon Longman



25 February

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17 - 18 March

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
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## The Honey Man

The REP, Birmingham, Mon 16 - Sat 21 February; Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Tues 24 February

The way in which the plight of bees threatens flora, fauna and diet, how cultural artefacts carry memory, and the difficulties of growing up and growing old are among the themes covered by this thought-provoking work of theatre from Birmingham writer and actor Tyrone Huggins.

Ageing Caribbean recluse Honey Man is trying in vain to save his colony of bees when he meets fiery teenage heiress Misty.

As the pair develop an unlikely friendship, an antique painting reveals a secret that connects their lives in ways they could never have imagined...

Innovative digital projection and an atmospheric soundscape combine to excellent effect in a play that's been described as 'sharp and compelling'.



## Jane Eyre

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 26 February - Sat 7 March

Blue Orange Arts are the ensemble behind this latest stage version of Charlotte Brontë's classic novel. For those not up to speed with the story, it follows the orphaned Jane as she's sent by her cruel Aunt Reed to the bleak Lowood School. On securing a position as governess at Thornfield Hall, Jane finds herself falling for the charms of enigmatic master Edward Rochester, unaware that the new object of her affection harbours a dark and terrible secret.

## The Liz & Dick Show

mac, Birmingham, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 February

Undoubtedly one of the twentieth century's most glamorous celebrity couples, Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor were passionate lovers who fought like cat and dog. Here, as Burton cajoles Taylor into learning the part which would lead to her second Oscar, the couple's always passionate, often tempestuous relationship is brought under the full glare of an unforgiving spotlight...

Ken McConnell and Lydia Poole are the performers who bicker, bite, snarl and swear their way through a turbulent evening as Liz and Dick.



## Anything Goes

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 16 - Sat 21 February; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 13 - Sat 18 July; Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 14 September - Sat 19 September

Cole Porter's classic musical, set aboard an ocean liner bound for London from New York, makes a welcome return. Telling the story of a stowaway's love for an heiress who's engaged to be married to a lord, the show features hit songs You're The Top and I Get A Kick Out Of You - as well as the equally famous title number. Numerous Broadway and West End revivals have ensured the musical has very much remained in the public consciousness since its US debut, with the show last year celebrating its eightieth anniversary.

## Nursing Lives

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 24 - Wed 25 February; mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 27 February; Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Tues 3 - Wed 4 March

Highly rated mask specialists Vamos make a welcome return - complete with their always-winning blend of engaging soundtrack, dance sequences, puppetry, humour and pathos - to tell a story that's set both in World War Two and modern-day Britain. Hearing that it's to be demolished, feisty seventysomething Flo returns to the hospital at which she worked during the Second World War. But as well as proving to be a personal celebration of friendship, courage, adventure and romance, her illicit visit also reveals a long-hidden and still-important secret...



## Fifty Shades Of Fizzog

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Fri 27 February

The ever-popular Fizzog Productions are urging anybody who enjoys a good laugh to get along to their latest sketch show, as they consider it to be a production that's so funny 'you may wet yourself a little'.

The Black Country-based ensemble are suitably proud of their Midlands roots, and thoughtfully point out that their 'brand of humour and outrageous characters can be a

verbal and physical assault on the senses'. "Our shows are riotous, poignant and nostalgic," say Fizzog, "but most of all, hysterically funny. Honorary Fizzog Barbara Nice (TV personality Janice Connolly), who adds her own off-the-wall contribution, completes a fantastic evening of entertainment."



## The History Boys

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 23 - Sat 28 February

Alan Bennett's award-winning play is set in a boys' school in northern England in the 1980s. A young teacher named Irwin has been brought in to coach the pupils for the Oxbridge exam - but fellow teacher Hector believes instead in learning for its own sake... "Realistically the person who parents would want teaching their child would be Irwin, as Irwin would get you into university," says Bennett. "However, sentimentally, their hearts would be with Hector, because he's the type of teacher everyone wants. Everybody always wishes they'd learned more poetry at school and had someone who would inspire them like that. And it's the fact that, in a way, I couldn't resolve this conflict in my head which made me write the play."

Read Chris Eldon Lee's feature on The History Boys at [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

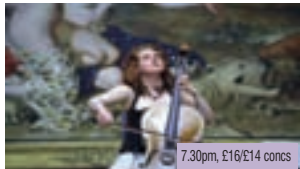






## BIZET, ELGAR, MOZART

Thurs 12 Feb



7.30pm, £16/£14 concs

In a typically dynamic Manchester Camerata concert, enjoy Bizet's less familiar masterpiece, Symphony in C, paired with two of the greatest pieces of classical music. Mesmerising Principal Cello, Hannah Roberts, performs Elgar's elegiac Cello Concerto – arguably the most popular concerto ever written for the instrument. Mozart's penultimate symphony (no.40), brings the evening to a dramatic conclusion

## JIMEOIN

Fri 13 Feb

Hailed as one of live comedy's masters, Jimeoin's shows are a fluid mixture of his signature observations and more razor sharp take on the absurdities of everyday life. No gimmicks, big laughs and live stand-up at its very best.



8.00pm, £18

## LIANG AND THE MAGIC PAINTBRUSH

Thurs 19 Feb

Liang dreams of being a painter but is too poor to buy himself a paintbrush. Join him on a magical adventure to find out if dreams can come true. An inventive and gentle show with something in it for all the family. Crooked Timber Theatre combine puppets, origami, live painting and video to bring this well loved Chinese tale to life.

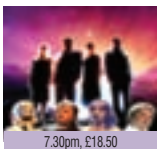


11.30am & 1.30pm, £7

## BEYOND THE BARRICADE

Fri 20 Feb

This production will include many of the musicals that have made it the UK's leading concert of its kind, including Miss Saigon, The Lion King, Phantom Of The Opera, West Side Story, Jesus Christ Superstar, Blood Brothers, Wicked, The Jersey Boys and more, climaxing with a spectacular finale from, of course, Les Miserables! Don't miss the musicals event of the Year!

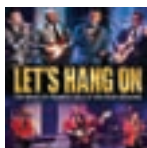


7.30pm, £18.50

## LET'S HANG ON

Sat 21 Feb

This award-winning production is a musical journey through the prolific career of one of the most successful bands of all time - Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons. From the beginnings in the early 50's, the show takes you through many classic hits, climaxing with a spectacular finale of, of course, Let's Hang On!



7.30pm, £21

## RIGOLETTO

Thurs 26 Feb



7.30pm, £32/£30 concs

After last year's season of successful performances of Carmen and La Traviata, The Russian State Ballet and Opera House is back with another world-class Opera, Rigoletto - a tragic tale of misunderstanding, revenge and sacrifice.

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What's  
on...



Sun 8th February  
**THE CAT IN THE HAT**  
Time: 1.00pm & 3.00pm



Fri 13th February  
**THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW**  
Time: 7.30pm



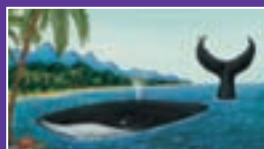
Thu 19th February  
**THE CIRCUS OF HORRORS  
THE NIGHT OF THE ZOMBIE**  
Time: 7.30pm



Fri 20th February  
**ESSENTIAL HOLLIES**  
Time: 7.30pm



Sat 21st February  
**JIMEOIN**  
Time: 8.00pm



Sun 1st & Mon 2nd March  
**THE SNAIL AND THE WHALE**  
Time: Sun, 2.00pm, 4.30pm  
Mon, 10.30am, 12.30pm



Tue 3rd March  
**GORDON BUCHANAN**  
Time: 7.30pm



Fri 6th March  
**BIG PANTS AND BOTOX**  
Time: 7.30pm



Fri 13th March  
**LLOYD LANGFORD**  
Time: 8.00pm

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## Oliver!

Bridgnorth Leisure Centre, South Shropshire,  
Tues 17 - Sat 21 February

Bringing to life the Dickens classic about the boy who dared to ask for more, Lionel Bart's brilliant musical is here presented by Bridgnorth Musical Theatre Company. So if you like your musicals big on gruesome gruel, raggedy street urchins and magnificently memorable musical numbers - including Food Glorious Food and You've Got To Pick-a-Pocket Or Two - then this is the show for you. Oh, and on this occasion it would definitely be acceptable if you fancied a second helping!

## Bell, Book And Candle

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,  
Sat 14 - Sat 28 February

When a modern-day witch takes a fancy to a neighbour whose fiancée she's despised since high school, she enchants him to love her instead - only to then find herself falling in love with him for real... John Van Druten's Broadway hit is best known from its 1958 movie version, starring James Stewart and Kim Novak. This new adaptation is directed by the New Vic's former Artistic Director and Chief Executive, Gwenda Hughes.



## And Then There Were None

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 2 - Sat 7  
February; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,  
Mon 23 - Sat 28 February

In the past decade, The Agatha Christie Theatre Company has become well versed in the business of staging the Queen Of Crimewriting's ever-enthralling whodunnits, enjoying touring success with adaptations of, among others, The Hollies, The Unexpected Guest and And Then There Were None. The latter here makes a welcome return to celebrate the ensemble's tenth anniversary.

Having been invited to a privately owned remote island off the coast of Devon, a group of strangers find that their eccentric millionaire host has mysteriously disappeared...

Paul Nicholas, Colin Buchanan, Susan Penhaligon, Mark Curry, Verity Rushworth, Frazer Hines and Ben Nealon make up the veritable cast taking this latest Agatha Christie play out on the road.



## A Mad World, My Masters

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 February

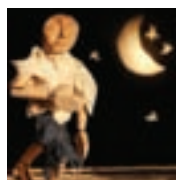
Thomas Middleton's Jacobean 'city comedy' was first performed in the early seventeenth century but is here updated to 1956. The action unfolds in London's shabbily glamorous Soho, where a cash-strapped bachelor has learned to live on his wits. With a rich uncle seeming to be the answer to his troubles, he decides to turn conman, variously becoming a lord, a high-class call girl and a poor actor in a desperate effort to improve his financial fortunes. But as he spins his web of deceit, it soon becomes evident that somebody else is also 'on the scam'...

## Theatre for kids...

### Liang And The Magic Paint Brush

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,  
Thurs 19 February

With a running time of forty-five minutes and an optional opportunity afterwards to get 'up close and personal' with the puppets, Gemma Khawaja's gentle and inventive adaptation of this old Chinese legend makes for a thoroughly entertaining experience for young children. Telling the story of Liang's desire to become a painter - despite being so poor he can't even buy himself a paintbrush - the show is presented by Crooked Timber Theatre and combines puppets, origami, live painting and video images to excellent effect.



### The Chris And Pui Show

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
Tues 17 February

Incy Wincy, Twinkle, Old MacDonald, Humpty and Granny Humpty - not to mention toys Tom, Momo, Teddington, Stuff and Miss Mouse - are all present and correct in this latest offering from Show Me, Show Me's Chris and Pui. Described as 'a family show for children aged two to one hundred-and-two', the production brings together 'songs, comedy sketches, a dash of magic and heaps of joining in'.

### The Basil Brush Show

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,  
Sun 31 May

Every child's favourite irreverent fox has been delighting generations of youngsters for more than half a century now, and continues to strike all the right notes with little people everywhere. Nowadays accompanied on his telly series by Mr Stephen (aka Chris Pizzey), who joins him for this live tour, Basil's roadshow brings together songs and storytelling with plenty of humour - and also offers audience members a chance to meet the fabulous fox himself.

### Dr Seuss's The Cat In The Hat

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Sun  
8 February

Based on the much-loved book by Dr Seuss, this latest theatrical version of The Cat In The Hat has been designed to engage and delight youngsters aged three and older. The Cat In The Hat is the funniest, most mischievous cat that Sally and her brother have ever met - and what's more, he's got a fantastic talent for turning the rainiest of afternoons into the most amazing of adventures...





# WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT



'MAGICAL AND MOVING'  
DAILY MAIL  
**THE CURIOUS INCIDENT  
OF THE DOG IN THE  
NIGHT-TIME**  
TUE 10 - SAT 14 FEB



THE BEST OF PINK FLOYD  
PERFORMED LIVE  
**THE AUSTRALIAN  
PINK FLOYD SHOW**  
MON 16 MAR



HOW SWEET IT IS  
**MOTOWN'S  
GREATEST HITS**  
THU 12 FEB



25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR  
**RETURN TO  
THE FORBIDDEN  
PLANET**  
MON 16 - SAT 21 MAR



COLE PORTER'S CLASSIC  
MUSICAL-COMEDY  
**ANYTHING GOES**  
MON 16 - SAT 21 FEB



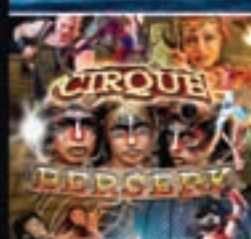
LAST MAJOR TOUR  
**JOAN  
ARMATRADING**  
TUE 24 MAR



AGATHA CHRISTIE'S  
MASTERPIECE OF SUSPENSE  
**AND THEN THERE  
WERE NONE**  
MON 23 - SAT 28 FEB



FROM THE PRODUCERS  
OF HOT FLUSH!  
**SEX IN SUBURBIA**  
SUN 29 MAR



BRITAIN'S  
FAVOURITE CIRCUS  
**CIRQUE  
BERSERK**  
THU 5 - SAT 7 MAR



FRESH FROM THEIR  
RENAISSANCE  
**SIMPLE MINDS**  
MON 30 MAR



A BRAND NEW SHOW  
**OMID DJALILI**  
MON 9 MAR



FUN-PACKED ENCHANTING  
PRODUCTION  
**THE CHUCKLES  
OF OZ**  
TUE 7 APR



A BRAND NEW PRODUCTION  
OF THE CLASSIC MUSICAL  
**CALAMITY JANE**  
TUE 10 - SAT 14 MAR



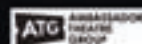
ELLEN KENT'S  
**RIGOLETTO  
AND MADAMA  
BUTTERFLY**  
WED 8 & THU 9 APR



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# Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK** until Sun 1 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome  
**THE SLEEPING BEAUTY** until Sun 1 Feb, The Belfrey Theatre, Wellington, Shropshire  
**ROOM ON THE BROOM** Stage adaptation of Julia Donaldson's best-selling book that's sure to provide a magical, musical treat for children and adults alike, until Sun 1 Feb, The REP, Birmingham  
**PETER PAN GOES WRONG** The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society set out to present JM Barrie's classic tale of Peter Pan - but as the title suggests, everything that can go wrong, does, and with hilariously disastrous results, until Sun 1 Feb, The REP, Birmingham  
**THE DEEP BLUE SEA** Terence Rattigan's acclaimed play about love and infidelity in post-war Britain, until Sat 7 Feb, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham  
**THE SHOEMAKER'S HOLIDAY** Following his

acclaimed RSC debut with *The Merry Wives Of Windsor* (2012), Phillip Breen returns to direct Dekker's glorious city comedy of class, conflict and cobblers in love, until Sat 7 March, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**OPPENHEIMER** Angus Jackson directs Tom Moreton's new play, which explores the personal cost of making history, until Sat 7 March, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST** Christopher Luscombe directs a new production of Shakespeare's sparkling comedy, until Sat 14 March, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**LOVE'S LABOUR'S WON** Christopher Luscombe directs the second of Shakespeare's matching pair of comedies that rejoice in man's capacity to find love in the most unlikely of places, until Sat 14 March, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Strat-

ford-upon-Avon  
**GAZA: WHEN THE SKY RAINED WHITE FIRE** Literature & spoken word event which provides a moving and careful account of the effects of the Israeli treatment of the people of Gaza, Sun 1 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham  
**DOT & ETHEL: MATCH** Based on Hans Christian Andersen's much-loved classic, *The Little Match Girl*, Match is the enchanting story of a young child's hopes, dreams, simple pleasures and losses, Sun 1 Feb, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham  
**MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT** Monty Python's Tony Award-winning stage show returns to the region, complete with West End favourite Bonnie Langford, comedian/actor Joe Pasquale and ex-East-Enders, Todd Carty, Mon 2 - Sat 7 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham  
**AND THEN THERE WERE NONE** The Agatha Christie Theatre Company present a new staging of the Queen of Crime's dark and captivating tale. Starring Paul Nicholas, Colin Buchanan, Susan Penhaligon, Mark Curry, Verity Rushworth, Fraser Hines & Ben Nealon, Mon 2 - Sat 7 Feb, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre  
**CASTING THE RUNES** Two stories by MR James, performed by Robert Lloyd Parry, Wed 4 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**RUN** Engineer Theatre Collective use physical theatre to tell the 'exhilarating story of four investment bank interns chasing a career in the city', Wed 4 Feb, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**FANTASTIC MR FOX** Sally Reid's adaptation of Roald Dahl much-loved story, Wed 4 - Sat 7 Feb, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**PETER PAN: A MUSICAL ADVENTURE** JM Barrie's timeless tale is presented by BOA Musical Theatre Company, Wed 4 - Sat 7 Feb, Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham  
**JEEVES AND WOOSTER IN PERFECT NONSENSE** Hit West End comedy adapted from the works of PG Wodehouse, directed by Sean Foley, Wed 4 - Sat 7 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**A DOLL'S HOUSE** Henrik Ibsen's classic tale of one woman's awakening from the spiritual and intellectual constraints of nineteenth century married life, Thurs 5 - Sat 14 Feb, Sutton Arts Theatre, Sutton Coldfield  
**THE TELL TALE HEART:**



Teachers - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**EDGAR ALLEN POE** Chilling stories, haunting poems and short films celebrating the untested master of the macabre, Edgar Allen Poe, Fri 6 Feb, The Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham  
**AN AUDIENCE WITH COLIN FRY** Fri 6 - Sat 7 Feb, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham  
**THE CALL OF CTHULU** Michael Sabbaton presents an atmospheric & intimate piece of theatre adapted from the classic tale by HP Lovecraft, Fri 6 - Sat 7 Feb, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham  
**THE SLEEPING BEAUTY** Fri 6 - Sun 8 Feb, The Belfrey Theatre, Wellington, Shropshire  
**HARVEY** Elwood P Dowd has only one character flaw: an unwavering friendship with a six foot-tall, invisible rabbit named Harvey. Starring James Dreyfus & Maureen Lipman, Fri 6 - Sat 21 Feb, The REP, Birmingham  
**MISS MALONE & FRIENDS: BURLESQUE REVIEW** Sat 7 Feb, Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Staffs  
**AN EVENING OF DIRTY DANCING** Embarking on it's Fifth Anniversary tour, the show is a fully choreographed, highly interactive celebration of music from the iconic movie, Sat 7 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex  
**FIRST STAGES: WHATEVER THE WEATHER** M6 Theatre Company presents a gentle, climatic show for children aged three-plus, Sat 7 Feb, The REP, Birmingham  
**STRAWBERRY BLONDE CURLS: INSIDE** Strawberry Blonde Curls present an emotional & psychological drama which explores the effects of Stockholm Syndrome

on a kidnap victim desperate to keep hope, Sat 7 Feb, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**ONLY FOOLS AND... BOYCIE** An intimate evening with actor John Challis, Sun 8 Feb, The Old Rep Theatre, B'ham  
**DR SEUSS'S THE CAT IN THE HAT** Lively & engaging theatre experience for young children aged three-plus, Sun 8 Feb, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

## Week Commencing MON 9 FEB

**AN EVENING WITH TONY STOCKWELL** Mediumship with the TV psychic, Mon 9 Feb, Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock  
**HANDA'S SURPRISE** Little Angel Theatre fuse physical performance, puppetry, live music and song to present an intimate and magical production for children, Mon 9 Feb, Ledbury Primary School, Herefordshire  
**THE TEMPEST** The Art Centre, Telford, present their version of Shakespeare's magical tale, Mon 9 - Tues 10 Feb, The Place, Oakengates, Shropshire  
**THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT TIME** Highly acclaimed National Theatre production based on Mark Haddon's award-winning novel, Tues 10 - Sat 14 Feb, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent  
**THE ANGRY ROADS - WITH GUEST SPEAKER SHAMI CHAKRABARTI** Big Brum Theatre Company presents Edward Bond's compelling drama about a teenage boy's struggle to know

the truth about his past so that he can take control of his future, Tue 10 Feb, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**TEACHERS** Blackeyed Theatre Company present John Godber's classic classroom comedy, Tue 10 - Wed 11 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS** Tue 10 - Wed 11 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**LES MISERABLES** William Brookes School present their version of Schonberg & Bouill's epic musical, Tues 10 - Fri 13 February, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire  
**TIME OF MY LIFE** Presented by Stoke Repertory Players, Mon 10 - Sat 14 Feb, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent  
**AN EVENING WITH POLLY TOYNBEE & DAVID WALKER** Join two of the UK's most respected journalists for this timely discussion about the state of the nation, Wed 11 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**THE FAITH MACHINE** Birmingham School of Acting presents Alexi Kaye Campbell's new play, which explores the relationship between faith & capitalism while at the same time asking fundamental questions about the true meaning of love, Wed 11 - Sat 14 Feb, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham  
**THE SPECKLED PEOPLE** Birmingham School of Acting present their version of Hugo Hamilton's bestselling memoir, Wed 11 - Sat 14 Feb, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham  
**LOVE STORIES** Blue Orange Arts present

Spamalot - New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham





BLUE ORANGE THEATRE PRESENTS

# CHARLOTTE BRONTË'S JANE EYRE



Thursday 26th February - Saturday 7th March 2015  
**The Blue Orange Theatre**  
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 118 Great Hampton Street, Birmingham B18 6AD  
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## ARENA THEATRE WOLVERHAMPTON

Wed 11 February, 7.30pm

**Comment**

### An Evening with Polly Toynbee + David Walker

Join two of the UK's most respected journalists for this timely discussion of the state of the nation.



Tickets: £10/£8 concs

Tue 17 February, 8pm

**Centre for Transnational and Transcultural Research**  
(University of Wolverhampton)

### In Conversation with Eimear McBride

Arena Theatre is proud to welcome Irish novelist Eimear McBride for an evening of reading and conversation about her work and career.



Tickets: £5

Wed 3 December, 7.30pm

**Jazz at the Arena**

### Trish Clowes' Tangent Quintet

Trish Clowes - Saxophones  
 Gwilym Simcock - Piano  
 Alex Munk - Guitar  
 Calum Gourlay - Bass  
 James Maddren - Drums



Tickets: £10/£8 concs

**THE LITTLE VENUE WITH BIG IDEAS** Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE

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For full programme, visit: [arena.wlv.ac.uk](http://arena.wlv.ac.uk)



# Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

three 'vibrant' pieces of new writing, all with Valentine's Day in mind, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 Feb, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

## THE LIZ & DICK SHOW

Dhanil Ali's play offers an insight into the helter-skelter decline of one of the most talked-about relationships in showbiz history, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 Feb, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

## MAKE THE DEAD MAN STAND

A tale of the human paradox, devised from the vivid testaments of women and men who chose to heal in The Great War, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 Feb, Bramall Hall, Birmingham

## LOOKING GOOD - FEELING BETTER

Outside Eye present a passionate story of the social & personal traumas of a breast cancer sufferer, Fri 13 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**FASCINATING AIDA** Starring Dillie Keane, Liza Pulman & Adele Anderson, Fri 13 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**ROMEO AND JULIET** One-woman show where Debs Newbold recreates Shakespeare's

incomparable verse and poetic storytelling, Fri 13 Feb, Quatt Village Hall, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

## OUR KYLIE'S GETTIN'

**WED** Stripped Down Theatre address the trials and tribulations of

family weddings, Fri 13 Feb, Library of B'ham

## SCARAMOUCHE JONES

Justin Butcher's 'beguiling, beautiful and heart-breaking' work, which tells of the life and death of theatre's tragic comic, Fri 13 - Sat 21 Feb, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

## WIND IN THE WILLOWS

Presented by critically acclaimed Cambridge touring troupe Immersion Theatre, Sat 14 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

## RICHARD & ADAM AT THE MOVIES

Sat 14 Feb, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**ROMEO AND JULIET** One-woman show where Debs Newbold recreates Shakespeare's incomparable verse and poetic storytelling, Sat 14 Feb, All Stretton Village Hall, Church Stretton, South Shropshire

## THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

A fast-paced romp through all the Bard's plays, Sat 14 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**FASCINATING AIDA** Starring Dillie Keane, Liza Pulman & Adele Anderson, Sat 14 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

**ENCHANTED BURLESQUE: L'AMOUR** Valentine's Day theatre show presented by husband & wife team James & Angel LaVey, Sat 14 Feb, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

## BELL, BOOK AND CANDLE

John Van Druten's dark tale of treachery and enchantment, Sat 14 - Sat 28 Feb, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

## A SUMMER IN THE SOUTH

Siân Phillips and Robert Powell bring to life an eclectic range of stories and prose from one of France's greatest writers, Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette, Sun 15 Feb, The REP, Birmingham

## THE SNAIL AND THE WHALE

Tall Stories present their latest collaboration with Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, Sun 15 - Mon 16 Feb, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

**Week Commencing MON 16 FEB**

## CIRCUS OF HORRORS:

### THE NIGHT OF THE ZOMBIE

Mon 16 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

### ANYTHING GOES

Brand new UK tour of Cole Porter's musical comedy, direct from the West End, Mon 16 - Sat 21 Feb, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

### THE HONEY MAN

Written by and starring Tyrone Huggins, The Honey Man is a contemporary work concerning an ageing Caribbean

recluse trying to save his dying bees in a derelict English cottage on the edge of rural England, Mon 16 - Sat 21 Feb, The REP, Birmingham

**CHRIS AND PUI** Brand new show packed with songs, games and a few surprises, Tue 17 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**Alice in Wonderland**

Brand new UK tour of Cole Porter's musical comedy, direct from the West End, Mon 16 - Sat 21 Feb, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE HONEY MAN** Written by and starring Tyrone Huggins, The Honey Man is a contemporary work concerning an ageing Caribbean recluse trying to save his dying bees in a derelict English cottage on the edge of rural England, Mon 16 - Sat 21 Feb, The REP, Birmingham

**CHRIS AND PUI** Brand new show packed with songs, games and a few surprises, Tue 17 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

### ALICE IN WONDERLAND



Scaramouche Jones - Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Box Tale Soup use handmade puppets & props to tell Lewis Carroll's fantastical tale, Tue 17 Feb, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**MOTHER GOOSE** Journey forth to Gooseville, the home of Mother Goose and her magical friend Priscilla, the goose that lays the golden eggs. Starring Ian Adams & Julie Paton, Tues 17 Feb, Lichfield Garrick

**IN CONVERSATION WITH EIMEAR MCBRIDE** Join Irish novelist Eimear McBride for an evening of reading and conversation about her life & career, Tues 17 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**CALAMITY JANE** The Watmill Theatre present a new production of the classic musical. Jodie Prenger stars, Tue 17 - Sat 21 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**OLIVER!** Presented by Bridgnorth Musical Theatre Company, Tue 17 - Sat 21 Feb, Bridgnorth Leisure Centre, Shropshire

**THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME** Highly acclaimed National Theatre production based on Mark Haddon's award-winning novel, Tues 17 - Sat 21 Feb, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**THE DRAGON'S TALE** Hand To Mouth Theatre present an original and whimsical reinterpretation of George and the Dragon, told in a series of flashbacks by the ageing Dragon himself and his troupe of glove puppets, Wed 18 Feb, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**HI JINX** Fast-paced magic show filled with

grand illusions & crazy circus thrills, Wed 18 Feb, Stourbridge Town Hall

**FASCINATING AIDA** Starring Dillie Keane, Liza Pulman & Adele Anderson, Wed 18 Feb, Lichfield Garrick

**THE HAPPY BREED** Birmingham School of Acting presents Noel Coward's depiction of suburban London life between the wars, Wed 18 - Sat 21 Feb, Crescent Theatre, B'ham

**THE SUGAR WIFE** Birmingham School Of Acting presents Elizabeth Kutis engrossing examination of sexual politics and political morality. Please note that this performance contains themes of an adult nature, partial nudity, strong language, smoking and strobe effects, Wed 18 - Sat 21 Feb, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR** Disney Channel's smash-hit movie musical is brought to the stage by the Viv Kelly Children's Theatre Group, Thurs 19 Feb - Sat 21 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**THE CIRCUS OF HORRORS: THE NIGHT OF THE ZOMBIE** Thurs 19 Feb, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire

**THE SEA SHOW** Squash-box Theatre present a quirky & hilarious mix of puppetry, natural history and comedy cabaret, Thurs 19 Feb, The Hive, Shrewsbury

**TREASURE ISLAND** NT Live presents Robert Louis Stevenson's story of murder, money & mutiny, Thurs 19 Feb, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**TEN TIMES TABLE** Carrs

Lane Players present a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 Feb, Carrs Church Lane Centre, B'ham

**HENRY V** Rooftop Theatre Company present Shakespeare's compelling history play, Thurs 19 - Fri 27 Feb, Ludlow Brewery, South Shropshire

**THE SEA SHOW** Squash-box Theatre present a quirky & hilarious mix of puppetry, natural history and comedy cabaret, Fri 20 Feb, Alveley Parish Hall, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

**TIMES FOOLS: THE MAGIC OF MAYBE** Join a collection of unusual and endearing characters, explore the stories of their lives and the complexities of their relationships. Presented by Somesuch Theatre, Fri 20 - Sun 22 Feb, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**OLIVER!** Starcross Youth Theatre present Lionel Bart's hit family musical, Fri 20 - Sun 22 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE SEA SHOW** Squash-box Theatre present a quirky & hilarious mix of puppetry, natural history and comedy cabaret, Sat 21 Feb, Steiner Academy, Birch Hall, Much Dewchurch, Herefordshire

**FIFTY SHADES OF FIZZOG** New comedy sketch show featuring some of Fizzog's best-loved characters, including internet sensations The Dancing Grannies, Sat 21 Feb, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

**THE LITTLE MERMAID** The Panto Company present a brand new production of Hans Christian Andersen's much-loved tale, Sat 21 Feb, Tamworth Assem



Looking Good, Feeling Better - Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton



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the drum

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Fri 13 Feb, 7:30pm Tickets: £14 (£12)

Valentines is here so come and join us for a fun filled evening with your favourite Bajan Beauty Dibbi. Come and experience her very special blend of humour, with live comedy, fun and games, as well as, a special Valentines musical treat... Performing live will be X Factor 2006 finalist Shylo Soulestar (also known as, Robert Allen), fresh from supporting the legend George Benson. A special Valentines menu will be available for all to enjoy, along with many seductive drinks offers on selected wines. The first 25 people to book will enjoy a glass of bubbly courtesy of us. If that wasn't enough, to end the Night the only way we know how, join The Gman in The Frontiers Bar for late night music and drinks.

Shylo Soulestar

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# Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

bly Rooms, Staffs  
**THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY** A fast-paced romp through all the Bard's plays, Sat 21 Feb, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury  
**LOOK BACK IN ANGER** All And Sundry present John Osborne's critically acclaimed autobiographical play, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS** Big Wooden Horse Theatre Company present a lively show full of fun, feathers, laughter, original music and audience participation, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**TREASURE ISLAND** NT Live presents Robert Louis Stevenson's story of murder, money & mutiny, Sun 22 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**Week Commencing  
MON 23 FEB**

**WOYZECK** Splendid Productions adapt Georg Buchner's gothic classic, Mon 23 Feb, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**THE HISTORY BOYS** Alan Bennett's award-winning play, Mon 23 - Sat 28 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham  
**AND THEN THERE WERE NONE** The Agatha Christie Theatre Company present a new staging of the Queen of Crime's dark and captivating tale. Starring Paul Nicholas, Colin Buchanan, Susan Penhaligon, Mark Curry, Verity Rushworth, Frazier Hines & Ben Nealon, Mon 23 - Sat 28 Feb, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent  
**WEST END HITS** Presented by Arrowvale Pyramid Choir, Tue 24 Feb, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**THE HONEY MAN** A contemporary work concerning an ageing Caribbean recluse trying to save his dying bees in a derelict English cottage on the edge of rural England., Tue 24 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**NURSING LIVES** A full-mask theatre production combining visual inventiveness, evocative music and song, physical theatre and 1940s dance sequences, Tue 24 - Wed 25 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**1984** Matthew Dunster's

adaptation of George Orwell's dystopian tale, Tues 24 - Sat 28 Feb, Lichfield Garrick  
**HARVEY** Elwood P Dowd has only one character flaw: an unwavering friendship with a six foot-tall, invisible rabbit named Harvey. Starring James Dreyfus & Maureen Lipman, Tues 24 - Sat 28 Feb, Malvern Theatre  
**THE CLOTH OF THE WORLD** The Fetch Theatre Company journey into a fantastical world of wonder via a piece inspired by the world-famous Mappa Mundi, Wed 25 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**MILKED** Pentabus Theatre present a black comedy about friendship, unemployment - and a cow called Sandy, Wed 25 Feb, The Market Theatre, Ledbury  
**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Rock'n'roll spectacular combining music from the '50s, '60s & '70s with wacky comedy routines, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 Feb, Crewe Lyceum  
**CHEWING THE FAT** Selina Thompson invites audiences to join her for her own version of a mid-night feast, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**SPACEWANG & PARROTS** Double bill of works - Tom Wells' Spacewang & Adrian Earle's Parrots - performed by Karen Kaur, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 Feb, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**THE KING'S SPEECH** Jason Donovan & Raymond Coulthard star in a new staging of the story of one man's struggle to overcome his personal affliction and, in his country's darkest hour, deliver a now-iconic speech that was broadcast across the globe, Wed 25 Feb - Sat 7 March, The REP, Birmingham  
**FASCINATING AIDA** Starring Dillie Keane, Liza Pulman & Adele Anderson, Thurs 26 Feb, Stratford Arts House  
**UPSTAIRS DOWNTOWN** An improvised hour-long episode of ITV1's much-loved period drama, presented by its eccentric and aristocratic creator, Sir Julian Chappes, Thurs 26 Feb, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham  
**BROKE** The Paper Birds present a new production in which they

explore real-life stories from the frontline of poverty & debt, and what it means to be broke, Thurs 26 Feb, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**THE GUT GIRLS** Stafford Gatehouse Youth Theatre present Sarah Daniels' play which, set at the turn of the century, traces the lives of two girls who work in the gutting shed of a cattle market, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Feb, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**HONK!** The Old Joint Stock Musical Theatre Company present their version of Stiles & Drewe's acclaimed musical, based on Hans Christian Andersen's classic children's tale, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex  
**A MAD WORLD MY MASTERS** An RSC English Touring Theatre revival of Sean Foley's stage production of Thomas Middleton's Jacobean 'city comedy', Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Feb, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre  
**CABARET** Amateur production presented by Ludlow College, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Feb, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire  
**AVA'S WEDDING** Birmingham Conservatoire presents a brand new opera telling an original story by Birmingham-based duo Michael Wolters (composer) and Alexandra Taylor (writer), Thurs 26 - Sat 28 Feb, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham  
**JANE EYRE** Blue Orange Arts presents Charlotte Bronte's classic tale of a young woman's courageous fight through injustice and hardship, Thurs 26 Feb - Sat 7 March, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham  
**BACK DOWN** Highly-anticipated first play by Birmingham-born Steven Camden, more commonly known as the award-winning performance poet Polarbear, Thurs 26 Feb - Sat 7 March, The REP, Birmingham  
**A WARNING TO THE CURIOUS** Don't Go Into The Cellar presents a one-man show based around the Edwardian era's greatest ghost stories, Fri 27 Feb, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**FIFTY SHADES OF FIZZOG** New comedy sketch show featuring some of Fizzog's best-loved characters, including internet sensations The Dancing Grannies, Fri 27 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**AN EVENING WITH COLIN FRY** The Sixth Sense Anniversary Tour, Fri 27 Feb, Bedworth Civic



Reduced Shakespeare Company - Artrix, Bromsgrove; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Hall  
**AMAZING GRACE** Saltmine Theatre Company present John Newtoun's story of slavery, freedom - and the remarkable power of love and grace to transform a life, Fri 27 Feb, The Swan Theatre, Worcester  
**NURSING LIVES** A full-mask theatre production combining visual inventiveness, evocative music, song, physical theatre and 1940s dance sequences, Fri 27 Feb, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**CHAMPIONS OF MAGIC** The UK's largest touring magic show, featuring five of the world's finest magicians, Fri 27

Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**PROPELLER: POCKET COMEDY** All-male Shakespeare company Propeller presents its acclaimed sixty-minute production of The Comedy Of Errors, Fri 27 Feb, The Dream Factory, Warwick  
**THE FORBIDDEN DOOR** Innovative show which promises to transport audiences into the world of the imagination, aided by live music and dynamic storytelling, Fri 27 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**CREATING THE KING'S SPEECH** Director Roxana Silbert & designer Tom Piper discuss the making of The King's

Speech, Sat 28 Feb, The REP, Birmingham  
**BAG LADY** Marcia Layne's bold new play takes audiences on an exhilarating rollercoaster ride as it challenges and celebrates the notion of the 'angry and strong Black woman', Sat 28 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**A NIGHT OF DIRTY DANCING** Fully choreographed, highly interactive celebration of the music from the iconic movie, Sat 28 Feb, Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Staffs  
**THE TEMPEST** Crescent Theatre present Shakespeare's magical tale, Sat 28 Feb - Sat 14 March, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

## Theatre Box Office

### Birmingham

ALEXANDRA THEATRE  
0844 871 3011  
BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME  
0844 338 5000  
BIRMINGHAM REP  
0121 236 4455  
THE BLUE ORANGE THEATRE  
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01952 728911  
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01743 234970  
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ROOMS 01584 878141  
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TELFORD 01952 382382  
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MALVERN THEATRE  
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NORBURY THEATRE,  
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VERDI  
LA TRAVIATA

SAT 14 MAR



PARENTAL  
GUIDANCE

STUPID  
NIGHT

CELESTINE

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Below are reviews of theatre productions we checked out last month. For further theatre reviews, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Oppenheimer

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

Chuck a spectrometer at a cinema screen or theatre stage at the moment and there's a good chance you'll hit a genius scientist. Boffins are flavour of the month right about now. There are movies about Alan Turing (*The Imitation Game*) and Stephen Hawking (*The Theory Of Everything*), while Chris Rapley and Tom Stoppard have written new plays focusing on climate change (2071) and consciousness (*The Hard Problem*) respectively. The subject matter might seem a little high brow - scientific formulae rarely makes for riveting dialogue - but there's compelling drama to be found in the lives of such luminary figures, as the RSC's latest production ably illustrates.

J Robert Oppenheimer, creator of the atomic bomb, is probably one of the most controversial scientists of all. Acclaimed for ending not only World War Two but potentially all wars, his socialist friends and initially radical beliefs saw him continually treated with suspicion by his US army employers - and ultimately branded a traitor.

Tom Morton-Smith's production captures this dichotomy by recounting the tale of the Manhattan Project. It also counts the cost of Oppenheimer's work, not only to humanity but also to the man himself and his associates.

A complex compound of arrogance and fragility is nicely captured by John Heffernan as Oppenheimer.

Oppenheimer's detached personality meant his friends and lovers would only ever be associates, and he betrays most of them (as well as himself) in a single-minded quest which he only really questions once it's been completed. That serves the drama well, of course. But while the play is beautifully staged and has some memorable moments - including a poignant acknowledgment of the Nagasaki bombing - for the most part it's an intriguing rather than explosive work of theatre.

Steve Adams ■■■■



## East Is East New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

East Is East may commonly be perceived as a comedy - and it does indeed have some genuinely funny moments - but its subject matter is the stuff of serious drama; a mixed-race family in crisis, ruled by a father's firm hand and held together by the love of a mother who grapples to manage the expectations of six teenagers.

A Pakistani immigrant of thirty-six years' standing, George Khan (Ayub Khan Din) holds a romantic idea of his homeland as a country filled with religiously devout families in which children obey their fathers and wives obey their husbands. In wanting the same for his own family, George is blind to the fact that he himself had rebelled, leaving his father, family and country of birth behind him in order to live in England. He'd married an Englishwoman too - Ella (Jane Horrocks) - and now has six children with her and owns a chip shop in Salford. Unable to accept his own acts of rebellion, George has become a man who resorts to violence to try and coerce his family into living the traditional Pakistani life from which he himself had fled.

His wife Ella worries for their children. They're torn between their own desire - to live in a world that offers them a choice - and their father's desire - to see them live a life built on religious devotion, in which respectable careers and arranged marriages are the norm...

I think it's the set design that lets the production down. To portray the terraced streets in which the family live, the set consists of backyard gates and walls. So the family's living room, kitchen and chip shop all seem to be outdoors. This frequently distracted me from the performances - and in a play that has only one outdoor scene, I think it was a mistake. But the acting shines through. Jane Horrocks gives a tremendous performance as Ella, conveying the strength and vulnerability of a woman trying hard to do the best she can for her children, while simultaneously placating the violent man she loves. Ayub Khan Din seemed at times awkward playing the part of George (his father in real life). There are great turns from the supporting cast, but a special mention must go to understudy Deepal Parmar, who stepped in to play only-daughter Meenah and gave a great comic performance. Ted Finlay ■■■■

## Fleabag The REP, Birmingham

This one-hour, one-woman monologue rocked Edinburgh. It's now on a national tour, for which the writer, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, has been replaced on stage by an actor, Maddie Rice, who is absolutely brilliant.

Rice presents a painfully hilarious portrait of a twenty-six-year-old sex-mad Yuppie who measures the depth of her life by the length of her partner's penis. Several partners. She's cute, cookie and completely chaotic; attractive to know, but you wouldn't want her anywhere near you as a friend.

Dressed down in a russet top and black slacks, Maddie plays the unnamed, self-obsessed anti-heroine with so much pace, energy and enthusiasm you almost forget to breathe. Imagine Josie Lawrence and Miranda Hart rolled into one and armed with a kalashnikov.

She populates the imagination with a range of beautifully observed characters, from her equally hopeless sister to her late business partner Boo, with whom she once ran the now-failing Guinea Pig-themed café.

But the menace in the show is the men. She's a failed feminist who can't help weighing up the sexual potential of any man she passes by. The 'encounters' are frank, honest, detailed and ultimately pitiful. You can't help but laugh because it's all so brilliantly well written and immaculately acted. Miss Waller-Bridge is merciless with her pen and Miss Rice can act with her lips alone. The whole show is a 'sexually inappropriate' confessional from start to finish. You might want to take your rosary. Chris Eldon Lee ■■■■





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## Chiwetel Ejiofor at the National Theatre

A new adaptation of Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy's *Everyman*, starring award-winning actor Chiwetel Ejiofor, is just one of many highlights to feature in Rufus Norris' first season as director of the National Theatre. Ejiofor will take the lead in the fifteenth century morality play, which shows in the National's Olivier Theatre from 22 April. He's joined in the cast by Paul Bullion, Adam Burton, Joshua Lacey, Ira Mandela Siobhan and Clemmie Sveaas.

Bookings are currently being taken until 16 July. Other season highlights include: Caryl Churchill's *Light Shining In Buckinghamshire* (15 April to 22 June), directed by Lyndsey Turner; George Farquhar's *The Beaux' Stratagem* (19 May to 19 July), directed by George Goodwin; Patrick Marber's new play, *The Lion* (10 June to 25 July), directed by Ian Rickson; and Stephen Adly Guirgis' *The Motherf\*\*ker With The Hat* (10 June to 7 July), directed by Indhu Rubasingham.



## Fireworks (فيران باغ) at The Royal Court

This month sees Dalia Tala's new play, *Fireworks*, open at The Royal Court Theatre. Inspired by recent events in Gaza, Tala's work offers an insight into the impact of war on childhood. The play centres on eleven year-old Lubna and twelve-year-old Khali, who're confined to playing in an empty stairwell as a siege intensifies outside. Directed by the Royal Court's International Associate, Richard Twyman, the Palestine-set play is the first full production to emerge from the theatre's International Department.

The cast includes: Celebrated Palestinian actor Saleh Bakri (*The Time That Remains*); Nabil Elouahabi (*Tariq in EastEnders*); Sirine Sabah (*Holy Warriors* at the Shakespeare Globe); and Shereen Martin, who starred in Channel Four's BAFTA-nominated *Britz*. *Fireworks* (فيران باغ) is presented as part of International Playwrights: A Genesis Foundation Project, with additional support from the British Council and the AM Qattan Foundation. It shows at Jerwood Theatre, at the Royal Court Theatre, from 12 February to 14 March.

## Kevin Spacey revisits Clarence Darrow

Actor and Artistic Director Kevin Spacey is once again to star in *Clarence Darrow*. The compelling one-man tour-de-force sees lawyer Darrow reliving some of his pivotal professional experiences.

The new production, directed by Thea Sharrock, will mark Spacey's last appearance on *The Old Vic* stage.

Of the decision to revisit the role, Spacey said: "As my time at the helm of *The Old Vic* is drawing to a close, it felt the right choice to bring back Clarence Darrow. I had such a short run with the production last year, and so many didn't get the chance to see it, that it felt like a great opportunity to do a longer run." *Clarence Darrow* runs at *The Old Vic* from 3 March to 11 April.



## Bollywood at the London Palladium

A new musical celebrating the history and beauty of Indian arts is to open at the London Palladium on 11 May.

Written, choreographed and directed by Rajeev Goswami, *Beyond Bollywood* features lyrics by Irfan Siddiqui, with a special score by Salim-Sulaiman.

Promising to provide 'a theatrical experience never before seen outside a Bollywood movie', the show fuses Kathak and Bhangra dance to tell the story of Shaily Shergill, who leaves her home in Munich and journeys to India to fulfill her dying mother's wish.

*Beyond Bollywood* is currently booking at the Palladium until 27 June.

# GREAT DAYS OUT THIS SPRING

From 34 local pick up points!

Sun 1 Mar	London Museums
Wed 4 Mar	Hampstead - A London Village
Wed 4 Mar	Memphis at Shaftesbury Theatre
Mon 9 Mar	Deene Park & Stamford
Wed 11 Mar	The Lion King at The Lyceum
Thu 12 Mar	Royal Albert Hall & Tour with lunch
Thu 12 Mar	Historic Dockyard Portsmouth
Sat 14 Mar	BBC Media City Tour, Manchester
Sun 15 Mar	Mother's Day Lunch in 4* Hotel
Thu 19 Mar	Miss Saigon, Prince Edward Theatre
Thu 19 Mar	Nostell Priory National Trust
Sat 21 Mar	National Railway Museum York
Wed 25 Mar	Ashmolean Museum in Oxford
Wed 25 Mar	Wicked at The Apollo Victoria Theatre
Thu 26 Mar	Hemswell Antiques & Lincoln
Fri 27 Mar	Stourbridge Glass Quarter
Sat 28 Mar	Hay on Wye, Town of Books
Sun 29 Mar	Black Country Museum & SV Railway
Sun 19 Apr	Tchaikovsky Gala at Royal Albert Hall

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# Dance



## Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 10 - Sat 14 February

Since its debut in 2005, New Adventures' magical production of Edward Scissorhands has delighted thousands of people across the globe. Based on the classic Tim Burton movie starring Johnny Depp and Winona Ryder, it's a touching and witty love story about 'the ultimate outsider'.

This major revival sees New Adventures' star Dominic North returning to the role of Edward. His previous stint in the part saw him secure a

National Dance Award nomination for Best Male Dancer in 2009. Rising stars Ashley Shaw and Katy Lowenhoff share the role of Edward's sweetheart, Kim Boggs. Described by The Times as 'the perfect synthesis of dance and drama, comedy and pathos, exuberant theatricality and heartwarming entertainment', Bourne's revised production has earned itself an army of celebrity fans, including Richard E Grant, Natalie Cassidy and Hermione Norris.



## DV8 Physical Theatre: JOHN

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 4 - Fri 6 February

'Bold, involving and utterly unique' is how The Telegraph describes this latest work from DV8 Physical Theatre. Depicting real-life stories, JOHN fuses spoken word with movement to tell the tale of how one man's desire for a new life leads him to 'a place unknown by most'. The work contains adult themes, strong language and nudity. DV8 were formed in 1986, since which time they've produced nineteen highly acclaimed dance pieces and four award-winning films for television.

## Birmingham Royal Ballet

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 4 - Sat 28 February

Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB) is this month presenting two shows for its always appreciative Hippodrome audience. The first is Moving Stateside (18 to 21 February) - three ballets which span almost a century of US creativity. The triple bill comprises: Serenade, a piece of pure dance from master choreographer George Balanchine; Jessica Lang's Lyric Pieces, commissioned for International Dance Festival Birmingham 2012; and In The Upper Room, a work created by American dance phenomenon Twyla Tharp.

BRB's second February offering at the Hippodrome is Sir Peter Wright's highly acclaimed production of Coppelia (24 to 28 February), a work renowned for its dazzling score and breathtaking choreography. When Dr Coppelius leaves his mannequin, Coppelia, on his workshop balcony, she causes quite a stir - not only in the heart of the red-blooded Franz but also in the mind of his jealous fiancée, Swanilda, who foolishly mistakes Coppelia for a flesh-and-blood rival...



The Upper Room - part of the Moving Stateside triple bill



## Russian State Ballet Of Siberia

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton,  
Sun 8 - Mon 9 February

Since its formation in 1981, The Russian State Ballet Of Siberia has built a fine reputation for its delivery of world-renowned classics. This month the company returns to Wolverhampton to present two ballet staples. The Nutcracker - which tells the story of a young girl swept up in a fantasy of soldiers, giant rats, snow fairies, magic and mystery - shows on 8 February. It's followed on the 9th by Swan Lake, a timeless tale of good versus evil.



## Dance LISTINGS

For full listing information on dance, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

### DANCE 'TIL DAWN

Brand new show featuring Strictly Come Dancing Favourites Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace, Mon 2 - Wed 4 Feb, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**JOHN DV8** Physical Theatre presents Lloyd Newson's new work depicting real life stories, where movement & the spoken word combine to create an intense, moving & poignant theatrical experience, Wed 4 - Fri 6 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

### ANGLES IN LIFE

Presented by Vanhulle Dance Theatre, Fri 6 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

### SPLTMILK SAY DANCE

Spiltmilk Dance presents an evening inspired by dance crazes that have swept dancefloors all over the country, Sat 7 Feb, Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall, Shrewsbury

**THE NUTCRACKER** The Russian State Ballet of

Siberia present a world famous classic, set to Tchaikovsky's mesmerising score, Sun 8 Feb, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**SWAN LAKE** The Russian State Ballet & Orchestra of Siberia present the greatest romantic ballet of all time, Mon 9 Feb, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**DANCE 'TIL DAWN** Brand new show featuring Strictly Come Dancing Favourites Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace, Mon 9 - Sat 14 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

### MATTHEW BOURNE'S

**EDWARD SCISSORHANDS** Matthew Bourne's stage adaptation of the gothic motion picture by Tim Burton, Tue 10 - Sat 14 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome

### ANTON AND ERIN: THAT'S

**ENTERTAINMENT** Brand

new show from the 'King and Queen of Ballroom', Thurs 12 Feb, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

### MOVING STATESIDE

Performed by

Richard Alston Dance - Malvern Theatre



Birmingham Royal Ballet, Wed 18 - Sat 21 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome

### BALLET NIMBA - BAGATAI

Ballet Nimba is led by the irrepressible Idrissa Camara of Guinea and combines musicians and dancers from across West Africa to produce dynamic and exciting dance theatre with amazing musicianship, Sat 21 Feb, Wern Town Hall, North Shropshire

**RICHARD ALSTON: 20TH ANNIVERSARY** Featuring Alston's brand new piece Nomadic, Tues 24 - Wed 25 Feb,

Malvern Theatre

### COPPELIA BRB

present an enchanting ballet which explores the eccentricities of toy-maker Dr Coppélius. Tue 24 - Sat 28 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome

### SAFE

Zoie Logic Dance Theatre's production, set against the imagined backdrop of New York's Empire State Building, features five male performers who inhabit the world of the heroic construction workers of the 1930's, Thurs 26 Feb, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury



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Encore: Sun 5 Apr 2pm | £14 (£12)

**Hamlet**  
Encore: Mon 23 Mar 7pm | £14 (£12)

**NT Live: The Hard Problem 12A**  
Live: Thu 16 Apr 7pm  
Encore: Sun 31 May 2pm | £14 (£12)

**NT Live: Man and Superman 12A**  
Live: Thu 14 May 7pm  
Encore: Thu 18 Jun 7pm & Sun 5 Jul 2pm | £14 (£12)

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## Fifty Shades Of Grey CERT tbc

Starring **Dakota Johnson, Jamie Dornan, Eloise Mumford, Luke Grimes, Rita Ora, Victor Rasuk, Jennifer Ehle, Marcia Gay Harden**  
Directed by **Sam Taylor-Johnson (USA)**

By being released on St Valentine's Day, *Fifty Shades Of Grey* has really become a mainstream phenomenon. The first volume of EL James' 'literary' trilogy was initially deemed smutty, even pornographic, but even so became something of a housewives' choice. In August of 2012, Amazon announced that it had sold more copies of the novel than the entire Harry Potter series put together. Pundits have suspected that part of the title's success was due to its availability as an e-book, so that your mother could read it on public transport with impunity. Either way, a film version was inevitable, and here we have it. Expect blindfolds and spanking. Incidentally, the screenplay is by Kelly Marcel, sister of Rosie Marcel, the actress who plays Jac Naylor in *Holby City*.

FROM  
FRI 13  
FEB



## Selma CERT 12a (128 mins)

Starring **David Oyelowo, Tom Wilkinson, Carmen Ejogo, Tim Roth, Oprah Winfrey, Cuba Gooding, Jr., Giovanni Ribisi, Alessandro Nivola, Martin Sheen** Directed by **Ava DuVernay (USA)**

In total (so far), this historical drama has accumulated forty-nine awards' nominations, including Golden Globes for best motion picture, director and actor (Oyelowo). It's the story of Martin Luther King's legendary march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965, to secure equal voting rights for black Americans. It's interesting to note that despite the film's seminally American subject, Martin Luther King is played by the Oxford-born Oyelowo, Lyndon B Johnson by the Leeds-born Tom Wilkinson, George Wallace by the London-born Tim Roth and King's wife, the civil rights' activist Coretta Scott, by Carmen Ejogo, also born in London. It says a lot for the quality of our own home-grown talent.

From  
FRI 6  
FEB

## TOP 5 FILM BOX OFFICE

- 1 **Taken 3 (12a)**
- 2 **Into The Woods (PG)**
- 3 **The Theory Of Everything (12a)**
- 4 **The Hobbit (12a)**
- 5 **Paddington (PG)**



Taken 3



## Film NEW RELEASES

Released from Fri 6 February

### The Interview CERT 15 (112 mins)

Starring **Seth Rogen, James Franco, Lizzy Caplan, Randall Park** Directed by **Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg** (USA)

If you haven't heard of *The Interview* then you haven't been following the news that closely. Let's just say that, although it wasn't released in the US until Christmas Day, it ended up being last year's top-selling film on YouTube. It also skewered over \$1million at a limited number of cinemas on its opening day. The reason people have been flocking to see it is because Kim Jong-un doesn't want you to (terrorist threats were issued). Hardly surprising when you consider that the plot is about two TV employees (Rogen and Franco) recruited by the CIA to assassinate the North Korean leader. The reviews were terrible.



### Still Life CERT 12a (92 mins)

Starring **Eddie Marsan, Joanne Froggatt, Karen Drury, Andrew Buchan, Paul Anderson** Directed by **Uberto Pasolini** (UK/Italy)

Eddie Marsan plays John May, a council worker whose job is to locate the relatives of those found dead and alone. By all accounts the film is quite wonderful - and surprisingly comic. The Roman filmmaker Pasolini is perhaps best known for producing *The Full Monty* (and for being a descendant of the great Italian director Luchino Visconti).

### Shaun The Sheep Movie

CERT U (85 mins)

Directed by **Richard Starzak and Mark Burton** (UK/France)

Shaun, the sheep, first appeared in Aardman Animations' stop-motion Wallace and Gromit cartoons and then landed his own series on CBBC. Now he makes it to the big screen and leads his flock astray when he and his woolly cohorts end up in the Big City. Expect some gastric gas.

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## Jupiter Ascending

CERT 12a (127 mins)

Starring **Channing Tatum, Mila Kunis, Sean Bean, Eddie Redmayne, Douglas Booth, Tuppence Middleton**

Directed by **Lana Wachowski and Andy Wachowski (UK/USA/Australia)**

Jupiter Jones (Mila Kunis) may be a lowly toilet cleaner but her destiny lies in the stars and only she can alter the balance of the cosmos. Before then, though, she encounters the genetically modified hunter Caine Wise (Channing Tatum) who pops out of space to tell her that she's actually rather special. The Wachowskis were previously in charge of The Matrix trilogy, so they're quite in tune with mind-altering concepts. In 3D.



Released from Fri 13 February

## Project Almanac

CERT 12a (106 mins)

Starring **Jonny Weston, Sofia Black D'Elia, Amy Landecker, Michelle DeFraites**

Directed by **Dean Israelite (USA)**

We're sorry to break the news, but this is yet another 'found-footage' sci-fi thriller. This time we have another group of teenagers who stumble across something they really shouldn't have. In this case it's the plans to build a time machine - so our intrepid heroes construct their own (easy, really, once you know how).



## Two Night Stand

CERT 15 (84 mins)

Starring **Miles Teller, Analeigh Tipton, Jessica Szohr** Directed by **Max Nichols (USA)**

Meeting online, Alec and Megan embark on a one-night stand. However, an unexpected snowstorm forces them to extend their romantic tryst for longer than they had planned. Miles Teller was last seen in the (deservedly) highly-acclaimed Whiplash.



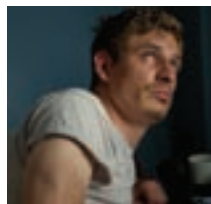
From  
FRI 20  
FEB

## Snow In Paradise

CERT 15 (108 mins)

Starring **Frederick Schmidt, Martin Askew, David Spinx** Directed by **Andrew Hulme (UK)**

Inspired by the real-life events of co-writer and co-star Martin Askew, this British thriller tackles some very timely issues. It's the story of a petty drug runner in London's East End (Schmidt) who turns from a life of crime to Islam.



Released from Fri 20 February

## Blackhat

CERT 15 (113 mins)

Starring **Chris Hemsworth, Tang Wei, Viola Davis, Ritchie Coster, Holt McCallany, John Ortiz** Directed by **Michael Mann (USA)**

As the furore surrounding The Interview still rings in the corridors of Sony Pictures, the release of this Universal action-thriller could not be more timely. Set in Hong Kong, Jakarta, Chicago and Los Angeles, it's the story of a cyber criminal targeting the international banking community. Chris Hemsworth is the crook who agrees to assist the American and Chinese agencies to track him down.



## Predestination

CERT 15 (95 mins)

Starring **Ethan Hawke, Sarah Snook, Noah Taylor, Madeleine West** Directed by **Michael Spierig and Peter Spierig (Australia)**

So, it's time for some more time travel. Here, Ethan Hawke plays a temporally enhanced traveller who pops all over the calendar to forestall major crimes. But there's one really

## Cake

CERT 15 (102 mins)

Starring **Jennifer Aniston, Adrianna Barraza, Felicity Huffman, William H. Macy, Anna Kendrick, Sam Worthington** Directed by **Daniel Barnz (USA)**

Apparently Jennifer Aniston is astonishing even her fans with how good she is in this, for which she was nominated for a Golden Globe. She plays Claire Simmons, a woman who becomes obsessed with the suicide of a member of her 'chronic pain' support group. She then becomes involved with the husband of the deceased...

nasty piece of work - the Fizzle Bomber - who has managed to elude him.

Based on Robert A Heinlein's short story "All You Zombies".



## The Duke Of Burgundy

CERT 18 (104 mins)

Starring **Sidse Babbett Knudsen, Chiara D'Anna, Monica Swinn** Directed by **Peter Strickland (UK)**

Peter Strickland is something of a critics' favourite (cf. Katalin Varga, Berberian Sound Studio) and his third feature has received predictably glowing reviews. Here, he explores the deep love of two women who inhabit an almost exclusively female world and who are united by their interest in sado-masochism and moths and butterflies. Expect a degree of sexual fetishism.





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## The Wedding Ringer

CERT 15 (101 mins)

Starring **Kevin Hart, Josh Gad, Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting, Olivia Thirlby, Cloris Leachman**  
Directed by **Jeremy Garelick (USA)**

Following his enormous success in last year's hit comedies *Ride Along* and *Think Like A Man Too*, Kevin Hart now plays a 'best man' for hire. It transpires that not all grooms-to-be have a good friend in the wings ready to hand over that gold band. Josh Gad plays one such, an actor now best known for voicing that relentlessly perky snowman in *Frozen*.



Released from Fri 27 February

## Focus

CERT 15 (105 mins)

Starring **Will Smith, Margot Robbie, Rodrigo Santoro, Gerald McRaney, B.D. Wong**  
Directed by **Glenn Ficarra and John Requa (USA)**

There's comedy, romance, drama, crime, hood-winking, Will Smith - what's not to like? Will plays Nicky Spurgeon, a conman who adopts a young woman to do his bidding, but then gets flutters in his heart... The woman in question is played by Margot Robbie, she who got Leonardo DiCaprio all hot and bothered in *The Wolf Of Wall Street*.



## White God

CERT 15 (121 mins)

Starring **Zsófia Psotta, Sándor Zsótér, Lili Horváth**  
Directed by **Kornél Mundruczó (Hungary)**

Winner of the Palm Dog Award at Cannes (no, seriously), this Hungarian drama relates the story of a mongrel called Hagen. He moves in with the thirteen-year-old Lili, but then Lili's father - who is aware of a government-imposed fine on mongrel dogs - abandons him to the streets. So Lili goes in search of him...



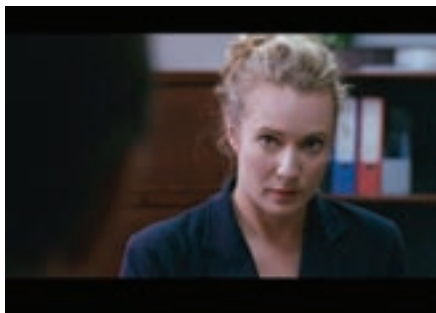
From  
FRI 27  
FEB

## A Dark Reflection

CERT 15 (102 mins)

Starring **Georgina Sutcliffe, Rita Ramnani, Marina Sirtis, Mark Dymond**  
Directed by **Tristan Loraine (UK)**

An investigative thriller, *A Dark Reflection* follows the fortunes of two British journalists who discover by chance aviation's biggest cover-up. When new airline CEO Ben Tyrell becomes aware of the darker side of the airline industry, he finds himself faced with a huge dilemma - should he prioritise corporate profit or put the general public's safety first?



## Catch Me Daddy

CERT 15 (112 mins)

Starring **Sameena Jabeen Ahmed, Connor McCarron, Gary Lewis**  
Directed by **Daniel Wolfe (UK)**

This feature debut from former music video director Daniel Wolfe focuses on the subject of the 'honour killing' in British Pakistani communities. When Laila brings shame on her family by running away to live with her boyfriend in a caravan on the edge of the Yorkshire Moors, she finds herself pursued by a gang of both white and South Asian men who've been charged with the task of getting her back. Impressive cinematography, a bold energy and an occasionally challenging level of brutality make for an interesting first feature from a director who, one senses, has plenty more in his locker.



## The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

CERT PG (122 mins)

Starring **Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy, Celia Imrie, Penelope Wilton, Dev Patel, Richard Gere** Directed by **John Madden (UK)**

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2012), adapted from Deborah Moggach's novel *These Foolish Things*, was a huge and unexpected hit. The good news is that John Madden (*Shakespeare In Love*, *Mrs Brown*) returns for the sequel, in which the hapless Sonny Kapoor (Dev Patel) has opened the new hostelry of the title, in spite of his impending marriage. Still, he has a new co-manager, the dauntless Muriel Donnelly (Maggie Smith).

## The Boy Next Door

CERT tbc

Starring **Jennifer Lopez, Ryan Guzman, Kristin Chenoweth, John Corbett**  
Directed by **Rob Cohen (USA)**

Now that JLo is forty-five-years-old, her latest film character is in search of younger meat. Here, she plays a school teacher and divorcee who indulges in a one-night stand with a hunky neighbour, Noah (Guzman). Then, this being a thriller, Noah develops an unnatural obsession for her... Guzman, incidentally, is the hunk who showed his moves in *Step Up Revolution* and *Step Up: All In*.





# Film A-Z LISTINGS

All films are currently on general release unless otherwise stated. For full listing information, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## American Sniper 15

The Navy SEAL sniper Chris Kyle was not nicknamed 'Legend' for nothing. He was the most deadly sniper in US military history. This is his story. Stars Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Thurs 5 Feb*

## Amour Fou 15

Henriette Vogel is the wife of a middle-class businessman in Berlin, with little to occupy her time beyond organising her conservative household. Then, one evening, she captures the attention of Heinrich, a philosophical writer more than a little enamoured with the notion of death. Stars Christian Friedel, Birte Schnoink. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 24 Feb*

## Annie PG

Little Orphan Annie trusts the sun'll come out tomorrow when filthy-rich New York mayoral candidate Will Stacks turns up at her foster home. Of course, it's a thinly-veiled campaign move - but Annie's no fool. Stars Jamie Foxx, Quvenzhané Wallis. *Showing at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 15 Feb; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 15 - Mon 16 Feb*

## Blue Jasmine 12a

A New York socialite, deeply troubled and in denial, arrives at her sister's house and the family drama unfolds... Stars Cate Blanchett. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall*

## Big Eyes 12a

This is the true tale of the impresario Walter Keane (Waltz) whose pictures of wide-eyed waifs became a marketing phenomenon in the 1950s. However, history relates that it was actually his wife Margaret (Adams), not Walter, who painted the pictures, and when he refused to give

her any credit, she took him to court. Stars Amy Adams, Christoph Waltz. *Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, Sat 7 - Wed 11 Feb; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 10 - Thurs 12 Feb; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 12 Feb; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 15 - Wed 18 Feb; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 20 - Sat 21 Feb*

## Big Hero 6 U

The fourteen-year-old robotics prodigy Hiro Hamada forms a team of crime-fighting robots, along with the eminently outsize, huggable Baymax. With the voices of Ryan Potter, Scott Adsit. *Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, Sat 14 - Thurs 19 Feb*

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## Birdman 15

Michael Keaton plays Riggan Thomson, an actor once known for playing the superhero Birdman, who is now on his uppers (Keaton himself, of course, played Batman in two blockbusters). So in an attempt to revitalise his career, Riggan has written a play that he intends to direct on Broadway, with his girlfriend in the lead. Things do not go smoothly. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 13 - Sat 14 Feb; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 17 - Thurs 19 Feb; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Wed 18 - Thurs 19 Feb; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 22 - Wed 25 Feb*

## Boxtrolls PG

This is the story of an orphan boy (Egg) who is

brought up by subterranean trash collectors. Brought to life using stop-motion animation, the film is based on heavily illustrated children's novel Here Be Monsters!, by Alan Snow. With the voices of Isaac Hempstead-Wright, Ben Kingsley. *Showing Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Fri 20 Feb*

## Boyhood 15

American coming-of-age drama written and directed by Richard Linklater. Stars Patricia Arquette, Ellar Coltrane. *Showing at Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Mon 2 Feb*

## Breakfast At Tiffany's PG

A lonely, struggling writer becomes enchanted with his neighbour, Holly Golightly: an independent young woman who strives to be a high-climbing socialite with a penchant for high-fashion and wild parties. Stars Audrey Hepburn, George Peppard. *Showing at Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 14 Feb; mac, Birmingham, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Feb*

## Champion Sound the

A unique insight into the history of the Reggae Sound System culture in the UK, with the Midlands playing an often unsung but vital role. The screening will be followed by a question-and-answer session with director Fran Porter and guests. *Showing The Drum, Birmingham, Thurs 5 Feb*

## Exodus: Gods And Kings 12a

For those who don't know their Bible, this is a tale of sibling rivalry between a lawgiver called Moses (Christian Bale) and his adopted brother Ramesses II (Joel Edgerton), a rather powerful pharaoh. Stars Christian Bale, Joel Edgerton. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Wed 4 - Thurs 5 Feb; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 6 - Mon 9 Feb; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 7 - Tues 10 Feb*

## The Grandmaster 15

The Grandmaster himself is one Ip Man, a martial arts maestro who perfected the horizontal/vertical combat of wing chun. Ip Man was a very real per-

son and went on to teach Bruce Lee. Stars Tony Leung, Zhang Ziyi. *Showing at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 1 Feb; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 18 Feb*

## The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies 12a

The final instalment of the Hobbit trilogy features a lot of battling. There's not only a very grumpy Smaug (the dragon voiced by Cumberbatch) but the return of Sauron (Cumberbatch again) and his army of ferocious Orcs. It's all too exciting. Stars Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman. *Showing at Festival Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, until Thurs 5 Feb; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 2 - Sun 8 Feb; Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Fri 6 - Sat 7 Feb; Wern Town Hall, Fri 13, Mon 16 - Tues 17 & Thurs 19 Feb*

## The Homesman 15

An unlikely Western, in which a man and woman team up to escort three mentally impaired women from Nebraska to Iowa. From the 1988 novel by Glendon Swarthout. Stars Tommy Lee Jones, Hilary Swank. *Showing at The Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Tues 3 Feb*

## The House Of Magic U

Thunder, an abandoned young cat seeking shelter from a storm, stumbles into the strangest house imaginable, owned by an old magician and inhabited by a dazzling array of automatons and gizmos. When the magician falls ill and his scheming nephew sees his chance to cash in by selling the mansion, our young hero enlists the help of some wacky magician's assistants to protect his magical new home. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Wed 18 Feb*

## How To Train Your Dragon 2 U

Now that all the Vikings of Berk are at one with the dragons in their midst, young Hiccup feels free to explore neighbouring lands on the back of his trusted Toothless. But beyond the familiar horizon lie new peoples with a less sympathetic disposition

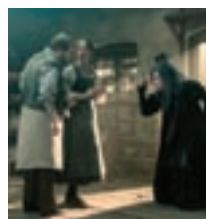
towards our soaring friends... Featuring the voices of Jay Baruchel and Cate Blanchett. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Thurs 19 Feb; Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Thurs 19 Feb*

## Ida 12a

Poland 1962; orphaned novice nun Sister Anna is about to take her vows when she finds out that she was originally named Ida and is Jewish. So she goes on a search for the truth about her parents. Stars Agata Kulesza. *Showing at Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 3 Feb*

## Into The Woods PG

A complex weave of the fairytales Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack And The Beanstalk and Rapunzel which dexterously shuffles traditional notions of these legends to come up with something altogether more elaborate and darker. Stars Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 6 - Sun 15 Feb; The Courtyard, Hereford, Fri 20 - Wed 25 Feb; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 22 - Tues 24 Feb*



## Italian For Beginners 15

In joining a language class, a pastor, a hotel clerk and a restaurateur form attachments with an Italian waitress, a hairdresser and a bakery worker. A spontaneous and unpredictable story unfolds. Stars Anders W Berthelsen, Ann Eleonora Jorgensen. *Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 20 Feb*

## Kon Tiki 15

In 1947, Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl crossed the Pacific Ocean in a balsa wood raft to prove that South Americans could have settled on the Polynesian islands. This is an old-fashioned

man-against-the-elements adventure epic, propelled by human-scaled heroics. Part classic adventure tale, part history lesson. Stars Pal Sverre Hagen, Anders Christiansen. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Mon 2 - Tues 3 Feb; Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 12 Feb*

## L'Atalante PG

Newly married couple Juliette and ship captain Jean struggle through marriage as they travel on the L'Atalante along with the captain's first mate, Le père Jules, and a cabin boy. Stars Dita Parlo, Jean Dasté. *Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Wed 25 Feb*

## Lifting 15

Junn is a Cambodian-Chinese woman who lives in London but can't speak English and is totally dependent on her son, Kai, to understand the community in which she lives. Then Kai dies unexpectedly, severing her links with the outside world... *Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Wed 11 Feb*

## Locke 15

While driving from Birmingham to London, a construction manager receives a phone call. The remainder of the film sees Ivan Locke attempting to salvage his life via mobile phone as he continues to race home. Stars Tom Hardy, with the voices of Tom Holland, Olivia Colman. *Showing at Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 16 Feb*

## Love Story PG

Harvard Law student Oliver Barrett IV and music student Jennifer Cavillieri share a chemistry they cannot deny - and a love they cannot ignore. Stars Ali MacGraw, Ryan O'Neal. *Showing at Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Mon 9 Feb*

## Manakamana U

This documentary observes pilgrims as they take a spectacular cable car ride - one thousand, three hundred-and-two metres above the Nepali jungle - on an ancient route to Manakamana, the famed site of the temple of the Hindu goddess Bhagwati. *Showing at Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 5 Feb*

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## Men, Women And Children 15

This dramatic comedy follows the interlocking lives of a group of people whose worlds have been changed by the Internet and social networking. Stars Adam Sandler, Jennifer Garner. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Mon 2 - Thurs 5 Feb*

## Mr. Turner 12a

Arguably Britain's greatest artist of all time, Mr Turner seems to have been known by a number of names: Mr Mallord, Mr Booth, William, Billy and, by posterity, as JMW. Stars Timothy Spall. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Mon 2 Feb*

## My Old Lady 12a

This is all a bit of a reunion for Kristin Scott Thomas as she's previously starred alongside both Kevin Kline and Maggie Smith. Here, she plays the old lady's daughter, her mother being the sole occupant of a Parisian apartment inherited by a New Yorker. *Showing at Artrix, Broms-grove, until Wed 4 Feb; Wern Town Hall, North Shropshire, Wed 4 - Thurs 5 Feb; The Courtyard, Hereford, Fri 6 - Mon 9 Feb*

## Mystery Road 15

An indigenous detective returns to the Australian Outback to investigate the murder of a teenage girl in a small town. Stars Aaron

Pedersen, Hugo Weaving. *Showing at Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 10 Feb*

## Oasis 15

Jong-Du, an ex-convict with learning difficulties, meets Gong-Ju, a woman with cerebral palsy. A relationship develops between the two, in spite of obstructions from all around them. *Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 6 Feb*

## Of Horses And Men 15

A tale from Iceland - where romance between humans is kindled by a bond with horses. Love and death become interlaced with immense consequences for all. *Showing at Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 17 Feb*

## Paddington pg

A film about the loveable bear with a penchant for marmalade. Stars Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 13, Mon 16 - Thurs 19 Feb; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Sat 14 & Mon 16 - Tues 17 Feb*

## Penguins Of Madagascar u

This full-length feature is an off-shoot from Dream-Works' Madagascar trilogy. This one features a lot of penguins and is a spy thriller (seriously) - with a

lot of laughs. With the voices of Tom McGrath, Chris Miller. *Showing at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 14 - Mon 16 Feb; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Sat 14 - Sat 21 Feb; Artrix, Broms-grove, Mon 16 - Sat 21 Feb; Wern Town Hall, North Shropshire, Wed 18 - Thurs 19 Feb; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Fri 20 - Sat 21 Feb*

## Ponyo u

The story of five-year-old Sosuke's friendship with Ponyo, a little fish that's determined to become human. With the voices of Cate Blanchett, Matt Damon. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 17 Feb*

## Pride 15

Based on actual events, this is the story of how a group of LGBT activists attempted to raise money to help families affected by the 1984 miners' strike. Stars Bill Nighy, Imelda Staunton. *Showing at Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Mon 16 Feb*

## St Vincent 15

When St Vincent is recruited by his neighbour, Maggie (McCarthy), to look after her twelve-year-old son, he introduces the undersized boy to the joys of the strip club and the racetrack. Stars Bill Murray, Melissa McCarthy.

*Showing at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 2 - Wed 4 Feb; The Courtyard, Hereford, Fri 6 - Mon 9 Feb*

## Testament Of Youth 12a

During World War One, a young English woman named Vera Brittain postpones her studies at Oxford University to serve as a Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse in London and abroad. Stars Alicia Vikander, Kit Harington. *Showing at Malvern Theatres, until Thurs 5 Feb; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 6 - Tues 10 & Sun 15 - Tues 17 Feb; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 13 - Thurs 19 Feb; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 20 - Mon 23 Feb; Artrix, Broms-grove, Fri 20 - Thurs 26 Feb; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 27 - Sat 28 Feb*

## The Theory Of Everything 12a

The story of Stephen Hawking is one of the most remarkable and stirring of the twentieth century. That's why it was turned into a TV movie. This edition is told from the viewpoint of Hawking's first wife, Jane Wilde. Stars Eddie Redmayne, Felicity Jones. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Thurs 5 Feb & Mon 16 - Thurs 19 Feb; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 6 - Sat 7 & Tues 10 Feb; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 13 -*

*Tues 17 Feb; The Courtyard, Hereford, Sat 14 - Thurs 19 Feb; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 16 - Tues 24 Feb; Web Town Hall, North Shropshire, Mon 23 - Thurs 26 Feb; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Fri 27 - Sat 28 Feb*

## Unbroken 12a

Louis 'Louie' Zamperini was quite a chap. An Olympic distance runner praised by Hitler, Zamperini was a survivor. When his plane crashed in the Pacific, he spent forty-seven days drifting on a raft before being picked up by the Japanese and then sent to a series of POW camps. Stars Jack O'Connell, Domhnall Gleeson. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 6 - Mon 9 Feb; Artrix, Broms-grove, Tues 10 - Thurs 12 Feb; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Tues 10 - Thurs 12 Feb; Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 19 Feb*

## What We Did On Our Holiday 12a

When Abi and Doug are invited to the Scottish Highlands for the birthday of Doug's father, they are determined to keep their impending divorce a secret. Stars Rosamund Pike & David Tennant. *Showing at Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 2 Feb; Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Mon 23 Feb*

## Wild 15

Adapted (by Nick Hornby) from her own memoir, this is the story of Cheryl Strayed, who hiked one thousand, one hundred miles of the Pacific Crest Trail - alone. Reese Witherspoon stars. *Showing at Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 20 - Thurs 26 Feb*

## Winter Sleep 15

Palme d'Or winner in which a former actor runs a small hotel in central Anatolia with his young wife Nihal, with whom he has a stormy relationship, and his sister Necla, who's suffering from her recent divorce. In winter, as the snow begins to fall, the hotel turns into a shelter - but also an inescapable place that fuels their animosities... Stars Haluk Bilginer, Melisa Sözen. *Showing at Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 2 Feb; Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 3 Feb*

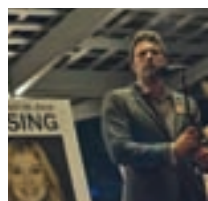
## The Woman In Black: Angel Of Death 12a

When a group of school-children are evacuated from London during the Blitz, they're moved to the remote Eel Marsh House. But what happens there is far worse than anything the Luftwaffe could mete out.... Stars Helen McCrory, Jeremy Irvine. *Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, Fri 20 - Wed 25 Feb*

## DVD NEW RELEASES

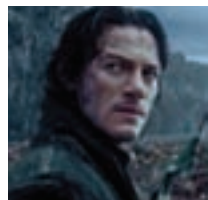
### Gone Girl 18

Nick Dunne on his fifth wedding anniversary reports the disappearance of his wife. Then, as a media frenzy builds around the gone girl, suspicion starts to fall on Nick himself... Starring Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike. **Released 2 February**



### Dracula Untold 15

In spite of the hundreds of films about the Transylvanian count, this version is actually based on the original novel by Bram Stoker. Expect fangs. And blood. And necks. Stars Luke Evans, Dominic Cooper and Sarah Gadon. **Released 9 February**



### The Maze Runner 15

Brace yourselves. It's back to the future, a post-apocalyptic affair shot in Louisiana, adapted from the 'young adult' novel by James Dashner, the first of a trilogy. Stars Dylan O'Brien. **Released 9 February**

### The Rewrite 12a

Hugh Grant is still playing an Englishman tangled up in his heartstrings. Here he plays a washed-up screenwriter who falls for a single mother. Also stars Marisa Tomei. **Released 9 February**



### Book Of Life u

Originally entitled Day Of The Dead, this animated musical adventure concerns a hopeless romantic with a guitar and two swords. However, in order to pursue his romantic dream, he has to manoeuvre two alternative worlds. **Released 16 February**



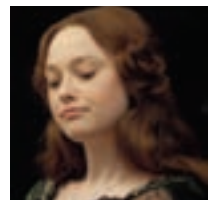
### Fury 15

'Fury' is the name of a Sherman tank and Brad Pitt is in command. It's the last month of the war (the Second) and Pitt and his crew find themselves stuck behind enemy lines. Also stars Shia LaBeouf, Logan Lerman and Jon Bernthal. **Released 23 February**

### Effie Gray 12a

Back in the 1850s, Effie, the wife of the eminent art critic John Ruskin, met the Pre-Raphaelite

painter John Everett Millais. The resultant affaire de cœur has been the subject of much speculation, several films, a few plays and an opera. This one is scripted by none other than Emma Thompson. Stars Dakota Fanning. **Released 23 February**



### Mr. Turner 12a

Mr Turner seems to have been known by a number of names: Mr Mallord, Mr Booth, William, Billy and, by posterity, as JMW Turner, arguably Britain's greatest artist of all time. The director, Mike Leigh, is a master at capturing the feel of the period, and peoples Turner's life with a colourful catalogue of caricatures. His dialogue is also deliciously idiosyncratic, while Dick Pope's luminous cinematography could hardly be bettered. Stars Timothy Spall. **Released 23 February**

### The Calling 15

The territory, if not the tone, is Fargo. A female inspector of police (a steely if weary Susan Sarandon) trudges around in the snow in small-town Ontario looking for a serial killer. Also stars Gil Bellows. **Released 23 February**







# New Art West Midlands 2015

Recent work by the best artists  
emerging from the region

31 January – 25 April

**Wolverhampton Art Gallery**

13 February – 17 May

**Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery**

13 February – 17 May

**The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham**

14 February – 31 May

**Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry**

[newartwestmidlands.org](http://newartwestmidlands.org) | [@newartwm](https://twitter.com/newartwm)

Lisa Marie Williams, *Serravallo*, 2014, © the artist



# Visual Arts

## Secret Egypt

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery,  
until Sun 26 April

Modern misconceptions about Ancient Egypt are addressed in this fascinating show. Comprising more than one hundred-and-fifty objects, Secret Egypt includes ceramics, jewellery, statues, coffins and both animal and human mummies. As well as examining the science behind the mummification process, the exhibition also looks at evidence of curses in Egyptian society. Commenting on Secret Egypt, Tina Woodward, Shropshire Council's deputy Cabinet member for visitor economy, said: "The realm of ancient Egypt is something that continues to capture our imaginations, but often what we think we know has been distorted by the films, books and TV programmes that make it their inspiration. This exhibition is a chance to discover for yourself what's fact and what's fantasy. It's a highly interactive show, rich in graphic images, films and hands-on learning activities."



## Found

New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Sun 3 May

Loss, memory and mass cultural experience are among the themes here being explored by seven contemporary artists working with 'found' images. The artists transform, cut, embellish and re-work material in order to draw attention to the relentless digital-age consumption of visual information. Their images have been sourced from the internet, flea markets, magazines and discarded personal collections.



Julie Cockburn, The Telepath, 2014. Hand embroidery on found photograph. © Julie Cockburn, courtesy Flowers London.



## New Art West Midlands

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Saturday 25 April; Birmingham Museum & Gallery, until Sun 17 May; The Barber Institute, Birmingham, until Sun 17 May; Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, until Sun 31 May

Thirty of the region's best emerging artists are this month being given the opportunity to showcase their work, as the third edition of the New Art West Midlands exhibition takes place at four local art galleries.

A Turning Point West Midlands initiative, New Art West Midlands features an eclectic mix of artistic disciplines, including painting, sculpture, photography, performance, installation and video work. All the participating artists have graduated from one of the region's undergraduate or postgraduate fine art degree courses during the past three years.

"It's exciting to see how New Art West Midlands has grown since 2013," says Wendy Law, Director of Turning Point West Midlands. "There's an interesting and diverse range of talent and work coming out of our art schools and universities today. New Art West Midlands provides an important opportunity at a crucial point in the careers of these artists, enabling them to have their work displayed in highly respected galleries and to be seen and enjoyed by a large public."





## Further exhibitions

### Nástio Mosquito: Daily Lovemaking

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,  
Wed 4 February - Sun 19 April

"Daily Lovemaking is the expression of the joy that I find when confronting the contradictions of my emotional, social and cultural realities," says Nástio Mosquito, who is here presenting his first ever solo exhibition. Mosquito is fast emerging as one of the most exciting artists of his generation, reflecting on the nature of the globalised world via a clever and thought-provoking use of music, photography, film and performance poetry. Visitors to the exhibition should be advised that it contains adult content, meaning that parental guidance is advised.



### On The Right Tracks

Bantock House Museum, Wolverhampton,  
until Sat 25 April

Since the opening of a station in 1852, Wolverhampton has been one of the UK's most important railway intersections, providing direct access to the south coast, London, the northwest, Scotland and mid Wales. This brand new exhibition explores, documents and takes a nostalgic look at the city's involvement in the growth of the railways over the past one hundred-and-fifty-plus years.

### The Poetic Impossibility To Manage The Infinite

Wolverhampton Art Gallery,  
Sat 7 February - Sat 2 May

The new politics of space exploration and the impact of its technological application on people's consciousness is the theme of this groundbreaking exhibition by Edgar Martins. Having been granted unparalleled access to the European Space Agency (ESA) and its partners, Martins has spent the past two years travelling to twenty locations across Europe and South America, shooting in classified facilities such as test centres, robotics departments, launch sites, astronaut training centres and satellite assembly rooms. Numerous ESA programmes, including microgravity, human spaceflight and lunar, Mars and Mercury exploration, are documented in this Arts Council-funded presentation.



For full listing information on Visual Art exhibitions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

#### FAITH & FORTUNE

Visualising the Divine on Byzantine & early Islamic coinage, until Thurs 5 Feb, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

#### ANNA KATARZYNA DOMEJKO: UNREAL STORIES

Debut solo show presenting new paintings & installations, drawing on the artist's continued investigation of contemporary world affairs, until Fri 5 Feb, Stryx Gallery, Birmingham

**POP EUROPE!** Colourful display of Pop & Op Art, Expressionist & Abstract works, until Sat 7 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

#### SPIRIT OF CLOTH

Showcase of work from six Midlands textile artists who work independently to produce original textile art, regularly sharing ideas, techniques & inspiration, until Sat 7 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery

**START** Featuring works by RBSA Members & Associates. All works on show are for sale, priced £200 or under, until Sat 7 Feb, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

#### EVERYTHING IS LOST BY PATRICK DANDY

Exploring social dependency on technology to protect the longevity of digital information, memories & virtual lives, until Fri 13 Feb, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

#### JUNE DUDLESTON RBSA

Exhibition exploring landscape scenes across the changing seasons, until Sat 14 Feb, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

#### WEST MIDLANDS OPEN

Biennial public art exhibition featuring work by both professional and amateur artists from all disciplines, until Sun 15 Feb, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

#### I SELL THE SHADOW TO SAVE THE SUBSTANCE

New work by Lucy Hutchinson which works as a response to the study of Carte-De-Visite images from the library's nationally & internationally significant photography collection, until Sun 22 Feb, Library of Birmingham

#### JENNIFER HARRISON EXHIBITION

Solo exhibition featuring a collection of new works, until Mon 23 Feb, Qube Gallery, Oswestry, North Shropshire

#### TELFORD & WREKIN OPEN ART EXHIBITION

until Thurs 26 Feb, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

#### ART OF THE TROUBLES

Major exhibition featuring artists' responses to the troubles in Northern Ireland, until Fri 27 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

#### A SPACE BETWEEN UTOPIA AND THE PLACE WE KNOW

Richard Schofield's photographic essay interprets the brutalist Italian park Parco Bissuola in Mestre, Venice, until Fri 27 Feb, Parkside Gallery, Birmingham University

#### VAL PITCHFORD RBSA

Exploration of the small (and very small) format through abstract landscapes, still life and flower paintings, until Sat 28 Feb, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

#### NEW YEAR OPEN EXHIBITION

Featuring a new Spring collection of handcrafted work, until Sat 28 Feb, Willow Gallery, Oswestry, North Shropshire

#### DOUBLE TAKE: THE KOESTLER EXHIBITION

FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS Artwork, audio & creative writing from prisons, secure hospitals & young offenders institutes in the West Midlands, until Sun 1 March, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

#### ROBERT HAND ARBSA

Solo show featuring a combination of hand-built raku & pit-fired ceramics, until Sat 7 Mar, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

#### RED TO RUST

Featuring eight paintings of industrial landscapes by Stourbridge artist Cedric Smith, until Sat 7 Mar, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

**'SCAPES** A broad-ranging look at the outside world through the eyes of selected contemporary artists, including

John Thirlwall, David Brammeld, Lisa Henderson, Noel Bennett, Michael Leigh & Angela Maloney, until Sun 8 Mar, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

#### BRIERLEY HILL SOCIETY OF ARTISTS

Featuring works by twenty-five artists working in a variety of media, including watercolours, oils, pastels & acrylics, until Sun 22 Mar, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

#### ELIZABETH ROWE

Disparate images carefully selected from women's magazines, National Geographic volumes & old books feature at the heart of Elizabeth Rowe's work, until Sun 5 Apr, New Art Gallery, Walsall

#### BIRMINGHAM SHOW

Large-scale group exhibition, until Sat 11 Apr, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

#### JERWOOD ENCOUNTERS

**3-PHASE SHOW 1** First of two exhibitions by emerging artists - in this case, Kelly Best and Georgie Grace, until Sat 11 Apr, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

#### SIKANDER PERVEZ

Debut solo exhibition which sees the artist create a brand new sculptural installation, until Sun 19 Apr, New Art Gallery, Walsall

#### DARREN BANKS: THE RAVEN

A body of work inspired by the legacy of Churton Fairman - better known by his alias, Mike Raven, until Sun 26 Apr, New Art Gallery, Walsall

#### SECRET EGYPT

Exhibition addressing popular misconceptions about ancient Egypt, until Sun 26 April, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

#### FOUND

Exploring the themes of loss, memory & mass cultural experience, as well as socially constructed hierarchies concerning gender, race, religion & mass culture, until Sun 3 May, New Art Gallery, Walsall

#### MADE AT MAC: TEXTILES

Featuring work from mac's From Paper To Fabric course, until Sun 3 May, mac - Midlands Arts Complex,

Birmingham

#### HIDDEN TREASURES CRAFT EXHIBITION

Exhibition featuring new techniques such as 3D-printing to examine current trends in ceramics & jewellery, until Sat 9 May, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

#### ON THE RIGHT TRACKS

Exhibition exploring Wolverhampton's involvement in the growth of the railways, until Sun 10 May, Bantock House Museum, Wolverhampton

#### GODS AND HEROES

Seeking to uncover the methods and motives behind the representation of the superhuman & supernatural in art. Subjects drawn from both ancient mythology & the Judo-Christian tradition feature, until Mon 25 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

#### FAITH & ACTION: QUAKERS & THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Exhibition which uses original photographs, film interviews & artefacts to tell the compelling stories of Quaker men & women during the 1914-1918 conflict and its aftermath, until Sun 7 June, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

#### THE JEWELLERY QUARTER DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Exhibition of artefacts, images and oral histories relating to the recruitment of soldiers from the Jewellery Quarter, until Sat 27 June, The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

#### SOLDIERS' STORIES:

#### BIRMINGHAM AND THE ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT 1914 - 1918

Exhibition which commemorates the centenary of the First World War and recounts the experiences of Birmingham men who served in the regiment between 1914 and 1918, using personal objects, medals & memorabilia, until Sun 26 July, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

#### JERWOOD ENCOUNTERS:

**3-PHASE** Featuring works by Kelly Best & Georgie Grace, until Sat 11 Apr, Eastside



'scapes - Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford



# VisualArts LISTINGS

For full listing information on Visual Art exhibitions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

Projects, Birmingham

**JOSHUA MATHESON: CREATIVE INTERPRETATION THROUGH BEAUTY** Insight into the creative world of hairdressing & make-up artistry, Wed 4 Feb - Sun 1 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**NASTIO MOSQUITO: DAILY LOVEMAKING** Fusing music, photography, film & performance poetry to reflect on the nature of our globalised world and how love-making can act as an antidote to corruption & hypocrisy, Wed 4 Feb - Sun 19 Apr, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

**AK DOLVEN** Anne Katrine Dolven shows paintings, film, video, photography & sound installation alongside the extraordinary landscapes of fellow Norwegian artist, nineteenth century painter Peder Balke (1804 - 87), Wed 4 Feb - Sun 19 April, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

**REVOLUTIONISING FASHION** Display of elegant eighteenth & early-nineteenth century British

miniatures by the likes of Richard Cosway, George Engleheart & John Smart, Fri 6 Feb - Sun 26 April, The Barber Institute, B'ham

**THE POETIC IMPOSSIBILITY TO MANAGE THE INFINITE** Exhibition which documents our quest to penetrate the astro-physical reality of the universe in order to better understand time, space and matter, Sat 7 Feb - Sat 9 May, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**LOVE ART, BUY ART, MAKE ART EXHIBITION** Featuring work produced by the RBSA's adult workshop tutors, Mon 9 - Sat 21 Feb, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**HILARY JEFFERIES BRANDSOM** Mixed media paintings of the changing landscape, Mon 9 - Sat 28 Feb, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**STONES & BONES EXHIBITION** Discover more about the early history of the Midlands and how that history was

uncovered, recorded and told by prominent local geologists & scientists, Fri 13 Feb - Sun 17 May, Library of Birmingham

**WILL SHANNON: THE CLOSET CRAFTSMAN** In this new exhibition for Birmingham, Shannon will produce Market Factory. Resonating with Birmingham's heritage as a place for trade and making things, the new workspace will manufacture limited-edition chairs for sale, Sat 14 Feb - Sun 19 Apr, mac, B'ham

**SHOUT OUT! UK PIRATE RADIO IN THE 1980S** A display which tracks the history of British soul music and the impact of the early tower block pirate radio movement that emerged during the 1980s, Sat 14 Feb - Sat 9 May, Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**ART FROM ELSEWHERE: INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART FROM UK GALLERIES** Touring exhibition which considers themes of global change, postcolonial experiences & failed utopias, Sat 14 Feb - Sun 31 May, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**STEVE EVANS ARBSA**

Display of abstract perspex works & ink drawings, Mon 16 Feb - Sat 25 April, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**MAT JENNER: DREAMS** TIME FREE Sat 21 Feb - Fri 3 Apr, Grand Union, Birmingham

**OPEN ALL MEDIA EXHIBITION** Showcasing artists from across the UK working in a variety of media, together with work from guest artist Peter Monaghan, Wed 25 Feb - Sat 28 Mar, RBSA Gallery, B'ham

**INHERITING ROME** Exhibition which uses money to explore our deep-seated familiarity with the Roman Empire's imagery, Fri 27 Feb - Sun 24 Jan 2016, The Barber Institute, B'ham

## Museums & Art Galleries

### Birmingham

ARTIFEX Sutton Coldfield  
0121 323 3776

BARBER INSTITUTE  
0121 414 7333

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY  
0121 303 2834

CASTLE GALLERIES  
0121 248 8484

GRAND UNION  
0121 643 9079

IKON GALLERY  
0121 248 0708

NUMBER NINE THE GALLERY  
0121 643 9099

RBSA GALLERY  
0121 2364353

STRYX GALLERY, DIGBETH  
stryxarts@gmail.com

THREE WHITE WALLS GALLERY  
0121 200 3328

### Black Country

BANTOCK HOUSE WOLVERHAMPTON  
01902 552195

BILSTON CRAFT GALLERY  
01902 552507

BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS MUSEUM, DUDLEY  
01384 812745

DUDLEY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY  
01384 815575

LIGHT HOUSE MEDIA CENTRE WOLVERHAMPTON  
01902 716055

THE NEW ART GALLERY WALSALL  
01922 654400

RED HOUSE GLASS CONE  
01384 812750

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY  
01902 552055

### Shropshire

BEAR STEPS GALLERY, SHREWSBURY  
01743 344994

SHREWSBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY  
01743 258885

TWENTY TWENTY GALLERY, MUCH WENLOCK  
01952 727952

THE WILLOW GALLERY, OSWESTRY  
01691 657575

### Staffordshire

NEWCASTLE BOROUGH MUSEUM & ART GALLERY  
01782 232323

THE POTTERIES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY, STOKE-ON-TRENT  
01782 232323

SHIRE HALL GALLERY STAFFORD  
01785 278345

STAFFORDSHIRE MUSEUM, SHUGBOROUGH  
01889 881388

STAFFORDSHIRE MUSEUM, SHUGBOROUGH  
01889 881388

STAFFORDSHIRE MUSEUM, SHUGBOROUGH  
01889 881388

### Warwickshire

COMPTON VERNY GALLERY  
01926 645500

HERBERT ART GALLERY COVENTRY  
02476 832386

LANCHESTER GALLERY, COVENTRY  
02476 887831

MEAD GALLERY WARWICK  
02476 524524

ROYAL PUMP ROOMS  
01926 742700

RUGBY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY  
01788 533201

RUGBY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY  
01788 533201

### Worcestershire

WORCESTER CITY ART GALLERY  
01905 25371

Visit [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk) for venue website details



**WAVE**

**FREE ENTRY**

**THE POETIC IMPOSSIBILITY TO MANAGE THE INFINITE**

**WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY**

7 FEBRUARY - 2 MAY 2015

[WWW.WOLVERHAMPTONART.ORG.UK](http://WWW.WOLVERHAMPTONART.ORG.UK)

Delve into our quest to explore the universe in this stunning photography exhibition by Edgar Martins



**'scapes**

until 8th March

A broad ranging look at the outside world through the eyes of selected contemporary artists.

**Craft Shop**

Once again we have chosen a beautiful selection of jewellery, ceramics, textiles and cards to help celebrate Valentine's day.



**Shire Hall Gallery, Market Square**  
Stafford, ST16 2LD 01785 278345  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/arts](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/arts)

**Staffordshire County Council**



# 神韻晚會 2015 SHEN YUN

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*The New York Times*

**"Mesmerising!"**

*Donna Karan, creator of DKNY*

**"The best!  
The best!  
The best!"**

*Charles Wadsworth, founding artistic director of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Centre, NYC*



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HEAVENLY REALMS and timeless legends spring to life through classical Chinese dance. Dazzling costumes, thunderous battle drums, and powerful flips fill the stage with colour and energy. Exquisite melodies and animated backdrops uplift your spirit and transport you to another world. Compassion, loyalty, and virtue lie

at the heart of traditional Chinese culture. Almost lost under communist rule in China, this glorious heritage is finally being revived and shared with the world.

Experience the wonder of authentic Chinese culture.  
Experience Shen Yun!



More UK dates: 31 March-1 April, The Lowry, Salford. Tickets: 0845 208 6010 [thelowry.com/dance](http://thelowry.com/dance)

**ShenYun.com**



# Events



## Family Activities in Ironbridge

Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire, Sat 14 - Sun 22 February

Ironbridge Gorge's popular museums are offering plenty to keep youngsters occupied during this month's school holiday. A brand new, sweet-themed event on the Blists Hill calendar provides visitors with the chance to make a package in which to put their confectionary, while a daily talk offers an opportunity to learn more about the history of sweets. Other half-term attractions at the award-winning museum include Victorian candlemaking demonstrations, mini-brick laying, morse code and colouring activities. Visitors can also enjoy the ladies of Blists Hill competing in the annual pancake-flipping con-

test, taking place at midday on the Tuesday.

For those wishing to demonstrate their artistic flair, Jackfield Tile Museum is holding tile-decorating workshops, during which participants can use the traditional 'tube lining' method to create their very own tile. Meanwhile, over at Enginuity, the ever-popular flight workshops make a welcome return.

All of the above are being offered alongside the respective museums' regular attractions.

## Model Making

RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton,  
Mon 16 - Fri 20 February

This family-friendly event is sure to evoke a sense of nostalgia for a certain generation of dads, with the RAF Museum inviting visitors to take part in building an Airfix 1:72 Sopwith Pup or an Airfix 1:72 Albatross. Models will be built alongside a full-sized aircraft. Modelling skills aren't required in order to take part, as staff will be on hand to provide assistance. For families with younger children, there's a wooden biplane to assemble and decorate, plus colouring in aircraft.



## Sainsbury's Indoor Grand Prix

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Sat 21 February

Legendary running machine Mo Farah top-bills at this ever-popular event - and if it matches up to last year's get-together, ticket-holders are in for an afternoon of high-quality action. The 2014 Grand Prix certainly offered something to cheer about, with home wins being recorded by James Dasaolu in the sixty metres, Nigel Levine in the four hundred metres and Laura Muir in the fifteen hundred metres. European indoor champion pole vaulter Holly Bleasdale also bagged gold. Other highlights included a two-mile world record by Ethiopian Genzebe Dibaba and a breathtaking victory for Ivory Coast's Murielle Ahouré against eight-time global sprint champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce. In short, fans certainly got their money's-worth of world-class athletics, and this month's eagerly anticipated event looks like offering plenty more of the same.



Sainsbury's

BRITISH  
ATHLETICS

SAINSBURY'S INDOOR GRAND PRIX

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Sainsbury's



SPORT

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Birmingham City Council



## Mr Bloom comes to Alton Towers

Alton Towers, Staffordshire,  
Sat 14 - Sun 22 February

Fun rides and wide eyes are the name of the half-term game at Alton Towers this month. The popular Staffordshire visitor attraction is best known, of course, for its selection of hugely enjoyable rides, and there's certainly no shortage of those to sample during half-term week, including Sharkbait Reef, Ice Age: The 4D Experience, Air, Nemesis, The Blade and Runaway Mine Train.

But it's in CBeebies Land where youngsters are likely to be wide eyed with astonishment as they get the chance to meet some of their favourite BBC TV characters. As well as Upsy Daisy, Iggle Piggle and the madcap ZingZillas musicians, kids can also have fun with Mr Bloom as he pops into CBeebies Land to check on his allotment. He'll be joined by his veggie pals for five daily live shows that are sure to delight young fans. Rides and attractions throughout CBeebies Land will also be available, including Postman Pat Parcel Post, In The Night Garden Magical Boat Ride and Get Set Go Tree Top Adventure.

Oh, and if you decide to stay in one of the resort's hotels, there's also the chance for children to dance the night away to their favourite pop music at the CBeebies Land Disco.



## The Art Of Making Festival

Bilston Craft Gallery,  
Sat 14 - Wed 28 February

Bilston Craft Gallery's two-week festival offers visitors a chance to take part in performances, processions, live installations and collaborative making - all in the name of challenging accepted definitions of craft. The festival sees six highly rated artists presenting work not only in the gallery but also in and around Bilston. Their work is displayed with the intention of encouraging viewers to think about how craft is produced and the legacy of the objects that are made.



## Penguin Conservation Week

National Sealife Centre, Birmingham, Sat 14 Sun 22 February

After last year welcoming a colony of Gentoo penguins to its Brindleyplace location, Birmingham's National Sealife Centre is this half-term holiday inviting youngsters to pop along and join in its Waddle Academy. As well as marvelling at the Gentoos' cheeky antics, visitors can enjoy plenty of penguin-related activities, including learning about the seabirds' natural habitat and sampling the pleasures of penguin parades. Pebble paintings and competitions also feature.

## Caravan, Camping And Motorhome Show

NEC, Birmingham, Tues 17 - Sun 22 February

Popular personalities Matt Baker and Sally Gunnell step into the limelight at this start-of-season holiday showcase, the biggest event of its kind in the UK. Olympic champion Gunnell will both be taking audience questions in the Experts' Theatre. TV and radio personality Matt Baker also puts in an appearance, as does professional surfer Melodie King. Other event highlights include three hundred-and-fifty exhibitors, a Learning Zone, cookery demonstrations, an onsite campsite and numerous free have-a-go activities, including an outdoor-style fashion show for people of all ages to enjoy.

"It's fantastic to have such well-known personalities coming to our show," says NCC Events managing director Andrew Whalley, "and I'm sure they'll be a hit with visitors of every age. All of them have a passion for the outdoors, and visitors to our event will see how a caravan, motorhome or tent can be the enabler to getting outside as a family, enjoying quality time together and being active."

## The National Wedding Show

NEC, Birmingham,  
Fri 27 February - Sun 1 March

Promising a one-stop shop for a bride and groom's wedding needs, The National Wedding Show provides a platform for the industry's best to showcase both the trendy and the traditional, and features an unrivalled selection of wedding dresses.

Wedding expert Kate Smallwood will once again on hand to host the show's Inspiration Sessions. Kate is joined by Wedding Magazine's Joseph Koniak and Sophia Price, who'll be offering advice on the hottest bridal hairstyles and make-up trends. Other featured zones at the include the Vintage Area, where visitors can view the latest period collections from specialist wedding suppliers, and the Designer Area, in which brides-to-be can discuss their ideal dress with the latest designers via a one-to-one consultation. And when you're done with all the perusing, why not indulge in some well-deserved relaxation with a glass of fizz and a bite to eat in the Champagne Bar, or a more traditional beverage in the Afternoon Tea Bar.





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MR. Bloom performing  
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14th-20th February



# FEB HALF TERM

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## Half-term at Birmingham Museums

including Thinktank, Soho House, Aston Hall, Blakesley Hall, Sarehole Mill & Weoley Castle, Birmingham

Birmingham Museums certainly aren't resting on their laurels when it comes to offering family fun this half-term holiday. Highlights include a daytime star-gaze at Thinktank's digital Planetarium, the chance to get back to nature with Animal Mania at Blakesley Hall, milling & flour making at Sarehole Mill, a winter tour of Soho House, and the opportunity to Create A Creature with family artist Lucy Read at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG).

And BMAG's got plenty of other attractions on offer too - not least among which is the opportunity to enjoy a relaxing day out perusing the treasures of the Staffordshire Hoard. You can even sample some, er, 'tasty' Anglo-Saxon stew & nettle tea in the Edwardian Tearooms while you're at it!



## Bake It In The Black Country

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sat 14 - Sun 22 February

Dudley's living history museum is going baking mad this half-term holiday. Included in a range of themed activities, crafts and demonstrations is a trail around the popular visitor attraction, with all manner of weird and wonderful facts about cooking and baking in the Black Country being revealed en route. There are traditional baking demonstrations in the site's nineteenth century bakers to enjoy too, as well as an opportunity to try biscuit making in a traditional cast iron range. And if the sight and scent of all those breads and cakes makes your stomach rumble, why not sample some of the classics - cherry bakewells and gingerbread included - at Veal's Bakers.

## Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

from  
**SUN 1 FEB**

**'SHAUN THE SHEEP THE MOVIE' ACTIVITY WEEK-ENDS** Celebrating the new movie, Sun 1 Feb, Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire  
**BRIDAL FAYRE** Described as the largest bridal fayre in Staffordshire, Sun 1 Feb, Shugborough Estate, Staffs  
**BOWMAN ANTIQUES FAIR** Quality three-day giant antique fair featuring up to 400 stands selling antiques, curios, vintage, retro and collectables, Sun 1 Feb, Bingley Hall, Stafford  
**NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK EVENT** Stories from around the world with children's storyteller Colin King, Sun 1 Feb, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum  
**WEDDING FAIR** Catering for all your needs for a special day, Sun 1 Feb, Ford Green Hall, Stoke-on-Trent  
**RUN WHAT YA BRUNG** The chance to take

your car or motorcycle out on the famous quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sun 1 Feb, Santapod Raceway, Northampton  
**LEAMINGTON: THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT** Pop along and add your voice to a collaborative tale to help create Leamington's longest group story, Sun 1 - Sat 7 Feb, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum  
**THE GREAT GLADSTONE CIRCUS HUNT** Find the lion heads hidden around the museum by following the clues. Free gift and entry into a prize draw for all participants, Sun 1 - Sat 28 Feb, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent  
**FIRESIDE CHATS** Discover some fascinating Erddig stories by the fire, Mon 2 - Fri 13 Feb, Erddig  
**TUESDAY TOUR** Guided tour of the house followed by a walk into Yardley conservation area, Tues 3 Feb, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**ARTIST'S TALK** John Yeadon talks about national identity through landscape painting, in connection with the Recording Britain exhibition and his recent exhibition Englandia, Tues 3 Feb, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry  
**THE WAR ON GERMS WITH DR BERYL OPPENHEIM** A Cafe Scientifique debate, Tues 3 Feb, Think Tank, Birmingham  
**CRAFTPLAY EXPLORERS** Tues 3 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery, Wolverhampton  
**DROP-IN TILE DECORATING WORKSHOP** Fun hands-on activities for adults & children alike, Tues 3 Feb, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire  
**WINTER GUIDED TOUR** Chance to see Aston Hall during the closed season, Wed 4 Feb, Aston Hall, Birmingham  
**WINTER TOURS AT SAREHOLE MILL** Take a look around the historic mill building and explore the history and importance of one of Birmingham's last remaining working water mills, Wed 4 Feb, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham  
**GLINGO!** An evening celebrating LGBT history, Wed 4 Feb, Wolverhampton Art

Gallery  
**LUDLOW RACES** Wed 4 Feb, Ludlow Racecourse, Bromfield, Ludlow, South Shropshire  
**CRAFTPLAY LITTLE EXPLORERS** Wed 4 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery, Wolverhampton  
**ARTFORUM** Art workshop, Wed 4 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery  
**WINTER TALK & TOUR** Informative winter tour to find out more about the incredible story of Soho House and the world-changing meetings that took place there, Thurs 5 Feb, Soho House, Birmingham  
**ARTIST'S TALK** Join Laura Oldfield Ford as she talks about her work relating to the fields of contested space, landscape, architecture & memory, Thurs 5 Feb, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry  
**RE-AWAKENING THE HOUSE** Enjoy exclusive access behind the scenes and see how the house is prepared for re-opening, Fri 6 Feb, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire  
**PIRATE WEEKEND** Featuring entertainment from Pirate Bill and entrance to the site's waterpark, Fri 6 - Sat 7 Feb, Alton Towers

Resort, Staffordshire  
**SOLIDARITY WITH WEST AFRICAN AGAINST EBOLA: BIRMINGHAM CULTURAL FUNDRAISER** Sat 7 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham  
**DHOL DRUMMING WORKSHOP** All welcome, regardless of gender, age or cultural background, Sat 7 Feb, Beatbox, Library of Birmingham  
**DECORATING CLUB** Special workshop for six to 11-year-olds, Sat 7 Feb, Emma Bridgewater Factory, Stoke-on-Trent  
**GALLERY TOUR** Chance to find out about the history of the building and Wolverhampton's world-renowned collections, Sat 7 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery  
**LANDSCAPE PAINTING WITH DAVID GLEESON** Take along your own photographs of your favourite landscape: local, on holiday or out of a window, Sat 7 Feb, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford  
**YOUNG ARTISTS** A chance to learn new drawing, painting and sculpture skills, Sat 7 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery  
**MOSAIC WORKSHOP** Suitable for anyone, from beginners to advanced. No drawing or artistic skills needed, Sat 7 Feb, Jinney Ring

Craft Centre, Hanbury, Worcestershire  
**VOLUNTEER WEEKEND** Help get the farm ready for the year ahead, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Feb, Fordhall Organic Farm, Market Drayton, North Shropshire  
**'SHAUN THE SHEEP THE MOVIE' ACTIVITY WEEK-ENDS** Celebrating the new movie, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Feb, Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire  
**AZTEC WEEKEND** Explore the origins of the cocoa bean and uncover the mysteries of Emperor Montezuma, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Feb, Cadbury World, Birmingham  
**SPRING HAS SPRUNG!** Dig out your wellies, explore the farm and take your seats for a Springtime pantomime, Sat 7 - Sun 22 Feb, National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton Upon Trent, Staffs  
**TOY COLLECTORS FAIR** Featuring thousands of collectables for sale from the UK's leading specialist dealers, Sun 8 Feb, NEC, Birmingham  
**WEDDING FAYRE** Sun 8 Feb, Castle Bromwich Hall Hotel  
**SINGING DARWIN'S PRAISES** St Chad's Choir will perform Choral Evensong in celebration of The Darwin Festival with guest



# Model Making Half Term

16 - 20 February 2015

11.30am - 3.30pm

£3.00 per person



See website for more details

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### February Half Term Activities

#### Flight Workshops

14 - 22 Feb at Enginuity

#### Family Activities, All about Sweets

14 - 22 Feb at Blists Hill Victorian Town

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# Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

preacher Rev Dr Gareth Leyshon, Sun 8 Feb, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury  
**DARWIN FESTIVAL**  
 Various events taking place around Shrewsbury, in celebration of Charles Darwin, Sun 8 - Sun 22 Feb, Shrewsbury

## Week Commencing MON 9 FEB

**CREATIVE FORTNIGHT AT THE MEAD GALLERY**  
 Budding artists are invited to take part in a range of self-led art activities. No booking required, just pop along and get drawing. Mon 9 - Sat 21 Feb, The Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**BANNED! CENSORING SEXUALITY** A local history talk hosted by Rachel MacGregor which forms part of LGBT History Month, Tues 10 Feb, Library of Birmingham  
**DROP-IN TILE DECORATING WORKSHOP** Fun, hands-on activities for adults and children alike, Tues 10 Feb, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire  
**CRAFTPLAY EXPLORERS** Tues 10 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery, Wolverhampton  
**MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS** Present Park Gorkogo, Tue 10 - Wed 11 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**AN EVENING WITH POLLY TOYNBEE & DAVID WALKER** Wed 11 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**WINTER GUIDED TOUR**  
 Chance to see Aston Hall during the closed season, Wed 11 Feb, Aston Hall, Birmingham  
**HISTORY TALK: WHEN LLOYD GEORGE CAME TO WOLVERHAMPTON** A talk by Jefny Ashcroft on the subject of David Lloyd George's famous visit to Wolverhampton in 1918, Wed 11 Feb, Wolverhampton City Archives  
**CRAFTPLAY LITTLE EXPLORERS** Wed 11 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery, Wolverhampton  
**WINTER TOURS AT SAREHOLE MILL** Take a look around the historic mill building and explore the history and importance of one of Birmingham's last remaining working water mills, Wed 11 Feb, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham  
**DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG**  
 The chance to practise

drifting in safe and legal conditions on some of the Pod's thirty acres of open tarmac, where there are beginners, intermediate and advanced tracks open at the same time each DWYB day, Wed 11 Feb, Santapod Raceway, Northampton  
**TOUR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK ART COLLECTION** Focusing on a selection of artworks that relate to the gallery's current exhibitions - Close And Far: Russian Photography Now and John Akomfrah: The Unfinished Conversation, Thurs 12 Feb, The Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**WINTER TALK & TOUR**  
 Informative winter tour to find out more about the incredible story of Soho House and the world-changing meetings that took place there, Thurs 12 Feb, Soho House, Birmingham  
**BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS** Join the access-all-areas tour and unlock the secrets of Witley's partying past as you explore parts of the court seldom open to visitors, Fri 13 Feb, Witley Court, Worcestershire  
**FRIDAY TWILIGHT - SOUL NIGHT** Fri 13 Feb, The Pottery Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent  
**3RD BI-ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF BEER** Featuring one thousand beers & ciders, live music, on-site beer boutique & memorabilia shop, Fri 13 - Sun 15 Feb, National Brewery Centre, Burton on Trent, Staffs  
**LOVE WORCESTER HERITAGE FESTIVAL** Week-long celebration of the diverse history of the city, with events scheduled throughout Worcester, Fri 13 - Sun 22 Feb, Worcester City Centre  
**LOVE YOUR PLANET** Part of the Love Worcester Heritage Festival. Explore the importance of recycling & caring for your planet by taking a journey along the site's Recycled Trail, Fri 13 - Sun 22 Feb, Elgar Birthplace Museum, Worcester  
**LOVE WORCESTER GUIDED TOUR** Free guided tour of the former Worcester Infirmary, plus an opportunity to take a look at the site's exhibition on the history of medicine, Sat 14

Feb, Infirmary Museum, University of Worcester  
**DARWIN'S GARDEN OFFICIAL OPENING** Discover about the Darwin family in Shrewsbury during early 1800s, Sat 14 Feb, Shropshire Wildlife Trust  
**VALENTINE'S STONE CARVING WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS** Carve a gargoyle, starting with breeze block and moving on to other stone, Sat 14 Feb, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum  
**VALENTINE'S TREE** Write a message to a loved one and hang it on the Valentine's tree in the parlour at Hall's Croft, Sat 14 Feb, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**DECORATING CLUB**  
 Special workshop for six to 11-year-olds, Sat 14 Feb, Emma Bridgewater Factory, Stoke-on-Trent  
**DHOL DRUMMING WORKSHOP** All welcome, regardless of gender, age or cultural background, Sat 14 Feb, Beatbox, Library of Birmingham  
**VALENTINE'S RAG RUG HEARTS** Chance to discover the traditional art of rag rugging, Sat 14 Feb, Birmingham Back to Backs  
**BIG TIME AMERICAN WRESTLING** Top-class action for all the family, featuring a host of international wrestling stars, Sat 14 Feb, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent  
**MCM MIDLANDS COMIC CON** Full-day fix of movies, gaming, cosplay, comics, anime television shows, Sat 14 Feb, Telford International Centre, Shropshire  
**THE BIRDS' WEDDING DAY CONNECTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH CULTURE** Two-day event of free arts activities to celebrate the inclusive thinking and actions of Rosslyn Bruce, vicar at the Parish Church of St Augustine during the Edwardian era, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Feb, St Augustine's Church, Birmingham  
**VALENTINE'S WEEKEND** Sat 14 - Sun 15 Feb, Cadbury World, Birmingham  
**EXCITING EXPEDITIONS: CLAY FACES** Get hands-on and sculpt a face from clay in a popular workshop suitable for children aged eight-plus, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Feb, Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry  
**DO THE ROBOT HALF TERM ACTIVITIES**  
 Personalise your own bedroom wall with a colourful robot canvas. Workshops suitable for children aged six-plus, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Feb, Coventry Transport Museum  
**LIVING HISTORY WEEK-**



Caravan, Camping And Motorhome Show - NEC, Birmingham

**END** Immerse yourself in over two thousand years of history, from Ancient Greece to World War II. Meet the reenactors, see historic vehicles and take part in a military drill, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Feb, The Commandery, Worcester  
**WASSAILING AND WRITING** Activities include; toasting marshmallows over the fire pit in Kings Walk Wood and writing new year diary events with a quill pen, Sat 14 - Wed 18 Feb, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton  
**FOLLOW YOUR HEART**  
 Half-term family trail where visitors can discover more about the museum's collections by hunting the hearts in the galleries, Sat 14 - Sat 21 Feb, The Museum of Royal Worcester  
**BECOME AN APPRENTICE GLOVER** Design your own gloves in the same workshop that Shakespeare's father worked in. While there, learn about gloves, their meaning in Tudor society, the materials used to make them and the stinky process of tanning, Sat 14 - Sat 21 Feb, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**SIGNS OF SPRING TRAIL**  
 Enjoy the first signs of Spring. Find the clues to win a prize, Sat 14 - Sun 21 Feb, Cannock Chase Visitor Centre, Staffs  
**CREATE YOUR OWN FINGER PUPPET** Make your own Jack-on-Lent puppet, traditionally created by children during the period of Lent, Sat 14 - Sat 21 Feb, Harvard House, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**SWEET TREATS: MAKE AND FILL YOUR OWN SWEET BAG** Make a Tudor sweet bag and fill it with treats from the site's candy bar. Learn about the ways in which these bags would've been used in Anne Hathaway's day, Sat 14 - Sat 21 Feb, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon

**FLIGHT WORKSHOPS**  
 Drop-in workshop where visitors can design and build a pneumatic rocket from craft materials. Additional charges apply, and activities vary from day to day, Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire  
**HALF-TERM FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT** Join a host of entertainers as they spread joy throughout the half-term holidays, Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb, Cadbury World, Birmingham  
**HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES AT EMMA BRIDGEWATER**  
 Week of wildlife-themed activities for children, Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb, Emma Bridgewater Factory, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs  
**TRAINS, TRAMS AND LOTS OF FUN AT HALF-TERM**  
 For model railway fans of all ages, with the group's 120ft-long fully-operating, miniature model tramway on show, Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster  
**MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL** Family crafts for February half-term, Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb, Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wolverhampton  
**HALF-TERM FAMILY ACTIVITIES** Fun drop-in activities, including dipping fabulously colourful candles, building a wall with mini-bricks, discovering Morse Code and colouring in pictures of Victorian scenes, Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire  
**PENGUIN WEEK** Come face-to-face with a colony of Gentoo Penguins and adventure into the rarely seen Antarctic landscape, Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb, National Sealife Centre, Birmingham  
**AUTO SCIENCE LIVE** Half-term activities bringing automotive engineering to life through Lego, crafts & MAD Science workshops, Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb, Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

**FAMILY FUN DAYS** Pick up a map and a Doodle Your Dream Day sheet from visitor reception, then head off on a journey through the woods. Build a den, play hoopla, splash in the puddles and have your own family adventure. Don't forget your wellies!, Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb, Packwood House, Solihull  
**THE COVENTRY CODE QUEST** Have fun deciphering the clues that lead you on a half-term trail around the park. Price includes a prize, Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb, Croome Park, Worcestershire  
**BAKE IT IN THE BLACK COUNTRY** Sat 14 Feb - Sun 22 Feb, Black Country Living Museum, Wolverhampton  
**ACTS OF MAKING FESTIVAL** A two-week event which challenges definitions of craft, how it's produced and what the legacy of craft objects can be, Sat 14 - Sat 28 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery, Wolverhampton  
**THE MODEL TRACTOR, PLANT & CONSTRUCTION SHOW** Sun 15 Feb, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre  
**VALENTINE'S VINTAGE FAIR** Featuring a 1950s-style tearoom for refreshments, Sun 15 Feb, St John's Museum, Warwick  
**MODEL TRACTOR, PLANT & CONSTRUCTION SHOW**  
 Major exhibition for all tractor, truck, plant & construction machinery enthusiasts, Sun 15 Feb, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa  
**CRAFT, HOBBY & STITCH INTERNATIONAL**  
 Featuring over two hundred-and-fifty suppliers from around the world showcasing a range of products from across the creative industries, Sun 15 - Tues 17 Feb, NEC Group, Birmingham

## Week Commencing MON 16 FEB

**SURVIVORS OF THE ICE AGE** TV professor Dr



The ultimate **stitching, knitting & crafting** shows!

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for pleasure

**HOBBY  
CRAFTS**

**Fashion  
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## Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

Alice Roberts talks about the animals that connect our world with the frozen wilderness of the Ice Age, Mon 16 Feb, Library of Birmingham

**WHAT DID PENDA'S GODS EVER DO FOR US?** A fun exploration of the survival of seventh century Mercian religion, magic and medicine into modern times, Mon 16 Feb, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**EXCITING EXPEDITIONS: JOURNALS** Using the museum's National History Collection as inspiration, young visitors are encouraged to make a 3D model from craft materials, together with a small case in which to store it, Mon 16 Feb, Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry  
**DO THE ROBOT HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES** Make a Robot Bookmark workshop, Mon 16 Feb, Coventry Transport Museums  
**HALF-TERM FUN FOR AIR-FIX MODEL MAKERS** Fun model-making activity

and the opportunity to build a choice of aircraft models, Mon 16 - Tues 17 Feb, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton  
**PLAY IN A DAY** Create your very own shortened version of a Shakespeare play in a day, with help from an RSC expert, Mon 16 - Wed 18 Feb, Clore Learning Centre, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**SECRETS FROM THE RSC COLLECTION** Explore a selection of rarely displayed shoe-themed props, costumes and accessories from the RSC Collection. The exhibition coincides with the RSC's production of The Shoemaker's Holiday. Suitable for all ages, Mon 16, Wed 18 & Fri 20 Feb, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**BLOOD, GUTS & GORE** Join former RSC Head of Wigs & Make Up Brenda Leedham as she talks about the tricks of the trade and shows how bruises,

cuts & scars are created. Suitable for all ages, Mon 16 & Fri 20 Feb, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**JAPANESE-THEMED HALF-TERM FUN** Explore the world of the Japanese Samurai, improve your Anime skills, make fluttering flying koi wind socks & design your own shadow puppets, Mon 16 - Fri 20 Feb, Museum of Cannock Chase, Staffordshire  
**DRAGON HUNT** Join the trail and follow the clues to find Ruby the Tamworth Dragon, Mon 16 - Fri 20 Feb, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire  
**FEBRUARY HALF-TERM FUN** Enjoy a garden trail amongst other activities, Mon 16 - Fri 20 Feb, Hanbury Hall and Gardens, Droitwich  
**MEDIAeval DETECTIVE AGENCY: RIDDLE OF THE RELICS** The Priory relics have gone missing and someone in the monastery is not who they appear to be. Visitors are invited to go undercover and expose the culprit. Make a disguise, gather your detective kit and follow the clues to solve the mystery. Suitable for ages five-plus, Mon 16 - Fri 20 Feb, Priory Visitor Centre, Coventry

**KNIGHTS & PRINCESSES ACADEMY** Featuring plenty of half-term activities, Mon 16 - Fri 20 Feb, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire  
**CHINESE NEW YEAR CERAMIC DROP-IN WORKSHOPS** Mon 16 - Fri 20 Feb, Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge, South Shropshire  
**MODEL-MAKING HALF-TERM** A chance to have a go at building a choice of aircraft models, with help and advice from skilled modellers. All materials provided, Mon 16 - Fri 20 Feb, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton  
**PAPER MAKING WORKSHOP** Design & make your own unique paper from recycled materials, Mon 16 - Fri 20 Feb, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire  
**FEBRUARY HALF-TERM FUN** Featuring story time, craft activities, trails & fun for all the family, Mon 16 - Fri 20 Feb, Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
**HALF-TERM CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES** Head for the Old Kitchen and take part in some of the children's activities on offer, Mon 16 - Sun 22 Feb, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

**SPEAKING SHAKESPEARE** A fun & lively session that will have you quoting Shakespeare like a professional. Suitable for ages eight & over, Tues 17 Feb, Clore Learning Centre, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**GAS! BIG BANGS, BAD SMELLS AND STRANGE GOO** Darwin's curious experiments for kids, Tues 17 Feb, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Shrewsbury  
**DO THE ROBOT HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES** Workshops where young visitors can create a cute pocket robot to add to their collection, Tues 17 Feb, Coventry Transport Museum  
**IN CONVERSATION WITH ELMIEAR MCBRIDE** Tue 17 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**MUDDY MADNESS** Activities include mud painting and making mud pies, Tues 17 Feb, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Shrewsbury  
**ANIMAL MANIA** Meet cute & furry animals and take part in various children's craft activities. Guided tours of the house also available at an additional cost, Tues 17 Feb, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham  
**HERBERT ILLUMINATIONS:**

**WOMEN FACTORY WORKERS IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR** Join Charlene Price as she explores how women were recruited to the factories in Coventry, and how they balanced work life with home life, Tues 17 Feb, Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry  
**ATTINGHAM ADVENTURES: CAMPFIRE CELEBRATIONS** Get messy exploring the outdoors and ticking off lots of your Fifty Things To Do Before You're Eleven-and-three-quarters, Tues 17 Feb, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury  
**PANCAKE FLIPPING CONTEST** Watch the ladies of Ironbridge as they take part in the annual pancake-flipping contest, Tues 17 Feb, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire  
**EXCITING EXPEDITIONS: FLUORESCENT LANDSCAPES** Create a stylish work of art inspired by local urban landscapes using collage, fluorescent colours & black-and-white images, Tues 17 Feb, Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry  
**CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOP** Tues 17 Feb, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent  
**SINGING WORKSHOP**

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# Events LISTINGS

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Sing your heart out with an RSC voice coach, Tues 17 Feb, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**LEARN TO RIDE SHREWSBURY** Free two-hour sessions to help young riders move from balance bikes or stabilisers onto pedals, Tues 17 Feb, Shrewsbury Sports Village

**MUDDY MADNESS** Try mud making, make mud pies & muddy monsters, Tues 17 Feb, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Shrewsbury

**KNIGHTS AND PRINCESSES ACADEMY** Hands-on fun and activities, Tue 17 - Wed 18 Feb, Stokesay Castle, South Shropshire

**LOVE YOUR PLANET** Part of the Worcester Heritage Festival. Drop in and get crafty creating colourful percussion instruments from recycled material, Wed 17 - Thurs 18 Feb, Elgar Birthplace Museum, Worcester

**COLLECTIONS PRESENT AND FUTURE: THE CONSERVATION OF MASTERPIECES - STUDY DAY** Find the answers to all aspects of conservation. The Study Day includes a talk by Gareth Williams, a two-course lunch and a guided tour of the historic rooms. Pre-booking required, Tue 17 - Wed 18 Feb, Weston Park, Staffordshire

**HALF TERM CRAFT ACTIVITY - CHINESE LANTERNS** Make your own Chinese lantern, Tues 17 - Thurs 19 Feb, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**HALF TERM POTTERY PAINTING** Tues 17 - Sat 21 Feb, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

**CARAVAN, CAMPING AND MOTORHOME SHOW 2015** Featuring over three hundred-and-fifty exhibitors, Tue 17 - Sun 22 Feb, NEC, Birmingham

**BEE HAPPY** Tick off another of the activities on your Fifty Things To Do list - hunting for bugs, Tues 17 - Thurs 29 Feb, Erdigg, Nr Wrexham

**BANFF FILM FESTIVAL** The world's most prestigious mountain film festival returns to the Midlands with a brand new selection of extraordinary short films from the world's leading adventure filmmakers, Wed 18 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**CIRCUS STORIES** Enjoy an afternoon of circus-

themed stories, Wed 18 Feb, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

**KIDS' BANNER-MAKING WORKSHOP** Make banners to decorate Ludlow Assembly Rooms, in a fun half-term children's workshop, Wed 18 Feb, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**YOUNG ARTIST MASTER CLASS SPECIAL** Wed 18 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**WILD WEATHER WEDNESDAY** Join the rangers for some wild experiments, including how to make your own tornado, Wed 18 Feb, Severn Valley Country Park, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

**LUDLOW RACES** Wed 18 Feb, Ludlow Racecourse, Bromfield, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**WINTER TOURS AT SAREHOLE MILL** Take a look around the historic mill building and explore the history and importance of one of Birmingham's last remaining working water mills, Wed 18 Feb, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

**GUIDED TOUR: REFLECTIONS OF THE 18TH CENTURY GARDEN DESIGN** Join the Garden & Park Manager for a tour around Capability Brown's parkland, and learn more about the eighteenth century garden design, Wed 18 Feb, Croome Park, Worcestershire

**DARWIN'S BEETLES** Children's activity workshop, Wed 18 Feb, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Shrewsbury

**SPORTY WEDNESDAY: ORIENTEERING** Wed 18 Feb, Attingham Park, Nr Shrewsbury

**DARWIN'S DISCOVERIES** Art and craft workshop for children aged eight to thirteen, Wed 18 Feb, The Hive, Shrewsbury

**ROCKS AND FOSSILS** Handle fossils and discover the story of the geological gallery, Wed 18 - Sun 22 Feb, Biddulph Grange Garden, Staffordshire

**ART CLUB** Make a colourful, moving paper dragon to celebrate Chinese New Year. Suitable for children aged six to 12, Thurs 19 Feb, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

**DO THE ROBOT HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES** Create a robot vest to help to make you just like a robot, Fri 20 Feb,

Coventry Transport Museum

**CREATIVE BADGES WORKSHOP** Make-and-take drop-in activity where visitors can design and make their very own badges using the site's badge-making machine, Thurs 19 Feb, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

**PAINT, PAPER AND PLASTERWORK: THE DECORATION OF THE ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE - STUDY DAY** Discovery Day includes a talk by Gareth Williams, a two-course lunch and a guided tour of the house. Pre-booking is required, Thurs 19 Feb, Weston Park, Staffordshire

**LEARN TO RIDE SHREWSBURY** Free two-hour sessions to help young riders move from balance bikes or stabilisers onto pedals, Thurs 19 Feb, Shrewsbury Sports Village

**PAINTING VALUATION DAY** Thurs 19 Feb, Bantock House Museum, Wolverhampton

**EXCITING EXPEDITIONS: FANCIFUL FLORA & FAUNA** Half-term activity where young visitors are invited to use watercolours to create a beautiful artwork which documents the local flora & fauna, Thurs 19 Feb, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**FOSSIL FRENZY** Thurs 19 Feb, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Shrewsbury

**BIRDS OF THE GREAT WAR** Thurs 19 Feb, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**CANDLELIGHT TOURS** Warm yourself by the open fires of the Back To Backs and sample the delights of fresh brown bread toasted on the range, with either jam or dripping, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 Feb, The Back to Backs, Birmingham

**BIRDFEEDER BAUBLES** Make a birdfeeder bauble to entice our feathered friends into your garden, Fri 20 Feb, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

**DARWIN'S WORMS** Children's activities, Fri 20 Feb, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Shrewsbury

**HALF TERM CRAFT ACTIVITY - BALANCING CLOWNS** Fri 20 Feb, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

**STAGE FIGHTING** Learn how the action is created on stage in this special workshop led by an RSC expert. All children must be accompanied by an adult, Fri 20 Feb, Clore Learning Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**GUIDED TOUR: REFLECTIONS OF THE 18TH CENTURY GARDEN DESIGN** Join the Garden & Park Manager for a tour

around Capability Brown's parkland and learn more about the eighteenth century garden design, Fri 20 Feb, Croome Park, Worcestershire

**THE STORY GARDEN** Enjoy having a go at performing part of a Shakespeare play in special sessions where a storyteller leads the way, Fri 20 - Sat 21 Feb, Clore Learning Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**RACE RETRO** Europe's premier winter show for historic motorsport, Fri 20 - Sun 22 Feb, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

**BRITISH ATHLETICS - SAINSBURY'S INDOOR GRAND PRIX** Afternoon jam-packed full of world-class athletics, Sat 21 Feb, The Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

**SOUND TRAVELS** Musical improvisation workshop for ages eight plus, Sat 21 Feb, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Shrewsbury

**DRAWING TOWNSCAPE** Chance to create your own urban landscape using mixed media, pencils & charcoal on a two-day course exploring the architecture and local townscape of Stafford and the surrounding areas. The workshop is hosted by Mark Lippett, Sat 21 Feb, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

**DARWIN'S GUIDED WALK** Sat 21 Feb, Shrewsbury Visitor Information Centre

**RUN WHAT YA BRUNG** The chance to take your car or motorcycle out on the famous quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sat 21 Feb, Santapod Raceway, Northampton

**DECORATING CLUB** Special workshop for six to eleven-year-olds, Sat 21 Feb, Emma Bridgewater Factory, Stoke-on-Trent

**STUNTFEST** Action-packed day of daredevil stunts, monster truck mayhem, flame-throwing jet vehicles, displays & more... Sat 21 Feb, Santapod Raceway, Northampton

**VINTAGE FAIR** Promising a high calibre of traders selling the finest vintage clothing, accessories, homewares, collectables & jewellery, Sat 21 Feb, Cosy Hall, Newport, Shropshire

**WRITING THE SPECTRUM** Writing workshop led by writer Jacqui Rowe, Sat 21 Feb, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**WOODLAND TRACKING** An introduction by Andy Cutts to tracking animals in woodlands, Sat 21 Feb, The Iron Bridge, Telford,

Shropshire

**COVENTRY COLLAGES WITH LAURA OLDFIELD FORD** Family workshop where participants can work with Laura Oldfield Ford, exhibiting artist from the gallery's Recording Britain exhibition, Sat 21 Feb, Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

**WALKING THE WINDMILL & LIVING HISTORY WEEK-END** Chance to watch original footage of the saving of the Windmill in 1969, and to observe breadmaking demonstrations in the Toll House, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Feb, Avoncroft, Bromsgrove

**THE PUTOLINE CLASSIC A** must for any off-road or road-racing enthusiast, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Feb, The International Centre, Telford, Shropshire

**CLAY ROBOT FACES WORKSHOP** Use your imagination to sculpt a robot face using air-drying clay, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Feb, Coventry Transport Museum

**CHINESE NEW YEAR OF THE GOAT** Celebrate Chinese New Year with a range of traditional activities, Su 22 Feb, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

## Week Commencing MON 23 FEB

**A CARTOON HISTORY OF HERE** A fast-flowing, rapid-raffing adventure in which two top funny-men (Ian McMillan & Tony Husband) reflect on local stories and legends, Tues 24 Feb, Library of Birmingham

**DROP-IN TILE DECORATING WORKSHOP** Fun, hands-on activities for adults & children alike, Tues 24 Feb, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**RUSSIA NOW: A DISCUSSION** Academics from the University of Warwick discuss the current political situation in Russia, in response to Mead Gallery exhibition Close And Far: Russian Photography Now, Tues 24 Feb, The Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**ROMAN COOKERY WORKSHOP** Find out more about authentic cooking techniques, ingredients and recipes of the times. Help to create your own Roman dishes, Wed 25 Feb, Wroxeter Roman City, Shropshire

**WINTER TOURS AT SAREHOLE MILL** Take a look around the historic mill building and explore the history and importance of one of Birmingham's last remaining working water mills, Wed 25

Feb, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

**WINTER GUIDED TOUR** Chance to see Aston Hall during the closed season, Wed 25 Feb, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**WINTER TALK & TOUR** Informative winter tour to find out more about the incredible story of Soho House and the world-changing meetings that took place there, Thurs 26 Feb, Soho House, Birmingham

**LUDLOW RACES** Thurs 26 Feb, Ludlow Race Course, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**MAKE A MOSAIC** Workshop exploring the mosaic techniques used at Wroxeter Roman City. Have a go at your own Roman artwork, Thurs 26 Feb, Wroxeter Roman City, Shropshire

**CARIBBEAN BEACH PARTY** Sit back and enjoy Caribbean sounds, splash-splash in the site's tropical waterpark, Fri 27 - Sat 28 Feb, Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire

**THE NATIONAL WEDDING SHOW** Described as 'the ultimate wedding experience', the National Wedding Show features over three hundred wedding specialists showcasing their wares and providing endless inspiration for your big day, Fri 27 Feb - Sun 1 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

**BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL** Fri 27 Feb - Sat 14 March, various locations, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

**CREATING THE KING'S SPEECH** Director Roxana Silbert & designer Tom Piper discuss the making of The King's Speech, Sat 28 Feb, The REP, Birmingham

**TRADITIONAL NUTRITION TODAY CONFERENCE** One-day conference showing the benefits of simple, unprocessed foods, Sat 28 Feb, Fordhall Organic Farm, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

**CLUB EXPO** An event packed full of advice, tips & suppliers for all clubs, Sat 28 Feb, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

**DECORATING CLUB** Special workshop for six to eleven-year-olds, Sat 28 Feb, Emma Bridgewater Factory, Stoke-on-Trent

**WOLVERHAMPTON YOUNG WRITERS' GROUP** Led by professional writer Elisabeth Charis, Sat 28 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**CRAFT FAYRE** Browse stalls selling a range of handmade crafts, Sat 28 Feb, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Cannock Chase Visitor Centre



# Eating Out

## New bistro bar for Centenary Square

'Eclectic furnishings, bold decor and a bespoke menu' awaits visitors choosing to dine at a new bistro and bar overlooking Birmingham's Centenary Square.

Opening this month, Marmalade is the latest addition to Bitters'n'Twisted's portfolio of pubs and restaurants across the city. Housed within the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, the 'relaxed dining area' will offer a pre-theatre menu priced at £15.95 for two courses and £19.95 for three.

Light lunches, bar snacks, handpicked quality wines, local ales, craft bottle beers and a range of cocktails will also be available.

Matt Scriven of Bitters'n'Twisted said of the opening: "Marmalade will be something really special, and a new direction for the Bitters'n'Twisted family. The team here have all worked hard to launch something welcoming and exciting that has a different style and feel to our other venues, but one that's still fuelled by our passion for great food, great drinks and great service."



## All you can eat, Japanese style...

Having already established itself in Holland, Japanese cuisine exponent Kyoto Sushi & Grill has chosen Birmingham's Arcadian Centre as the location for its first UK venue.

A welcome addition to the city's Chinese Quarter, Kyoto Sushi & Grill offers an eat-as-much-as-you-like buffet featuring more than seventy dishes, with sushi, handmade rolls, noodles, soups and salads all included on the menu.

## Birmingham's botanical bar...

A brand new venue is set to join Birmingham's ever-changing bar scene. Brought to town by the New World Trading Company, The Botanist opens in the city centre's Temple Street this month.

The bar will be the tried-and-tested brand's fifth UK site, with sister venues already established in Manchester, Leeds and Newcastle.

The menu will feature a wide range of classic bar food - including Cumberland bangers & mash and scampi & chips - along with numerous international favourites such as Thai Green Curry. The Botanist will also boast a wide range of botanically influenced cocktails, from Peach & Basil Margarita to Bloody Porcini.

Sadly we think it unlikely the cocktails will count towards your five-a-day!



## Disarming staff, delicious food...

### REVIEW

A warm welcome awaits at The Shrewsbury Arms, affectionately referred to by those in the know as 'The Shrew'.

At first glance there appeared to be a labyrinth of cosy rooms to explore. Understated lighting created a warm atmosphere. Happy chatter could be heard - and even the shaggy dog sitting at his master's feet appeared to be enjoying the ambience. My husband perused the many ales on tap while I ordered myself a very grown up G&T. A smiley waitress took us to our table in the rather grand dining room - think high ceilings, painted panels and twinkly chandeliers; a stark contrast to the rustic, country feel in the snugly bar.

The menu featured both fine dining options - lobster thermidor, no less - and gastro-pub favourites such as handmade burgers and lamb shank. It appears they've thought of everything here at The Shrew - a well thought-out menu with interesting choices for the non-meat eater, mini grown-up options for children, high chairs aplenty, baby changing and excellent disabled facilities. There

are fish nights and tapas evenings, while live music gets the bar rocking every weekend.

After a more detailed perusal of the menu and lengthy negotiations betwixt man and wife, we chose king scallops and crab thermidor to start, with seabass and pheasant chasing up the rear. The scallops arrived on a chic black slate with a generous sweep of smooth and mellow sweet potato puree. A delicate jus with pancetta chunks brought the dish to life. My crab thermidor was very tasty. The mash and parmesan topping was a winning combination. The side salad, however, was a little underdressed for the occasion.

The seabass dish looked very appetising. Generous portions displayed with pride on clean, white plates was clearly the order of the day.

Accompanying the seabass was a slightly odd combination of cranberry, pinenuts, spinach and pesto potatoes which proved to be quite the taste sensation.

My pheasant came expertly wrapped in pancetta. A delicious tower of dauphinoise potatoes came crashing down, and the wholegrain mustard sauce complemented the earthy

meat a treat. Despite feeling more than satisfied with all we'd eaten, I couldn't resist a 'light' dessert. Creme brulee is my achilles heel, and I feel I owe it to the world to try it pretty much everywhere I go. I wasn't disappointed. With its delicate vanilla cream hidden under a perfect thickness of caramel crunch, it fared extremely well when it came to the spoon-tap test! And as if we needed reminding that everything was homemade, locally sourced and fresh, the accompanying shortbread was incredible! A trip to The Shrew is not high-end dining. However, if you want choice, value for money and homemade gastro nosh in great surroundings (plus amazing shortbread!), get your table booked. This Shrew has most definitely been tamed.

Cari Ward

Food:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Service:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Ambience:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Overall value	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
<b>OVERALL</b>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**The Shrewsbury Arms**  
High Street  
Albrighton  
WV7 3LA  
Tel: 01902 373003



# Restaurant LISTINGS

For full listing information on restaurants, including opening times and type of cuisine, visit: [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Black Country

**ARBOUR LIGHTS** 127-128 Lichfield Street, Walsall WS1 1SY 01922 613361  
**BANKS BISTRO** Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton WV1 4EP 01902 238433  
**BELLA** 82 Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton. 01902 427555  
**BENGAL FUSION** 174 High St, Lye, Stourbridge DY9 8LN. 01384 891111  
**BILASH** 2 Cheapside, Wolverhampton, WV1 1TU 01902 427762  
**THE BLUE BRICK** Broad Gauge Way, Wolverhampton WV1 1AA 01902 875301  
**BRAVACCIOUS** 4 Upper Green, Wolverhampton WV6 8QQ 01902 756052  
**CAFE CHAMPAGNE** 253-255 Bilston Road, Wolverhampton WV2 2JN 01902 458024  
**CASA CASITA** Upper Gornal, Dudley. DY3 1UP 01902 676754  
**CATELLANI'S** 6 School St, Wolverhampton, WV1 4LR 01902 428928  
**CINNAMON COURT** Bentley Mill Way, Walsall WS2 0BP 0121 568 6664  
**THE COWSHED** Clive Farm Clive Rd, Pattingham, WV6 7EN 01902 701888  
**THE CROOKED HOUSE** Coppice Hill, Himley DY3 4DA 01384 238583  
**THE DITCH** 1 Town Hill, Walsall, WS1 2EU 01922 643215  
**DON SALVO** 25 Darlington Street, Wolverhampton WV1 4HW 01902 712819  
**DUNSLEY HALL** Dunsley Rd, Kinver, DY7 6LU 01384 877077  
**FARADAYS** The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, Dudley, DY5 1UR 01384 482 882  
**FIVE RIVERS** Vicarage Place, Walsall WS1 3NA 01922 646164

**FOUR STONES** Adam's Hill, Clint, Stourbridge, DY9 9PS 01562 883260  
**FRANZLS** 151 Milcote Rd, Smethwick, B67 5BN 0121 429 7920  
**FRENCH CONNECTION** 3 Coventry St, Stourbridge DY8 1EP 01384 390940  
**FRENCH HEN** Bromsgrove Rd, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9PY 01562 883040  
**GOLDEN MOMENTS** 2-3 Ablewell St, Walsall WS1 2EQ 01922 640363  
**THE HUNGRY BISTRO** 81 Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1EQ 01902 546336  
**LE BRASSERIE** 5 Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster. DY11 6UU 01562 744976  
**MADE IN THAI** Darlington St, Wolverhampton WV1 4HW 01902 312512  
**PARADISE BALTI** 7 Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster DY11 6UU 01562 60479  
**THE PIE FACTORY** 50 Hurst Lane, Tipton DY4 9AB 0121 557 1402  
**RED FORT** Fold St, Wolverhampton, WV1 4LP 01902 424440  
**RISTORANTE ROMAGNA** 4 Upper Green, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton WV6 8QQ 01902 756052  
**SAFFRON** Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury B69 4RR 0121 552 1752  
**SIMON'S** 520 Chester Rd, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0PU 0121 580 9293  
**SPICES** Hollywell Rd, Wednesbury. WS10 7PA 0121 502 0720  
**THE SPRINGHILL** Warstones Rd, Penn, Wolverhampton WV4 4LB 01902 342530  
**THE SUMMERHOUSE** 92 Gospel End Rd, Dudley DY3 4AN 01902 676 102  
**THORNECROFT** Bridgnorth Rd, Wolverhampton, WV6 7EQ 01902 700 253  
**THE WOODMAN** Claverley, Wolverhampton WV5 7DG 01746 710 553

## Shropshire

**AFTAB** 25 High St, Ironbridge TF8 7AD 01952 432055  
**ALBRIGHT HUSSEY** Ellesmere Rd, Shrewsbury, SY4 3AF 01939 290 523  
**BISTRO JACQUES** 77/77a Mardol, Shrewsbury SY1 1PZ 01743 272586  
**BUTLERS** Park St, Shifnal, TF11 9BA 01952 460128  
**CASA NARANJO** Barracks Passage, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 01743 588165  
**CASA RUIZ** 45 High Street, Bridgnorth, WV16 4DX 01746 218 084  
**CHEZ MAW** Best Western Valley Hotel, Buildwas Rd, Ironbridge, TF8 7DW 01952 432247  
**THE COTTAGE** Tern Hill, Market Drayton TF9 3PX 01630 638984  
**CROMWELLS** 11 Dogpole, Shrewsbury SY1 1EN 01743 361440  
**DA VINCI'S** 26 High St, Ironbridge, TF8 7AD 01952 432250  
**DORRINGTON OLD HALL** PERSIAN CUISINE Main Road, Dorington, Shropshire SY5 7JD 01743 719100  
**DRAPERS** 10 St Mary's St Shrewsbury, SY1 1DZ 01743 346679  
**THE FEATHERS** Brockton, Much Wenlock TF13 6JR 01746 785202  
**FENNELS** 8 Market Place, Shifnal TF11 9AZ 01952 463020  
**THE FOX INN** 46 High St, Much Wenlock TF13 6AD 01952 727292  
**FRANK CAFE BAR** 129 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8JX 01743 354422  
**THE GOLDEN CROSS** 14 Princess St, Shrewsbury, SY1 1LP 01743 362507  
**GRANARY BAR & GRILL** Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Nr Shifnal, TF11 8LE 01952 852107  
**THE GLUTTON CLUB** 165-167 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8LG 01743 361672  
**HADLEY PARK HOUSE** Hadley Park, Telford TF1 6QJ 01952 677269  
**HAVANA REPUBLIC** 18 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6AE 01743 281744  
**THE HAYWARDS** at The Lion Hotel, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1UY 01743 353107  
**HENRY TUDOR HOUSE** Barracks Passage Shrewsbury SY1 1XA 01743 361666  
**HILL VALLEY HOTEL** Tarporley Road, Whitchurch SY13 4HA 0844 879 9049  
**THE INN AT GRINSHILL** The High Street, Grinshill, Shrewsbury, SY4 3BL 01939 220410  
**KING & THAI** Avenue Rd, Broseley, Telford TF12 5DL 01952 882004  
**THE KNIGHTON HOTEL** Broad Street, Knighton, Powys LD7 1BL 01547 520530  
**LA DOLCE VITA** 35 Hills Lane, Shrewsbury SY1 1QU 01743 249126  
**LA LANTERNA** The Old Vestry, St Julian's Church, Shrewsbury SY1 1UH 01743 233552  
**LION & PHEASANT** 50 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1XJ 01743 770345  
**THE LION QUAYS** Moreton, Oswestry SY11 3EN 01691 684300  
**LOCH FYN** Talbot House, Market Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1LG 01743 277140  
**LUDLOW KITCHEN** Bromfield, Ludlow, SY2 2JR 01584 856020  
**THE MALTHOUSE** The Wharfage, Ironbridge TF8 7NH 01902 433712  
**MOMO-NO-KI** T19 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE 01743 281770  
**MORGANS** 1 Bellstone, Shrewsbury SY1 1HU 01743 231199  
**MR UNDERHILLS** Dinham Weir, Ludlow Shropshire SY8 1EH 01584 874431  
**THE MYTTON & MERMAID** Atcham, Shrewsbury, SY5 6QG 01743 761220  
**THE OLD ORLETON INN** Holyhead Rd, Wellington, TF1 2HA 01952 255011  
**THE OLD RECTORY HOTEL & RESTAURANT** Lowe Hill Road, Wern, Shropshire SY4 5UA 01939 233233  
**THE PEACH TREE** 21 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE 01743 355055  
**THE PLUME OF FEATHERS** Harley, Shrewsbury SY5 6LP 01743 727360  
**PORTER HOUSE** 15 St Mary's St, Shrewsbury, SY1 1EQ 01743 358870  
**THE POUND AT LEEBOT-WOOD** Leebotwood, Nr Church Stretton SY6 6ND 01694 751477  
**RENAISSANCE**, 29a Princess St, Shrewsbury, SY11LW 01743 354289  
**ROMOLO** Victoria Avenue, shrewsbury SY1 1HH 01743 233244  
**SARACENS** Shrewsbury Rd, SY4 4AG 01939 210877  
**SEBASTIANS** 45 Willow St, Oswestry SY11 1AQ 01691 655444  
**SHALIMAR** 23 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6AE 01743 366658  
**SHERAZ** 79 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1UT 01743 242321  
**THE SILVERTON** the Old Dairy, 9-10 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8JY 01743 248000  
**TIN TINS** Wellington Road, Telford TF2 8AJ 01952 608688  
**THE WALLS** Welsh Walls, Oswestry SY11 1AW 01691 670970  
**ZIZZI RISTORANTE** 39-40 High Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1SF 01743 353232



The Townhouse, Oswestry, North Shropshire

Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE 01743 355055  
**THE PLUME OF FEATHERS** Harley, Shrewsbury SY5 6LP 01743 727360  
**PORTER HOUSE** 15 St Mary's St, Shrewsbury, SY1 1EQ 01743 358870  
**THE POUND AT LEEBOT-WOOD** Leebotwood, Nr Church Stretton SY6 6ND 01694 751477  
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**TIN TINS** Wellington Road, Telford TF2 8AJ 01952 608688  
**THE WALLS** Welsh Walls, Oswestry SY11 1AW 01691 670970  
**ZIZZI RISTORANTE** 39-40 High Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1SF 01743 353232

ST16 2HY 01785 253279  
**ESSENCE OF THE ORIENT** 27 Broad Eye, Stafford ST16 2QB 01785 229988  
**FOUR SEASONS** Swinfen Hall Lichfield, WS14 9RE 01543 481494  
**THE GREEN ROOM** Castle Dyke, Lichfield WS13 6HR 01543 412121  
**INDIAN VILLAGE** 8 Lombard St, Lichfield. WS13 6DR 01543 253415  
**INDICA** Virage Park, Cannock. WS11 0HN 08712 070417  
**LA DOLCE VITA** 19 Stafford St, Stone ST15 8QW 01785 817 985  
**THE LODGE** 24 Birmingham Road, Shenstone. WS14 0LQ 01543 483334  
**MALABAR** 1-2 Water Street, Stafford, ST16 2AG 01785 227 500/600  
**MARLOES** 13 London Road, Newcastle under Lyme, ST4 1LQ 01782 661983  
**THE MILL** 1 Mill St, Stone, ST15 8BA 01785 818456  
**THE NAVIGATION INN** Newport Road, Gnosall, Stafford ST20 0BN 01785 822327  
**OLD VICARAGE** 2 Main St, Branston, Burton, DE14 3EX 01283 533222  
**PASCAL AT THE OLD VIC-ARAGE** 2 Main Street, Branston, Burton-upon-Tren 01283 533222  
**PASTICHE BISTRO** 1 - 2 Mill Street, Stafford, ST16 2AJ 01782 263 737  
**THE PEAR TREE** Swinfen, Nr. Lichfield, WS14 9QR 01543 481807  
**PORTOFINO** 38-40 Marsh St Stoke-On-Trent, ST1 1JD 01782 209444  
**THE RED ROOM** 7 Newcastle Road, Congleton CW12 4HN 01260 297871  
**THORNBURY HALL, RASOI** Lockwood Rd, Kingsley Holt, Stafford ST10 2DH 01538 750831  
**WOLSELEY ARMS** Wolseley Bridge, Stafford ST17 0XS 01889 883179

## Staffordshire

**NO 5** Gaol Mews, Stafford ST16 3AN 01785 22 9900  
**95 HIGH GREEN** Cannock. WS11 1BH 01543 573905  
**1709 THE BASSERIE** 3-5 Lombard St, Lichfield. WS13 6DP 01543 257986  
**BELLA ITALIA** 20 Greengate St, Stafford, ST16 2HS 01785 211968  
**CHANDLERS** Corn Exchange, Conduit St, Lichfield, WS13 6JU 01543 416688  
**THE CORNER HOUSE** Second Avenue, Burton-On-Trent DE14 2WF 01283 542321  
**CURRY KUTEER** 31 Greengate Street, Stafford

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SAT 14 FEB



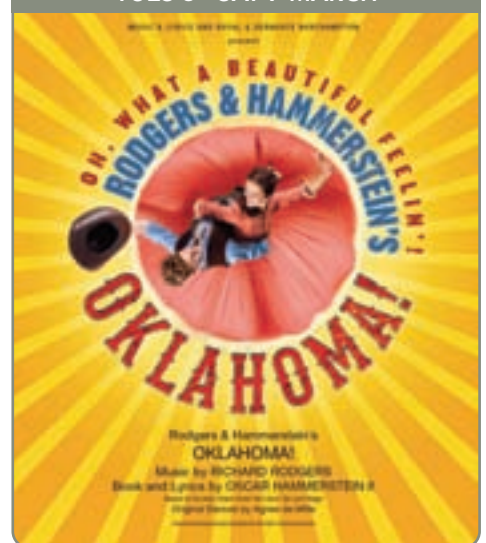
THU 26 - SAT 28 FEB



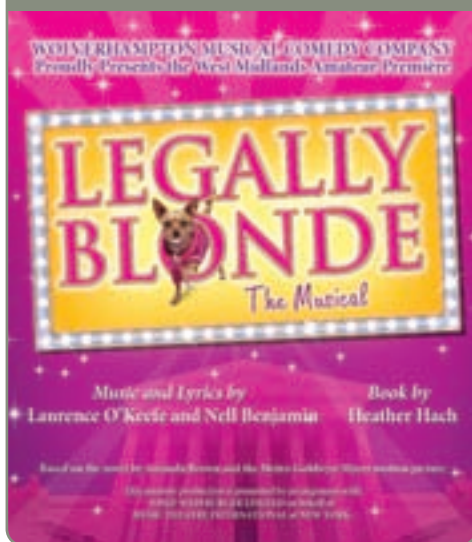
SUN 1 MARCH



TUES 3 - SAT 7 MARCH



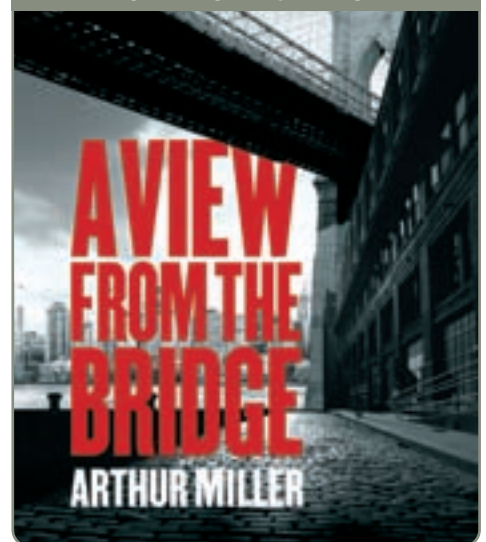
TUES 10 - SAT 14 MARCH



TUES 17 - SAT 21 MARCH



TUE 24 - SAT 28 MARCH



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