

THE MIDLANDS ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

WARWICKSHIRE

# What's On

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**MARK  
BENTON**  
INTERVIEW INSIDE

INSIDE

**Vicky Entwistle**

leaves the cobbled stones of  
Coronation Street behind her...

interview inside

**Joshua Jenkins**

on playing the lead in  
The Curious Incident of The  
Dog In The Night-Time

interview inside

A large, full-page photograph of Al Murray. He is wearing a bright red blazer over a white shirt and a blue and white striped tie. He has a surprised or excited expression on his face, with wide eyes and an open mouth. A small crest is visible on his left breast pocket.

# AL MURRAY

Pub landlord under the spotlight

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# May 2015

## Editor:

**Davina Evans**  
davina@whatsonlive.co.uk  
01743 281708

## Editorial Assistants:

**Brian O'Faolain**  
brian@whatsonlive.co.uk  
01743 281701

**Lauren Foster**  
lauren@whatsonlive.co.uk  
01743 281707

**Adrian Parker**  
adrian.parker@whatsonlive.co.uk  
01743 281714

**Jamie Ryan**  
jamie@whatsonlive.co.uk  
01743 281720

## Sales & Marketing:

**Lei Woodhouse**  
lei@whatsonlive.co.uk  
01743 281703

**Chris Horton**  
chris@whatsonlive.co.uk  
01743 281704

## Subscriptions:

**Adrian Parker**  
adrian.parker@whatsonlive.co.uk  
01743 281714

## Managing Director:

**Paul Oliver**  
paul@whatsonlive.co.uk  
01743 281711

## Publisher and CEO:

**Martin Monahan**  
martin@whatsonlive.co.uk  
01743 281710

## Graphic Designers:

**Lisa Wassell**  
**Chris Atherton**

## Accounts Administrator

**Julia Perry**  
julia@whatsonlive.co.uk  
01743 281717

## Contributors:

Graham Bostock: Theatre  
James Cameron-Wilson:  
Film; Eva Easthope,  
Jessica Aston, Patsy  
Moss, Jack Rolfe, Jan  
Watts, Simon Carter

## Head Office:

13-14 Abbey Foregate,  
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE  
Tel: 01743 281777  
e-mail: info@whatsonlive.co.uk



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**What's On**  
MAGAZINE GROUP



Joshua Jenkins talks about playing the lead in the National Theatre's  
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## New dance venue for Brum

The Birmingham-based ACE dance and music this month launches its newly refurbished dance studio and performance venue.

Located in the Digbeth area of the city, ACE SPACE will provide the company with an opportunity to expand its existing programme, secure additional trading income via hires, and add to Birmingham's growing stock of high-spec rehearsal spaces and venues.

Founded in 1996, ACE dance and music skilfully combines African and Caribbean movement aesthetics with contemporary techniques to create high-quality innovative performance work.

Commenting on ACE SPACE, ACE's founder and Artistic Director, Gail Parmel, said: "It's been ACE dance and music's long-term ambition to build a multi-purpose space.

After several years of dedicated fundraising, we've finally managed to achieve our goal. At ACE SPACE we can run our extensive education programme, offer rehearsal and performance space to visiting companies, develop and rehearse our own work and perform to invited audiences."

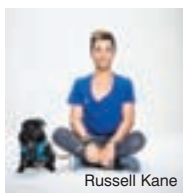


## Comedy line-up announced for V Festival

Scottish comedian Frankie Boyle and Essex funnyman Russell Kane will headline The Glee Club Comedy Tent at this year's V Festival, which takes place at Weston Park on the Shropshire/Staffordshire border on 22 & 23 August.

Commenting on the gig, Russell Kane said: "I can't believe I'm headlining the V Festival Glee Club Comedy Tent! I'll celebrate afterwards by heading straight to the dance tent and throwing myself around to techno music like a tribal chief beating a drum."

Fellow comedians Seann Walsh, Shappi Khorsandi, Nick Helm and Gary Delaney also feature in the Comedy Tent line-up.



Russell Kane

## Black Country Baby...

A Midlands actress who recently graduated from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts has joined the cast of Eleanor Bergstein's record-breaking touring version of Dirty



King Charles III

## Diverse new season at The REP

Mike Bartlett's Olivier Award-winning King Charles III opens Birmingham Repertory Theatre's autumn/winter season. Co-produced by The REP and the Almeida Theatre and directed by Rupert Goold, the production 'explores the people underneath the crowns, the unwritten rules of democracy, and the conscience of Britain's most famous family'. King Charles III shows from 4 to 19 September and kick-starts a season of diverse theatre at The REP. Kneehigh Theatre's Dead Dog In A Suitcase (And Other Love Songs) (29 September to 3 October) and Meera Syal's Anita And Me (9 to 24 October) are other early-autumn shows being presented at the venue. Maxine Peake's critically acclaimed Beryl, meanwhile, celebrates the life of unsung sporting 'legend' Beryl Burton, who cycled her way into the record books. The production runs from 24 to 28 November. Other highlights include William Golding's Lord Of The Flies (3 to 7 November) and the return of The REP's acclaimed version of John Steinbeck's Of Mice And Men (4 to 13 February), directed by Roxana Silbert. The venue's Christmas show is the timeless tale of The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe (19 November to 16 January). For details on all new season shows, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk).

Dancing. Black Country-born Jessie Hart is currently playing the lead role of Baby Houseman in the show, which runs at the Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday 23 May. "Birmingham Hippodrome was where I saw the first show I can remember," reveals Jess. "I saw Miss Saigon there with all my family when I was about eleven. It was my favourite ever show and I'll never forget it. It's crazy to think my run of the tour, playing the leading role of Baby, opens on that same stage."

Jessie stars opposite Lewis Kirk, who plays Johnny Castle.

## BCMG up for prestigious award

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG) is celebrating after its recent nomination for a prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society (RPS) Music Award.

The ensemble has been nominated for its

mass-participation performance, Crowd Out, which was presented in the glass atrium at Millennium Point last summer by one thousand Birmingham residents.

The performance, which featured people singing, yelling, talking, shouting and whispering, was composed by Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer David Lang. BCMG produced the show, with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's Simon Halsey directing.

This year's RPS Music Awards winners will be announced at a ceremony on Tuesday 5 May. A special programme about the Awards will then be broadcast on BBC Radio Three on Monday 11 May at 7.30pm.





## Nashville legends in Brum

The legendary Fisk Jubilee Singers are this month appearing at Birmingham Town Hall (23 and 24 May), the only UK dates on their current tour. The Singers were originally formed in 1866 from a group of ex-slave music students at the Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. The 24 May concert sees the ensemble joined on stage by Black Voices, the UK's leading female a cappella quintet, to perform a song especially written for the occasion by composer Ken Burton.



## Buccaneers and buried gold at The Old Rep

Birmingham Ormiston Academy (BOA) has announced Treasure Island as its first Christmas offering at the city's Old Rep Theatre. The classic tale of Long John Silver and Jim Hawkins shows at the venue from 20 November to 3 January. The production will be directed and produced by Scott Ritchie, who will also be directing Malvern Festival Theatre's Christmas production of Peter Pan. Tickets for Treasure Island are now available from the Old Rep box office on 0121 359 9444



## Food Festival welcomes new venues

The Colmore Food Festival, which showcases the food and drink available in Birmingham's Colmore Business District (CBD), is returning to the city's Victoria Square for a fifth year on 3 and 4 July. As well as live cookery demonstrations and food tastings, the event also hosts a programme of live jazz music and outdoor theatre. This year's get-together features three new independent CBD-based venues, as well as the return of some of the district's finest eating and drinking establishments.



## Mica Paris to star in new musical

Award-winning singer and platinum-selling artist Mica Paris is to star as Sylvia in the UK and Ireland tour of Love Me Tender - a new musical inspired by and featuring the music of Elvis Presley.

Penned by Tony Award-winner Joe DiPietro, of Memphis The Musical fame, the show is described as 'a funny and moving tale of hope, second chances and the healing qualities of rock'n'roll'. Further casting is yet to be announced.

Love Me Tender shows at Stoke's Regent Theatre from 29 June to 4 July and Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from 24 to 29 August.

### IN BRIEF

#### Kenilworth Show

Next month sees the return of the ever-popular Kenilworth Show at Stoneleigh Park. Now in its fifty-first year, the event promises a fun-filled and action-packed day out for all the family. Along with old favourites such as The Kangaroo Kid performing his quad bike stunts there's the classic car show, rural crafts and equestrian events. There are plenty of new attractions and stands at the show this year too. These include the gun dog scurry and trials, where dogs compete to retrieve a dummy in the fastest time. And if you fancy yourself a good shot, try the Have-A-Go Clay Shoot Air Rifle Shooting. Or if you're more of a Robin Hood or a Pocahontas, why not try your hand at archery? The Kenilworth Show takes place on Sat 6 June.

## Old Rep reveals new patron

Film star Brian Cox is the new patron of Birmingham's revitalised Old Rep Theatre.

Cox, whose movies include Troy and the Bourne trilogy, has taken the role at the invitation of Birmingham Ormiston Academy (BOA), which took over the running of the premises last year. The academy's students are responsible for the complete running of the theatre - both on stage and behind the scenes - allowing them to develop a combination of performance, administrative and technical theatre skills.

Cox's connection to the venue stretches back to the 1960s, when he spent two years with the then-named Birmingham Repertory Theatre company.

Commenting on his new role, Brian said: "I have very fond memories of my time here at the Old Rep Theatre, which was a fantastic starting point for me. My love for the theatre is something I've carried with me throughout my career, and I have no doubt that these students will do the same."

"BOA has provided some of the country's most talented young people with a unique stepping stone to utilise such a fantastic stage, and I look forward to seeing them go on to achieve very successful careers."

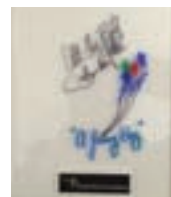
## Doodle-tastic in Stourbridge

Doodles by award-winning actress Emma Thompson, the Midlands' own Lenny Henry and music legends Frankie Valli and Tony Hadley are to be immortalised in glass and displayed at this month's International Glass Festival in Stourbridge.

Each celebrity was asked to create an original drawing on an acrylic sheet. The drawing was then translated into a piece of glass art, with the method and style used being decided by the artist working on the project.

The first to be completed, by Broadfield House artist Allister Malcolm, is Franki Valli's doodle of three brightly coloured kites.

The International Glass Festival takes place from 28 to 31 May. For further information on exhibitions, events and workshops, visit [www.ifg.org.uk](http://www.ifg.org.uk)



# Mark Benton

takes to solving crime on the French Riviera

**Roles in Early Doors, Northern Lights, Waterloo Road and Catterick have ensured that Mark Benton is a familiar face on television. Having donned a dress and heels to play Edna Turnblad in the 2012 tour of Hairspray, Mark is this month returning to the stage in the touring production of West End hit Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. What's On recently caught up with him to find out more...**

**Explain the role of Inspector Andre, Mark - the character you play in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels - and give us an idea of what the show is about...**

It's about a couple of conmen who have a bet to get some money out of this lady. My character is the sidekick of Lawrence, one of the two conmen, and he falls for one of the ladies who he's trying to con. It's kind of a comedy love story but that's all I'm giving away. You'll have to come and see the show.

**The film was a 1988 remake of 1964's Bedtime Story with David Niven and Marlon Brando. Now the 1988 remake's been adapted for the stage. Which elements of the story have ensured its popularity with different generations of audience?**

It's such a big, fun piece. There are great songs in it and big numbers, but also the structure's really funny. I think it really appealed to me because it's almost like a comedy with songs.

**If you weren't playing Andre, which role would appeal to you the most - Lawrence Jameson or Freddy Benson?**

I think Freddy because he's a slob. He's a mess, and that would be right up my street. But I'm happy playing Andre. He's got so many fun lines. He's dry and French...

**So how's the French accent going?**

It's kind of a work in progress. I'm trying to get a cross between Inspector Clouseau and Arsene Wenger.

**Moving away from Dirty Rotten Scoundrels to focus on you; you grew up in Teeside in the mid-1960s - a long way away, I'd imagine, from any showbiz glamour. So what made you decide to become an actor?**

My uncle's an actor, and I wanted to be like him. That inspired me to do as many local plays and as much am-dram as I could get into. I went to technical college to do a drama course, and I guess I always wanted to be either an actor or in a band. I went to drama school when I was eighteen, then applied to RADA when I was twenty and moved to London.

**What were your initial expectations of RADA?**

It was much better than I'd expected. I was worried because I thought there were going

to be all these posh kids and I'd be the odd one out, and that I wasn't going to understand what was going on because I was this lad from the sticks. Actually it was nothing like I expected. It was lovely, and our year was a real mix of people from all walks of life. It was a real eye-opener and it changed my life forever. Some of the people who I met then remain my best friends today. I've done quite a lot of weird things throughout my career that I never imagined I'd do, but I've ended up doing them nonetheless. I've really enjoyed the variety.

**You recently faired pretty well on Strictly Come Dancing. Were you game from the word go, or did you have to be persuaded that you'd enjoy the experience?**

I wasn't game. I'd always said I wouldn't do a reality show. I talked to the guys from Strictly and was adamant that I wasn't going to do it, but I still decided to meet them. I thought about it again, and the one thing that's different about Strictly is that you've got to learn a skill. It's not about sitting in a room chatting. And I do enjoy dancing, so I thought 'what the hell?' As an actor, you worry about your credibility, but it's one of the few Reality TV shows that doesn't harm that, because people see it for what it is. The people who I thought would be the most critical about me doing it turned out to be the least critical.

**You made it through to the eleventh show. Were you surprised by how well you did?**

Very surprised. I damaged my knees on week two of the rehearsals and had to see a surgeon, who pumped some steroids into me and said, "You might make a week or two but remain philosophical". I guess I relied on my acting ability because I couldn't to certain things due to the knee. I hate to use the 'journey' word, but it was a journey for both me and my dance partner, Evetta. She had to choreograph around my limitations. I was in a lot of pain a lot of the time, but I look back on it as a really lovely experience.

**You also starred as Edna Turnblad in Hairspray. How did you enjoy the experience of performing in drag - was it a more difficult challenge than you'd imagined it would be?**

I was doing Waterloo Road at the time and the offer just came out of the blue. I just jumped in because I thought I was getting a little bit stale. I'd been doing Waterloo Road for two years and fancied doing something different - and you can't get anything more

diverse than Hairspray and Waterloo Road! I really enjoyed the experience. It was great dragging up and a really iconic part. It was brilliant fun and I could've carried on doing it.

**Your big break came playing Ricky in Career Girls, a 1997 film by Mike Leigh, who's famously known for using lengthy improvisations - developed over a period of weeks - to build characters and storylines for his films. How did you find the experience of working with him?**

Amazing. He's a genius, and I would jump at the chance to work with him again. The thing I found with Mike is not necessarily that he taught me how to act but more that if you start with the truth of a character, you can go anywhere. I knew my character inside out because of all the months of hard work we'd put in, so I was able to say 'Ricky wouldn't do that' and actually be qualified to say so, because I knew him so well.

**And did he give you a lot of freedom to develop Ricky?**

He develops it with you. He'll maybe steer you in a certain direction but it's very collaborative. I never saw a script but I knew my lines better than when I've learned with a script.

**Talking of freedom, how much were you given when developing the role of Eddie in Early Doors?**

That was great fun. When I initially met Craig and everybody for Early Doors, I was going for the role of the policeman, but it didn't work out. I knew the director because he'd directed me in The Second Coming. I told him Eddie was my favourite, and he said to come back in and audition for him. So I read for Eddie and this character came out of nowhere. Obviously all of the lines are Craig and Phil's, but all of Eddie's moves, the way he uses his hands and everything, just came out of nowhere and continued to develop throughout the series. We all had such a laugh making Early Doors. There's an episode, the last of Series One, where we all go on the Big Boys Beano. We're having breakfast and James McAvoy starts choking on his cigar smoke. We're proper laughing, and so they kept it in. I just love that scene.

**What's your criteria for accepting roles and has it changed over the years?**

I think it's very hard to say what it is. I've done jobs in the past where I've maybe only done one or two scenes, but there's been



something in the character that's really made me want to do it. I think sometimes it's not about playing the biggest part but more about wanting to play a part because it's different from me. It has to be something that will challenge me - and there has to be something in it that I've never done before, like with *Strictly*. I didn't know whether I could do it but I gave it a go. It was the same when I first took on *Hairspray*. I was excited because it was a challenge and I didn't know whether I could do it.

**If we were to ask either of your teenage children which of your roles they thought was the 'coolest', what do you think they'd say?**

They're just proud of me whatever I do - but if I was to ask my youngest, she'd probably say *Hairspray* or *Hobson's Choice*. My oldest would probably say *Catterick*, which I did with Vic and Bob. There's kind of a whole spectrum there, really.

**You've displayed great versatility throughout your career, playing both dramatic and comedic roles. Which of the two do you find the most challenging and why?**

I don't necessarily think it's about whether

serious drama or comedy is harder. It's down to the individual part. Sometimes I've done a comedy - like *Early Doors*, *Catterick* or *Northern Lights* - where it's easy because it's all there in the writing and it just flows. Other times you have to do comedy where it's not quite right and you really have to work on it. It's the same with drama, so I don't think it's down to the genre.

**If you could choose any one character to revive in the future, who would it be?**

I'd love to do Eddie Bell again from *Early Doors* and Mark from *Catterick*. I'd also love to do *Northern Lights*, so that me and Robson could get together again. There's so many, I couldn't possibly name them all.

**It's been ten years now since *Early Doors*, is there a possibility that we might see Eddie again?**

I don't know. We'd love to. I know that James McAvoy and everybody would be up for doing it again. It was one of those programmes where you can't wait to go to work every day. We were in the pub together all of the time, laughing and joking and learning our script. It was just a very special job. All I can say is that I hope we get to do it again. As the years go by, it kind of gets less

likely - but never say never...

**What's on the cards post-*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*?**

I'm also doing a film at the moment called *The Eagle*. It's about Eddie The Eagle and we're filming that alongside rehearsals for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. I rehearse for a couple of days and then go off and film for a couple of days, so it's a bit busy at the moment.

**Who do you play in the film?**

I'm the sidekick to the head of the British Olympic Association. We're a couple of baddies who try and stop Eddie from competing because we sort of see him as an embarrassment. It's a great film and real fun to do.

**Finally, have you ever questioned your career choice?**

I do feel really blessed to have had the career that I've had. I've worked really hard at trying not to get bitter about the whole business. Acting is tough, and you're constantly dealing with rejection, so I feel very blessed that I've been able to do so many diverse things. I wouldn't change any of it.

*“I've done quite a lot of weird things throughout my career that I never imagined I'd do, but I've ended up doing them nonetheless.”*

Mark Benton stars in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* at **New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham** from Mon 5 to Sat 16 May and **Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent** from Tues 28 July to Sat 1 August





interview

# Vicky Entwistle

leaves the cobbled stones  
of Corrie behind her...



**Best known to TV viewers as Coronation Street's Janice Battersby, Vicky Entwistle waved a fond farewell to Weatherfield's cobbled streets in order to pursue a career on the stage. After a successful stint as Madame Thénardier in the West End production of Les Misérables, Vicky is this month visiting the Midlands to play Mari in a new staging of Jim Cartwright's hit musical, The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice. What's On recently caught up with her to find out more...**

**Mari is a huge role and a physically demanding one. What coping strategies are you putting into place to deal with this?**

It's still early days but I'm trying to work my way through it. Mari's not an athlete and she's not a slim woman - so if I get hot and bothered, that's exactly what she'd do too. So I'm not particularly worried about it.

**Are there many similarities between Janice Battersby and Mari?**

I don't think they're alike at all. For a start, they're from a different era. Mari, although she might look trashy, thinks she's glamorous. She really makes an effort - and she's a lot more fun than Janice. Mari's a bit of a dreamer and is into her men. I guess she's a promiscuous, fun-loving party girl, whereas Janice is more of a realist and quite dour. They both work in a factory, but that's probably where the similarity ends. Well, it certainly will be the way I'm intending to play it, because I don't want her to be anything like Janice. I'm trying to break that mould. I don't think you should play a part and have it trap you forever. That's why I'm doing lots of different theatre. Every part is different from the one I've just played. Otherwise there's no point in doing it. I might as well have stayed in Corrie.

**You certainly proved there's more to you than Janice Battersby when you played Madame Thénardier in Les Misérables in the West End. How was that experience?**

It was great, but I felt a bit like Granny Grumble because I was probably the oldest cast member - me and Cameron Blakeley, who played Thénardier. I see it as another string to my bow.

**Was wanting to progress as an actor your only reason for deciding to leave Corrie?**

I wanted to challenge myself and put myself into positions, parts, situations and roles that were going to test me; ones which I'm going to learn from.

I want to break down barriers and move out of my comfort zone. Being in Les Misérables did that for me because I'm not a singer. I didn't train as a singer, but Cameron Mackintosh paid for me to have lessons and that gave me the confidence I needed. Just because I'm not a singer shouldn't mean that I can't play this amazing woman, so I just played to the woman and didn't think about the singing.

**Did the outcome surprise you?**

Yeah, I suppose it did. I don't think I could do opera somehow, but it certainly doesn't have the same fear for me now. I think that's what it's all about. When I left Corrie, I went to drama centre and then went on to play a part that was very close to me - a northern girl who worked in a factory. Now I'm having fun because I'm getting to put into practice what I was taught for three years.

**So how did your role as Janice Battersby come about?**

I was doing a play with Jill Halfpenny called Like A Virgin and the casting director from Corrie came to see it and offered me an episode. I was told to just come in and play a factory girl. I didn't get wardrobe, costumes and wigs - or even time to think about the character - because as far as I was concerned it was just a single episode. They asked me if I wanted to do a few more episodes, then a few more, and then they said they were writing this family around me. So before I knew it I was playing Janice as this factory girl. I might have made different decisions had I been allowed the luxury of creating the character myself. It was flattering, but at the same time I was always trapped into what I'd done with those first few lines.

**You've been back and forth a few times.**

**Why did you make the conscious decision to leave?**

The time goes so quickly. I was in it for fourteen years but it only seemed like seven. When I got to forty I thought, if I don't move now then I'm never going to play the eleven women who I want to play.

**Who are the eleven?**

I couldn't say, other than that I've played two of them already, Mari included. They're all very different and that's why I want to play them.

**Your tag line on Twitter is 'drink life while it's still fizzy'. So is your glass half empty or half full?**

Leaving a big institution like Coronation Street has taught me to embrace every opportunity that comes my way. What can be achieved is quite special when you work hard.

**How do you feel about again appearing opposite Chris Gascoyne, who played Peter Barlow in Corrie?**

It makes it a lot better. We came to the meetings about the roles with absolutely no idea what the other one was doing. We knew nothing until we were cast, but we were both ecstatic. Out of all the people I worked with on Corrie, Chris was one of the ones who made

me think, 'Yeah that's a proper actor'.

I'm so glad I'm going to be working with him because we just get each other. We have a real friendship anyway, so it's really easy. The only thing that I'd say is that we're a little bit daunted by having to snog each other's face off. He played my son-in-law for a couple of years, so that's going to be a bit odd - but he's a good-looking lad so I'm sure I'll get over it.

**Can you see Janice treading the cobbled streets of Corrie again?**

I'm not thinking that way. It was brilliant while it lasted and I had an absolute ball, but you can't keep going back. I remember it fondly and it was a great job, but the whole reason for wanting to fly was so that I could do other things. To return would go against what I'm trying to do. Sometimes it's quite hard to shake off a character, so by making a return you'd be back at square one. Every single role that I take on now seems to shake off a little bit more of Janice. I don't want to sound ungrateful because I had a great time on there, but I want to work with different people and different directors. As lovely as it is working constantly with the same company and directors, you end up knowing exactly how everybody is going to say their lines. You're very rarely surprised. I want to be surprised. I want to be kept on my toes and learning new things.

**The disciplines of working in TV and on stage are very different. What was the most difficult change to deal with?**

I'd done a lot of theatre jobs before I went into Corrie. I just had to learn how to tell stories which came from the character's mouth. On stage there's a lot more at stake. You only get one shot at it. You can't go again. I much prefer theatre because you get that instant reaction from the audience. I love that buzz and seeing the emotion that you can provoke. It's a really euphoric feeling that you don't get with television.

**Jim Cartwright has written Mari in a very particular way. Do you get much freedom in terms of how you portray her on stage?**

Jim's been brilliant. If I want to try something and it's not working then obviously we go down a different avenue. He's pretty much allowing me to have real fun with it. What I've discovered is yes, Mari's fun, childlike, demanding and loud, but she's also extremely damaged, vulnerable and insecure. Those moments when things don't go how she wants them to should be absolutely heartbreaking - and that's what I'm trying to achieve. It's a real rollercoaster ride of emotions, with Mari having these terrific highs where she behaves in a way that normal people wouldn't. She's off the scale and then, when she crashes, she becomes so volatile. You really don't know what you're going to get from her, which makes it a really exciting role to play.

Vicky Entwistle stars in The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice at **The REP, Birmingham** from Fri 15 to Sat 30 May



# Joshua Jenkins

on playing the lead in the National Theatre's  
The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night Time



**Simon Stephens' National Theatre adaptation of Mark Haddon's novel, *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time*, has been doing fantastic business both in the West End and on tour. It's also making a star of Swansea-born Joshua Jenkins, the twenty-seven-year-old actor who's currently starring as the show's main character, fifteen-year-old Christopher Boone. Joshua took time out from the role to chat with What's On...**

**How does playing Christopher measure up to previous roles you've undertaken?**

It's the best part I've ever played and could potentially be one of the best parts I'll ever play. It's such an amazing role in such a wonderful production. Christopher is on stage from start to finish. He's such a complex character - and that, combined with all the physical aspects of the show, makes for a fantastic mixture.

**Where did your research take you when you were preparing to play the character?**

It's never mentioned in the book or the play that Christopher is on the autistic spectrum, but I wanted to do as much research on the subject as I could. It's fair to say he possesses some of the traits and qualities of someone who's there. So I read endless amounts of books, looked at websites, documentaries and films. I also went to a school in north London to meet some of the pupils. They were very generous with their time, and I got to ask some questions. Once I'd done the research and I really felt I understood what autism and Asperger's were, I let that go a little bit and really tried to stay true to the book and Simon Stephens' adaptation.

**Were you familiar with Mark Haddon's novel prior to joining the cast at the National?**

Yes, I'd read it a few years before I auditioned for the play. I remember loving the novel but didn't think about it again until the audition came up. When I re-read it, I was reminded of just how brilliant it is. I think Simon Stephens has done a great job in terms of adapting it.

**As you mentioned, you're on stage all the time. How do you psych yourself up pre-performance?**

I do a really long physical and vocal warm-up, which takes about an hour. Then I just try to relax a little bit. I listen to music in my dressing room to take my mind away from the dread of going on stage in front of over a thousand people.

**As well as portraying someone on the autistic spectrum and being on stage for all that time, you also have to memorise where all the boxes are and what's in them. How do you do that?**

It's a very, very technical show, even in terms of the lighting and sound. The fact that Christopher never leaves the stage means half of my brain is focused on the acting and performance and the other half on the stage management aspect of the show - making sure I'm in the right spot for the right cue, and that I say the right line at the right time for the next cue. There's so much going on for whoever's playing Christopher. It's an awful lot to take in, so the only answer is to practise; to just keep doing it and doing it until it sticks.

**Have you ever pulled out the wrong box?**

Yes, when we were at the Lowry. I ran up to a cupboard, but I couldn't remember the order

that I had to open the boxes. There was nothing in there, so I just ran to the next one in the hope that there would be something there. That was only the first couple of times, but then I suppose it's the same as anything - the more you practise, the more you get it.

**Did you see the West End staging before joining the National Theatre?**

I really wanted to see it but never did. Then, when I got the part, I decided I didn't want to see it. I wanted to approach the rehearsal period with a fresh pair of eyes and put my own spin on it.

**Having seen Christopher in the West End and on tour, the difference in how the character is portrayed is very obvious. How much of that is down to what you've learned personally, and how much to the way you're being directed?**

I think every Christopher is going to be completely different because we're all different people playing the part. That's what's fun and exciting - but there's a lot of it that you're bringing to the table yourself. You bring an element of your own personality, which is the case with every part you play. There's a sense that you're joining a show that already exists, so there are certain things - like the blocking and the physical aspects of the show - that are already choreographed and remain the same. The director, Katy Rudd, really allowed us to find our own way and make it ours. We try to keep it fresh while at the same time making sure we stay within the choreography and set piece.

**Has the physical aspect of the show been a new challenge for you?**

Kind of. I did a little bit of dance when I was younger, and I used to tap dance - so I've always been comfortable physically. As an actor, I work from a physical point of view first. The physical aspect comes before the rest of the character. That said, even though I've always been comfortable in terms of working physically in theatre, this was a whole new challenge. We had a boot camp every morning - an hour of sit-ups, jogging, press-ups, boxing and weights - just to get fit for the show. The whole company and the whole ensemble were included. It was pretty intense but a great experience.

**We've talked about how you prepare, but how do you come down from that high when you leave the stage?**

It does take a little while, probably a couple of hours. Normally we try to go for a quiet drink or a bite to eat, then head off home. I find if I go straight home and straight to bed, I can't get to sleep until about 3 o'clock in the morning because I'm filled with adrenaline.

**There's a twelve-year age gap between you and Christopher. Have you had to dig into your younger self to play a fifteen-year-old?**

I tried to remember what I was like when I was fifteen - the energy and enthusiasm I had for things. I definitely had a 'get up and go' attitude, which I think Christopher's got as

well. But he's also very different to me, and to who I was when I was fifteen. He's a very special boy and a brilliant, brilliant character. In many ways I wish I'd been more like him at that age.

**Do you have any personal experiences which have helped you relate to the bond between Christopher and Siobhan?**

Yeah, I feel I've been really blessed with brilliant teachers, especially when I went to college in South Wales. I had a couple of teachers there who were really supportive and really went out of their way to make sure I could pursue the career I wanted to pursue. They really helped and guided me and are still my friends today.

**Have they been to see you in *Curious Incident*, and did that make you nervous?**

Yes, a bit. I'm from Swansea and so when I played Cardiff, I had family and friends in every single night. It was a bit of a stressful week for me - a bit full on.

**What's been your biggest learning curve with *Curious Incident*, and in terms of working as part of the National Theatre team?**

On this production it's the sense of the ensemble; of how important and powerful it can be when a group of people come together and work really closely and really hard. We've got a fantastic company of actors, a great creative team, and we've really put the hours in. As a company we've produced work we can all be really, really proud of. It just goes to show that when everybody comes together and everyone is supportive, you can produce some really great work.

**You mentioned earlier that this could be the biggest role you ever play. Did you ever imagine you'd be in such a huge production?**

Well, I think as an actor you hope that you'll get a part like this, and you always back your own ability. You always think you could do it if you were given the chance. At the same time, you always assume it's never going to happen. After all, there are so many talented people out there who could play the part. I'm extremely grateful that I've been given the opportunity. I'm really enjoying the experience and I'm trying to make the most of it.

**What's next for you after *Curious Incident*?**

I'm not quite sure what I'll be doing after this because we've still got about eight months of the tour left. It's theatre that I love, and I hope to continue doing it. There's something about it being live that's really special and quite exciting for me.

The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night Time shows at **Birmingham Hippodrome** from Tues 26 May to Sat 6 June.

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## Rock, Pop & Entertainment



### The Piano Guys

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## Rock, Pop & Entertainment



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# Music

## Mark Knopfler

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Sat 23 May

Guitar and songwriting genius Mark Knopfler makes a welcome return to the Midlands this month.

Best known as the frontman of Dire Straits, with whom he enjoyed numerous hits - including Money For Nothing, Brothers In Arms, Sultans Of Swing and Local Hero - Mark's latest show features songs from recently released album Tracker.



## Albert Lee & Hogan's Heroes

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 3 May

If anyone were in any doubt as to the high regard in which Albert Lee is held throughout the guitar world, they need only glance at the list of star names with whom he's performed.

Emmylou Harris, the Everly Brothers, Dolly Parton, Eric Clapton and Sheryl Crow have all benefitted from the brilliance of the Grammy Award-winning musician, who here performs alongside his multi-talented band.

## Paul McCartney

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Wed 27 May

Living legend Paul McCartney's Out There concert, so far enjoyed by over two million people in twelve different countries, showcases one of the best-loved back-catalogues in popular music.

This Birmingham stop-off, one of nine special shows being performed at venues across Europe, offers fans a chance to enjoy a gold-star selection of McCartney's output from across the fifty-plus years of his career. Expect songs from latest studio album New, his solo career, the Wings era and, of course, his Swinging '60s glory days as a mop-headed member of the Fab Four.



Queen Ifrica

## Legends Of Reggae

The Drum, Birmingham, Sat 30 May

The cornerstones of reggae music past and present are celebrated in this special show, with its promoters having put together a line-up of talent they're more than happy to describe as 'spectacular'. Featured performers include Heptones lead singer Leroy Sibbles, crossover vocalist Ken Boothe, 'dynamic duo' Chaka Demus and Pliers, 'lioness on the rise' Queen Ifrica, and the uniquely talented Gyptian.

## Belle & Sebastian

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 10 May

"Stevie [Jackson, guitarist] wants to be in the Velvet Underground," explained Belle & Sebastian singer Stuart Murdoch in a recent interview with The Guardian. "Bob [Kildea, bass] wants to be in the Rolling Stones, and I want to be in Abba - but we're probably more like the Grateful frigging Dead."

The Glasgow indie band celebrate two decades together next year and released their ninth album, Girls In Peacetime Want To Dance, back in January. As with their previous offerings, their trademark blend of electro-glide, baroque balladry and giant-sized Europop hooks is very much in evidence on the new release.

Expect a winning fusion of new and more familiar material when they stop off in the Midlands this month as part of an extensive tour.





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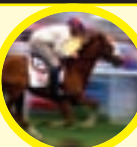
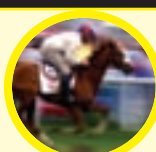
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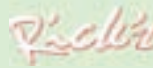
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**THE STRANGLERS**  
SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

**JOANNE SHAW TAYLOR**  
SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

**THE WONDER STUFF**  
FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER

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## Nizlopi

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 12 May

When John Parker met Luke Concannon on a school bus at the age of thirteen, neither of them could've imagined that the encounter would lead to them becoming a prime-time television 'pop' act, playing the Wembley arena, touring Europe and selling a million records.

Their road to success came via afternoons spent playing and writing songs, and later running their own record label from a spare room. But it was unique father-and-son number The JCB Song that shot them to stardom in 2005.

When the pressure got a bit too much, they took a break, returning in 2013 following a four-year hiatus.

They perform in the Midlands as part of their current Get Radical tour.



## Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band

The Robin, Bilston, Sun 31 May

When it comes to showing commitment to fingerpickin', scrubboard scratchin', drum-bucket country blues, Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band take some lickin'. The talented trio sold everything they owned in a garage sale, hit the open road and have been playing a staggering two hundred-and-fifty-plus shows a year ever since.



## Dub Fx

The Institute, Birmingham, Sat 2 May

Australian-born Benjamin Stanford, better known to the world as Dub Fx, creates hip-hop, reggae and drum & bass rhythms, then raps and sings over them. Having started out playing and singing in a band called Twitch, he went solo after arriving in Europe, developing a style that combined his voice with live looping and effect pedals. Stanford's latest release is Theory Of Harmony, which stays true to his live sound while at the same time taking listeners on a hypnotic journey.



## Twenty One Pilots

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Wed 13 May

As they put it on their website, Josh Dun and Tyler Joseph - otherwise known as indie pop band Twenty One Pilots - are currently earning 'widespread applause for their energetic live sets and distinctive fusion of piano-driven schizoid pop and lyrical uplift'. And the boys are pretty clear about their motivation too: "What's our purpose for playing music? We're constantly asking ourselves that question. The answer can change all the time, but for right now we're just going to stick with something as simple as 'we want to make people think'."

## The Strypes

Kasbah, Coventry, Tues 26 May

Irish four-piece punk rock band The Strypes started off by playing blues covers. They were soon signed to Elton John's Rocket Music management company - a development which saw the three oldest members of the band quit school.

Counting such megastars as Noel Gallagher, Roger Daltrey and Paul Weller among their fans, the band's fast-paced garage rock 'speed blues' has made them a real force to be reckoned with when performing live.



## The Beach Boys

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Fri 29 May

Having won the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Recording Academy and been inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, there's no question that The Beach Boys have, in their time, been just about as big as it's possible to get in the music industry. Expect all the hits in this latest touring show, including Good Vibrations, Wouldn't It Be Nice, God Only Knows, Surfin' USA and I Get Around.



## Heaven 17

Student Union Copper Rooms, Coventry, Sat 30 May

One of the best-known new wave synthpop bands from the decade of Glasnost, yuppies, Miami Vice and mullet hair-dos, Heaven 17 took the early 1980s by storm - not least with their second album, The Luxury Gap, which they're performing at this gig.

Hailed a pop masterpiece, the album was a vehicle for the band's reasonably subtle and engagingly humorous leftist messages. Little wonder, then, that in the austere days of 2015, performing The Luxury Gap once again seems a pertinent thing to do.



## Dr Hook

Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, Thurs 14 May

American rock band Dr Hook (shortened in 1975 from Dr Hook & The Medicine Show) enjoyed eight glorious years of chart success, with hits including Sylvia's Mother, The Cover Of Rolling Stone, Sharing The Night Together and, most famously, When You're In Love With A Beautiful Woman. They visit these Midlands venues with the actual Dr Hook - Ray 'Eye Patch' Sawyer - and will be playing all the hits.

# Music GIG REVIEWS

For further reviews, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Marc Almond

Town Hall, Birmingham

Marc Almond is a quintessentially eclectic British artist. As a singer he's embraced not only pop music but elements of variety, vaudeville, theatre... the list goes on.

After a support act from Stephen Langstaff (check out Sirens, it's great), Almond took to the stage of Birmingham Town Hall. The gig coincided with his latest release, *The Velvet Trail*, with many of the evening's tracks coming from this exceptionally accomplished album. But it's a work that was almost never made. Prior to recording it, Almond thought his album days were over - that was until producer/songwriter Chris Braide emailed him with three instrumental tracks. The songwriting muse returned to Almond, and a whole new batch of wonderfully melodic numbers have now joined his canon of work.

As well as the title track - a beautifully crafted, melancholic reflection on the past - the stand-out live performances from the new album were the poppy *Bad To Me* and *Zippered Black Leather Jacket*, and the ballad and recent single *Scar*. You hear these songs once and you think you've known them forever.

Almond, who appeared relaxed and in total control of the audience, was in fine voice. I won't pretend I know his back catalogue in great detail, but on the strength of live performances of the haunting *Champagne* and *Meet Me In My Dreams* (a piece of pop perfection), I'll certainly be investigating the *Tenement Symphony* album, from which these two tracks come.

The evening ended with some of the glorious Soft Cell hits for which Almond is probably most well known. The wonderfully depressing *Bedsitter* went down a storm - and yes, we got *Tainted Love*, and yes, it was great. But the highlight came in the shape of the final song on the set list, *Say Hello, Wave Goodbye*, a heartbreaking masterpiece. Almond has hinted this might be his last tour. I, for one, certainly hope that's not the case. **Jack Rolfe** ■■■■■



## Music LISTINGS

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

### FRI 1 MAY

**MOBB DEEP** Plus Rodney P & Daddy Skitz and DJ 279, O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**ICEAGE** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**URBAN INTRO** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**GOODNIGHT LENIN, JOHN MCCULLAGH & THE ESCORTS** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**DEF CON ONE, ERADIKATOR, KREMATED & ENEMO J** Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham  
**PLASTIC FACTORY, THE LATE RUNNERS, STRANGLER FIGS, OTHER DOGS & AFTERNOON IDENTITY** O2 Academy, B'ham  
**CLARE MAGUIRE** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**MR SCRUFF** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**ARCANE ROOTS** The Institute, Birmingham  
**FOUR ACES** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**ALI CLINTON** Route 44,

Birmingham  
**BON GIOVI** The Robin, Bilston  
**THE UNDERTONES** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**AN EVENING WITH ROD & RONNIE** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**YAMATO DRUMMERS** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



**SUPREME QUEEN** The Swan Theatre, Worcester  
**GRAHAM PARKER AND BRINSLEY SCHWARZ** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**DOUGLAS DARE** The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry  
**MAYA JANE COLES**

NextDoor, Birmingham  
**THE SUPERSKAS, THE GUVNORS & THE STRIKE** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**OCCOEUR, THE ROOZ, BRAINS FOR BREAKFAST, WET LETTUCE AND THE MAGIK BEAN & INEGO** The Flapper, B'ham

### SAT 2 MAY

**URBAN INTRO** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**FOOD FIGHTERZ** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**DUB FX** The Institute, Birmingham  
**JOE MCLEDDERY** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**BEHOLDER** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**INTO THE SHADOWS** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**PENTATONIX** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**MIRANDA SYKES & REX PRESTON** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**FM The Robin, Bilston**  
**MOSS KROH, VAILS, DUNE, MAMMOTHWING, BLEAK ZERO & ACID GOAT** The Asylum, B'ham  
**BALKANIC ERUPTION**  
**CUMBIA SPECIAL** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**DEAD SEA SKULLS ALSO PLAYING; SPEAKING IN SHADOWS, EOFFE, BROKEN WITT REBELS & POLAR STATES** The Institute,

Birmingham  
**CIERAN CLIFFORD BAND** Irish Centre, B'ham  
**SEMANTICS, SLTP & CHAOS PARADE** The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham  
**DEMONS OF OLD METAL, THE DARKHORSE, CHILDREN LOST IN TIME & ROPEWALK** Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham  
**REBEL REBEL - DAVID BOWIE TRIBUTE** Route 44, Birmingham  
**THE BRONZE** Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**POPPUNKTASTIC FT HIDDEN SKIES** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**TAKE IT EASY: THE SOUND OF THE EAGLES** Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull  
**ONLY ONE DIRECTION** Albany Theatre, Coventry  
**FOREVER IN BLUE JEANS** The Swan Theatre, Worcester  
**KAST OFF KINKS** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**SAMMY GOULBOURNE, E DOUBLE D & CARRY SHAUN** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**JACKMASTER, EATS EVERYTHING, SKREAM & SETH TROXLER** The Rainbow Venues, B'ham  
**THE WARLOCKS, BLACK MARKET KARMA & ENEMIES EYES** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**CORINA JANE** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**LAURA CARTER** Symphony Hall, Birmingham

### SUN 3 MAY

**BLAZE BAYLEY** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**RAT PACK VEGAS SPECTACULAR** Stratford Artshouse  
**MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**VALOUS, IN SEARCH OF SUN, EYES OF THE RAVEN, GLASSBULLET & STONEPIT DRIVE** The Flapper, Birmingham  
**FARLEY & HELLER** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**LITTLE JIMMY** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**THE RIPTIDE MOVEMENT** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
**THE KENNEDYS** Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham  
**ALBERT LEE & HOGAN'S HEROES** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**OG HORSE** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**RETURN OF THE RAVE** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**BODDIKA, LEVON VINCENT, YOUANDEWAN, SAMUEL DEEP & JANE FITZ** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**CHRIS LORENZO** Kasbah, Coventry

### MON 4 MAY

**CHARLEY PRIDE** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**THE LOVELY EGGS** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
**UGLY DUCKLING** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**WADADA** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**DUTCH UNCLES & CAIROBI** The Institute, B'ham

### TUE 5 MON

**HAPPYNESS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**CARL SINCLAIR DUO** The Jam House, B'ham  
**BRENDAN SHINE** Solihull Arts Complex  
**PETER BRODERICK & BRIGID POWER-RYCE** The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry  
**C.W STONEKING** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

### WED 6 MAY

**PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING** The Institute, Birmingham  
**GEORGIE FAME** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**DUSTIN KENSUR** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**CHRIS KNOWLES & CATRIN O'NEILL / VICKI SWAN & JONNY DYER** The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham  
**THE CAVERN BEATLES** Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**MATT WOOSLEY** Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

### THU 7 MAY

**THE FULL ENGLISH** Birmingham Town Hall  
**S CLUB 7** Genting Arena, Birmingham  
**THE PRODIGY** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**ALTAN** mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham  
**CODY SIMPSON** The Institute, Birmingham  
**PINKSHINYULTRABLAST** The Institute, B'ham  
**MATRIX CLUB MATRIX** The Jam House, B'ham  
**WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN** Solihull Arts Complex  
**SHOWADDYWADDY** Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**IAN MCCULLOCH** The Assembly, Leamington Spa

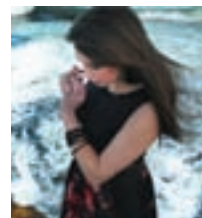


**THE SEX PISSED DOLLS** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**SHIELDS & CARCER CITY** The Oobleck, B'ham

### FRI 8 MAY

**THE VAMPS** Genting Arena, Birmingham  
**THE SUBTERRANEANS** The Jam House, B'ham  
**TWIN ATLANTIC** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**REEDBASS** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**THE LAST CARNIVAL** The Asylum, Birmingham  
**CLARE MAGUIRE** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**DJ VADIUM & FINGATHING** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**MILESTONE EXPRESS** Irish Centre, B'ham  
**THE SCREAMIN' ABDABZ** Route 44, Birmingham  
**LETZ ZEP** The Assembly,

Leamington Spa  
**THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN** Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**BELLA HARDY** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester



**PETE BROWN'S NEW GRASSCUTTERS** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**MISTY'S BIG ADVENTURE** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**SUZI & THE BACKBEATS & VIJAY KISHORE** The Rainbow Venues, B'ham  
**BLACK TONGUE MESSIAH, THE INFINITE STRUGGLE, MERCILESS TIDE & COWER HOUNDS** Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham  
**SUPERHEROES DREAM** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**CHILDREN OF THE GRAYV - MASTERS OF SABBATH** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**SID PEACOCK & COREY MWAMBA** mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**T.REXTASY** Solihull Arts Complex

### SAT 9 MAY

**THE SUBTERRANEANS** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**ULTIMATE GENESIS** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**ROBBIE JONES** Havana Republic, Shrewsbury  
**THE OASIS EXPERIENCE** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**THE ONCE Alfie Bird's**, Birmingham  
**MODERN MINDS** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**FRANKIE & THE HEART-STRINGS** Kasbah, Coventry  
**MERRYMOOUTH** mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**SET IT OFF** The Asylum, Birmingham  
**360 AND FRIENDS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**NEW CITY KINGS** The Institute, Birmingham  
**PAT BRESLIN** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**THEA GILMORE** Birmingham Town Hall  
**THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW** Solihull Arts Complex  
**STORNOWAY** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**BEYOND THE BARRICADE** Wolverhampton Grand Theatre  
**VIVA SANTANA** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**SOUL LEGEND** Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire  
**SATSANGI, THE RUSHMORE, ELECTRIC SPIVS, GRASSROUTES, DJ'S TALLOWAH, GENERAL THEORY OF POP & VJ PAUL WINDRIDGE** The Assembly, Leamington Spa



**PERFECT ALIBI - TRIBUTE TO PINK FLOYD** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**NEW CARNIVAL** The Rainbow Venues, B'ham  
**BAD//DREAMS** The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham  
**THE HAND AND THE FLOWERS, BROTHERS OF CAEDMON & ELISON** The Flapper, Birmingham

## SUN 10 MAY

**BELLE & SEBASTIAN** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**BEN POOLE** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**ADVENTURES IN FILM MUSIC** The Swan Theatre, Worcester  
**PRETTY VICIOUS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**CHEATAHS & NO JOY** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**SHILLEAGH** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**CHRIS KING** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

## MON 11 MAY

**TAKE THAT WITH SPECIAL GUEST ELLA HENDERSON** Genting Arena, B'ham  
**TOPS & HONEY MOON** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**THE MACCABEES** The Institute, Birmingham  
**CHRISTY MOORE WITH DECLAN SINNOTT** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## TUE 12 MAY

**TAKE THAT WITH SPECIAL GUEST ELLA HENDERSON** Genting Arena, B'ham  
**BOYZ II MEN** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**ROSANNA LEFEVRE & GRACE BRADSHAW** The Jam House, B'ham  
**SILENCE THE WEAK** The Rainbow Venues, Bham  
**NIZLOPI** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**ANDY SHAUF** The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry  
**SUN CLUB** The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham  
**SONS OF BILL** The Oobleck, Birmingham

## WED 13 MAY

**MIKE FLETCHER TRIO** Birmingham Town Hall  
**CHRIS DE BURGH** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**GOSPEL CENTRAL** The Jam House, B'ham  
**THE YOUNG'UNS** The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham  
**PAPER AEROPLANES** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**ALABAMA SHAKES** O2 Academy, Birmingham



**TWENTY ONE PILOTS** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**TERRY REID** The Robin, Bilston  
**MIDGE URE** Palace The-

atre, Redditch  
**DAN BODAN & OPAL ONYX** The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry  
**ANDY DERRICK JAZZ QUINTET** No.1 Shakespere Street, Stratford-upon-Avon

## THU 14 MAY

**UK SUBS** The Robin, Bilston  
**TAKE THAT WITH SPECIAL GUEST ELLA HENDERSON** Genting Arena, B'ham  
**EWERT AND THE TWO DRAGONS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**BRIEFCASE BLUES SOUL BROTHERS** Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire  
**ALTAN** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**THE WYZE GUYZ** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**POLICE DOG HOGAN** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**THE FALL** The Institute, Birmingham  
**DAVID FORD** The Rainbow Venues, B'ham  
**MARY BLACK** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**GUTS FOR GLORY, EVIL EMPIRE, HIDDEN & TOMB HAZARD** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**DR HOOK** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**ANNIHILATED** The Asylum, Birmingham  
**WYLES & SIMPSON** Alfie Bird's, Birmingham

## FRI 15 MAY

**TAKE THAT WITH SPECIAL GUEST ELLA HENDERSON** Genting Arena, B'ham  
**CLOUDBUSTING - A TRIBUTE TO KATE BUSH** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**GERRY CROSS THE MERSEY** The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury  
**THE RED LEMONS** The Jam House, B'ham  
**TOM PAXTON** Birmingham Town Hall  
**ELIO PACE PERFORMS THE BILLY JOEL SONGBOOK** Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**GIN ANNIE BAND** The Robin, Bilston  
**J. COLE** Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham  
**SWERVEDRIVER** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE TEMPERANCE SEVEN** Albany Theatre, Coventry  
**INME** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**CLARE MAGUIRE** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**JAMES GRANT** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**MOTOWN AND SOUL NIGHT WITH DJ PAUL KELLY** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**BLUE NATION, TELSEN & CATALAN** Route 44, Birmingham  
**LAZY HABITS & FJOKRA** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**TRANSMISSION & SHAMONES** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**BLKLSTRS, THEM WOLVES, SEXWOLF! & CAL BANDA** The Flapper, Birmingham  
**STEVE TROMANS AND PIERA ONACKO** mac -

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**NEG Kasbah**, Coventry

## SAT 16 MAY

**TAKE THAT WITH SPECIAL GUEST ELLA HENDERSON** Genting Arena, B'ham  
**THE RED LEMONS** The Jam House, B'ham  
**DON MCLEAN** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**WILD IRISH** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**ROCK FOR SPON - THE NEW SAINTS & FRIENDS** The Robin, Bilston  
**VIC GODARD & SUBWAY SECT** The Flapper, Bham  
**DESI ROCKSTARS** Barclaycard Arena, B'ham  
**ELIO PACE PERFORMS THE BILLY JOEL SONGBOOK** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**TOO REX - TRIBUTE TO MARC BOLAN & T-REX** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**LUCY SPRAGGAN** The Institute, Birmingham



**SON OF DAVE** The Rainbow Venues, B'ham  
**ERADIKATOR** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**BILL PATRICK, SAMU.L & ARCHIE HAMILTON** NextDoor, Birmingham  
**THE WHOO & THE QUIK-BEATS** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**MAMMA MIA PARTY WITH SENSATION** Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire  
**MARCIA GRIFFITHS & FRIENDS** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**BREABACH** mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**ROY ORBISON & FRIENDS** The Swan Theatre, Worcester  
**CRAZY P** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**JUDIE TZUKE** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**GOD DAMN & ELEPHANTINE** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
**A MUSICAL MEDLEY - STRATFORD CONCERT BAND** Stratford Artshouse  
**WARLORD UK, ABSOLUTION, SODOMIZED CADAVER & FIRESTORM** Scruffy Murphys, B'ham  
**CLARE TEAL SINGS THE DORIS DAY SONGBOOK** Birmingham Town Hall  
**THE BOTS** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**ARCANE ROOTS** Kasbah, Coventry

## SUN 17 MAY

**THE GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND** Birmingham Town Hall  
**YAMATO DRUMMERS** New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham  
**TOM BAXTER** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**COCO & THE BUTTERFIELDS** Hare & Hounds,



Take That - Genting Arena, B'ham

Birmingham  
**SHAWN CUDDY** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**HANS CHEW** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

## MON 18 MAY

**THE FRYER BARNHART INTERNATIONAL ALL STARS HOSTED BY MALCOLM STENT** Solihull Arts Complex  
**JACK GARRAT** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**SLAVES** The Institute, Birmingham

## TUE 19 MAY

**LULU** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**NEON WALTZ** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**EDDI READER** The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**DANA FUCHS** The Robin, Bilston  
**THURSTON MOORE** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**JESSE MALIN** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**SINGLE MOTHERS** The Oobleck, Birmingham  
**CHRIS BOWDENS' TOMORROW BAND** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**TIR NA NOG** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

## WED 20 MAY

**BRYAN FERRY** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**AL STEWART: YEAR OF THE CAT TOUR** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**THE NEIL DIAMOND STORY** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**CHRIS & KELLIE WHILE** The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

**GA GA** Solihull Arts Complex  
**PAUL LAMB & THE DETROIT BREAKDOWN** The Robin, Bilston  
**OZRIC TENTACLES** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**MAWKIN** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**HINDS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**COAL CHAMBER, SOIL, THE DEFILED & DOPE** Student Union Copper Rooms, Coventry  
**WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN** Lichfield Garrick, Staffs  
**BELLA HARDY** Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

## THU 21 MAY

**BROTHER STRUT** The Jam House, B'ham  
**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

at Cannock Chase Forest  
NR RDGLEY STAFFS

Saturday 11 July  
**ROBERT PLANT**  
 AND THE SENSATIONAL SPACE SHIFTERS  
 + NUGENT & BELLE

Sunday 12 July  
**TOM ODELL**  
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# Music LISTINGS

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

**CAPSIZE** The Oobleck, Birmingham  
**DAR WILLIAMS** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**CIRCLE, HEY COLOSSUS & OPIUM LORD** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**KIM RICHEY** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**ROCK OF AGES EXPERIENCE** The Robin, Bilston  
**182** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**CREEPOID, GLEAM & HOLY** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**WALK THE MOON** The Institute, Birmingham

## FRI 22 MAY

**ELKIE BROOKS** Birmingham Town Hall



**DR FEELGOOD & EDDIE AND THE HOT RODS** The Robin, Bilston  
**UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE** The Jam House, B'ham  
**THE ELVIS YEARS** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**JP COOPER** The Institute, Birmingham  
**DJANGO DJANGO** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**JAMES ARTHUR** The Institute, Birmingham  
**THE PRIMITIVES** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**CAPTAIN HORIZON** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**DICK GAUGHAN** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**LONG DISTANCE** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**SCREAM BLUE MURDER** Kasbah, Coventry  
**SLAID CLEAVES** Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham  
**AQUASERGE** The Tin Music And Arts, Coven-

try  
**KING ROCKER - ELVIS PLAYS ROCK** Route 44, Birmingham  
**BOAT TO ROW, ALESSI'S ARK, MY GREY HORSE** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**OCCULT** NextDoor, Birmingham  
**EXPLOSIVE LIGHT ORCHESTRA** The Roadhouse, Birmingham

## SAT 23 MAY

**UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**FISK JUBILEE SINGERS** Birmingham Town Hall  
**MARK KNOPFLER** Genting Arena, Birmingham  
**DESI ROCKSTARS** Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**THE DRIFTERS - RE-BRANDED TOUR** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**IO EARTH** Crescent Theatre, Birmingham  
**SOUL'D OUT** The Robin, Bilston  
**JOAN ARMATRADE** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**RX BANDITS & CIRCA SURVIVE** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**NOVANA** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**BUDDY & THE ILLEGAL CRICKETS** The Swan Theatre, Worcester  
**THE CHRISTIANS** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**SEINABO SEY AND LION BABE** The Institute, Birmingham  
**HUNTER HAYES** The Institute, Birmingham  
**THE FULL SHABANG** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**NEW BAYS & FOX CHAPEL** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
**DUB COMES TO TOWN** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**THE BEST OF PRIEST (JUDAS PRIEST)** Route 44, Birmingham  
**MUZIK HERTZ** NextDoor, Birmingham

**DANIEL ROMANO & DANNI NICHOLS** The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry  
**ENDORPHINMANCHINE** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**DIETRICH LETTERS** Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury  
**SPECTRASOUL** The Oobleck, Birmingham



## SUN 24 MAY

**FISK JUBILEE SINGERS WITH BLACK VOICES** Birmingham Town Hall  
**THE BEAUTIFUL SOUND - TRIBUTE TO THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH** The Robin, Bilston  
**LAU** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**HEAVEN'S BASEMENT, GLAMOUR OF THE KILL & ASHES** The Oobleck, Birmingham  
**BOOT-LED-ZEPPELIN** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**MERRYMOON** mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**THE DROPPERS NECK, TUSK, OPHEON & VEXXEN** Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham  
**CEDAR HOUSE BAND, MIGHTY YOUNGS, VIRALS & SPIT SHAKE SISTERS** Hare & Hounds, B'ham  
**JASPER JAMES & DEATH ON THE BALCONY** NextDoor, Birmingham  
**ROCK 'N' BLUES ALL DAY FESTIVAL** The Roadhouse, Birmingham

## MON 25 MAY

**FICKLE FRIENDS** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
**VICTORY HEIGHTS** The Oobleck, Birmingham

## TUE 26 MAY

**DOCTOR WHO SYMPHONIC SPECTACULAR** Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham  
**KNIFEWORLD** The Oobleck, Birmingham  
**OTIS REDDING III** The



Walk The Moon - The Institute, B'ham

Glee Club, Birmingham  
**THE STRYPPES** Kasbah, Coventry  
**RORY MCLEOD** Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

## WED 27 MAY

**PETE KENT** The Robin, Bilston  
**MUDHONEY** The Institute, Birmingham



**THE SAINTS** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**PRICE & GENDERS** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**MOONLIGHT SAVING TIME** No.1 Shakespeare Street, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**EDDIE ARGOS, SHAUN GAMBOW** WALSH The Rainbow Venues, Bham  
**PAUL MCCARTNEY** Barclaycard Arena, B'ham

## THU 28 MAY

**THE FUREYS** Solihull Arts Complex  
**WATERLOO - ABBA TRIBUTE** Evesham Arts Centre, Worcester  
**DEL CAMINO** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**OIL SLICK FIRE** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**LEDDRA CHAPMAN** The Robin, Bilston  
**BRANDON FLOWERS** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**PSYCHEDELIC WARLORDS** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**MALEFICE & EXIST IM-MORTAL** The Flapper, Birmingham  
**HOUGHTON WEAVERS** The Courtyard, Hereford

## FRI 29 MAY

**JACKSON - LIVE IN CONCERT** Evesham Arts Centre, Worcester  
**ROCKET** The Jam

House, Birmingham  
**SUPREME FABULETTES** Birmingham Town Hall  
**THE BEACH BOYS** Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham  
**JIVE TALKIN' PERFORM THE BEE GEES** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**THE UKRAINIANS** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**CASH - JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE** The Robin, Bilston  
**COAL CHAMBER** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**XILLA** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**GYPSY UNIT** Alfie Bird's, Birmingham  
**THE STONES** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**MARK MORRISS** The Flapper, Birmingham  
**ALEXANDER NUT** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE TEMPERANCE SEVEN** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**FRAN THE MAN** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**CLIVE GREGSON** Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham  
**FRED ZEPPELIN** Route 44, Birmingham  
**NINA KRAVIZ, CARL CRAIG, ADAM SHELTON, LEWIS OXLEY, LOPASKI & WALKING WITH WINGS** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**THE UKRAINIANS** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham  
**FLEETWOOD BAC** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**ATTENTION THIEVES & ACODA** The Asylum, Birmingham

## SAT 30 MAY

**ROCKET** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THE FORTUNES - PAST & PRESENT** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**DIRE STREETS** Solihull Arts Complex  
**IQ** The Robin, Bilston  
**THE KOMMITMENTS** The Roadhouse, B'ham  
**HEAVEN 17** The Copper Rooms, Coventry  
**LET'S HANG ON** Bedworth Civic Hall, Warwickshire  
**VIRGIL & THE ACCELERATORS** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**DIVAS OF SOUL** Nailcote

Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire  
**MALLEN, ONE LAST RUN, DRIVEN APART & PANSPERMIA** Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham  
**TY** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**ABSOLUTE BLONDIE** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**THE FATHER TEDS** Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**MIDLANDS METAL CRUSADE 4** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**LAMB OF GOD** Birmingham Town Hall  
**BEAR & KITE'S ROCK DISCO** Route 44, B'ham  
**INTRODUCING LIVE RECREATE** DAFT PUNK'S DISCOVERY Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**GODSKITCHEN CLASH OF THE GODS** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

## SUN 31 MAY

**MAROON 5** Genting Arena, Birmingham  
**DAYLIGHT ROBBERY, FALLING RED, VICIOUS NATURE, DEVIL RED AND MORE...** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**BILLY OCEAN** Birmingham Town Hall  
**ELVIS COSTELLO** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**TERRY AND GERRY** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



**BOP ENGLISH** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**PAT JORDAN & FINIANS** RAINBOW Irish Centre, Birmingham  
**MY SWEET PATOOTIE** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**WEAK NERVES & RICH** Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham  
**REVEREND PEYTON'S BIG DAMN BAND** The Robin, Bilston

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## Birmingham Contemporary Music Group: Fantasmagoria

CBSO Centre, Birmingham, Sat 9 May

The work of David Sawer is here celebrated by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG), who commissioned the Stockport-born composer's most well-known work, 2009's critically acclaimed *Rumpelstiltskin*. A late addition to BCMG's 2014/15 programme, *Fantasmagoria* features three Sawer pieces which are new to the Group.

*Cat's-eye* takes its inspiration from a simple device in a *Fantascope*, a Victorian magic lantern, to look at ideas of illusion and changing perspective.

Between, meanwhile, is described as 'a short, beautiful solo piece for harp', while *Good Night* is 'a continuous train of musical thoughts that transform when inspected more closely'.

The concert rounds off this current BCMG season.

## Leamington Music Festival Weekend

The Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, Fri 1 - Tues 5 May

This year's get-together is certainly a special one for festival director Richard Phillips. The event will be the one hundredth festival that he'll either have created or directed over the last thirty-eight years.

Proceedings are kickstarted by the Fitzwilliam Quartet, who're joined by Anna Tilbrook to play Mozart's Piano Concerto K414 and Shostakovich's Piano Quintet.

Other highlights of the 2015 event include Raphael Wallfisch - returning with his trio, Shaham Erez Wallfisch - and Roderick Williams, who performs a World War One programme that includes a song by William Denis Browne, a Leamington-born composer who died at Gallipoli in June 1915.

The festival is brought to a close with a performance by the Henschel Quartet from Munich - joined for the first time by Michael Collins to play the Brahms Clarinet Quintet.



Raphael Wallfisch



## English String Orchestra

Elgar Concert Hall, Birmingham University, Wed 13 May

The Worcestershire-based English String Orchestra here welcomes leading piano and trumpet duo Clare Hammond and Simon Desbruslais for an evening of memorable Russian string music.

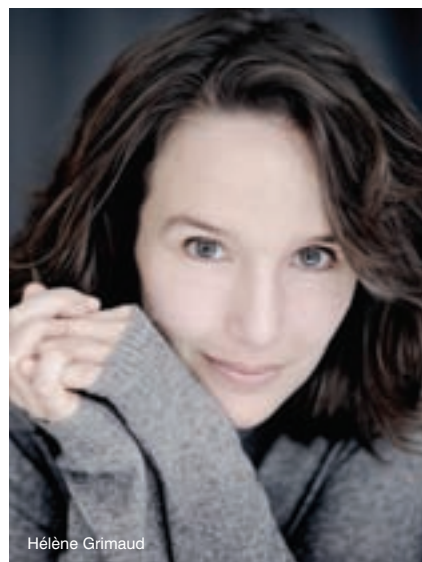
An imaginative programme includes works by Shostakovich and the lyrical *Serenade For Strings* by Tchaikovsky. The concert also features the world premiere of Geoffrey Gordon's *Saint Blue* (a double concerto for trumpet, piano and strings) - a piece inspired by the works of Russian visual artist and visionary Wassily Kandinsky. Kenneth Woods conducts.

## Hélène Grimaud In Recital

Birmingham Town Hall, Thurs 14 May

"So often we hear people say, 'Oh, I don't know anything about classical music'," says French-born Hélène Grimaud in an interview with Examiner.com. "But it's not about how much you know. It's about what the music makes you feel, how it affects you on the deepest level. We have to give it a chance."

For anybody questioning the capacity of classical music to make them 'feel' anything, an evening in the company of the ever-dynamic Grimaud should put paid to their uncertainty. The critically acclaimed classical pianist has garnered a reputation for being a real risk taker, reinventing phrasings, playing in the face of conventional pianistic wisdom and bringing living colour to every composition she performs. This Birmingham concert sees Grimaud taking the themes of water and the inextinguishable power of nature as her starting point.



Hélène Grimaud

## Ex Cathedra: Rachmaninov's Vespers

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 3 May

Sergei Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* - often translated as simply *Vespers* - was one of the composer's two favourite works. Indeed, he loved the composition so much that he requested one of its movements (the fifth) be sung at his funeral. His deep love of the piece, and indeed its brilliance, is all the more remarkable given that it took him less than two weeks to compose. Jeffrey Skidmore conducts and is joined by mezzo soprano Martha McLorinan and tenor Jeremy Budd for a piece which *Ex Cathedra* describe as 'passionate, serene, and rooted in a deep and heartfelt faith'.



Jeffrey Skidmore



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- Yoko Kaneko** harpsichord
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- Pip Eastop** horn
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## Fantasmagoria

An evening celebrating the brilliance of composer David Sawer and connections to his music.

**Saturday 9 May 2015, 7.30pm**  
CBSO Centre, Birmingham

Conductor: **Martyn Brabbins**  
Harp: **Anne Denholm**

**David Sawer:** Cat's-eye  
**Gérard Pesson:** Nebenstück  
**Gerald Barry:** Piano Quartet No. 1  
**Mauricio Kagel:** Con Voce  
**David Sawer:** Between \*  
Good Night  
**Igor Stravinsky:** Octet

The most substantial Sawer work in this programme, *Cat's-eye*, takes its inspiration from a simple device in a *Fantascopia*, a Victorian magic lantern, to play on ideas of illusion and changing perspective. Sawer's music is charged with theatrical drama, influenced by his studies in Cologne with Mauricio Kagel. Kagel's short and playful *Con Voce* graces this programme, as does the euphoric and exuberant quartet for piano and strings by Gerald Barry, another Kagel pupil.



WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015  
ELGAR CONCERT HALL AT 7.30PM  
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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 FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSICS: CHARLIE CHAPLIN** Fri 1 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**THE BEAUFORT ENSEMBLE: DREAMS OF ILLYRIA** Programme includes Guy Woolfenden's Illyrian Dances & Eric Whitacre's October, Fri 1 May, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham  
**DANIEL TONES & OWEN UNDERHILL** Present an engaging programme of contemporary music, Fri 1 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham  
**ANNA TILBROOK & FITZWILLIAM STRING QUARTET** Programme includes works by Mozart, Haydn & Shostakovich, Fri 1 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa  
**MAGGIE BARTMANIS - AMERICAN SONGS** Fri 1 May, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa  
**PIRATES OF PENZANCE** Tinkers Farm Opera present a modern interpretation of Gilbert & Sullivan's operatic masterpiece, Fri 1 - Sat 2 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham  
**RODERICK WILLIAMS & GARY MATTHEWMAN - THE GREAT WAR** Sat 2 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa  
**COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE - ADVANCED MUSICIAN CONCERT** Sat 2 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa  
**ENSEMBLE 360** Programme comprises Haydn's Piano Trio in F# minor Hob XV:26, Sat 2 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa  
**EX CATHEDRA: RACHMANINOFF VESPERS** Sun 3 May, Birmingham Town Hall  
**ROBERT MUNNS ORGAN RECITAL** Sun 3 May, St. Nicholas Church, Coventry  
**JANA NOVAKOVA & PETR NOVAK** Programme includes works by Dvořák, Martinu, Novak & Schubert, Sun 3 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa  
**CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA (MASCAGNI)/ PAGLIACCI (LEONCAVALLO)** A Met Opera Live screening of opera's most enduring tragic double bill, Sun 3 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**THE SINGING CELLIST - SIMON WALLFISCH & EDWARD RUSHTON** Sun 3 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa  
**MICHAEL COLLINS &**

**PETER DONOHOE** Programme includes works by Brahms, Schubert, Debussy, Poulenc & Stravinsky, Sun 3 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa  
**DAVID SAINT ORGAN RECITAL** Programme includes works by Reger, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Bridge & Parry, Mon 4 May, All Saints' Church, Leamington Spa  
**SIMON WALLFISCH & EDWARD RUSHTON** Programme works by Schubert, Brahms & Strauss, Mon 4 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa  
**TRIO SHAHAM EREZ WALLFISCH** Programme includes: Haydn's Piano Trio in Eb Hob XV:31; Brahms' Piano Trio No 1 in B Op 8 & Piano Trio No 2 in C Op 87, Mon 4 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa  
**BARBARA HANNIGAN SINGS MOZART AND STRAVINSKY** Tues 5 May, Birmingham Town Hall  
**TRIO SHAHAM EREZ WALLFISCH** Programme includes Schubert's Piano Trio in Bb D898 & Brahms' Piano Trio No 3 in C minor Op 101, Tues 5 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa  
**MICHAEL COLLINS & HENSCHEL STRING QUARTET** Programme includes works by Haydn, Schubert & Brahms, Tues 5 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa  
**LA VENEXIANA** Wed 6 May, Barber Institute, Birmingham  
**CBSO HAYDN IN LONDON** Programme includes works by Haydn, Mozart, Prokofiev & Haydn, Wed 6 - Thurs 7 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**SCHOLARS OF WARWICK SCHOLARS CONCERT** Thurs 7 May, The Bridge House Theatre, Warwick  
**THE CLAIR-OBSCUR SAXOPHONE QUARTET** Thurs 7 May, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham  
**HANSEL AND GRETEL** Hightime Opera present a new translation of Humperdinck's masterpiece which brings the traditional tale into the twenty-first century, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Featuring Andris Nelsons (conductor) & Baiba Skride (violin). Programme comprises Mozart's Violin Concer-

to No.4 & Bruckner's Symphony No.7, Fri 8 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**BAIBA SKRIDE IN THE MENDELSSOHN OCTET** Featuring Baiba Skride (violin), Moritz Pfister, Caroline Simon & Gabriel Dyker (violins), Catherine Bower & Amy Fawcett (violas) & Eduardo Vassallo & Helen Edgar (cellos), Fri 8 May, CBSO Centre, Birmingham  
**SUPERHEROES DREAM** Fri 8 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**OLIVER SHE** Programme includes works by Bach, Vine, Albeniz & Beethoven, Fri 8 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham  
**ARMONICO CONSORT & BAROQUE PLAYERS** Programme includes Charpentier's Te Deum, Kuhnau - Magnificat, Schelle - Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schar & Bach - Magnificat, Sat 9 May, St. Mary's Church, Warwick  
**JOHN LILL** Programme includes Bach/Buoni's Chaconne in D minor; Schumann's Fantasy in C Op 17, Chopin's Nocturne in C minor Op 48/1 & Polonaise in F# minor Op 44 & Beethoven's Sonata in C minor Op 111, Sat 9 May, All Saints Church, Leamington Hastings  
**BARBERSHOP QUARTET BIANCO** Sat 9 May, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Leamington Spa  
**40TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT** Featuring Stour Singers, Cherwell Orchestra, Ruth Holton (soprano), Shelley Coulter-Smith (mezzo soprano), Nathan Vale (tenor), Darren Jeffery (bass baritone) & Richard Emms (conductor). Programme includes works by Mendelssohn & Beethoven, Sat 9 May, St. Edmunds Church, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwick  
**ENGLISH PIANO TRIO PLAY SCHUBERT** Sun 10 May, Helen Martin Studio, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT - THOMAS TROTTER: A BACH RECITAL** Mon 11 May, Birmingham Town Hall  
**JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER** Programme includes works by Faure, Rachmaninov, Philip Glass, Frank Bridge & JS Bach, Tues 12 May, Artix, Bromsgrove  
**DVOŘAK'S CELLO CONCERTO WITH RAPHAEL WALLFISCH** Programme includes Mozart's Symphony No 38 Prague; Dvořák's Rondo for Cello and Orchestra, Silent Woods & Cello Concerto arr chamber orchestra, Wed 13 May, Birmingham Town Hall  
**HELENE GRIMAUD** IN

David Charles - Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



**RECITAL** Thurs 14 May, Birmingham Town Hall  
**MARCUS FARNSWORTH & JOSEPH MIDDLETON** Programme includes works by Brahms, Britten & Barber, Fri 15 May, The Barber Institute, B'ham  
**ADRIAN MOORE ORGAN RECITAL** Fri 15 May, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa  
**WARSAW PHILHARMONIC** Featuring Jacek Kasprzyk (conductor), Claire Maghnagi (soprano), Hannah Pedley (mezzo), Andrew Rees (tenor), Paul Carey Jones (baritone) & the University of Warwick Chorus. Programme comprises Schubert's Symphony No.3 & Beethoven's Symphony No.9, Fri 15 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**THE KLEE QUARTET** Programme includes works by Mozart & Britten, Fri 15 May, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery  
**BEETHOVEN GROSSE FUGE** Featuring Zoe Beyers & Jane Wright (violins), Adam Romer (viola) & Richard Jenkinson (cello), Fri 15 May, CBSO Centre, Birmingham  
**COVENTRY PHILHARMONIC CHOIR** Sat 16 May, St. Mary's Church, Warwick  
**CBSO PARSIFAL** Featuring Andre Nelsons (conductor), Burkhard Fritz (Parsifal) & Mihoko Fujimura (Kundry), Sun 17 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**LEAMINGTON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** Programme includes Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis; Glazunov's Violin Concerto & Brahms' Symphony No.3, Sun 17 May, Town Hall, Leamington Spa  
**TAKACS QUARTET** Programme includes works by Haydn, Debussy & Beethoven, Tues 19 May, Birmingham Town Hall  
**THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE LIVE** Live screening of English National Opera's performance of

Gilbert and Sullivan's popular comic opera, Tues 19 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** Featuring David Charles Abell (conductor) & Wayne Marshall (piano). Programme comprises Bernstein's Candide Overture, Copland's Rodeo Suite; Gershwin's Rhapsody In Blue & Out On The Town: Three Dance Episodes; Bernstein's West Side Story Symphonic Dances & American In Paris, Thurs 21 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER** Programme includes works by Faure, Rachmaninov, Philip Glass, Frank Bridge & JS Bach, Thurs 21 May, Solihull Arts Complex  
**FAURE'S REQUIEM - A MEDITATION AND TAMSIN WALEY-COHEN** Fri 22 May, Stratford Artshouse  
**CLIPPER ERICKSON PIANO** Programme includes works by Chopin, Dett & Gershwin, Fri 22 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham  
**BIRMINGHAM GAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (BGSO)** Programme includes works by

Coates, Debussy, Williams, Elgar, Handel, Vivaldi, Parry, Arr. Wood & J. Strauss II, Sat 23 May, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham  
**NORMAN HARPER ORGAN RECITAL** Mon 25 May, All Saints' Church, Leamington Spa  
**LARA MELDA** Programme includes works by Beethoven, Chopin & Albeniz, Tues 26 May, Birmingham Town Hall  
**SHAKESPEARE, SONNETS AND STRAVINSKY** Fri 29 May, Stratford Artshouse  
**FLORENTINE ARTS ENSEMBLE** Programme includes works by Catoire, Debussy, Szymanowski & Debussy, Fri 29 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham  
**KATIE ALCOCK FLUTE RECITAL** Fri 29 May, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa  
**MARK SWINTON ORGAN RECITAL** Sat 30 May, St. Mary's Church, Warwick  
**COME AND SING WITH JOHN RUTTER** Charity concert in aid of The M.E Trust, Sat 30 May, Birmingham Cathedral  
**TOGETHERNEST PRESENTS OWEN PALLETT, NICHOLAS KRGOVICH & MARKER STARLING** Sun 31 May, Stratford Artshouse

## Classical Box Office

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# The Pub Landlord

talks pubs, politics and holidays abroad...

**Did you always want to be a pub landlord?**

Oh yes, man and boy. It's a great calling - you're there to sooth troubled souls, pour balm on troubled waters, make people's important moments in their lives extra special and provide a range of snacks.

**Do you ever tire of the profession?**

Luckily I've been blessed, in that I can travel the country - indeed the world - passing on the lessons I've learned over the years. And I've got a great relief manager from Poland who keeps things moving.

**How would you define your politics?**

Common sense, reasonable, down to earth, real world, no nonsense, straightforward, rational, tolerant, reasonable, sensible, law-abiding, hard working, normal, reasonable, common sensical and straightforward.

**So what is the most common-sense approach to the country's problems?**

That's dead simple. What the country is crying out for is a government that, when it gets in, decides to do nothing whatsoever for five years. After all, governments make a mess of whatever they do do, so a government that did nothing could hardly mess that up, could it?

**What are your views on the policies of the Green Party?**

The Greens are great but their sums don't add up. They need to remember to make sure they leave the solar-powered calculator out in the sunshine a bit more.

**Which foreign leader do you most admire and why?**

God, that's a difficult one. I guess if it's anyone it's Angela Merkel. She's tough. I wouldn't want to owe her money, I'll tell you that much.

**You're an intelligent guy, Al. What would you do to improve the British education system?**

I reckon simply leaving it alone for a few years might work. Who'd be a teacher? Those poor sods are dealing with a new reform or shake-up every two years. It must wreck all that extra holiday time they get.

**What's your favourite tipple?**

The one I've got at the time. You can't live your life dreaming of other drinks. Love the one you're with.

**And if you could choose anyone in the world with whom to share that tipple, who**

**would it be?**

Crikey. Well, I'd say that the most beautiful woman in the world is Jayne Secker Sky News (full name).

**How do you like to spend your time away from the pub?**

In the beer garden.

**The month of May includes two bank holidays. How will you be spending them?**

Making sure the glass-washing machine doesn't break down. This time of year is murder for wear and tear on that sort of kit.

**Holidays abroad - where would you choose?**

The Falklands via Gibraltar. Leave the country without leaving the country.

**Finally, what's the Pub Landlord's guilty pleasure?**

No pleasure should be guilty. I'm not a Catholic.

Al Murray plays **Comedy Hullabaloo's Romantiek Spiegel tent** on Sat 23 May

# Comedy

## Suzi Ruffell

Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham, Wed 13 May;  
Manford's Comedy Club, Birmingham, Sat 23  
May; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 27 May

Quirky Suzi Ruffell is a 'work in progress' when it comes to the challenging business of stand-up comedy. Presenting an unquestionably likeable persona, she imbues her act with an admirable dynamism but suffers from not yet having worked out her own Unique Selling Point.

Her self-deprecating style is hugely engaging, and a little more attention to the quality and originality of her material could see her reaping significant dividends in the years to come.



## Jimmy Carr

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 30 May

There tends to be no middle ground when it comes to comedians - people either love 'em or hate 'em. This seems to be particularly true in the case of Jimmy Carr.

That said, judging by his regular presence on all manner of TV comedy shows, it would appear there's a considerably greater number of people in the 'for' camp than there are in the 'against'. Carr's high-profile enough nowadays to mean that most people will have made up their mind about him well in advance of this particular gig - so if you've got yourself a ticket to the show, it's reasonable to assume you know what you're in for and are going to have a good time.



## Jamali Maddix

Manford's Comedy Club, Birmingham,  
Sat 30 May

Reigning Chortle Student Comedian of the Year Jamali Maddix has been hailed for his frank yet ironic take on everyday racism and his willingness to tackle the 'hot potato' subject of terrorism. Sporting a distinctive hair-and-beard combo, Maddix cites influences that range from Gandhi to his Uncle Mark. The twenty-two-year-old Londoner is most definitely 'one to watch' - a fact ably supported by his selection from a pool of over one hundred comedians to appear on the Pleasance Comedy Reserve at the Edinburgh Fringe this summer.



## Comedy Hullabaloo

Aurora Spiegeltent and Romantiek Spiegeltent, Stratford-upon-Avon,  
Thurs 21 - Mon 25 May

Some of the biggest names on the circuit feature in five days of comic madness when Comedy Hullabaloo takes place in Stratford-upon-Avon this month.

Organised by Underbelly, the entertainment company responsible for Udderbelly Festival London and London Wonderground, the festival is being held at two venues in the town.

Ardal O'Hanlon, Sara Pascoe, Jack Dee (pictured), James Acaster, Al Murray, Hal Cruttenden, Justin Moorhouse and Paul Foot are among the well-established names booked to appear.

Meanwhile, a Comedy Club 4 Kids element of the show sees some of the festival favourites plying their trade to younger visitors - but without any rude bits.

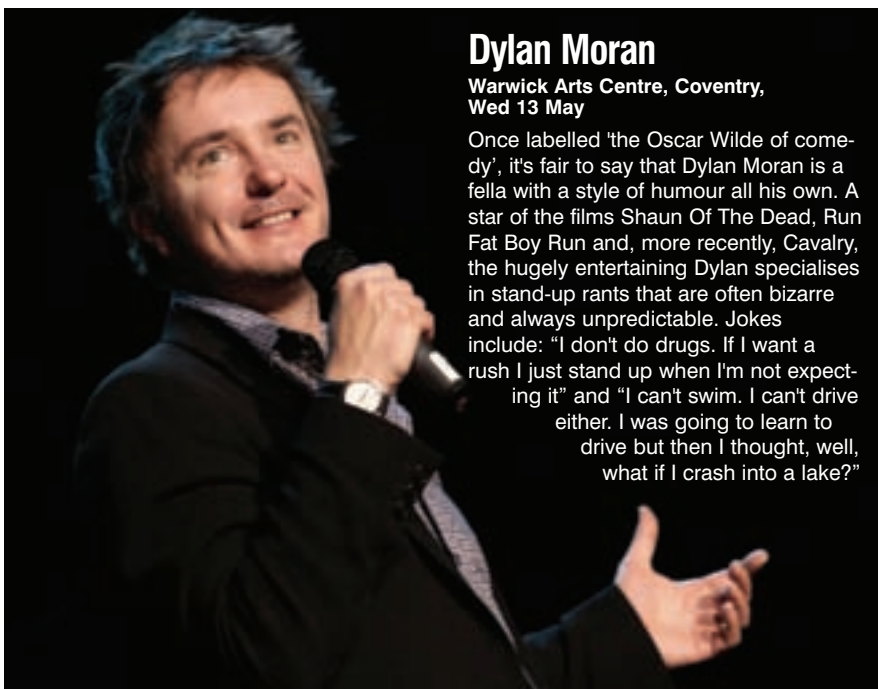
## Comedy Box Office

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## Dylan Moran

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,  
Wed 13 May

Once labelled 'the Oscar Wilde of comedy', it's fair to say that Dylan Moran is a fella with a style of humour all his own. A star of the films *Shaun Of The Dead*, *Run Fat Boy Run* and, more recently, *Cavalry*, the hugely entertaining Dylan specialises in stand-up rants that are often bizarre and always unpredictable. Jokes include: "I don't do drugs. If I want a rush I just stand up when I'm not expecting it" and "I can't swim. I can't drive either. I was going to learn to drive but then I thought, well, what if I crash into a lake?"





# Comedy LISTINGS

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

**KATHERINE RYAN** Fri 1 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**SEANN WALSH** Fri 1 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury  
**CURTIS WALKER, JUDY THOMAS & SPECIAL P** Fri 1 May, The Drum, Birmingham  
**PHIL BUCKLEY** Fri 1 May, mac, Birmingham  
**NEIL MCFARLANE, MARLON DAVIS, RO CAMPBELL & COMIC TBC** Fri 1 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**RHODRI RHYS, JOJO SUTHERLAND, STE PORTER & JARLATH REGAN** Fri 1 - Sat 2 May, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**JIMMY CARR** Sat 2 May, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**CHRIS CHOPPING, MARLON DAVIS, RO CAMPBELL & COMIC TBC** Sat 2 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**PADDY LENNOX, DAN EVANS, KEVIN DEWSBURY & FUNMBI OMITAYO** Sat 2 May, Coventry Showcase  
**BEN NORRIS, FERN BRADY, CHRIS MCCAUSLAND & JASON COOK** Sat 2 May, Manford's Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**ROUGH WORKS - NEW MATERIAL NIGHT** Sun 3 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**TOM TOAL** Mon 4 May, Old Joint Stock Pub, Birmingham  
**JIMMY CARR** Tues 5 May, De Montfort Hall, Leicester  
**FOIL, ARMS & HOG** Wed 6 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**KEVIN BRIDGES** Wed 6 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury  
**RICH HALL** Thurs 7 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**RON VAUDRY, JARLATH REGAN & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON**, Thurs 7 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**ANDY PARSONS** Fri 8 May, The Courtyard, Hereford  
**LEWIS SCHAFFER** Fri 8 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**MARK GRIST AND MC MIXY** Fri 8 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**ROBIN MORGAN, JOHN MOLONEY, RON VAUDRY & JARLATH REGAN** Fri 8 - Sat 9 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**CARL HUTCHINSON, NICK PAGE, TIM FITZHUGHAM & BRAD TASSELL** Fri 8 - Sat 9 May, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**STEWART FRANCIS** Sat 9 May, Warwick Arts

Centre, Coventry  
**PAUL FOOT** Sat 9 May, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**GARY DELANEY, DAN NIGHTINGALE & IAN MOORE** Sat 9 May, Manford's Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**PETER WHITE, RAY BRADSHAW, TUDOR OWEN & NEIL COLE** Sat 9 May, Coventry Showcase  
**CELEBRATION OF COMEDY** Mrs Barbara Nice presents comedy course participants showcasing their material, Sat 9 May, mac, Birmingham  
**HENNING WEHN** Sun 10 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**LOUDEEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT** Mon 11 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham  
**DYLAN MORAN** Wed 13 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**JACK DEE, ROMESH RANGANATHAN & KERRY GODLIMAN** Wed 13 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**SUZI RUFFELL, ANNETTE FAGON, LINDSEY SANTORO & MAUREEN YOUNGER** Wed 13 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe  
**HENNING WEHN** Thurs 14 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**ROMESH RANGANATHAN & SUZI RUFFELL** Thurs 14 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**PETER WHITE, STEVE GRIBBIN & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 14 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**HENNING WEHN** Fri 15 May, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**JARLATH REGAN, KIERAN BOYD & SUNIL PATEL** Fri 15 May, The Courtyard, Hereford  
**PETER WHITE, STEVE GRIBBIN, ANDY ROBINSON & MATT REES** Fri 15 - Sat 16 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**MATT REED, OWEN O'NEILL, BRENDAN RILEY & STUART MITCHELL** Fri 15 - Sat 16 May, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**ROY CHUBBY BROWN** Sat 16 May, The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**BARBARA NICE, CHRIS MARTIN, PAUL MYRE-HAUG & ANDY ASKINS** Sat 16 May, Manford's Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**RAY PEACOCK, CHRIS MARTIN, MIKE NEWALL & ANDREW MCBURNEY** Sat 16 May, Coventry Showcase  
**ALAN CARR** Sat 16 - Sun 17 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**TOADALLY FREE COMEDY!**

Mon 18 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham  
**RICHARD HERRING** Tues 19 May, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield  
**DAN NIGHTINGALE, ALI COOK, ZOE LYONS & JOHN MOLONEY** Wed 20 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**MARK OLVER, CAREY MARX & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 21 May, The Glee Club, B'ham  
**JEREMY HARDY** Fri 22 May, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**MARK OLVER, CAREY MARX, MARK NELSON & ANDREA HUBERT** Fri 22 - Sat 23 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**GEOFF BOYZ, GORDON SOUTHERN, ANDREW RYAN & CIAMH MCDONNELL** Fri 22 - Sat 23 May, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**JETHRO** Sat 23 May, Solihull Arts Complex  
**GARY DELANEY** Sat 23 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**SUZI RUFFELL, DANNY MCLOUGHLIN, NICK DIXON & TONKS** Sat 23 May, Manford's Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**HAYLEY ELLIS, MATT REES, PIERRE HOLLINS & GEORGE EGG** Sat 23 May, Coventry Showcase  
**MIKE GUNN & SUPPORT TBC** Sun 24 May, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield  
**MICKEY SHARMA, WILL-E, THANYIA MORRE & PRINCE HARRY** Sun 24 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**STEWART FRANCIS** Tues 26 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**ROMESH RANGANATHAN & SUZI RUFFELL** Wed 27 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**MICHAEL FABBRI, DANIEL SLOSS & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 28 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**MICHAEL FABBRI, DANIEL SLOSS, PETE FIRMAN & ERIC LAMPAERT** Fri 29 - Sat 30 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**SAM AVERY, STEFANO PAOLINI, STUART MITCHELL & PIERRE HOLLINS** Fri 29 - Sat 30 May, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**JIMMY CARR** Sat 30 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**DAVE HADINGHAM, JAMALI MADDIX, STEVE GRIBBIN & DANNY MCLOUGHLIN** Sat 30 May, Manford's Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**DUNCAN OAKLEY, SY THOMAS, DAVID WHITNEY & EDD HEDGES** Sat 30 May, Coventry Showcase  
**MILES CRAWFORD** Sun 31 May, The Glee Club,

# Comedy Hullabaloo

**RUSSELL KANE, HAL CRUTTENDEN, ZOE LYONS & KERRY GODLIMAN** Thurs 21 May, Aurora Spiegeltent  
**KERRY GODLIMAN, JOEL DOMMETT, BRETT GOLDSTEIN & ANDREW RYAN** Fri 22 May, Romantiek Spiegeltent  
**JAMES ACASTER, ZOE LYONS & BRETT GOLDSTEIN** Fri 22 May, Romantiek Spiegeltent  
**ZOE LYONS, JASON BYRNE & ANDREW RYAN** Fri 22 May, Aurora Spiegeltent  
**JASON BYRNE, JAMES ACASTER, JOEL DOMETT & KERRY GODLIMAN** Fri 22 May, Aurora Spiegeltent  
**ARDAL O'HANLON, JAMES ACASTER, ALUN COCHRANE & COMICS TBC** Sat 23 May, Romantiek Spiegeltent  
**ARDAL O'HANLON, JUSTIN MOORHOUSE, SARA PASCOE & TOM ALLEN** Sat 23 May, Aurora Spiegeltent

**SARA PASCOE, MARK WATSON, DANNY BHOY & JUSTIN MOORHOUSE** Sat 23 May, Aurora Spiegeltent  
**MARK WATSON, DANNY BHOY, TOM ALLEN & ALUN COCHRANE** Sat 23 May, Romantiek Spiegeltent



Mark Watson

**JACK DEE** Sat 23 May, Aurora Spiegeltent  
**COMEDY CLUB FOR KIDS** Sat 23 May, Romantiek Spiegeltent  
**AL MURRAY** Sat 23 May, Aurora Spiegeltent  
**PETE FIRMAN, DANNY BHOY, SARA PASCOE, JUSTIN MOORHOUSE, JOHN ROBINS & ALUN COCHRANE** Sun 24 May, Romantiek Spiegeltent  
**PAUL FOOT, SARA**

**PASCOE, ARDAL O'HANLON & JOHN ROBINS** Sun 24 May, Romantiek Spiegeltent  
**CHARLIE BAKER, ARDAL O'HANLON, DANNY BHOY, JUSTIN MOORHOUSE & ALUN COCHRANE** Sun 24 May, Aurora Spiegeltent  
**ROBIN INCE** Sun 24 May, Romantiek Spiegeltent  
**MORGAN AND WEST'S UTTERLY SPIFFING SPECTACULAR MAGIC SHOW** Sun 24 May, Romantiek Spiegeltent  
**JON RICHARDSON & FRIENDS** Sun 24 May, Aurora Spiegeltent  
**THE ONLY WAY IS DOWNTON** Mon 25 May, Romantiek Spiegeltent  
**COMEDY CLUB FOR KIDS** Mon 25 May, Romantiek Spiegeltent  
**HULLABALOO FINALE** Mon 25 May, Romantiek Spiegeltent

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TUE 26 MAY - SAT 6 JUN

**THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME**

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THE TIMES

National Theatre

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Debussy

**WNO**

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**BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET**

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Life in Progress

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VINCENT SIMONE & FLAVIA CACACE

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# Theatre



## Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 5 - Sat 16 May; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 28 July - Sat 1 August

Michael Praed, Noel Sullivan, Carley Stenson and Mark Benton star in this national touring show based upon Frank Oz's 1988 film starring Steve Martin and Michael Caine - which itself was based on 1964's *Bedtime Story* with David Niven and Marlon Brando. Set in the decadent underworld of the French Riviera, it tells the humorous tale of two seasoned swindlers and their attempts to hood-

wink a millionaire soap heiress.

Unlike the movie which inspired it, the stage version of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* is a musical - and one that's in a very safe pair of hands too, with *Kinky Boots*, *Hairspray* and *Legally Blonde* director Jerry Mitchell the man at the helm.

*Read our interview with Mark Benton on page 6*



## Blood

The REP, Birmingham, Tues 19 - Sat 23 May

Tamasha and the Coventry Belgrade here collaborate to present a twenty-first century love story. When Caneze meets Sully in the college canteen, sparks fly - but neither of them can know the lengths to which her brother will go to keep them apart.

Esther Richardson directs Emteaz Hussain's stylish and thought-provoking play.

"After the 2011 riots," recalls Emteaz, "I felt frustrated over the myopic portrayal of working-class young people. It was important to me to write a play which captured the complexity of their lives and the brave, sassy way they negotiate their identity in a wider context."

*Read our review of Blood at [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk)*

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

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 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 our interview with Joshua Jenkins who plays Christopher, on page 10*



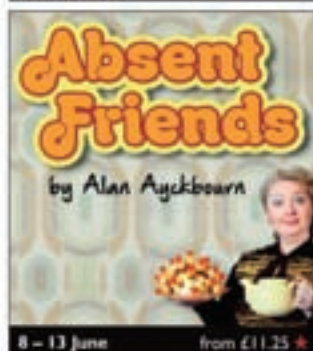
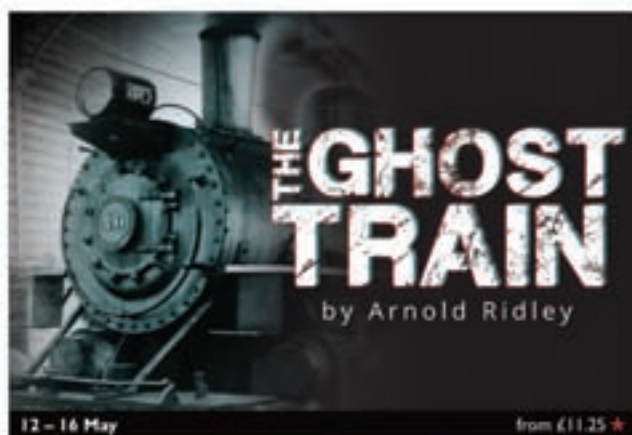




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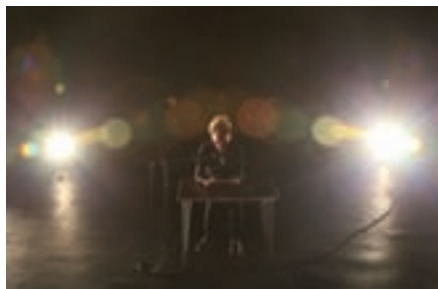
## This Is How We Die

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 19 - Wed 20 May

If you're looking for an unchallenging evening of conventional theatre, refrain from buying a ticket for Christopher Brett Bailey's 'motor-mouthed collage of spoken word and storytelling'.

If, however, you decide to give *This Is How We Die* a whirl, expect to leave the theatre at the end of the night having either loved or loathed the experience. Although one reviewer called it challenging and thought-provoking, they also noted that, were you to see it when you weren't in quite the right mood, there was every chance you might think it pretentious drivel.

You have been warned.



## Judy: The Songbook Of Judy Garland

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 May

This is the only officially recognised Judy Garland show currently touring, having been given the green light by her family. One-time *Strictly Come Dancing* judge Arlene Phillips is the creative director on the production, which pays homage to *Wizard Of Oz* star Garland and her memorable songbook. Never-before-seen film highlights and interviews are featured in the show, which also boasts Judy's daughter Lorna Luft and special guests Ray Quinn and Louise Dearman. Judy's dancers, The Boyfriends, ensure the show's energy levels are suitably high.



## James And The Giant Peach

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 23 May - Sun 7 June

One of Roald Dahl's best loved and most famous masterpieces, *James And The Giant Peach* tells the tall tale of a little boy (bet you can't guess what his name is!) and the truly horrid and terrible time he has with his revolting old aunts, Sponge and Spiker. Given how generally unpleasant his life is, it's no surprise that James grabs with both hands the chance to have an adventure - and suddenly finds himself involved with a mystical old man who gives him a bag that contains



## Cougar The Musical

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Sat 16 May - Sat 6 June

Cougars are women of a certain age who seek sexual relationships with younger men. There are three of them in this show (cougars, that is), all of whom are desperately disillusioned with life - at least until they unleash their 'inner cougar' by dating the aforementioned younger men! But for these particular women, the experience doesn't just lead to lots of hot fun with guys who've got far fewer wrinkles than they have - in the process they also get to discover both self-love and empowerment.

"This cougar exploration is entirely funny and poignant and goofy and campy and soulful and grounding and healing," says creator Donna Moore. "I want nothing less than for everyone who sees the show to leave with their spirits uplifted, a song in their heart and a racy story to share with their friends."

This brand new production, marking the show's UK premiere, is directed by the Belgrade's Creative Associate, Patricia Benecke.

Read our interview with Donna Moore at [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

the strongest magic the world has ever known. And when James accidentally spills the contents of the bag near an old peach tree, it isn't long before the most incredible things start to happen...

## Thrill Me: The Leopold And Loeb Story

Old Rep, Birmingham, Fri 22 - Sat 23 May

Given that the events which unfold in Stephen Dolginoff's award-winning musical took place across the Atlantic over ninety years ago, it's perhaps not surprising that relatively few people are familiar with the story of Nathan Freudenthal Leopold Jr and Richard Albert Loeb.

Two wealthy and intelligent law students, Leopold and Loeb signed a contract in blood to commit the perfect crime.

Their arrangement was to bring to a tragic end the life of fourteen-year-old Robert Franks...



## Postcards From The Seaside

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 30 - Sun 31 May

Local professional company MadCap Theatre Productions make a welcome return with this 1940s-set musical recounting the trials and tribulations of wireless star Lester Duvall. The show celebrates the Home Front during its seventy-fifth anniversary year and has been written by Wallop Mrs Cox playwright Laurie Hornsby.



## Boys Talk

mac, Birmingham, Sat 23 May

Award-winning Birmingham-based company Women & Theatre is the ensemble behind this 'engaging celebration of male communication'.

The thirty-three-year-old company pioneers new ways of addressing contemporary issues through performance, in the process aiming to reflect the language and lives of ordinary people.

"Boys Talk was created using the stories and experiences of young men living in Birmingham," explain Women & Theatre. "The show explores how men express themselves, what they talk about every day, what they never talk about and the impact of technology on their communication."



WHAT'S ON IN  
MAY & JUNE

**STRATFORD  
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**Sunday 3 May, 7pm**  
**The Rat Pack - Vegas Spectacular**  
 Every song a classic - Come Fly with Me, Volare, That's Amore, Under My Skin, Mr Bojangles, That's Life, Mack The Knife, and many more of your favourites.  
**Tickets: £20**



**Friday 26 June, 8pm**  
**Katherine Ryan - Glam Role Model**  
 With the face of an angel and the sharpest of tongues, Canadian-born Londoner Katherine Ryan brings to Stratford an evening of quick-witted quips.  
**Tickets: £14**



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**Monday 18 May, 7.30pm £15**  
**THE FRYER BARNHART  
INTERNATIONAL ALL STARS**  
 World-renowned American jazz musicians Jeff Barnhart and Jim Fryer are joined by top UK jazz musicians including George Huxley, to produce an exciting traditional jazz sound - Hosted by Mark Stent.



**Thursday 21 May, 7.30pm £20**  
**JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER**  
 A brilliant evening of stories and music as Julian Lloyd Webber takes you through a musical journey of his life and career with film clips, chat and special guests Jasiri Lloyd Webber and Pianist Pam Chowhan.



**Wednesday 27 May, 7.30pm £18**  
**ALADDIN BY BALLET THEATRE UK**  
 The tale of the lonely orphan whose life is destined for greater things. A dazzling re-telling of this exotic classic tale boldly brought to life through the entrancing magic of classical ballet with wonderful music and choreography.  
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**Tuesday 2 June, 2pm £13**  
**BOBBY CRUSH AT THE PIANO**  
 Join Britain's legendary Piano entertainer as he plays a wonderful selection of your favourite music. With a guest host, and live musicians, this matinee show will include a special request spot where you can ask Bobby to play your favourite songs and a question and answer session.

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**Tuesday 19th May**  
**PIRATES OF PENZANCE**  
 ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA SCREENING



**Friday 22nd May**  
**INTOTO DANCE**  
 TALENTED YOUNG CHOREOGRAPHERS & DANCERS



**Friday 29th May**  
**JIVE TALKIN'**  
 STUNNING TRIBUTE TO THE BEE GEES



**FORTHCOMING CINEMA:** Kingsman: The Secret Service (15) // Still Alice (12A) // Quadrophenia (18) // The Water Diviner (15) // Home (U) // A Little Chaos (12A)

**FORTHCOMING SCREENINGS:** La Fille Mal Gardée (Royal Ballet) // Man & Superman (NT Live) // Pirates Of Penzance (ENO) // La Boheme (Royal Opera House) // Carmen (ENO) // Andre Rieu Everyman (NT Live) // Merchant Of Venice (RSC) // Othello (RSC) // Aida (Opera Australia)

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## Dear Lupin

Malvern Theatre, Mon 11 - Sat 16 May

Jack Fox shares the spotlight with his rather better-known father, James, in this brand new comedy. Based on letters sent by renowned racing journalist Roger Mortimer to his son, Charlie, it presents not only a memoir of their relationship but also an affectionate portrait of a time gone by.



## The Ghost Train

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,  
Tues 12 - Sat 16 May

To generations of fans, Arnold Ridley is best remembered as Private Godfrey in Dad's Army. But decades before he joined Captain Mainwaring and the Home Guard, Ridley penned this classic comedy thriller about a group of travellers stranded in the waiting room of an isolated railway station on a dark and stormy night. Their plight isn't helped by the station master's spine-tingling warning - that death will claim anyone who sets eyes on the ghostly train that haunts the line. Hi-de-Hi!'s Jeffrey Holland top-bills alongside his real-life wife, Judy Buxton.



## Shaun Of The Dead Live

Swan Theatre, Worcester,  
Thurs 21 - Fri 22 May

Shaun Of The Dead, the hit movie about a legion of zombies, has acquired an equally significant legion of fans since its release in 2004 - and given its continued popularity, it's hardly surprising that the movie has now spawned a stage version. Gloucestershire-based Almost Legal Productions is the organisation behind this brand new show, which has the backing of Shaun Of The Dead star Simon Pegg. A collective theatre and film production company, ALP's stated philosophy is 'to kiss goodbye to old skool theatre operations and revamp the entire theatrical experience for everyone concerned'... In short, they're looking to offer something pretty darned unique.



## The Merchant Of Venice

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Thurs 14 May - Wed 2 September

Undoubtedly one of Shakespeare's most difficult, complex and controversial works, The Merchant Of Venice follows the fortunes of the unfortunate Antonio, who bets on a venture that fails to repay and finds himself forced to borrow money from Shylock, a man whom he loathes. Directed by Polly Findlay, this RSC production features Nadia Albina as Nerissa and Makram J Khoury as Shylock.

Expect songs, dances and plenty of audience participation - not to mention goody bags complete with all the kit required to take part.

Whoever would've thought that joining the 'living dead' could be so much fun?...

## Tree Fu Tom

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa,  
Tues 26 May

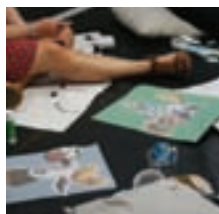
CBeebies' favourite Tree Fu Tom finds the eponymous hero regularly disappearing into the woodland near his home. Once there, Tom's power belt shrinks him to the size of an insect, allowing him to enter the magical world of Treetopolis - a miniature village located on part of a tree trunk...

This brand new show, blending adventure, music and participation, has been created to appeal to the TV series' target audience of children aged between two and six.

## The Boy Who Bit Picasso

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,  
Sun 31 May

Play-clothes are very much the order of the day with this show - it's fair to say things could get decidedly messy! An interactive theatre production for children aged four and older, The Boy Who Bit Picasso tells the story of how a young lad became friends with one of the greatest artists who ever lived. Along the way, the show offers audience members the chance to get really hands-on by making their own art (hence the play-clothes recommendation!). Presented by Untied Artists in association with Oxford Playhouse.



## The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice

The REP, Birmingham, Fri 15 - Sat 30 May

One-time Corrie stars Chris Gascoyne and Vicky Entwistle here star in Jim Cartwright's much-loved musical. Featuring songs from some of the world's most iconic divas, including Marilyn Monroe, Shirley Bassey and Judy Garland, this Olivier Award-winning show tells the story of a shy young girl with an incredible talent for vocal impersonations who suddenly finds herself catapulted into the limelight by a local talent scout. Read our interview with Vicky Entwistle on page 8.



## Hansel And Gretel

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,  
Thurs 7 - Sat 9 May

Hightime Opera present a new translation of Humperdinck's masterpiece which brings the traditional tale into the twenty-first century. Sibling rivalry is pushed to its very limits in this new version of the timeless Brothers Grimm fairytale, presented here by Language Alive.

Eccentric traveller guide Tattershawl takes the show's audience on a journey to unexpected destinations and dark secrets, as the story of Hansel and Gretel is vividly brought to life.







# Theatre LISTINGS

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

## From FRI 1 MAY

**DEATH OF A SALESMAN** Sir Antony Sher, Alex Hassell & Harriet Walter star in Arthur Miller's great American tragedy, until Sat 2 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**FEED THE BEAST** World premiere of Steve Thompson's fiercely funny look at the rocky relations between our press and politicians in a world of spin-doctors and Leveson inquiries, until Sat 2 May, The REP, Birmingham. *Read the review on page 39*

**THE BODYGUARD** Award-winning musical based on the blockbuster film. X Factor winner Alexandra Burke takes the lead as Rachel Marron, until Sat 2 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. *Read the review on page 39*

**THE TURN OF THE SCREW** Blue Orange Arts fuse shadow puppetry and projection to tell Henry James' gothic classic, until Sat 2 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham. *Read the review online at [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk)*

**AS YOU LIKE IT** SYC present Shakespeare's tale of love, jealousy & regeneration, until Sat 2 May, The Dream Factory, Warwick

**MACBETH** SYC present Shakespeare's drama of power, dread and supernatural confrontation, until Sat 2 May, The Dream Factory, Warwick

**REBECCA** Kneehigh Theatre present Emma Rice's adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's timeless tale, until Sat 2 May, The REP, B'ham

**THE KING'S SPEECH** Jason Donovan (Logue) & Raymond Coulthard (King George) 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 the now iconic speech broadcast across the globe to inspire his people, until Sat 2 May, Malvern Theatres

**OUR HOUSE** Solihull On Stage present an amateur production of the Madness musical, until Sat 2 May, Solihull Arts Complex

**THE SECRET ADVERSARY** The Watermill Theatre in association with Eleanor Lloyd Produc-

tions present Agatha Christie's gripping thriller which follows the adventures of Tommy & Tuppence through 1920s London, until Sat 2 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**PIRATES OF PENZANCE** Tinkers Farm Opera present a modern interpretation of Gilbert & Sullivan's operatic masterpiece, until Sat 2 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**GREEN LEAVES FALL** Strictly Arts Theatre Company present a debut play which explores two of the most pressing social issues of our time - inequality & unemployment, until Sat 2 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**LITTLE WOMEN** Birmingham Ormiston Academy present a staging of Louise May Alcott's classic tale, until Sat 2 May, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**NEVILLE'S ISLAND** Tim Firth's comedy, which follows the misadventures of four out-of-control businessmen on an out-of-control team-building exercise, until Sat 9 May, Sutton Arts Theatre, Sutton Coldfield

**DIRTY DANCING** Eleanor Bergstein's smash-hit West End musical that tells the classic love story of Baby and Johnny. This touring production will feature brand new choreography, performed alongside a host of memorable tunes, including the award-winning (I've Had) The Time Of My Life, until Sat 23 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

**LOVE'S SACRIFICE** Matthew Dunster makes his RSC debut, directing John Ford's rarely performed revenge tragedy, until Wed 24 June, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE JEW OF MALTA** Justin Audibert makes his RSC debut, directing Christopher Marlowe's subversive play, until Tue 8 Sep, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**F.A.N.Y** The story of five young women fighting for the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (F.A.N.Y) during the Great War, Fri 1 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**YAMATO DRUMMERS** The ancient art of taiko drumming is brought bang up to date in an

exhilarating display of expertise and athleticism which has thrilled audiences worldwide...

Fri 1 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**FIVE KINDS OF SILENCE** Shelagh Stephenson's tension-filled drama portraying a cycle of family violence and abuse, Fri 1 - Sat 2 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**PAUL MERTON'S IMPRO CHUMS** Join Paul Merton and his renowned Impro Chums, Mike McShane, Lee Simpson, Richard Vranich and Suki Webster, as they create a new and unique comedy show, based entirely on suggestions from the audience, Sat 2 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**BACK DOWN** Highly-anticipated first play by Birmingham-born Steven Camden, more commonly known as the award-winning performance poet Polarbear, Sat 2 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**OPEN HOUSE** First Stages present an interactive experience featuring performance, music, puppetry and other surprises, Sat 2 May, The REP, B'ham

**CREATING REBECCA** Kneehigh Theatre Company discuss their creative process and the making of Rebecca, Sat 2 May, The REP, Birmingham

**JOYCE... AT REST** Site-specific performance which remembers the stories of the Newman Brothers' factory in Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter, Sat 2 - Sun 3 May, The Coffin Works, Birmingham

**CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA (MASCAGNI)/ PAGLIACCI (LEONCAVALLO)** A Met Opera Live screening of opera's most enduring tragic double bill, Sun 3 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## Week Commencing MON 4 MAY

**REBECCA** Kneehigh Theatre present Emma Rice's adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's timeless tale, Mon 4 - Sat 9 May, Malvern Theatre

**OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR** Joan Littlewood's legendary musical, revived to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of World War One, Tue 5 - Sat 9 May, The REP, Birmingham

**PRIDE AND PREJUDICE** The Swan Theatre Amateur Company presents its version of Jane Austen's romantic comedy, Tues 5 - Sat 9 May, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**SISTER ACT** The Arcadians present an amateur



Oh What A Lovely War - The REP, Birmingham

staging of the comic musical concerning disco diva-come-nun Deloris Van Cartier, Tue 5 - Sat 9 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS** Based on the classic comedy film starring Sir Michael Caine & Steve Martin, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels is set in the South of France, where two seasoned swindlers try to hoodwink a millionaire heiress, Tue 5 - Sat 16 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**FOIL, ARMS & HOG** Best Of Ireland's top comic sketch group, Wed 6 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**A NIGHT AT THE MUSIC HALL** Hosted by Duggie Chapman & featuring The Bachelors with John Stokes, Chas McDevitt, Marilyn Hill-Smith, Adam Daye, The Simmons Brothers & Safire, Wed 6 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**A CLOCKWORK ORANGE** HoW College degree students bring Anthony Burgess' timeless piece to the stage, Wed 6 - Thurs 7 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL** Youth On Stage present an amateur production of the high-octane American musical, Wed 6 - Sat 9 May, The Old Rep Theatre, B'ham

**PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Amateur production presented by Coventry Youth Operatta Group (YOG), Wed 6 - Sat 9 May, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**(H)EXPERIMENT: PANDEM-IC LIVE!** Join award-winning comedians James Cook & Paul Savage in a unique sketch show based on the popular Z-man board game, Thurs 7 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**ROH SCREENING: LA FILLE MAL GARDEE** Royal Opera House live

screening of Frederick Ashton's final full-length ballet, Thurs 7 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**HANSEL AND GRETEL** Hightime Opera present a new translation of Humperdinck's masterpiece, which brings the traditional tale into the twenty-first century, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**ANDREW DEE: THE BLACK OR WHITE TOUR** Spirit medium Andrew Dee promises to guide audiences 'through some of life's mysteries with help from loved ones in the spirit world', Fri 8 May, Solihull Arts Complex

**THE WOMAN WHO COOKED HER HUSBAND** Debbie Isitt's darkly comic exploration of contemporary love and marriage, Fri 8 - Sat 16 May, The Bear Pit Theatre - The United Reformed Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

**BEYOND THE BARRICADE** Songs from the world's greatest musicals in concert, Sat 9 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**SING-A-LONG-A FROZEN A** full screening of the Disney sensation, complete with on-screen lyrics to help you sing along with Anna and Elsa during the film, Sat 9 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**SING-A-LONG-A DIRTY DANCING** The brand new Sing-a-long-a screening of the classic film starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey, Sat 9 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**BRIDGING THE VOID** Experiential's latest work has been inspired by the Native American saying, 'Every night is followed by sunrise', Sat 9 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**DR LUCY WORSLEY: AN**

**EVENING OF MURDER** An illustrated tour through the dark story of our fascination with murder. With Dr Lucy Worsley, Sat 9 May, Malvern Theatre

**(H) EXPERIMENT: SLOT TOGETHER** Birmingham-based Stan's Cafe host eight brand new shows, each using the same twelve props, each twenty minutes long and each playing by the same rules, Sat 9 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

**A DOLL'S HOUSE** Amateur staging of Henrik Ibsen's emotional thriller, Sat 9 - Sat 16 May, Oldbury Rep

**THE LONG ROAD** The Crescent Theatre Company present Shelagh Stephenson's thought-provoking play, which delves into the murky world of teenage violence, Sat 9 - Sat 16 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**FASHIONABLY LATE** Ginny Davis' witty tale concerning the celebration of family, love and all that matters. Ginny Davis & James Goldsworthy star, Sun 10 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE LAST TRAIN** Drama set in 1914 Kings Heath with the world on the brink of war, presented by Lunarust Theatre, Sun 10 May, Albany Theatre, Coventry

## Week Commencing MON 11 MAY

**BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES** New work where four young theatre makers decide to change the course of their lives forever by exchanging the parts of their personalities they've never much liked for the alternative traits they've always wanted, Mon 11 May, The REP, Birmingham

**DEAR LUPIN** Father and son, James & Jack Fox,



THE OLD JOINT STOCK PUB & THEATRE

**Birmingham**

**CABARET FESTIVAL**

**19th & 20th May**  
**The Footsie Club**

**15th May**  
**BORIS and SERGEY'S**  
VAUDEVILLIAN ADVENTURE

**16th May**  
**Mat Ricardo**

**21st May**  
**LILI LA SCALA**

**22nd May**  
**MR. B**  
THE GENTLEMAN RHYMER

**23rd May**  
**NELL Gwynn's**  
HISTORY AND BAKE

**26th May**  
**Tina Turner**  
**Tea Lady**

**27th May**  
**HIHI LOVECHILD**

**28th May**  
**THE FOGHORN**  
**FOLLIES**

**29th & 30th May**  
**East End**  
**Cabaret**

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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)

here star alongside each other in a brand new comedy based on the Sunday Times Humour Book of the Year, Mon 11 - Sat 16 May, Malvern Theatre

**SPRING AWAKENING** University of Wolverhampton Drama Department presents its version of the Tony Award-winning musical, which celebrates the unforgettable journey from youth to adulthood, Tues 12 - Wed 13 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK** Musical comedy presented by Solihull Theatre Company, Tue 12 - Sat 16 May, Solihull Arts Complex

**KISS ME, KATE** Bournville Musical Theatre Company present Cole Porter's musical version of Shakespeare's The Taming Of The Shrew, Tue 12 - Sat 16 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**THE GHOST TRAIN** Arnold Ridley's classic comedy thriller, starring Jeffrey Holland (Hi-de-Hi!), Tom Butcher (The Bill, Doctors), Sophie Powles (Emmerdale), Judy Buxton (General Hospital & On The Up) and David Janson ('Allo 'Allo!, Keeping Up Appearances), Tue 12 - Sat 16 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**BAD GIRLS MUSICAL** Great Barr Musical Theatre Company present the story of new idealistic Wing Governor Helen Stewart and her battles with the entrenched old guard of Officer Jim Fenner and his sidekick Sylvia Hollamby, Tue 12 - Sat 16 May, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**NURSING LIVES** A full-mask theatre production alive with visual inventiveness, evocative music and song, physical theatre and 1940s dance sequences, Wed 13 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**GHOST THE MUSICAL** West Bromwich Operatic Society present an amateur staging based on the 1990 blockbuster movie, Wed 13 - Sat 16 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**AVENUE Q** Amateur production presented by Music Theatre Warwick, Wed 13 - Sat 16 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**(H) EXPERIMENT: QUIZSHOWROKE** Interactive game show where audience members are invited to become contestants and be in with the chance of winning prizes... Thurs 14 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**CARDBOARD CITIZENS: BENEFIT** Three interwoven stories unlock the frustrations and passions of characters struggling with their bank balances, their histories and their own sense of

self, Thurs 14 - Fri 15 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**CHEWING THE FAT** Rep Foundry member Selina Thompson invites audiences to join her for her own version of a midnight feast: somewhere between the confessions made over coffee at Weight Watchers and the sloppy, drunken storytelling that accompanies that 3am kebab, Thurs 14 - Sat 16 May, The REP, Birmingham

**THE FOOTSIE CLUB** Bask in the secluded decadence of the elegant evening for an exclusive evening of the most delectable femme fatales, quirky comedy, and extraordinary performances, Thurs 14 - Wed 20 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM CABARET FESTIVAL** Brand new event promising some of the best cabaret acts in the UK, Thurs 14 - Sat 30 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** Polly Findlay directs Shakespeare's uncompromising play, Thurs 14 May - Wed 2 Sep, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**SOMETHING ELSE** Deafinitely Theatre present a story about a small creature who lives his life always trying to fit in, Fri 15 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**BORIS & SERGEY'S VAUDEVILLIAN ADVENTURE** An improvised crossover cabaret featuring tabletop puppetry and character comedy for discerningly twisted adult audiences, Fri 15 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**NOAH: A MUSICAL ADVENTURE** Saltmine Theatre present a 'fun-filled' family musical based on the biblical story, Fri 15 May, Bedworth Civic Hall

**THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA... LIVE ON STAGE!** Children's show based on Judith Kerr's picture book of the same name, Fri 15 - Sun 17 May, Malvern Theatre

**PARDON ME PRIME MINISTER** Edward Taylor & John Graham's farce, which sees a Prime Minister's former indiscretion come back to haunt him, Fri 15 - Sat 23 May, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

**THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE** Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company & West Yorkshire Playhouse present Jim Cartwright's award-winning comedy, Fri 15 - Sat 30 May, The REP, Birmingham

**BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES** New work where four young theatre makers decide to change the course of their lives forever

by exchanging the parts of their personalities they've never much liked for the alternative traits they've always wanted, Sat 16 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**MAN AND SUPERMAN**

National Theatre Live screening of Bernard Shaw's witty, provocative classic. Ralph Fiennes stars, Sat 16 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**(H) EXPERIMENT: SLOT TOGETHER** Birmingham-based Stan's Cafe host eight brand new shows, each using the same twelve props, each twenty minutes long and each playing by the same rules, Sat 16 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

**MATT RICARDO: SHOWMAN** Big laughs, serious skills, slapstick & breathtaking spectacle from the 'UK's most successful juggler', Sat 16 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**A WORLD BEYOND MAN** Centric Theatre's epic story of ice, polar bears, adventure and death... Sat 16 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**ALEXEI SAYLE: LISTEN WITH ALEXEI** The best-selling author, comedian and actor gives a preview of the second volume of his 'hilarious and thought-provoking' memoirs, with a reading from Thatcher Stole My Trousers, Thurs 16 May, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**COUGAR THE MUSICAL** Raunchy & insightful musical about three women of a certain age saying yes to life and learning that happiness lies within, Sat 16 May - Sat 6 Jun, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**YAMATO DRUMMERS** The ancient art of taiko drumming is brought bang up to date in an exhilarating display of expertise and athleticism which has thrilled audiences worldwide... Sun 17 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**OLIVIA** Theatretrain Solihull present an innovative family show. Set in Victorian times the story traces the steps of Olivia, from down-trodden orphan to star of the stage, Sun 17 May, Solihull Arts Complex

**Week Commencing MON 18 MAY**

**TWELVE ANGRY MEN** Jason Merrells, Andrew Lancel, Dennis Lill & Gareth David Lloyd star in a new production of Reginald Rose's gripping courtroom thriller, Mon 18 - Sat 23 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**SOMEWHERE TO TOP GIRLS** Caryl Churchill's 1982 play, exploring contemporary issues of women in the workplace, Tues 19 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE** Live screening of English National Opera's perform-

ance of Gilbert and Sullivan's popular comic opera, Tue 19 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre

**THIS IS HOW WE DIE** Chris Brett Bailey presents a spiralling odyssey of pitch-black humour and nightmarish prose, Tues 19 - Wed 20 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN** Amateur production presented by Rockhopper Productions, Tues 19 - Sat 23 May, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**BLOOD** Emteaz Hussain's twenty-first century love story, Tue 19 - Sat 23 May, The REP, Birmingham

**AGATHA CRUSTY & THE VIL-LAGE MURDERS** The Phoenix Players present a whodunnit spoof where Agatha Crusty is called upon to solve the mystery before anyone else dies, Wed 20 - Sat 23 May, The Bear Pit Theatre - The United Reformed Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE BODYGUARD** Award-winning musical based on the blockbuster film. Zoe Birkett (ITV's Pop Idol, Priscilla Queen Of The Desert & Thriller Live) takes top billing as Rachel Marron, Tue 19 - Sat 30 May, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent *Read the review on page 39*

**VOCA PEOPLE** International phenomenon featuring more than eighty all-time favourite musical hits, from Madonna to Michael Jackson via Mozart, Wed 20 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Rock-'n'-roll spectacular combining music from the '50s, '60s & '70s with wacky comedy routines, Thurs 21 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT** Out Featuring Jonny Cole, Dandy, Peter Lee, and introducing Kaylee Cropper and The Ronaldos, Thurs 21 May, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**LILI LA SCALA: SIREN** 'Stunning' new cabaret show fusing Lili's classical roots with dark eclectic songs in a bewitching theatrical voyage, Thurs 21 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**AN EVENING WITH PAM AYRES** Thurs 21 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**SHAUN OF THE DEAD LIVE** Stroud-based collective Almost Legal Productions present a unique theatrical experience based on the cult zombie comedy, Thurs 21 - Fri 22 May, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**JUDY: THE JUDY GARLAND STORY** A journey through the life and music of Judy Garland, featuring timeless classic songs performed by award-winning singers & dancers, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**OLIVER!** Amateur production presented by Coventry Musical Theatre Society, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry



**MR B THE GENTLEMAN RHYMER** Mr B The Gentleman Rhymer brings his ongoing quest to reconnect hip-hop with manners and the Queen's English to Birmingham!, Fri 22 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**MESS** Caroline Horton's play of obsession, addiction & not wanting to get out of bed, Fri 22 May, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffs

**THRILL ME: THE LEOPOLD AND LOEB STORY** Stephen Dolginoff's award-winning musical, Fri 22 - Sat 23 May, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH** Blue Orange Arts presents Roald Dahl's classic tale, Sat 23 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**BOYS TALK** Women & Theatre present an engaging celebration of male communication with movement, performance and spoken word, Sat 23 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**NELL GWYNN'S HISTORY LAID BARE** Join Burlesque performer Ginger Blush as she takes her audience on a whirlwind tour through the life & times of Nell Gwyn, Sat 23 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**PARADE** The Crescent Theatre Company present Jason Robert Brown's musical, which tells the tale of the trial of Leo Frank, accused and condemned to death for murder, Sat 23 - Sat 30 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**BASHMENT GRANNY 3 BASHY DEAD** Keith Shebada Ramsey returns as 'Bad Boy Trevor' in this action-packed comedy sequel that promises to grip from start to curtain call, Sun 24 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**THE BOY WHO BIT PICASSO** Interactive family show featuring storytelling, music & a chance for audience members to make their own art, Sun 24 May, All Stretton Village Hall, Church Stretton, South Shropshire

**Week Commencing  
MON 25 MAY**

**SING-A-LONG-A FROZEN A** full screening of the Disney sensation, complete with on-screen lyrics to help you sing along with Anna and Elsa during the film, Mon 25 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**SING-A-LONG-A GREASE** Singalong version of the classic film starring

Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta, Mon 25 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST** David Suchet dons a dress to star as Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's much-loved masterpiece. Emily Barber, Michael Benz, Philip Cumbus, Imogen Doel, Michelle Dotrice & Richard O'Callaghan also star, Mon 25 - Sat 30 May, Malvern Theatre

**WE'LL MEET AGAIN - HITS FROM THE BLITZ** Brand new Wartime Cavalcade show celebrating seventy years since the end of WWII, Tue 26 May, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**TREE FU TOM** New show starring the world's smallest superhero, direct from the smash-hit CBeebies series, Tue 26 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**MY BIG FAT COWPAT WEDDING** Black Country Touring, Kali Theatre & Arts Alive present a fast-moving comedy where the audience become the guests at the wedding reception of an intercultural marriage between a country girl & an Indian lad from the city, Tue 26 May, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**PITSCHI - THE KITTEN WITH DREAMS** Storytelling, physical theatre, music & song are here woven together in a classic Swiss story for children which tells of a kitten who learns to be happy by being exactly what she is, Tue 26 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

**THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY** European Arts present their adaptation of Oscar Wilde's classic play, using a cast of five versatile actors, Tues 26 May, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffs

**TINA TURNER: TEA LADY** A parody, not affiliated with Tina Turner, Tue 26 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**HORRIBLE HISTORIES: GROOVY GREEKS** From savage Sparta to angry Athens, discover the truth about growing up in Greece, Tue 26 - Sat 30 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**THE PYRAMID TEXTS** James Cosmo (Trainspotting, Braveheart & Game Of Thrones) delivers a personal & haunting monologue from BAFTA Award-winning writer Geoff Thompson, Tue 26 - Sat 30 May, The REP, Birmingham

**THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME** Highly acclaimed National Theatre production based on Mark Had-

don's award-winning novel, Tue 26 May - Sat 6 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

**Read the interview with Joshua Jenkins on page 10**

**THE DISAPPEARING WOMAN, FEATURING GERMAINE GREER** Australian academic & journalist Germaine Greer explores forty years of feminism, Wed 27 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**RAPUNZEL** Tutti Frutti Productions uses its inventive & physical style in a re-telling of the popular fairytale which explores the curiosity and joys of growing up, risk taking & discovering who you are, Wed 27 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**THE WEATHERMAN** Critically acclaimed clown Kiki Lovechild uses physical comedy, puppetry, mime and illusion in a show that brings together modern clowning with a collection of forgotten vaudeville art forms, including the routines that have made Kiki a firm favourite on the UK cabaret scene, Wed 27 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**THE NEW ADVENTURES OF PUSS IN BOOTS** Starring Julie Paton from Cats as Puss In Boots & Lichfield's favourite Dame, Ian Adams, as Queen Catrovia, Wed 27 May, Lichfield Garrick

**MASTERPIECES** Warwick University Drama Society presents Sarah Daniels' fiery & uncompromising play about our cultural attitude towards pornography, Wed 27 - Sat 30 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**HORRIBLE HISTORIES: INCREDIBLE INVADERS** Brand new show from the Horrible Histories team. This time round it's the ruthless ways of the Romans which come under scrutiny, Wed 27 - Sat 30 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**KING LEAR** Northern Broadides present a production for a new generation of Shakespeare fans, Wed 27 May - Sat 13 June, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**DIRTY DUSTING** Heart-warming comedy starring Crissy Rock, Dolores Porretta, Leah Bell & Jason Jones, Thurs 28 May, Bedworth Civic Hall

**STORIES FROM THE PUN-JAB & BEYOND** Lively tales for all the family from Indian storyteller Peter Chand, Thurs 28 May, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**NIRBHAYA** Southbank Centre, Oldham Coliseum, Cast & Black



A Black Country Night Out - Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Staffs; Old REP, Birmingham; Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

Country Touring present a dramatic performance based on a true incident and the life events of the performers, Thurs 28 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF COMEDY - ABRIDGED** The Reduced Shakespeare Company embark on a ninety-minute rollercoaster ride, deconstructing the entire history of comedy, Thurs 28 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**THE BASIL BRUSH SHOW** Britain's most loveable fox is back on the road, along with his TV chum Mr Stephen (aka Chris Pizzey). Together they take audiences on a journey of laughs, storytelling & song in a brand new stage show, Thurs 28 May, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**STORIES FROM THE PUN-JAB AND BEYOND** Fun, interactive and very lively tales for the family from Indian storyteller Peter Chand, Thurs 28 May, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**FOGHORN IMPROV: FOGHORN FOLLIES** An intimate comedic cabaret experience for a discerning comedic clientele, Thurs 28 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**SWEET CHARITY** Amateur production presented by the Viv Kelly Youth Theatre, Thurs 28 - Sat 30 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**INTO THE WOODS** Backstreet Theatre Company present Stephen Sondheim's modern classic, which intertwines the plots of an array of Brothers Grimm fairytales, Thurs 28 - Sat 30 May, Prince of Wales Theatre, Can-nock

**MILKSHAKE PARTY PARTY LIVE!** Brand new musical spectacular for children featuring new songs alongside old

favourites, funky dance routines and plenty of laughter, Fri 29 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**PETER PAN** Presented by Blue Orange Theatre, Fri 29 May, Solihull Arts Complex

**OCCASIONALLY WE SKYPE** Black Country Touring fuses Kathak dance, live music, spoken word, iPhones, digital projection & theatre to explore what it means to be digitally connected, Fri 29 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**SEX IN SUBURBIA** Clare Sweeney stars in a new brand comedy about dating, men and finding Mr Right, Fri 29 May, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire

**THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF COMEDY - ABRIDGED** The Reduced Shakespeare Company embark on a ninety-minute rollercoaster ride, deconstructing the entire history of comedy, Fri 29 May, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**EASTEND CABARET: PERVERTS** Award-winning cult comedy duo East-End Cabaret present their raucous and risqué musical comedy, headlining the first ever Birmingham Cabaret Festival, Fri 29 - Sat 30 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**ALIENS LOVE UNDERPANTS** Children's tale based on the best-selling book, Fri 29 - Sun 31 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**ALEXEI SAYLE: LISTEN WITH ALEXEI** The best-selling author, comedian & actor gives a preview of the second volume of his 'hilarious and thought-provoking' memoirs with a reading from Thatcher Stole My Trousers, Sat 30 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**STATIK** First Stages present a show about

breaking the mould that features energetic clowning and a vibrant soundtrack, Sat 30 May, The REP, Birmingham

**STORIES FROM THE PUN-JAB & BEYOND** Lively tales for all the family from Indian storyteller Peter Chand, Sat 30 May, Bleakhouse Library, Oldbury

**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE LIVE!** From the creators of Brainiac Live comes a brand new show which takes an anarchic approach to science communication, Sat 30 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**BACK TO BROADWAY** All-singing, all-dancing theatrical extravaganza, Sat 30 May, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**EMBRACED BURLESQUE** Featuring a Burlesque striptease, live music and comedy, Sat 30 May, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**POSTCARDS FROM THE SEASIDE** New musical celebrating the Home Front at the time of the Dunkirk Evacuation, Sat 30 - Sun 31 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**WHY THE WHALES CAME** The Roses Youth Theatre presents Michael Morpurgo's tale of friendship, Sat 30 - Sun 31 May, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**THE BASIL BRUSH SHOW** Sun 31 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**SEX IN SUBURBIA** Clare Sweeney stars in a new brand comedy about dating, men and finding Mr Right, Sun 31 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**ALONG THE RIVERBANK** Bamboozle present a 'magical production' inspired by Kenneth Grahame's Wind In The Willows, Sun 31 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



**Motionhouse** **TAMWORTH**

# TIGRESS

Saturday 9th May, 2pm & 7pm  
Sunday 10th May, 2pm

TAMWORTH CASTLE GROUNDS  
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**FREE**

A spectacular outdoor performance led by internationally acclaimed dance company, Motionhouse.

Join award-winning Motionhouse for a modern-day look at the life of formidable Saxon warrior, queen Æthelflæda. Combining breathtaking dance and acrobatics with a searing original score, the performance will take place against the dramatic backdrop of Tamworth Castle.

Featuring Tamworth Dance Company, Belgrave Taiko Drummers, Amington Brass Band, Tamworth Male Voice choir, Tamworth Voices, Tamworth Ladies Voice Choir and Landau Forte Sixth Form.

This unique event will capture the warrior queen's electrifying spirit as never before.

[www.motionhouse.co.uk](http://www.motionhouse.co.uk)  
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Tamworth Borough Council Arts Council England Staffordshire County Council A&E

Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company and West Yorkshire Playhouse present

15 to 30 May

*The Rise And Fall Of*

# LITTLE VOICE

By Jim Cartwright  
Directed by James Brining

Vicky Entwistle Chris Gascoyne Nancy Sullivan

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Birmingham Repertory Theatre

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## Arts FESTIVALS

### Birmingham Cabaret Festival

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 14 - Sat 30 May

This is Birmingham's first ever cabaret festival, taking place as a response to the growing popularity of the art form. "Cabaret has undeniably undergone a renaissance in the past couple of decades," explain the festival's organisers. "Music, comedy, circus, drag and burlesque acts, to name but a few branches, frequently dominate the headlines at festivals and venues across the world, and cabaret is often the place to discover the newest and most daring cross-disciplinary theatre. London has been enjoying the flourishing, thriving and multi-faceted scene for many years, and it's something we're delighted to be bringing to the second city."

Award-winning 'musical mischief-makers' EastEnd Cabaret headline the festival, which also features a cabaret-themed exhibition.



### First Bite Festival

mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 2 May

This returning event - a celebration of theatre-making in the Midlands - showcases unfinished extracts and new ideas from some of the region's most highly rated creatives.

All of the work on show is shaped by audience feedback. Two of the pieces will be selected for commission and will then be presented in First Bite's sister festival, Bite Size, later in the year.

Both festivals are organised by independent theatre studio China Plate, working in collaboration with mac birmingham and Warwick Arts Centre.

### Alchemy Festival

various venues across the West Midlands, Tues 19 - Sat 30 May

Alchemy 2015 is the result of a new partnership between Southbank Centre and Black Country Touring (BCT). The event sees 'the best in South Asian arts' visiting the region. Highlights include Knives, Forks & Fingers, a new comedy show created especially for the festival by comedian, broadcaster, journalist and chef Hardeep Singh Koli. Internationally acclaimed theatre production Nirbhaya is another stand-out attraction, as is Occasionally We Skype, a major new dance, music and theatre co-production by Sonia Sabri Company and Black Country Touring.

"We're very excited to be bringing Alchemy to the region," says Frances Land, Co-Artistic Director at BCT. "As a small yet dynamic arts organisation, we're really looking forward to this unique partnership with the festival."

For further details visit [alchemy.bctouring.co.uk](http://alchemy.bctouring.co.uk)



## GREAT DAYS OUT This June WITH JOHNSONS From 32 local pick up points!

Mon 1 June	Audley End House & Gardens
Tue 2 June	Peto Garden at Ilford Manor
Wed 3 June	Peak Railway & Scenic Derbyshire
Thu 4 June	Sidmouth with Cream Tea
Sun 7 June	Hampton Court Palace
Thu 11 June	Gardeners World Live at NEC
Fri 12 June	Cotswolds Tour with Cream Tea
Sun 14 June	Cosford Air Show
Sun 14 June	GWR & Didcot Railway Centre
Tue 16 June	Wedgwood & Trentham Gardens
Fri 19 June	Lake District & Ullswater Cruise
Sun 21 June	Weston Super Mare
Thu 25 June	Olympic Park with Lunch
Fri 26 June	Castle Howard Flower Festival
Sat 27 June	Bridlington
Sat 27 June	Woburn Abbey Garden Show
Sun 28 June	Liverpool with River Trip
Mon 29 June	Leeds Castle, Kent



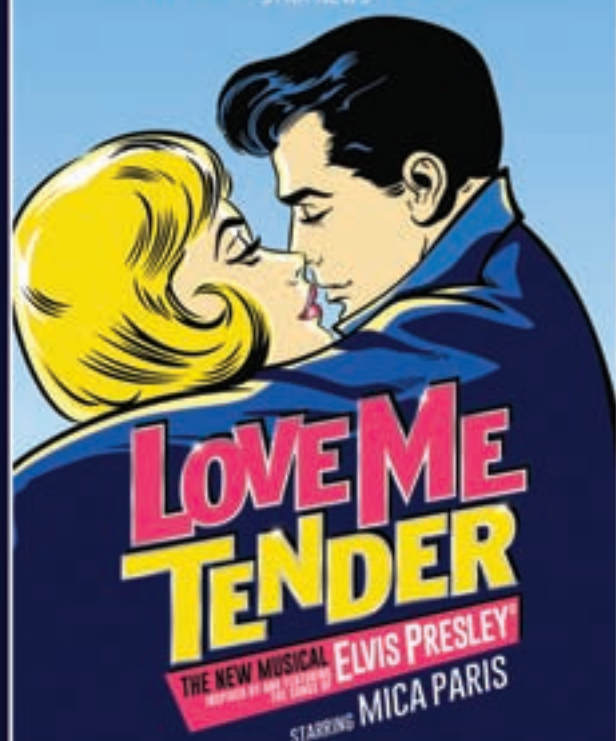
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STAR NEWS



MON 24 - SAT 29 AUG

ONE MAN'S NIGHTMARE...  
IS ANOTHER  
MAN'S FORTUNE...

PETER JAMES'  
DEAD SIMPLE

TINA HOBLEY WILL NOT BE  
PERFORMING ON FRIDAY OR SATURDAY

MON 29 JUN - SAT 4 JUL



MON 27 - WED 29 JUL



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THU 7 MAY

MIDGE URE

Midge revisits his Celtic roots to perform 1995 album *Breathe* in its entirety for the first time. Joined by musicians from **Electric India Co.**, the setlist will also feature hits such as *Vienna*, *Fade to Grey* and *If I Was*.



FRI 8 MAY

DIRTY DUSTING

A chance wrong number involving a sex chat line leads three cleaning ladies to a very naughty ideal. A heart warming comedy that will have you smiling every time you answer the phone!



WED 20 MAY

DR HOOK

Dr. Hook enjoyed success in the 1970s with hit singles including *When You're in Love with a Beautiful Woman*. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see Dr. Hook featuring the actual Dr. Hook, Ray 'Eye Patch' Sawyer.

TUE 26 & WED 27 MAY

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BALLET

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SAT 30 MAY

OPERA BOYS

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SUN 31 MAY - TUE 2 JUN



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MURDER

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## Theatre REVIEWS CONT...

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)

### Blood Brothers Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Have you heard the tale of the Johnstone twins? For the benefit of those who haven't - Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers* is a show that's achieved iconic status in the world of musical theatre. Nicknamed 'the standing ovation musical', it's a gold-star classic that keeps on giving - and the audiences keep on rolling in, too.

Combining humour and heartache in equal measure, it tells the story of Eddie Lyons and Mickey Johnstone. Twins separated at birth, the boys are raised at different ends of the 'class' spectrum, only to be brought together by fate at various stages of their lives before meeting their destiny in a tragic finale.

Top billing this Theatre Severn production was show stalwart Maureen Nolan, who gave a solid performance as the matriarch of the Johnstone clan.

Wet Wet Wet frontman Marti Pellow showcased his raspy tones to full effect as the Narrator, lurking Grim Reaper-like in the shadows and doorways to remind us that it'll all end in tears - which, of course, it does.

No matter how many times you see *Blood Brothers*, you can never properly prepare yourself for that final scene. But there are plenty of laughs to enjoy in the show too, many of which are provided by the young Mickey, Eddie and Linda - wonderfully played by Sean Jones, Joel Benedict and Danielle Corlass respectively.

The show is perfectly cast throughout. Full credit goes to Graham Martin for his instant transformation from posh school master to harassed state school teacher, and to Kate Jarman for her powerful portrayal of the neurotic Mrs Lyons.

*Patsy Moss* ■■■■■

### Rosie Kay: 5 Soldiers

The REP, Birmingham

Creating a production around a subject about which most people know relatively little is always a difficult task,

yet Rosie Kay manages to present the world of the British military in a very insightful way.

*5 Soldiers* explores the life of British soldiers - the existence inside the barracks, the training programme and, of course, the experience of war.

Having spent several months conducting field research in various military bases, Kay's knowledge is clearly both current and accurate. Her dancers also spent time with soldiers, learning various drills and weapon handling - although Kay decided against using actual weapons in the production.

The piece as a whole is strong and the dancers are a credit to the choreographer. They manage to portray a discipline usually achieved after years of military training, while at the same time bringing a beautiful, contemporary quality and a real sense of movement to the material. The repetitive structure of quick marches and drills is hypnotising, the dancers moving in a machine-like unit.

There are moments of comedy, seduction and pure emotion. Kay has successfully captured a sense of a somewhat secret world - one in which outsiders aren't welcome.

This is a beautiful, engaging and touching piece.

*Jamie Ryan* ■■■■■



### The Bodyguard Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

One of the most explosive openings in musical theatre brilliantly set the pace for Thea Sharrock's stunning production of *The Bodyguard*.

There were gunshots, a scuffle - and then we got to meet the dashing Frank Farmer, wonderfully played by Stuart Reid.

It was then full pelt into the opening scene where, resplendent in gold, Alexandra Burke showcased why she's the perfect choice to play Rachel Marron - a role made famous by the late Whitney Houston. Accompanied by an ensemble of ripped dancers in the first of the show's spectacularly choreographed routines, Burke's vocals were sublime. As pyrotechnics intermittently burst from the stage, I found myself hoping that none of the front-row audience members had gone overboard with the hairspray.

Burke displayed a real versatility throughout; her acting was every bit as impressive as her singing. There was neither a note off key nor a foot out of step the whole evening. Delivering her lines with conviction, she shone like the star she is. Very much at ease in the role, her soft American tones didn't falter once.

Melissa James, as Rachel's sister Nicki, deserved equal credit. Possessing the voice of a nightingale, her powerful solos and harmonies with Burke gave me goosebumps, while cute-as-a-button Jhayheim Davis, as Marron's son Fletcher, displayed all the qualities of a star in the making.

Striking lighting design by Mark Henderson ensured Mike Denman's portrayal of Marron's stalker was menacing and creepy in equal measure.

This stunning production was further enhanced by an effectively designed set, an abundance of spectacular costume changes from Tim Hatley, orchestration by Chris Egan, superb video effects by Duncan McLean and first-class performances from each and every one of the supporting cast. As entertainment goes, *The Bodyguard* is Grade A quality, a true theatrical spectacle that's impressively superior to the film which inspired it. I urge you to go see for yourself. *Patsy Moss* ■■■■■

*The Bodyguard* shows at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre until Sat 2 May, returning to play Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent from Tues 19 to Sat 30 May, and Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 5 to Sat 29 August.

### Feed The Beast The REP, Birmingham

Michael Goodlad is the kind of Prime Minister I would love to vote for; a true, principled statesman. Swept unexpectedly into No 10, he sets out to build a new, fair and square nation. He's ideal - but dangerously idealistic. He also intends to ignore the press. In other words, he refuses to *Feed The Beast*. The question is, how will *The Beast* bite back? Preparing for the power struggle, the PM hires a straining-at-the-leash Red Top Rottweiler as his press officer. Let battle commence...

This is an amazingly perceptive and timely play. Dr Who writer Steve Thompson takes us only slightly into the future - into a world where the public really are sick of the same old stories and vote for something new; and where Internet forums rule supreme. Sadly, probably the day after tomorrow.

This is a play fizzing with topical traumas. The writing is exceptionally exciting and energetic, and a thunderingly good cast pick up Thompson's jubilant jokes and lancing lines and slice their way through the evening. Gerald Kyd is outstandingly dynamic as the bright-new-dawn PM. Shaun Mason is terrifyingly super-real as his raunchy, go-get-'em press advisor. But this is far from a two-way fight. Director Peter Rowe has assembled six hugely talented and versatile ensemble actors. He seems to just wind them up and let them go, each character a star turn in their own right. Meanwhile, the family scenes are a delicately observed haven from the hellfire. Badria Timimi and Aimee Powell tenderly infuse the antidote of love and affection into the lifeblood of their man at No 10... and he protects them from the press with all his sacrificial might. As you might imagine, it all starts to go wrong. Even ideal men are only human. Steve Thompson's message is fearfully clear. We are doomed. He presents a sharply focused picture of a world in which elected democracy is terminally undermined by the clicking classes.

It's a remarkable evening and, I fancy, a landmark production in the history of political theatre. Robin Day would love it. *Chris Eldon Lee* ■■■■■



# Dance



## **Tigress** Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire, Sat 9 - Sun 10 May

Tamworth Castle here provides a stunning backdrop to new work from innovative dance company Motionhouse.

Tigress makes up the dance element of I Am Tamworth, a twelve-month celebration of the arts which has been organised by Tamworth Borough Council.

The production follows the story of the formidable Aethelred, Lady of the Mercians - the daughter of Alfred the Great - as she commands her army at the time of the Viking invasion.

Combining elements of dance, acrobatics, music and drumming -

and featuring over one hundred Tamworth choir members, two hundred local schoolchildren and twenty-two semi-professional dancers - the project aims to make impressive use of the Tamworth Castle environment.

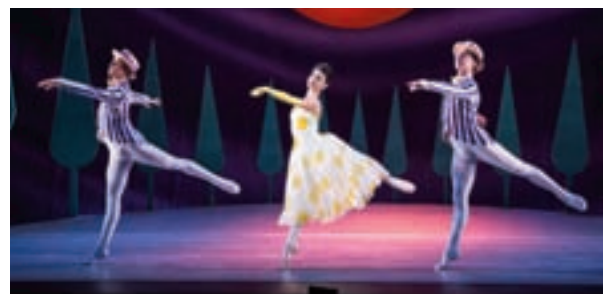
Not only an original production, Tigress also features an original score - specifically created for the project - and provides audience members with the chance to play a significant part in making the story of the Mercians come to life.

## **Birmingham Royal Ballet**

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 26 - Wed 27 May

Embarking on a celebration of twenty years with David Bintley as artistic director, Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB) here present three works designed to show off the range of the company's repertoire.

Les Rendezvous by Sir Frederick Ashton is an exercise in pure technique and boasts a lighthearted and flirtatious quality, while Kin, from former BRB dancer Alexander Whitley, is an athletic, abstract piece celebrating the kinetics of dance through group ensembles, delicate solos and tender duets. Sir Kenneth MacMillan's Elite Syncopations, meanwhile, is described as flash, jazzy and laugh-out-loud funny. The BRB orchestra accompanies the dancers live on stage.



## **Lord Of The Dance: Dangerous Games**

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 22 - Tues 26 May

Michael Flatley's ever-popular Lord Of The Dance looks set to attain new heights. Dangerous Games comes complete with world champion acrobats, groundbreaking technology - including holographs and dancing robots - and, as always, some of the greatest Irish Dancers in the world. There's also a new score to enjoy, composed by the hugely talented Gerard Fahy.





## The Spalding Suite

The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 14 - Sat 16 May

Inspired by the UK's basketball scene, Fuel's The Spalding Suite presents a new type of physical theatre. A combination of live beat-boxing, music, hip-hop moves and poetry, the show celebrates the elegance of the sport. Writer Inua Ellams and award-winning director Benji Reid explore the highs and lows of the game through the experience of five young men who play it. The show has been commissioned by Southbank Centre and Contact.

## Cádiz

DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham, Wed 6 - Thurs 7 May

A real taste of Spanish culture hits Birmingham this month in the form of Jesús Fernández's Cádiz, an exploration of the award-winning dancer's Andalusian roots. The piece sees choreographer and director Fernández take his audience on a nostalgic journey through his home town - its history, beaches, walls, sense of mystery and music providing his inspiration. Fernández is joined on stage by four outstanding musicians, all from Cádiz, who recreate original flamenco music.



## Bromance

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 26 - Wed 27 May

Celebrating all things blokey, all-male acrobatic trio Barely Methodical Troupe won a Total Theatre Award at the 2014 Edinburgh Festival. They visit Coventry with an award-winning show that's both playful and touching, exploring the limits of male companionship via a series of risk-taking physical feats.



## Dance LISTINGS

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

### PASHA: LIFE THROUGH

**DANCE** Sat 2 May, Lichfield Garrick; Fri 8 May, Malvern Theatre; Tues 5 - Wed 6 May, Palace Theatre; Redditch; Tues 12 May, The Roses, Tewkesbury

### CADIZ Wed 6 - Thurs 7

May, DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham

### FOLLOWING THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD: DANCING THE LYRICS OF BERNIE

**TAUPIN** Presented by University of

Wolverhampton Dance Department, Thurs 7 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

### BRIDGING THE VOID Film, dance and music inter-

lace to create a dance film production, Sat 9 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

### TIGRESS Motionhouse

Sat 9 - Sun 10 May Tamworth Castle, Staffs

### JALEO FLAMENCO Mon

11 May, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

### THE SPALDING SUITE

Presented by Fuel, Thurs 14 - Sat 16 May, DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre,

### Birmingham

**ALADDIN** Ballet Theatre UK re-tell the classic tale of the lonely orphan whose life is destined for greater things, Fri 15 May

Palace Theatre, Redditch

### EDGE15 London

Contemporary Dance School post graduate company present a triple bill, Fri 15 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

### CINDERELLA Ballet

Cymru present a new work based on the eternal fairytale, Wed 20 May, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

### LAST MAN STANDING

James Wilton Dance explore the fragility of human existence, Thurs 21 May, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

### LORD OF THE DANCE - DANGEROUS GAMES

Fri 22 - Tues 26 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

### INTOTO DANCE 2015

London Studio Centre presents work by up-and-coming talents, Fri 22 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

### BIRMINGHAM ROYAL

**BALLET** A showcase of greats, featuring works by Sir Frederick Ashton, Sir Kenneth MacMillan and a new piece by Alexander Whitley, Tues 26 - Wed 27 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

### ALADDIN Ballet Theatre

UK re-tell the classic tale of the lonely orphan whose life is destined for greater things, Wed 27 May

### Solihull Arts Complex

**BROMANCE** Crying Out Loud & Barely Methodical Troupe celebrate all things blokey through a series of risk-taking physical feats, Tues 26 - Wed 27 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

### VARIETY IS THE SPICE: THE BEST OF BRITISH ASIAN MUSIC & DANCE

Oldham Coliseum, Black Country Touring, Cast and Southbank Centre present an evening of music, dance and comedy, Wed 27 May

### Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**VIENNA FESTIVAL BALLET 35TH ANNIVERSARY GALA** Sat 30 May, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

— 35 —

VIENNA FESTIVAL BALLET'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

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FROM  
FRI 15  
MAY

## Mad Max: Fury Road

CERT tbc

Starring Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron, Nicholas Hoult, Zoë Kravitz, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, Riley Keough, Hugh Keays-Byrne  
Directed by George Miller (Australia/USA)

Two rebels - a man and a woman - join forces to circumnavigate the desert in a post-apocalyptic universe gone mad... Thirty years after the last Mad Max film (Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome, 1985), and twenty-five years in 'development hell,' Fury Road arrives with a budget of \$150million. Mel Gibson, now fifty-nine, is obviously a tad too long in the tooth to play the road warrior, and is replaced by Tom Hardy. Hardy should certainly do the franchise justice and is paired by three of the sexiest women in the cinema firmament: Charlize Theron, Zoë Kravitz and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley. Can the series retain its Fury? Is it another dystopian future too many? Its thespian heft should certainly play in its favour.



From  
FRI 22  
MAY

## Tomorrowland - A World Beyond

CERT tbc

Starring George Clooney, Hugh Laurie, Britt Robertson, Raffey Cassidy, Tim McGraw, Kathryn Hahn, Judy Greer  
Directed by Brad Bird (USA)

It's a Wonderful World. Or, in this case, a place in time and space that changes due to our very actions (much like real life, but more so). George Clooney stars as a jaded inventor whose disillusionment with his own world is transformed by the scientific curiosity and optimism of a teenager. So, together, they travel to Tomorrowland. Like Pirates Of The Caribbean and the Eddie Murphy comedy The Haunted Mansion, Tomorrowland is based on a Disney theme park attraction, which is really weird. The director, Brad Bird, previously brought us The Incredibles and Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol.

## TOP 5

FILM BOX OFFICE

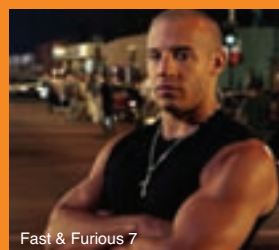
1 Fast & Furious 7 (12a)

2 Cinderella (U)

3 Home (U)

4 The DUFF (12a)

5 SpongeBob Movie (U)



Fast & Furious 7



# Film NEW RELEASES

Released from Fri 1 May

## Far From The Madding Crowd

CERT 12a (119 mins)

Starring **Carey Mulligan**, **Matthias Schoenaerts**, **Michael Sheen**, **Tom Sturridge**, **Juno Temple**, **Jessica Barden**  
Directed by **Thomas Vinterberg (UK/USA)**

The last time Thomas Hardy's immortal 1874 novel was adapted for the screen was courtesy of the modern-day, thinly disguised Tamara Drewe (2010), with Gemma Arterton. Thomas Vinterberg's version is strictly of the costumed variety, set in Victorian England. Carey Mulligan, as the fêted Bathsheba Everdene, is already getting rave reviews.



## Samba

CERT 15 (119 mins)

Starring **Omar Sy**, **Charlotte Gainsbourg**, **Tahar Rahim**, **Izïa Higelin**, **Hélène Vincent**  
Directed by **Olivier Nakache and Eric Toledano (France)**

In light of the headlines devoted to immigration in this country, this story of a Senegalese dish washer in Paris should shed a refreshing perspective on the other side. Omar Sy, incidentally, previously starred in the accomplished and irresistible Untouchable (2011), for which he won the French Oscar.

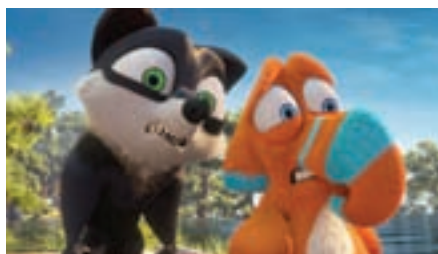


## Two By Two: Oops... The Ark Has Gone

CERT U (87 mins)

Directed by **Toby Genkel and Sean McCormack (Germany/Belgium/Luxembourg/Ireland)**

It's the end of the world again but this time we're in pre-history. But while Noah guides all the animals of the earth onto his ark, he has embargoed the admission of all Nestrians (who wouldn't?). So the Nestrian Dave and his son Finny have to resort to all their wiles to get on board. An animated adventure for all the family. Obviously.

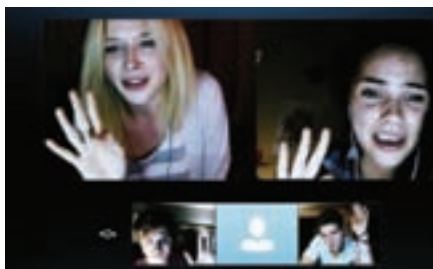


## Unfriended

CERT 15 (83 mins)

Starring **Shelley Hennig**, **Renee Olstead**, **Courtney Halverson**, **Jacob Wysocki**  
Directed by **Levan Gabriadze (USA)**

In The Ring it was that wretched VHS. Here, it's a girl talking on Skype - and she's not very nice. We're talking horror here and another low-budget "found footage" thing. But, hey - it got some pretty good reviews in the States.



Released from Fri 8 May

## The Age Of Adaline

CERT 12a tbc

Starring **Blake Lively**, **Michiel Huisman**, **Kathy Baker**, **Amanda Crew**, **Harrison Ford**, **Ellen Burstyn** Directed by **Lee Toland Krieger (USA)**

Some accidents come at a price. The reclusive Adaline Bowman (Lively), following an accident, is rendered ageless, for all intents and purposes remaining twenty-nine for almost eight decades. She then meets a man with whom she might just share her secret...



## Spooks: The Greater Good

CERT 15 (104 mins)

Starring **Peter Firth**, **Kit Harington**, **Jennifer Ehle**, **Elyes Gabel**, **Lara Pulver**  
Directed by **Bharat Nalluri (UK)**

A spin-off of the BBC series Spooks, this topical thriller details the disappearance of

## Big Game

CERT 12a (90 mins)

Starring **Samuel L. Jackson**, **Onni Tommila**, **Ray Stevenson**, **Victor Garber**, **Ted Levine**, **Felicity Huffman**, **Jim Broadbent**  
Directed by **Jalmari Helander (Finland/Germany/UK)**

The most expensive Finnish film in history, Big Game would seem to be an unlikely Scandinavian export. Samuel L. Jackson plays the US president whose plane is shot down by terrorists, landing him in the middle of a Finnish forest. It would seem that only a thirteen-year-old boy (Tommila) - out hunting for deer - is around to help him...

M15 head of counter-terrorism Harry Pearce (Firth). And with an impending terrorist attack on London, the timing could not be worse.



## Top Five

CERT 15 (102 mins)

Starring **Chris Rock**, **Rosario Dawson**, **Gabrielle Union**, **Kevin Hart**, **Sherri Shepherd**, **JB Smoove** Directed by **Chris Rock (USA)**

Stand-up comic-cum-movie star Chris Rock plays Andre Allen, a stand-up comic-cum-movie star in this romantic-comedy written and directed by Chris Rock.

Like Michael Keaton's Riggan Thomson in Birdman, Andre Allen now wants to be taken seriously as an actor, but then agrees to have his upcoming wedding broadcast as a Reality TV special. The reviews in America were actually very good.





Released from Fri 15 May

## Clouds Of Sils Maria

CERT 15 (124 mins)

Starring **Juliette Binoche, Kristen Stewart, Chloë Grace Moretz, Hanns Zischler**  
Directed by **Olivier Assayas (France/Switzerland/Germany/USA/Belgium)**

Twenty years ago, the actress Maria Enders (Binoche) made her name playing a young woman who drives her female boss to suicide. Now she has agreed to star in a revival of the play, this time portraying the older woman, with her original part to be played by a Hollywood star with a predisposition for scandal. Interestingly, the latter is embodied by Kristen Stewart.



## Pitch Perfect 2

CERT 12a (115 mins)

Starring **Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Adam Devine, John Michael Higgins, Elizabeth Banks**  
Directed by **Elizabeth Banks (USA)**

The a cappella group calling themselves the Barden Bellas are back, this time to compete in an international event. And to stack the odds, an American group has never won before.



## A Royal Night Out

CERT 12a (97 mins)

Starring **Sarah Gadon, Emily Watson, Bel Powley, Rupert Everett, Jack Reynor, Roger Allam** Directed by **Julian Jarrold (UK)**

Quite what the Queen will make of this fictionalisation of the first flutters of her heart is anybody's guess. Anyway, it's VE Day and the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret are allowed to mingle with the commoners to celebrate.

Think Roman Holiday set in London.



From  
FRI 22  
MAY

Released from Fri 22 May

## Danny Collins

CERT 15 (106 mins)

Starring **Al Pacino, Annette Bening, Jennifer Garner, Bobby Cannavale, Christopher Plummer** Directed by **Dan Fogelman (USA)**

Danny Collins (Pacino) is an ageing rocker and still lives the part. Then he comes across a letter written to him by John Lennon forty years previously and decides to change his ways... Inspired by a true story.



## Poltergeist

CERT tbc

Starring **Sam Rockwell, Rosemarie DeWitt, Jared Harris, Jane Adams**  
Directed by **Gil Kenan (USA)**

Following the original Poltergeist (1982), its two sequels and the TV series, now comes the reboot. Once again an ideal American family finds its suburban home invaded by indignant spirits - but this time it's in 3D.



Released from Fri 29 May

## Man Up

CERT 15 (88 mins)

Starring **Simon Pegg, Lake Bell, Olivia Williams, Rory Kinnear, Stephen Campbell Moore, Sharon Horgan**  
Directed by **Ben Palmer (UK/France)**

Don't you hate it when you're mistaken for someone's blind date? Such a thing happens to Nancy (Bell), leading to unforeseen romantic circumstances...

## The Cobbler

CERT 12a tbc

Starring **Adam Sandler, Dustin Hoffman, Method Man, Ellen Barkin, Steve Buscemi, Melonie Diaz, Dan Stevens**  
Directed by **Thomas McCarthy (USA)**

When New York cobbler Max Simkin (Sandler) discovers a magic heirloom, he finds that he can literally step into other people's shoes... Thomas McCarthy, incidentally, previously directed the critically idolised *The Station Agent* and *The Visitor*.

## Timbuktu

CERT 12a (96 mins)

Starring **Abel Jafri, Hichem Yacoubi**  
Directed by **Abderrahmane Sissako (France/Mauritania)**

Nominated for an Oscar for best foreign language film, *Timbuktu* is the story of a simple cattle herder and his wife and what happens to them when the Malian city of the title is occupied by Islamic Jihadists. Set in 2012.



## San Andreas

CERT tbc

Starring **Dwayne Johnson, Kylie Minogue, Carla Gugino, Alexandra Daddario, Paul Giamatti, Ioan Gruffudd**  
Directed by **Brad Peyton (USA)**

Welcome back to the Disaster Movie. After California is devastated by an earthquake, a muscly pilot and his ex-wife attempt to leave Los Angeles to find their estranged daughter in San Francisco.





KERRANG!

# Slam Dunk

— 20 FESTIVAL 15 —

MAIN STAGE

**YOU ME AT SIX**  
**TAKING BACK SUNDAY** don brocco  
**LOWER THAN ATLANTIS**  
**NECK DEEP** WE ARE THE OCEAN  
PVRIS SET IT OFF

MONSTER STAGE

**architects**  
**WHILE SHE SLEEPS FINCH**  
CROSSFAITH  
BEARTOOTH  
SHAPES

STAGE

**Reel Big Fish**

**MILLENCOLIN** **GOLDFINGER**

**zebrahead** MARIACHI EL BOM

**Lightyear** **PATENT PENDING**

STAGE

**THE WONDER YEARS**

**CARTEL** **BAYSIDE**

**FIREWORKS** **TRANSIT** **Such Gold**

**LOSS WORDS** **ROOM** **KNUCKLE PUCK** **AS IT IS**

IMPERICON.COM STAGE

**THE BRONX** **GALLOWES**  
**H<sub>2</sub>O** **COMEBACK KID** **BANE**  
**SICK TO YOUR GUNS** **DEEZ NUTS** **TRVSH TALK** **BEING AS AN OCEAN** **DEAD HOLES**

STAGE

**MOOSE BLOOD** **SEAWAY**  
**THIS WILD LIFE** **ROB LYNCH**  
**PARADIZIA** **THE WHITE RIVER** **FORT HOPE** **WIND IN SAILS**

**UPRAWP**

**SURF BARN**

**TEKONE**

**BE ALGORITH**

**TERUFUMI TAMANO**

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# Festivals

## Wychwood Festival

Cheltenham Racecourse, Fri 29 - Sun 31 May

Regularly nominated in the Best Family Festival category of the UK Festival Awards, the annual Wychwood Festival features over one hundred bands on four stages, more than one hundred workshops, a kids' literature festival and a real ale festival.

This year's line-up features UB40, The Proclaimers, Boney M, The Undertones, Ghostpoet, comedians Mitch Benn and Tiernan Douieb and CBeebies favourite Justin Fletcher.



The Proclaimers

## Swingamajig

The Custard Factory, Birmingham, Sun 3 May

Returning to Birmingham for the third year, Swingamajig is a unique festival which invites Electro Swing lovers and vintage connoisseurs to take to the streets and party in style. Bringing the 'sounds and styles of the 1920s up to date with a modern twist', this year's event features festival creators and organisers Electric Swing Circus and headliners Chinese Man, Dutty Moonshine and The Correspondents.

## Asparafest

Ashdown Farm, Evesham, Sat 30 - Sun 31 May

Described as Worcestershire's 'Aspara-tastic music and food festival', this two-day family event features two music stages, family crafts and workshops, falconry displays, numerous vintage vehicles, a cookery kitchen with local and celebrity chefs, a funfair, and food, real ale and cider stalls. As well as an asparagus-eating competition and appearances from the 'world famous' asparamancer, the festival boasts a music line-up that includes The Wurzels, The Moulettes, Blackbeard's Tea Party & Bayou Seco. Katy Ashcroft from CBeebies' I Can Cook and Junkfish are on hand to keep youngsters entertained.



Bayou Seco



You Me At Six

## Slam Dunk

In and around the Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Mon 25 May

The UK's biggest independent touring festival, Slam Dunk returns to the Midlands this month to celebrate the best of pop-punk, ska and emo.

Headlining the seven-stage event are British rockers You Me At Six, who have a very special place in Slam Dunk history, having played the festival regularly on their road to stardom. They also released their debut album, *Take Off Your Colours*, through the festival's very own Slam Dunk label. Fans can expect to hear hits from Cavalier Youth - the band's first UK number one album.

Taking Back Sunday, Don Broco and Lower Than Atlantis also feature in the Main Stage line-up. Metalcore seven-piece Architects headline the Monster Energy Stage, while the Desperados Stage plays host to acts including Reel Big Fish, Millencolin and Mariachi El Bronx.

## Birmingham Pride

Gay Village, Birmingham, Sat 23 - Sun 24 May

Celebrating the city's diverse LGBT community, Birmingham Pride is the largest two-day festival of its kind in the UK.

The annual event, which takes place in the heart of the city's Gay Village, attracts visitors from a cross-section of communities. Festivities begin with a colourful Carnival Parade which sets off from the city's Victoria Square at midday on the Saturday, winding its way to the main festival area where a host of attractions await. High-profile performers Example, Jess Glynne, Fuse ODG, Union J, Jimmy Somerville and Heather Small feature on the Pride Main Stage, while numerous popular acts from across the UK share the limelight on the Village Cabaret Stage.

Pride 2015 also features a community village green, a Women's Arena, funfair and Dance Arena. Visit [www.birminghampride.com](http://www.birminghampride.com) for further details.



Jess Glynne



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**BIRMINGHAM GAY VILLAGE**

**JESS GLYNNE | EXAMPLE**

**HEATHER SMALL | FUSE ODG**

**MARVIN HUMES** PRESENTS LUV BUG | **MS DYNAMITE**

**JIMMY SOMERVILLE | BONEY M** FEATURING MAIZIE WILLIAMS

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# Festivals Listings

For full listing information on festivals, including dates and line-up, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## MAY

### CHELTHENHAM JAZZ FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Caro Emerald, Laura Mvula, Wilko Johnson & Gregory Porter, Wed 29 Apr - Mon 4 May, Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham

### HANDMADE FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Bo Ningen, Eagulls, Toy & Slaves, Fri 1 - Sun 3 May, Old Town Quarter, Leicester

### UPTON FOLK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Sun-jay, Hilary Ward, Andrew McKay and Carole Edwards & Jim

Mageean and Graeme Knights, Fri 1 - Mon 4 May, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire

### TROYFEST Line-up includes

Mr. Scruff, Gilles Peterson, Molotov Jukebox & By The Rivers, Fri 1 - Sun 3 May, Baskerville Hall, Hay-on-Wye

### LEAMINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Line-up includes Fitzwilliam String Quartet, Roderick Williams, Anna Tilbrook & Ensemble 360, Fri 1 May - Tues 5 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

### CLUN GREEN MAN FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Whalebone, The Johnny Cash Tribute, Les Amis D'onno & The Endings, Sat 2 - Mon 4 May, various venues throughout Clun, South Shropshire

### SWINGAMAJIG Line-up includes

Chinese Man, Electric Swing Circus, The Correspondents & Ed Solo, Sun 3 May, The Custard Factory, Birmingham

### FUDGESTOCK Line-up includes

AKA Skaface, Bethan and The Morgans, Hot Rocks & special guest tba, Sun 3 May, The Robin, Bilston

**FULL ON** Line-up includes

Ferry Corston, Ben Gold, Menno De Jong & Angry Man, Sat 9 May, Boxed Warehouse, Birmingham

### STOURBRIDGE BLUES FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Tom Walker Trio, Big Wolf Band, The Mentalls & Rebecca Downes Band, Sat 16 May, Old Halesonians RFC, Stourbridge

### BEARDED THEORY

Line-up includes New Model Army, James, Afro Celt Sound System & The Mission, Thurs 21 - Sun 24 May, Catton Hall, Derbyshire

### HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN

FESTIVAL Line-up includes Lianne La Havas, Sam & The Womp, Rae Morris & Luke Sital-Singh, Thurs 21 - Sun 31 May, Hay On Wye, Powys

### STOURBRIDGE FOLK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Lucy Ward, Ranagri, The New Bushberry Mountain Daredevils & Flat Stanley, Wed 20 - Sun 24 May, Katy Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

### CHESTER FOLK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes The Young'uns, Greg Russell & Ciaran Algar, John Kirkpatrick & Barluath, Fri 22 - Mon 25 May, Kelsall Village, Cheshire

### BREAKING BANDS FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Monument, Voodoo Vegas, Breed 77 & Death Valley Knights, Fri 22 - Sun 24 May, Stoke Prior County Club, Bromsgrove

### THE COLOUR FESTIVAL

Line-up includes DJ Fresh, Shift K3y, Tough Love & Just Kiddin, Sat 23 May, The Rainbow Arena, Birmingham

### BIRMINGHAM PRIDE FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Jess Glynne, Example, Fuse ODG & Jimmy Somerville, Sat 23 - Sun 24 May, Gay Village, Southside, Birmingham

### OUTBREAK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Sven Vath, Armand Van Helden, Jamie Jones & Shadow Child, Sat 23 - Sun 24 May, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

### DOT TO DOT FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Saint Raymond, Rae Morris, Swim Deep & Hudson Taylor, Sun 24 May, various locations around Nottingham

### SLAM DUNK

Line-up includes You Me At Six, Taking Back Sunday, Architects & Don Broco, Mon 25 May, various venues and locations around the city centre, Wolverhampton

### WYCHWOOD FESTIVAL

Line-up includes UB40, The Proclaimers, Lady-smith Black Mambazo & Ghostpoet, Fri 29 - Sun 31 May, Cheltenham Racecourse

### ASPARAFEST

Line-up includes The Wurzels, The Moullettes, Thrill Collins & Blackbeard's Tea Party, Sat 30 - Sun 31 May, Ashdown Farm, Evesham

## JUNE

### ENGLISH HAYDN FESTIVAL

Line-up includes The Sacconi String Quartet, The Christophe Coin Trio, The Salomon String Quartet & The English Haydn Orchestra, Wed 3 - Sun 7 June, various locations in Bridgnorth, Shropshire

### THE GATE TO SOUTHWELL

FOLK FESTIVAL Line-up includes Billy Bragg, Clannad, The Urban Folk Quartet & Chris Wood, Thurs 4 - Sun 7 June, Southwell, Nottinghamshire

### WIRRAL FOLK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Fairport Convention, Cara Dillon Band, Richard Digance & The Houghton Weavers, Thurs 4 - Sun 7 June, Whitby Sports & Social Club, Cheshire

### LUNAR FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Tinariwen, Wilko Johnson, Public Service Broadcasting & Sun Ra Arkestra, Fri 5 - Sun 7 June, Umberslade Farm Park, Warwickshire

### VALEFEST

Line-up to be announced, Sat 6 June, The Vale, Birmingham

### DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Muse, Slipknot, Kiss & Faith No More, Fri 12 - Sun 14 June, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

### HOLI ONE FESTIVAL BIRMINGHAM

Line-up to be announced, Sat 13 June, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

### THE ACOUSTIC FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

Line-up includes Paul Carrack, Big Country, Show Of Hands & From The Jam, Fri 19 - Sun 21 June, Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire

### LINTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Snakechamer, Wilko Johnson, Andy Fairweather Low & The Low Riders & The Hoax, Fri 19 - Sun 21 June, The Alma Inn, Herefordshire

### ALCESTER FOLK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Lynne Heraud, Pat Turner, Derek Gifford & Les Sullivan, Fri 19 - Sun 21 June, Holly-Bush, Warwickshire

### 100 ABOVE (LAINFEST)

Line-up includes Lucy Rose, Bipolar Sunshine, Amber Run & To Kill A King, Fri 19 - Sun 21 June, Gopsall Hall Farm, Warwickshire

### KINETON MUSIC FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Hot Tubes, The Folly Brothers, Neighbourhood Cotch & The Harvesters, Sat 20 June, Kineton Sports and Social Club, Warwickshire

### LICHFIELD BLUES AND JAZZ FESTIVAL

Line-up includes The Blues Band, Jay Phelps Quartet, Tommaso Starace Quartet & Steve Ajao & Climax Blues Band, Wed 24 - Sun 28 June, various venues around Lichfield

### UPTON JAZZ FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Alan Barnes, Old Hat Jazz Band, Chris Pearce Quartet & Gypsy Fire, Thurs 25 - Sun 28 June, The Riverside, Upton-upon-Severn

## JULY

### CAMPER JAM

Line-up to be announced, Fri 3 - Sun 5 July, Weston Park, Staffordshire

### GODIVA FESTIVAL

Line-up includes The Wombats, Fun Lovin' Criminals, Embrace & The Beat, Fri 3 - Sun 5 July, War Memorial Park, Coventry

### BLUES AT THE FOLD

Line-up includes Jack Blackman, The King Biscuit Boys, Swampcandy & Will 'Harmonica' Wilde Band, Sat 4 July, The Fold, Worcester

### LEAMINGTON SPA

UKULELE FESTIVAL Line-up includes Lynda Styne & Red Hot Duo, Chonkinfeckle, Bitter Jug Stompers & Gabriela, Sat 4 July, Newbold Comyn Arms, Warwickshire

### LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL

EISTEDDFOD Line-up includes Rufus Wainwright, Alfie Boe, UB40's Ali Campbell, Astro & Mickey Virtue & Gareth Malone and his Voices choir, Mon 6 - Sun 12 July, Royal International Pavilion

### BROMSGROVE FOLK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Artisan, Colum Sands, Hat Fitz and Cara & Anthony John Clarke, Thurs 9 - Sun 12 July, The Bowling Green, Bromsgrove

### NAPTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

Jellyheads, The Session, Abba Chique & Vendettas, Fri 10 - Sat 11 July, Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire

### SOUNDS IN THE GROUNDS

Line-up includes Kaiser Chiefs, Professor Green, Ella Eyre, Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra & Lucy O'Byrne, Fri 10 - Sat 11 July, Warwick Castle

### THE MOSTLY JAZZ, FUNK & SOUL FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Roy Ayers, Gregory Porter, Craig Charles & Hackney Colliery Band, Fri 10 - Sun 12 July, Moseley Park, Birmingham

### BIRMINGHAM FEST

Line-up to be announced, Fri 17 July - Sun 2 Aug, various locations throughout Birmingham

### L FEST

Line-up includes Lucy Spraggan, O'Hoolley & Tidow, The Tuts & Holloway, Fri 17 - Mon 20 July, Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire

### SPLENDOR Line-up includes

The Specials, James, Jess Glynne & Lawson, Sat 18 July, Wollaton Park, Nottinghamshire

### WARWICK FOLK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Billy Bragg, Lil' Jimmy Reed Band, The Demon Barbers XL & Nancy Kerr, Thurs 23 - Sun 26 July, various venues around Warwick

### NOZSTOCK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes The Wu Tang Clan, Martha Reeves and The Vandellas, Beadyman & London Elektricity, Fri 24 - Sun 26 July, Bromyard, Hereford

### MADE BIRMINGHAM

Line-up includes Beadyman, Claude VonStroke, David Rodigan & Julio Bashmore, Sat 25 July, The Digbeth Triangle, Birmingham

## AUGUST

### BULLDOG BASH

Line-up includes Permageddon, Easydread, TBone & Sky Valley Mistress, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 Aug, Shakespeare County Raceway, Stratford-upon-Avon

### FARMER PHIL'S FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Dr Feelgood, Ferocious Dog, 3 Daft Monkeys & Talisman, Fri 14 - Sun 16 Aug, Gatten Farm, Shropshire

### BETLEY CONCERTS

Line-up includes Tom Jones, Total Access Live & Colabro, Fri 14 - Sun 16 Jul, Betley Court Farm, Cheshire

### LICHFIELD FAKE FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Bon Jovi Experience, Kazabian & Space Cowboy, Sat 15 Aug, Beacon Park, Lichfield

### PERSHORE JAZZ FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Kevin Grenfell's Jazz Giants, John Hallam and Remi Jazz, Gypsy Fire, Digby Fairweather's Half Dozen, Fri 21 - Sun 23 Aug, Pershore College, Warwickshire

### V FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Calvin Harris, Kasabian, Stereophonics & Sam Smith, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Aug, Weston Park, Staffordshire

### PRESTEIGNE FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Fenella Humphreys, Matthew Taylor, Navarra Quartet & Nova Music Opera Thurs 27 Aug - Tues 1 Sept, Powys

### BEERMAGEDDON

Line-up includes Rannoch, Mpire Of Evil, Tyson Dog & Heavenwood, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Aug, Stoke Prior County Club, Bromsgrove

### SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Richard Thompson, La Bottine Souriante, Kate Rusby & Sharon Shannon, Fri 28 - Mon 31 Aug, West Midland Showground, Shrewsbury

### FUSION FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Justin Bieber, McBusted, Rudimental & Tinie Tempah, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Aug, Cofton Park, Birmingham

## SEPTEMBER

### MOSELEY FOLK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes The Monkees, Spiritualized, Idlewild & Anna Calvi, Fri 4 - Sun 6 Sept, Moseley Park, Birmingham

### WELFEST ON THE MEADOW

Line-up includes The Loose Covers, The Vooz, Souled Out 2 Funk & Matt Eaves, Sat 5 Sept, Synder Meadow, Warwickshire

### ONBOARD THE CRAFT FESTIVAL

Line-up includes The Hawklords, Son of Man, Dr Hasbeen & Glow People, Fri 11 - Sat 12 Sept, Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Bromsgrove

### SHREWSBURY FIELDS FOREVER FESTIVAL

Line-up to be announced, Fri 11 - Sun 13 Sept, location tbc, Shropshire

### BROMYARD FOLK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes Breabach, Gerry Colvin Band, John Doyle & Sharon Shannon, Fri 11 - Sun 13 Sept, Bromyard

### WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Line-up to be announced, Fri 18 - Sun 20 Sept, various venues in Worcester



Swingamajig - The Custard Factory, Birmingham







# Visual Arts

## New Art West Midlands

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 here being given the opportunity to showcase their work, as the third edition of the New Art West Midlands exhibition continues to show 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."



## Pavel Büchler

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,  
Wed 13 May - Sun 12 July

Renowned as an influential teacher and figure on the international art scene, Prague-born Pavel Büchler has been resident in the UK since the 1980s. His work utilises a wide range of media. Obsolete technologies, found objects, text and appropriated digital material all play their part in helping Büchler draw attention to the fundamentally strange nature of everyday life. This is the most comprehensive UK exhibition to date of the artist's work.



## The Story Of Children's Television From 1946 To Today

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, Fri 22 May - Sun 13 September

Each generation of children from the mid-twentieth century onwards will have their own favourite collection of memorable kids' television programmes.

This fascinating exhibition takes a look at some of the shows and characters that have excited and delighted youngsters across the decades - from television's earliest days to the multi-channel world of 2015. Highly interactive - and, of course, incredibly family friendly - the exhibition brings together objects, memorabilia, merchandise, clips and images from a whole host of iconic children's programmes.

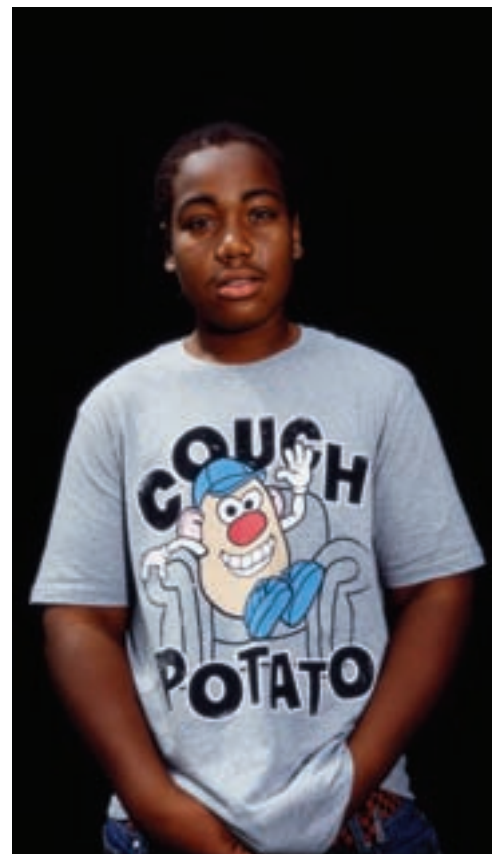
## Trevor Appleson: Birmingham

mac - Midlands Arts Centre,  
Birmingham, Sat 2 May - Sun 5 July

"Birmingham echoes the diversity of multicultural Britain and the birth of British subcultures in working class neighbourhoods," observes internationally renowned artist and photographer Trevor Appleson. "I'm interested in examining how inner-city diversity influences young people across cultural divides in local communities, and how that representation manifests itself through style and fashion." Appleson's latest photographic project - selected images from which are presented in this exhibition - saw him focus on youth culture in Birmingham. He took in excess of five hundred photos during the course of a year.

The photographer's images reflect the infinite styles and tribal affinities of young people in the UK's second city.

The photos are here presented as installations alongside personal objects and social media content, collected from the archives of his subjects.





## Further exhibitions

### Samara Scott

Eastside Projects, Birmingham,  
Sat 16 May - Sat 11 July

London-based Samara Scott's first solo show in a publicly funded UK gallery sees her undertaking the challenge of developing an ambitious new body of work.

Much admired for her practice of drawing on the phenomenon of post-internet art, Scott's works for this exhibition 'contain all passages of what follows the first contact of the consumer experience - from the touch to mastication to assimilation and finally dispersal'.

### Game Over

Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham,  
until Tues 28 July

This fascinating exhibition presents new artwork inspired by the visit of artists and designers to The Coffin Works.

The Birmingham museum is located in the one-time Jewellery Quarter home of the Newman Brothers, a company renowned for producing some of the world's finest coffin furniture - including the fittings for the funerals of Churchill, Chamberlain and the Queen Mother.

The artwork on show in Game Over embraces 'the nature and thematic of the museum, juxtaposing history with contemporary examination'.



Image credit: Jon Wilkes

### Love Is Enough: Andy Warhol And William Morris

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery,  
until Sun 6 September

Citing both Andy Warhol and William Morris as significant influences on his work - which explores socio-political aspects of contemporary culture - artist Jeremy Deller has here curated an exhibition designed to compare and contrast the interests and ideas of the two men. Love Is Enough brings together significant and iconic works by both artists, including some rarely seen pieces. It also features archival material owned or made by Warhol and Morris that sheds light on their influences and working practices.

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

#### TONY CLARKE: ON THE THRESHOLD OF A DREAM

New exhibition honouring one of Coventry's most beloved sons, until May, Coventry Music Museum

#### THE POETIC IMPOSSIBILITY TO MANAGE THE INFINITE

Exhibition which documents our quest to penetrate the astrophysical reality of the universe in order to better understand time, space & matter, until Sat 2 May, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

#### GOTHIC EXHIBITION

Exploring different approaches to the Gothic - from literature & film to architecture & Goth culture, Library of Birmingham, until Sat 2 May

**DISRUPTED** Curated by Noemi Lakmaier, this exhibition invites visitors to encounter the 'other' - that which is different and unfamiliar, until Sun 3 May, mac, Birmingham

#### ROBERT GROVES: GOLDEN YEARS

Constellation of small golden paintings (c.1965) which reflect the artist's strong interest in Middle Eastern & South Asian culture, until Mon 4 May, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

#### JON WILLIAMS: SENSATIONAL CLAY

Touring exhibition from Bilston Craft Gallery, featuring ceramics by Hereford-based maker Jon Williams, until Mon 4 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

#### ARTISTS FOR IKON

Featuring works from some of the most important contemporary artists, all of whom have previously exhibited at the gallery, until Mon 4 May, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

#### THE SALTLEY STORIES

Presenting the results of a community history project which records the memories and experiences of people from all backgrounds and of all ages, and the collation of images of Saltley & Alum Rock over the past five to six decades. until Thurs 7 May, The Drum, Birmingham

#### HIDDEN TREASURES CRAFT EXHIBITION

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

#### MADE AT MAC: TEXTILES

Featuring work from mac's From Paper To Fabric course, until Sun 10 May, mac, Birmingham

#### A LEAMINGTON MUSICAL METEOR: THE LIFE OF WILLIAM DENIS BROWNE (1888 - 1915)

Exhibition which brings together family archive material alongside compositions by Browne, to celebrate his career, until Sun 10 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

#### 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 and scientists, until Sun 17 May, Library of Birmingham

#### NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS

Showcase of work by thirty of the region's best emerging artists, until Sun 17 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham & Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

#### GODS AND HEROES

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

#### TIBOR REICH

An exhibition of drawings by the prolific Stratford-based textile designer, until Sat 30 May, Parkside Gallery, Birmingham City University

#### ART FROM ELSEWHERE: INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART FROM UK GALLERIES

Touring exhibition which considers themes of global change, postcolonial



Love Is Enough - Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

experiences and failed utopias, until Sun 31 May, Waterhall Gallery, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

#### NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS

Showcase of work by thirty of the region's best emerging artists, until Sun 31 May, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

#### STANHOPE FORBES'S ENGLAND

Marking the first time this collection of works has been brought together for public viewing, until Sat 6 June, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

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

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

#### CANALETTO: CELEBRATING BRITAIN

Bringing together the paintings & drawings which Canaletto created between 1746 and 1755, a period during which he celebrated the achievements of British architecture and engineering, until Sun 7 June, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

#### THE NON-CONFORMISTS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARTIN PARR

Recording a

bygone age of Martin's own photographic career, during which time his focus was very much on recording remnants from past eras, until Sun 7 June, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

#### AIDEN DORAN: IM BAU

Exploring the city as a space for artistic, economic & ideological production, until Sun 14 June, Grand Union, Birmingham

#### IMAGINING A UNIVERSITY

Fifty years of The University of Warwick Art collection, until Sat 20 June, The Mead Gallery, Warwick University, Coventry

#### THE CURRENT SITUATION

A selection of five artworks by artist Yara El-Sherbini which, although diverse, feature a common theme, until Sat 27 June, Wolverhampton 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

#### POP IN SPACE: WE CHOOSE TO GO TO THE MOON

Exploring artists' responses to the Space Race during the Cold War, until Sat 18 July,



The Non-Conformists: Photographs By Martin Parr - Compton Verney, Warwickshire



Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**GAME OVER** Exhibition by fine art & fashion artists, until Tues 28 July, The Coffin Works, 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

**LOVE IS ENOUGH: ANDY WARHOL AND WILLIAM MORRIS** Exhibition bringing together significant and iconic works by both artists, including some rarely seen pieces, until Sun 6 Sept, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**SUSAN STOCKWELL: SEA MARKINGS** Exhibition inspired by the RSC's summer 2015 season of plays and the world of sixteenth century Venice, until Sun 6 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**AN ENGLISHMAN ABROAD**

Exhibition examining the changing focus of pilgrims and the countries that their pilgrimages have taken them to, until Sat 31 Oct, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

**ART IN THE PARK: KERN BABY BY FAYE CLARIDGE**

This enigmatic new commission by artist Faye Claridge for the grounds at Compton Verney takes on the form of an exaggerated sculptural emblem of folklore, until Sun 13 Dec, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**BIRMINGHAM PEOPLE AND CHANGE IN THE INNER-CITY** Display exploring the way in which ordinary Birmingham people have been represented in art during the twentieth & twenty-first centuries, until Thurs 31 Dec, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**INHERITING ROME** Exhibition which uses money to explore and question our deep-seated familiarity with the Roman Empire's imagery, until Sun 24 Jan 2016, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**MENTAL SPACES** Ongoing project containing work produced by local artists affiliated with The Asylum Art

Gallery, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Sat 2 Apr, 2016

**SIÂN MACFARLANE: WE ARE ILLUMINATED** Siân presents a multi-layered film which interweaves past and present and explores the synchronicities of leisure pastimes throughout the ages, Fri 1 May - Sun 26 July, New Art Gallery, Walsall

**FROM 'RED' ELLEN TO OSWALD MOSLEY** Portraits of inter-war politicians by Edmund Knapp, Fri 1 May - Sun 6 Sept, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**TREVOR APPLESON: BIRMINGHAM** Exhibition exploring self-representation as a counterpoint to the conventions of the traditional photographic portrait, Sat 2 May - Sun 5 July, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**GRAHAM LEONARD KING** RBSA Featuring a selection of small & large atmospheric landscapes using acrylics on wooden panel and paper, Mon 4 May - Sat 27 June, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**ANNA LORENZ NWA** Sculptural and wall-based explorations developed from the Next Wave exhibition,

held at the RBSA Gallery in May 2014 to support emerging artists, Mon 4 May - Sat 4 July, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**FROM ART TO STITCH** Featuring textile work from the Breakway Textile Artists Group, with each piece inspired by well-known artists, including Andy Warhol, David Hockney & Rennie Mackintosh, Sat 9 May - Sun 28 June, Newcastle Borough Museum, Staffs

**WISH YOU WERE HERE?** Selected from Jeremy

Cooper's major artists' postcards collection, Wish You Were Here? presents works by some of today's most famous artists, Sat 9 May - Sun 28 June, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**NAUTICAL CRAFT EXHIBITION** Works by contemporary designer/makers created in response to the sea and coast, Mon 11 May - Sat 12 Sept, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**JACQUES NIMKI: SEEN/UNSEEN** A new permanent installation featuring more than three

hundred barely visible works referencing plant drawings, Wed 13 May - Sun 12 July, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

**OPEN 2015** Showcasing the work of local artists, Fri 15 May - Sun 12 July, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**THE LIBERATED QUILT: NEW WORK FROM THROUGH OUR HANDS** Showcase for twenty-three international artists working with mainly stitched textile techniques, Sat 16 May - Sat 25 July, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Fine Art and Fashion Artists at The Coffin Works Museum

# GAME OVER

28th April to 24th July 2015  
Special Museums at Night event 16th May

Full details:  
[www.transient-art.com](http://www.transient-art.com)

**William H Painter**  
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Museums at Night

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The perfect summer trip down memory lane, for adults and children alike!

22 May - 13 September  
Free admission  
[www.theherbert.org](http://www.theherbert.org)

**Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry**

Heritage Lottery Fund  
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# INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF GLASS

STOURBRIDGE 2015

**INTRIGUE INNOVATE INSPIRE**  
Glass Festival 28 – 31 May

Stunning exhibitions including celebrity glass doodles, a wall of glass postcards, contemporary engraved glass, cutting edge Hungarian glass, glass and lace fusions and of course the world-renowned British Glass Biennale.

**PLUS:**

Glass masterclasses  
Have-a-go sessions  
Heritage walks  
Family fun days  
Children's activities  
Open studios & excellent shopping opportunities  
Lots & lots of quirky, varied glassmaking demonstrations

Broadfield House Glass Museum  
Red House Glass Cone  
Ruskin Glass Centre  
and other venues across the Stourbridge Glass Quarter

*Admission to most sites is free, small charge for some activities. (Ruskin admission: adult day pass £5, children £1; four day adult pass £14.50)*

**[www.ifg.org.uk](http://www.ifg.org.uk)**

2015 British  
Biennale  
Glass



**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council



Image: Margit Tóth



# Events



## International Festival Of Glass Stourbridge Glass Quarter, Thurs 28 - Sun 31 May

The Stourbridge Glass Quarter sees the return of the International Festival of Glass this month, complete with a range of attractions for artists, glass enthusiasts and visitors to enjoy.

The festival offers a diverse and jam-packed programme featuring have-a-go sessions, family activities, evening events and live demonstrations.

Exhibitions include the British Glass Biennale, the UK's top contemporary glass showcase, and a wall of one hundred-and-fifty glass postcards created by members of the Contemporary Glass Society. Prior to the four-day festival, renowned glass artists Dante Marioni and Penny Rakov are holding a series of glassmaking masterclasses. Glass artists wishing to improve their technique can attend lessons in glass blowing, furnace building, beadmaking, hot glass casting and

glass painting.

Visitors with a penchant for history, meanwhile, can take guided heritage walks along the Stourbridge canals to the churches frequented by glass-making dynasties, visiting the graves of famous glassmakers along the way.

The Glass Festival offers plenty to keep youngsters happily engaged as well, including art & craft activities, puppetry workshops, donkey rides, falconry displays and storytelling sessions.

Retail stores, street entertainment and a range of refreshments offer further opportunities for visitors to enjoy themselves.

In short, the festival's well worth a visit, whether glass is your thing or not.

For more information, visit [www.ifg.org.uk/glass-festival](http://www.ifg.org.uk/glass-festival)

## Dragonboat Festival

Brindleyplace, Birmingham, Sat 30 May

Birmingham's favourite corporate fundraising event is back this month with a new charity partner. The Dragonboat Festival aims to raise a staggering £100,000 for Cure Leukaemia, providing essential funds to treat Leukaemia patients at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. The event sees twenty teams compete in fancy dress along the Birmingham and Worcester canals. As spectators line the route to watch the spectacle, they can enjoy family-friendly activities, live music and food stalls.



## Red By Night

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley  
Sat 16 May

To celebrate the industrial might of the region in the 1800s, the Black Country Living Museum is here hosting an immersive, living-history event, recreating the distinctive 'red glow' that was so often described by visitors to the area. The event offers a chance to walk around smoky, noisy, Victorian streets and witness a full-scale replica of the world's first steam engine in action. Live demonstrations from costumed craftsmen make sparks fly as they use century-old techniques to forge chains, nails and brass. The period houses and shops, meanwhile, depict how Black Country folk lived in the murky conditions, while street theatre is used to illustrate the scale and intensity of the Industrial Revolution.

To book tickets, visit [bclm.co.uk](http://bclm.co.uk)





STEVE BACKSHALL



CLIMATE CHANGE

MASS EXTINCTIONS

ALICE ROBERTS



DINOSAURS

DINOSAUR WARS

WHAT DO DINOSAURS  
LOOK LIKE?

EVOLUTION

BRIAN COX



THE UNIVERSE

ROSETTA

GRAVITY

EINSTEIN

GRAPHENE

LIFE

EBOLA

ANTIBIOTICS

ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE

BACK TO THE  
FUTURE AT 30

ADAM RUTHERFORD



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THE FUTURE

INTERNET  
OF THINGS

TIME TRAVEL

HACKING

SIX DAYS.  
INFINITE  
CURIOSITY.  
TICKETS ON  
SALE NOW.



## The Main Event

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Sat 23 May

A landmark 'happening' on the UK combat sports calendar, the Main Event includes an International Kickboxing Federation World Title challenge, plus the UK's top fighters pitting their skills against the best Thailand and Europe have to offer. An evening of explosive, quality entertainment for combat sports enthusiasts. For more information visit: [www.themainevent.media](http://www.themainevent.media)



## Half Term Activities

Compton Verney, Warwickshire  
Sun 23 - Fri 29 May

Half-term visitors to Compton Verney can take inspiration from Italian artist Canaletto and contemporary photographer Martin Parr to create a collage about their own life, family and community. Also on offer at Compton Verney are a selection of all-weather family backpacks, enabling adults and children to explore the venue's collections through a range of activities. Backpack options include Percy the Pig and friends taking visitors through the British Folk Art collection with a story, jigsaw and colouring sheets. Hidden Treasures, meanwhile, challenges families to solve the clues and riddles to hunt out the hidden treasure in Compton Verney's collections.



## Stratford Literary Festival

Various locations around Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sun 3 May

Stratford Literary Festival is one of the most significant get-togethers of its kind in the UK. Offering a fusion of celebrity-author events, debates and workshops, this year's festival features a plethora of big names - including four dames: Dame Harriet Walter, Dame Jacqueline Wilson, Dame Antonia Fraser and Dame Wendy Hall.

Other highlights during the nine-day festival include appearances by comedian Paul Merton, former political spin-doctor Alastair Campbell, actor Simon Russell Beale and Waterstones' Book Of The Year winner Jessie Burton. A selection of music-and-word events also features, as does the festival's well-established Children's Day



## National Kit Car Motor Show

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, Sun 3 - Mon 4 May

The world's largest kit car show motors into Warwickshire this month, boasting four thousand kit cars and seven hundred trade stands. Featuring every kit car part a builder could wish for, the show has five exhibition halls full of specialist suppliers, kit car manufacturers, sportscar replicas and building demonstrations.

New for 2015 is autotester Ian Chapman stunt driving in the Riot Action Arena. There's even the chance to get involved as a passenger if your stomach can handle it!

Visitors with a passion for 'off-road and muddy' can enjoy the Dakar 4x4 experiences, as well as over one hundred outdoor kit car clubs.

For more information, visit [nationalkitcarshow.co.uk](http://nationalkitcarshow.co.uk)

## Celebrate Queen Victoria's Birthday

Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge,  
Sat 23 May - Sun 31 May

Get your flags out as Blists Hill Victorian Town celebrates Queen Victoria's birthday. Traditional Victorian occasion-wear, parties, parades and patriotic concerts on the village green all feature - as do the Sundial Theatre Company, performing alongside the Darby Singers and the Bridgnorth Male Choir throughout the weekend.

Other Blists Hill events in May include a Spring Wedding, Blists Hill In Steam, Sound & Light Night, Dementia-Friendly Day and numerous arts & crafts workshops.

## Vintage Family Fun

Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire,  
Sun 24 - Mon 25 May

A nostalgic family fun day is on offer at Eastnor Castle this Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Vintage Family Fun features a huge line-up of steam engines and a smaller model steam engine ride, as well as a pop-up tea tent offering various refreshments. The giant garden games, carousel and swing chair are other vintage attractions for visitors to enjoy



## Worcester Motor Festival

Worcester City Centre, Sat 16 May

Now in its ninth year, the Worcester Motor Festival provides visitors with the chance to compare and contrast fifty of the newest cars on the market with the latest models being showcased along the city's High Street by various local dealerships. New this year is an F1 cockpit simulator and special feature areas with police car displays, Army vehicles and Shelsley Walsh race cars.

Presented by Worcester BID, the festival also invites visitors to wander around eighty-odd classic and vintage cars, listen to live music and enjoy the talents of numerous roving street performers.



## Sooty's Fun House

Cadbury World, Birmingham,  
Sat 9 - Sun 10 May

Izzy wizzy let's get busy - by visiting Sooty's Fun House! Sooty, Sweep and Soo return with a show that promises 'magic, music and mayhem', not to mention games, dancing, singing, the appearance of a water pistol and plenty of prizes for the kids! Other fun activities available at Cadbury World include the magical Cadabra Ride and meeting the famous drumming gorilla.



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**CROWN Gate**

**Ladies Day**

**SATURDAY 6 JUNE**

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Terms & conditions apply. Little Lady competition open to children 12 and under.  
For full terms and conditions, race times and details of the event please visit our website.

# The Kenilworth Show

**Saturday 6th June • Stoneleigh Park**

Gates open at 9am

Kangaroo Kid's, Main Ring  
Entertainment, Livestock & Equestrian  
Showing, Rural Crafts,  
Homecraft Competitions, Modern &  
Vintage Agricultural Machinery, Classic  
Cars, Beekeepers, Sheep Shearing, Trade  
Stands, Shopping Marquee, Children's  
Amusements, Regional Food and Drink,  
Country side area with Clay Shooting,  
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Ticket Prices Adults £12.50 on the  
gate / £10 in advance •  
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[www.kenilworthshow.co.uk](http://www.kenilworthshow.co.uk)

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in all its forms.**

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## Events PREVIEWS

### Great Malvern Food Festival

Great Malvern Priory Church,  
Sun 24 - Mon 25 May

This foodtastic weekend is kicked off by the Malvern Munch Food Walk. Participants are invited to walk over and around the breathtaking Malvern Hills, stopping off to sample great local cuisine and listen to live music. Bank Holiday Monday's Food Festival features over sixty food and drink stalls and demonstrations by Michelin-trained chef Jason Lynas.

### Gaydon Classic Car Show

Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon,  
Warwickshire, Sun 24 May

A brand new family-friendly event for 2015, the Gaydon Classic Car Show brings together an impressive array of classic vehicles, including sports cars, military machines and emergency services vehicles. The event also features numerous demonstrations and fully working fire truck pumps and military defences. Entry to the show includes admission to the museum, home to the largest collection of British cars in the world.



### Museums At Night

Various museums across the Midlands, Wed 13 - Sat 16 May

This biannual event sees museums all over the UK throwing open their doors after hours, allowing visitors to explore the country's rich and diverse culture in a different light (see what we've done there!). The evening events also provide the opportunity for real enthusiasts to indulge their particular interest in an atmosphere that's calm and relaxing - not always possible during normal opening hours.

A total of twenty-one museums across the West Midlands are taking part in the event. Featured attractions include Murder Mystery nights, wartime music and entertainment, film screenings in spooky surroundings, and light painting on a boat underground. For more information or to run an event, visit [museumsatnight.org.uk](http://museumsatnight.org.uk)



### Compton Verney

Award-winning art gallery and park  
**FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES**

- May Bank Holiday make your own mini Corn Doll
- Free family trails and activity packs
- Children's playground
- May Half Term create a colourful collage!
- Family friendly café
- Under 5's go FREE

\*Two children go FREE at Compton Verney

\*Based on a standard family of four. For every extra child over the standard family, an additional charge applies. Bring this poster to the entrance. Offer valid until 31st May 2015. For more information, visit [www.comptonverney.org.uk](http://www.comptonverney.org.uk) or call 01926 645 500.



Compton Verney  
Warwickshire  
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[www.comptonverney.org.uk](http://www.comptonverney.org.uk)  
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**THE GREAT MALVERN FOOD FESTIVAL 2015** with live music

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY - 25TH MAY 2015  
10.00am - 3.00pm

Taking place in the grounds of  
GREAT MALVERN PRIORY CHURCH  
and around the town centre

plus **Sunday 24th May 2015**  
**MALVERN MUNCH**  
food walk

Enjoy local food and drink whilst walking the hills  
with live music along the way!

Tickets: £20 Adults/ £12 Child. Call 01684 892269

For more information on all the food themed activities visit  
[www.visitthemalverns.org/foodfest](http://www.visitthemalverns.org/foodfest)



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or visit [www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk)  
and buy your Annual Passport Tickets today



## FAMILY FUN EVENTS

### Museums at Night 2015

16 May at Enginuity Free Evening Entry, 5pm - 8pm

### Queen Victoria's Birthday

23 - 31 May at Blists Hill Victorian Town

### Magnetic May

23 - 31 May at Enginuity

The IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUMS Coalbrookdale Telford Shropshire TF8 7DQ

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**TRADE**  
Thursday 11th June  
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**GENERAL PUBLIC**  
Friday 12th to Sunday 14th June  
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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)

from  
**FRI 1 MAY**

**AN HOUR OF EDWARDIAN MUSIC HALL** A nostalgic journey back in time for an hour of music hall, Fri 1 May, Dudley Canal and Limestone Mines  
**STRATFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL** One of the most significant get-togethers of its kind in the UK, until Sun 3 May, Various locations in Stratford-upon-Avon  
**SCIENCE OF SOUND** until Fri 5 Jun, Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**CREATING REBECCA** Kneehigh Theatre Company discuss their creative process and the making of Rebecca, Sat 2 May, The REP, Birmingham  
**SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL** Run What Ya Brung till late. Track open from 9.30am-8pm with evening entertainment and camping, Sat 2 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton  
**YOUNG ARTISTS** Learn new drawing, painting and sculpture skills, Sat

2 May, Wolverhampton Art Gallery  
**DAWN CHORUS WALK** Join wildlife expert Ashley Grove for a walk around Ragley estate, identifying the sights and sounds at dawn, Sat 2 May, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire  
**CITY WIDE TREASURE HUNT** Secret, themed event for all the family with a chance to win a prize, Sat 2 May, Broadgate, Coventry  
**BIG BRUM OPEN TOP BUS SIGHTSEEING TOUR** Chocolate, custard, cars, whistles and bangles to the best in the world for science, medicine, education, culture, sport and art – Birmingham has it all, Sat 2 May, Victoria Square, Birmingham  
**ROLLING MILL DEMONSTRATION** Originally used to amend and resize iron bars, the Rolling Mill is a typical Black Country hand rolling mill from around the 1900s, Sat 2 May, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley  
**BLISTS HILL IN STEAM** Collection of steam

machines in their full working splendour, plus visiting miniature engines brought by steam enthusiasts, Sat 2 - Mon 4 May, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire  
**PIRATE WEEKEND** Pirates invade Cadbury World for a weekend of swashbuckling fun, Sat 2 - Mon 4 May, Cadbury World, Birmingham  
**DONNINGTON HISTORIC FESTIVAL** Featuring a number of new attractions, including the Super Touring Car Trophy, Le Mans prototypes, single-seater racing cars and more, Sat 2 - Mon 4 May Donington Park Racing Circuit  
**HORRIBLE HISTORIES: MEDIAEVAL MAYHEM** The truly gruesome sights, sounds and smells of Mediaeval England are brought back to life, Sat 2 - Mon 4 May, Warwick Castle  
**NEWCOMEN IN STEAM** The only full-sized working replica of the world's first steam engine, seen in action. Due to the unpredictable nature of the Newcomen, please check running details with the museum prior to travelling, to avoid disappointment, Sat 2 - Mon 4 May,



Black Country Living Museum, Dudley  
**THE NATIONAL KIT CAR MOTOR SHOW** A major show for the kit car industry, Sun 3 - Mon 4 May, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire  
**RUN WHAT YA BRUNG** Santa Pod Raceway in Northamptonshire offers the cheapest and

most accessible track time in the UK. Run What Ya Brung offers you 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 3 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**CHEEKI MONKEY'S BIG BABY AND CHILDREN'S MARKET** Community events for the whole family - buy and sell quality children's toys, clothes and equipment, Sun 3 May, Wolverhampton Racecourse  
**MUSEUM HERITAGE BUS TOUR** Enjoy a ride on

**1940s WEEKEND**  
18 & 19 July 2015

**SPEND THE WEEKEND IN WARTIME BRITAIN**  
**INCLUDES A 1940s EVENING**

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Plus, you can also visit our butterfly house as it opens for the first time this year.

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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)

the Big Brum Open Top Buz and discover Birmingham's unique community museums, Sun 3 May, Victoria Square, Birmingham

**STRATFORD FESTIVAL OF MOTORING 2015** Featuring over three hundred classic cars, Sun 3 & Mon 4 May, Stratford Town Centre

**WINGS FOR LIFE WORLD RUN** Sun 3 May, Silverstone Circuit

**MALVERN HILLS MORRIS MINOR OWNER'S CLUB BRANCH RALLY** Featuring lots of Morris Minors, Sun 3 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**WINDMILL SAILING (WEATHER PERMITTING)** Specially trained volunteers will be sailing Avoncroft's windmill, Sun 3 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**DISCOVER BEES AT CROOME** Learn about producing honey from the lead beekeeper in the beehives at West Field Farm, Sun 3 May, Croome Park, Warwickshire

**CHILLI FESTIVAL A** unique event celebrating the different flavours of all things chilli... Cookery theatre, life music, entertainment and a chilli-eating competition also feature, Sun 3 - Mon 4 May, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire

**BRITISH FALCONRY AND COUNTRY FAIR** Sun 3 - Mon 4 May, Chetwynd Park, Newport, Shropshire

## Week Commencing MON 4 MAY

**BUILDBASE BEES V LAKE-SIDE HAMMERS** Watch the Buildbase Bees race against Lakeside Hammers, Mon 4 May, Brandom Stadium, Coventry

**MAY DAY AT THE MUSEUM** Take part in the May Day celebration, with Maypole dancers demonstrating an age-old tradition, in Folkes Park, Mon 4 May, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**FAMILY FUN DAY - PIRATES & PRINCESSES** Family fun and children's entertainment, Mon 4 May, Warwick Racecourse

**TRADITIONAL MAY DAY** May Day celebration with maypole dancing, country crafts, music, food and traditional morris dancing, Mon 4 May, Avoncroft

Museum, Bromsgrove

**SPRING UP** A bank holiday celebration with morris dancing, gardening demonstrations and garden produce, Mon 4 May, Greyfriars House & Garden, Worcestershire

**RHS MALVERN SPRING FESTIVAL** The Royal Horticultural show celebrates being the 'Glastonbury of gardening', Thurs 7 May - Sun 10 May, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**BUILDBASE BEES V SWINDON** Watch the Buildbase Bees race against Swindon, Fri 8 May, Brandon Stadium, Coventry

**BLACKSMITH EXPERIENCE DAY A** taster session providing an introduction to the forge, the basic tools, and how to use them, Sat 9 May, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP** A day of writing poetry with Dave Reeves, built on the environment of the museum, Sat 9 May, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**MARDI GRAS PARTY NIGHT** A premier party race day with a carnival atmosphere, Sat 9 May, Warwick Racecourse

**COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM CLASSIC CAR BREAKFAST CLUB** A chance to show off your classic car and/or motorcycle, Sat 9 May, Coventry Transport Museum

**BIG BRUM OPEN TOP BUZ SIGHTSEEING TOUR** Chocolate, custard, cars, whistles and bangles to the best in the world for science, medicine, education, culture, sport and art - Birmingham has it all, Sat 9 May, Victoria Square, Birmingham

**SPRING WEDDING** Celebrate a traditional Victorian spring wedding with the residents of Blists Hill Victorian Town, Sat 9 - Sun 10 May, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**SOOTY'S FUN HOUSE** Direct from CITV, Sooty returns to Cadbury World with a fabulous new show to delight the whole family, Sat 9 - Sun 10 May, Cadbury World, Birmingham

**1940S WEEKEND A** themed event featuring music, a wedding shop, American army encampment and wartime military vehicles, Sat 9 - Sun 10 May, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens

**MINI FEST** A charity

**SPORTS & SALOON CAR RACES** Featuring a line-up dominated by Caterhams and tin tops, Sat 9 - Sun 10 May, Donington Park Racing Circuit

**BRITISH MOTORCYCLE RACING CLUB** The oldest and one of the biggest motorcycle racing clubs, Sat 9 - Sun 10 May, Silverstone Circuit

**CLASSIC SPORTS CAR CLUB** Two exciting days of Classic Sports Car Club action, Sat 9 - Sun 10 May, Silverstone Circuit

**NATIONAL MILLS WEEKEND** The museum's windmill will be in operation (wind permitting!). Breading in the Toll House, where children can see the food chain of grain to flour to bread, Sat 9 - Sun 10 May, Avoncroft Museum, Birmingham

**NATIONAL VINTAGE COMMUNICATION FAIR** An antique-type collectors' fair specialising in early technology, Sun 10 May, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre

**SHEPHERD & WILLIAMS ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR** Find something perfect to complement your home, wardrobe or collection, Sun 10 May, Wolverhampton Racecourse

**TOLKIEN & HOBBIT BUS TOUR** Celebrate Middle Earth weekend with a tour highlighting the area around Sarehole Mill which is said to have been the model for The Shire - the home of the Hobbits, Sun 10 May, Victoria Square, Birmingham

**ROVER P4 GUILD NATIONAL RALLY** Featuring Rover Models from the 1950s and 1960s, Sun 10 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**UBER 200-100 CYCLING EVENT** The super-challenging cycle event to get your legs burning! Sun 10 May, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

**Week Commencing MON 11 MAY**

**FULKE GREVILLE** A talk on the Elizabethan courtier, statesman and poet Sir Fulke Greville, Mon 11 May, Warwickshire County Records Office

**CARL NIELSEN - THE DANISH ELGAR** An exploration of Nielson's life and music, and comparisons with Elgar, Tues 12 May, The Elgar Birthplace Museum, Worcester

**LADIES CHARITY LUNCH** A lunchtime event to raise funds to refurbish the glasshouse and add new attractions, Wed 13 May, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**event with live music, raffles and more, Wed 13 May, Coffin Works, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham**

**HONDA RON HASLAM RACE SCHOOL** The Ron Haslam Race School offer the chance to ride on an international racing circuit, Wed 13 May, Donington Park Racing Circuit

**QUILTS UK** Keen quilters get together to demonstrate techniques, Thurs 14 - Sun 17 May, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**JEREMY DELLER IN CONVERSATION** Artist Jeremy Deller in conversation about the Love Is Enough exhibition, Thurs 14 May, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

**MUSEUMS AT NIGHT: GROWN-UP ADDITION** Featuring the chance to explore dark spaces with torches. Live music, life drawing and short screenings, Thurs 14 May, The Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry

**ARTIST-LED TOUR: NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS** Join artists Reece Kennedy and Lisa Marie Williams for a discussion about their work, Fri 15 May, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

**MUSEUMS AT NIGHT** Watch Night At The Museum and then explore the grounds of the museum after dark. All buildings are lit with candlelight, Fri 15 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**REAL ALE FESTIVAL** The first real ale festival to be held at Highbury Hall, featuring ales from local breweries from around the West Midlands. With live music and ploughman's platters, Fri 15 May, Highbury Hall, Moseley, Birmingham

**THE BABY SHOW** Fri 15 - Sun 17 May, NEC, Birmingham

**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 16 May, Santa Pod Raceway

**MUSEUMS AT NIGHT: POST WAR PARTY** Commemorating the seventieth anniversary of VE Day with themed activities, live music, dancing & refreshments. Attendees are encouraged to dress in period costume, Sat 16 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

**MUSEUMS AT NIGHT: FAMILY EDITION** Work together to investigate a crime that's taken place in the museum, Sat 16 May, The Herbert Art Gallery,

Coventry

**ROLLING MILL DEMONSTRATION** Originally used to amend and resize iron bars, the Rolling Mill is a typical Black Country hand rolling mill from around the 1900s, Sat 16 May, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**MUSEUMS AT NIGHT: CAR STORIES AT DUSK** An exclusive out-of-hours experience, Sat 16 May, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

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**GAYDON SPRING CLASSIC, GAYDON FRINGE AND CREAM TEA RUN** A popular gathering of vehicles over twenty years old, Sun 17 May, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

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**MG CAR CLUB: MGC RALLY** Featuring some of the best-surviving modes of the classic sports car, Sun 17 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

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**TOY COLLECTORS FAIR** Fair held in Avon Hall, entrance via Brown Cafe, Sun 17 May, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

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**Week Commencing MON 18 MAY**

**HERBERT ILLUMINATION: NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS CURATORS TOUR** With Lisa Beauchamp, Birmingham Museum's curator of modern and contemporary art, Tues 19 May, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry



# Events LISTINGS

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

**THE ARDENCOTE LADIES DAY** A glamorous day featuring various competitions, champagne bars and lots of glamour, Wed 20 May, Warwick Racecourse

**BRIGHTWELLS PERFORMANCE HORSE & PONY SALE** Sale of proven and potential horses and ponies. Wed 20 May, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**PRO PEAK PERFORMANCE TEST & TUNE DAY** Only open to racers entered into the FIA Championship event, Thurs 21 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**ENI FIM SUPERBIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS** Catch all the live World Superbike action over the bank holiday weekend, Fri 22 - Sun 24 May, Donington Park Racing Circuit

**FIA/FIM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - MAIN EVENT** Santa Pod's flagship championship event, attracting over two hundred-and-fifty of Europe's top drag racing teams. The event includes 300mph Top Fuel Dragsters, FIM Drag Bikes, jet cars, air displays, stunts, monster trucks, traders, sideshows and more family entertainment, Fri 22 - Mon 25 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**THE MAIN EVENT (THAI BOXING)** The UK's longest-standing and premier Thai Boxing promotion, featuring the world's best fighters and global stars in front of the biggest crowds. A must-see event on the combat sports calendar. Fireworks, pyrotechnics, lasers & dancers also feature, Sat 23 May, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

**SCRUFFS DOG SHOW** Dogs of all ages and abilities are welcome to take part. All monies raised go to a chosen charity, Sat 23 May, Cotswold Wildlife Park

**DISCOVER RAG RUGGING** Join the craft specialists to learn the art of rag rug, Sat 23 May, Birmingham Back to Backs

**BLANCPAIN ENDURANCE SERIES** The world's best supported GT3 racing series, Sat 23 - Sun 24 May, Silverstone Circuit

**YOUNG DRIVER Driver training course** aimed at eleven to seventeen-year-olds, Sat 23 May, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**FIRST WORLD WAR AT**

**CROFT** A weekend of talks and displays on the First World War with re-enactors bringing the past to life, Sat 23 - Sun 24 May, Croft Castle

**BIG BRUM OPEN TOP BUZ SIGHTSEEING TOUR** Chocolate, custard, cars, whistles and bangles to the best in the world for science, medicine, education, culture, sport and art - Birmingham has it all, Sat 23 - Sun 24 May, Victoria Square, Birmingham

**QUEEN VICTORIA'S BIRTHDAY** Celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday, Sat 23 - Sun 31 May, Blists Hill, iron-bridge, Shropshire

**ANCIENT OCEANS** A host of exciting activities, workshops and talks. Join in the archaeological digs with Dr Dug, Sat 23 - Sun 31 May, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

**FAMILY FUN DAYS** Get outside and explore the gardens and estate at Baddesley, Sat 23 - Sun 31 May, Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire

**LEMUR WEEK** A week of Lemur-based talks and activities to highlight the park's conservation work to save species such as the Great Bamboo Lemur and Sifaka from extinction, Sat 23 - Sun 31 May, Cotswold Wildlife Park

**FAMILY FUN DAYS - MAY HALF TERM** May half-term family fun, with outdoor games, a trail around the grounds and a chance to see how many of the fifty things to do before you're 11 and 3/4 you can tick off, Sat 23 - Sun 31 May, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

**MAY HALF TERM AT SHAKESPEARE'S FAMILY HOMES** There's family-friendly fun on offer across Shakespeare's family homes this school holiday, Sat 23 - Sun 31 May, Shakespeare's Birthplace; Mary Arden's Farm; Hall's Croft; Harvard House & The Museum of British Pewter, Stratford-upon-Avon

**MAY HALF TERM FAMILY FUN** From Lego to paper - design, build and test-drive your own car, Sat 23 - Sun 31 May, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

**FAMILY FUN DAYS - MAY HALF TERM** May half-term family fun, with outdoor games, a trail around the grounds and the chance to see

how many of the 'fifty things to do before you're 11 and 3/4' you can tick off, Sat 23 - Sun 31 May, Packwood House, Solihull

**LET'S GET SPORTY!** Outdoor games guaranteed to get the heart racing, with costumed demonstrators on hand to help you have some old-fashioned fun, Sat 23 - Sun 31 May, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**MAY HALF TERM ACTIVITIES** Explore the gardens and join in the activities this half term, Sat 23 - Fri 29 May, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

**HORRIBLE HISTORIES: MEDIAEVAL MAYHEM** The truly gruesome sights, sounds and smells of Mediaeval England are brought back to life, Sat 23 - Sun 31 May, Warwick Castle

**HORRIBLE HISTORIES: WICKED WARWICK** New for 2015, Horrible Histories bring Wicked Warwick back to life, Sat 23 May - Sun 6 Sep, Warwick Castle

**FAMILY WORKSHOP: THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** A fun family workshop where you'll work as an actor does. Suitable for ages eight and over, Sat 23 May, Clore Learning Centre, RST, Stratford-upon-Avon

**MAY HALF TERM: THE STORY OF CHILDREN'S TELEVISION** A week of events to celebrate the launch of the new Children's Television exhibition, Sat 23 - Sun 31 May, The Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry

**GAYDON CLASSIC CAR SHOW** A brand new event bringing together and highlighting some of the best classics ever made, Sun 24 May, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

**CLASSIC CAR AND TRANSPORT SHOW** Featuring over six hundred vintage and classic cars, Sun 24 - Mon 25 May, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

**VINTAGE FAMILY FUN** A day packed with nostalgia, including a Punch & Judy show, impressive displays of steam engines, a vintage carousel, a model steam engine and pony rides, Sun 24 - Mon 25 May, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire

**A VERY VICTORIAN DAY OUT** Take a trip back to Witley's Victorian heyday, Sun 24 - Mon 25 May, Witley Court, Worcester

**Week Commencing MON 25 MAY**

**FLEA FAIR** Three hundred stallholders and



Family Activities - Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Warwickshire

large outside pitches selling everything and anything! Mon 25 May, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**DRESSING UP BOX** Dress up with a range of props from the RSC costume store, Mon 25 - Sun 31 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**SPRING BANK HOLIDAY: ONCE UPON A TIME...** A family day out with a fairytale theme, Mon 25 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**HALF-TERM FUN** Mon 25 - Fri 29 May, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**SPEAKING SHAKESPEARE** Perform some of Shakespeare's speeches like a pro! Suitable for ages eight and over, Tues 26 May, Clore Learning Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE STORY GARDEN** Enjoy performing parts of a Shakespeare play, Tues 26 May - Wed 27 May, Clore Learning Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**COLOURFUL GAMES OF THE WORLD** Make a colourful game inspired by a map of the world. Booking required, Tues 26 May, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**SPRING HALF TERM: ...HAPPY EVER AFTER** Craft activities and storytelling with a fairytale theme, Tues 26 - Thurs 28 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**CRAFT WORKSHOP: VENE-TIAN MASQUERADE MASKS** Design carnival masks inspired by traditional costumes from Venice, Tues 26 - Fri 29 May, RST, Stratford-upon-Avon

**SECRETS FROM THE RSC COLLECTION** Explore a selection of rarely displayed props, costumes and accessories from the RSC Collection, Tues 26 - Wed 27 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE LOST HISTORY OF**

**SELY MANOR** An exciting talk about the building's medieval origins and its move to its current Bournville site, Wed 27 May, Selly Manor, Birmingham

**STAGE FIGHTING** Learn how to stage fight from the RSC experts. Suitable for adults and children, Wed 27 May, Clore Learning Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**SINGING WORKSHOP** Sing with the RSC voice coach. Suitable for ages eight and over, Wed 27 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITY: MAY MADNESS** Make a jester's stick to take home, and follow the trail to find out about celebrations in Tudor times, Thurs 28 May, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**WHAT'S IN THE GARDEN?** Explore the gardens and discover the beasts and birds that live there, Thurs 28 - Sun 31 May, The Elgar Birthplace Museum, Worcester

**BLOOD, GUTS & GORE** Join the former head of RSC make-up as she demonstrates how bruises, cuts & scars are created, Fri 29 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**JINNEY RING BEER AND BLUES FESTIVAL** Full line-up to be announced soon, Fri 29 - Sun 31 May, The Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Worcestershire

**RUN WHAT YA BRUNG** A 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 30 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**GIN TASTING WITH SIPSMTIH** Hear about the history of gin in London, from its chequered past of Mother's Ruin & Dutch Courage to the cocktail heyday

at the Savoy - and how Sipsmith fits into the picture, Sat 30 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**DRAGONBOAT FESTIVAL** The Brindleyplace Dragonboat Festival is one of the best known and most-established annual corporate fundraising events in Birmingham, Sat 30 May, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

**MEET THE LACEMAKERS** A chance to meet the lacemakers whose work makes up the current exhibition, Sat 30 May, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

**COVENTRY MOTOFEST** Celebrating the heritage, endeavours and exciting future of personal transport, Fri 29 - Sun 31 May, Coventry City Centre

**BIG BRUM OPEN TOP BUZ SIGHTSEEING TOUR** Chocolate, custard, cars, whistles and bangles to the best in the world for science, medicine, education, culture, sport and art - Birmingham has it all, Sat 30 - Sun 31 May, Victoria Square, Birmingham

**CLASSIC FORD SHOW** The UK's premier classic Ford event, featuring drag strip action, huge club car displays and more, Sun 31 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**EXTREME STUNT SHOW** The Extreme Stunt Show team visit Beckett's Farm with monster trucks and daredevil acts, Sun 31 May, Beckett's Farm, Wythall, Birmingham

**SPRING FLOWER FESTIVAL** Orchid and cactus displays situated in the Garden and Terrace Suites, Sun 31 May, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**THE HISTORIC MARATHON RALLY SHOW** A celebration of human and motoring endeavour, Sun 31 May, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire



# Eating Out

## Brum's Foodies Festival

The UK's biggest nationwide food and drink festival comes to Birmingham's Cannon Hill Park from Fri 15 to Sun 17 May. Featuring pop-up restaurants, a tasting theatre, street food, artisan produce, children's cookery, a BBQ arena, demonstrations from top chefs and, of course, the feasting tent, the festival offers three days-worth of stuffing your face with all the culinary delights you could wish for. For more information or to buy tickets, visit [www.foodiesfestival.com](http://www.foodiesfestival.com)



### Pop-up burger joint launched

Award-winning Birmingham steak restaurant Anderson's Bar & Grill is set to preview its new pop-up 'burger joint' this month.

And the steak specialists are even providing an accompanying lunchtime delivery service throughout Birmingham!

While the search for a permanent city centre location continues, the pop-up burger joint will be based within the St Paul's Square-located restaurant itself.

Anderson's will be previewing its new creations at the Foodie Festival (see above) from Fri 15 to Sun 17 May.



### Street banquets come to Digbeth

Digbeth's Victorian viaducts are getting a makeover this month thanks to Lab 11's new Street Banquet venture - a brand new casual dining experience.

Using upcycled materials including pallets, scaffold boards and oil barrels, the banquet initiative brings together the best of the UK's street food traders.

Featured delights include produce from Harborne's Butcher's Social, Spectacular Goat's wood-fired pizzas, burgers from The Flying Cow, quirky pies from Pietantic, South African cuisine from Savannah Grill and pancakes from the Victorian Creperie.

With children and families welcome, this new trend in casual dining is a great way to enjoy a selection of top quality food and drink.



## Flower power in Birmingham

### REVIEW

The Botanist has only been open a few weeks - and judging by the crowds spilling out on to the pavement early on a Friday night, it's having no problems making its presence known.

Part of a portfolio of bar-restaurants owned by Manchester-based Living Ventures, it looks set to blow a hurricane of fresh air through Birmingham's post-work cocktail scene. Don't expect to find any boring old B52s or margheritas: the overwhelmingly huge botanically-inspired drinks menu includes Rose Mai Tai (pink rose buds with rum, almond and rose syrup, lime juice and rose liqueur) and Bloody Porcini (garlic chive, micro celery, porcini syrup, tomato juice, gin and lime).

Of the sixteen gins on offer I opted for the Hoxtons, which came garnished with grapefruit and coconut to complement the nutty flavours. The cherry blossom martini will

have to wait for another day.

If you're a beer person, there's another lengthy menu. If undecided, simply have both. The Botanist has crafted three miniature cocktails to complement craft beers - so a bottle of Innis and Gunn Rum Finish ale comes with a Number One (mint, lime, passion fruit, pineapple and Wray & Nephew rum).

After that lot you'll be needing dinner to soak up the booze. We watched ours being prepared by an army of chefs in the open kitchen. We found ourselves sympathising with one young man whose sole job for the evening was to fry chips for the hordes. He did a good job - they came to the table hot and crisp, seasoned to within an inch of their lives with garlic, herbs and salt. The menu is posh pub-grub: the homemade Scotch egg (£5.95) came warm with piccalilli. Salt-and-pepper onion petals (£3.50), meanwhile, are 2015's answer to the soggy onion ring.

There's an extensive list of

deli items to mix and match into your own platter (£9.95), but we went for the more substantial gammon cutlet (£12.50) and chicken & chorizo pie (£10.95), both of which were fine. We could have gone for the Hanging Kebabs (£10.95, and they've gone to the trouble of trademarking them), a fiddly but fun contraption that bastes your dinner with garlic butter at the table.

Desserts are old-school and substantial; the traditional trifle sundae (£4.95), complete with sprinkles, was easily enough for two. The Botanist: it's busy, it's noisy, it's fun and the service is great. Just watch out for hangers.

Food: ■■■■■  
Service: ■■■■■  
Ambience: ■■■■■  
Overall value: ■■■■■  
**OVERALL** ■■■■■

**The Botanist**  
14-16 Temple Street  
Birmingham,  
B2 5BG  
Tel: 0121 600 7430



# 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)

## Birmingham

**AALTO RESTAURANT** Hotel La Tour, Albert Street, Birmingham, B5 5JT 0121 718 8000

**AIR RESTAURANT LG** Arena, Bickenhill Rd 0844 338 0333

**BALCONY BRASSERIE** Selfridges on 4, The Bullring, B5 4BP

**BANK** 4 Brindleyplace, B1 2JB 0121 633 4466

**BAR ESTILO** 10-114 Wharfside St, The Mailbox, B1 1RF 0121 643 3443

**BARAJEE** 265 Broad Street, B1 2DS 0121 643 6699

**BELLA ITALIA** 102 New Street, B2 4HQ 0121 643 1548

**BERLIOZ** Burlington Arcade, New St, B2 4JQ 0121 633 1737

**BLUE GINGER** 32 Poplar, Rd, Kings Heath, B14 7AD 0121 444 0999

**BLUE MANGO** Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 633 4422

**BLUE PIANO RESTAURANT AND BAR** 24-26 Harborne Rd, B15 3AA 0121 454 6877

**BUONISSIMO** 1 Albany Rd, Harborne, B17 9JX 0121 426 2444

**CAFE OPUS** 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2HS 0121 248 3226

**CAFE SAFFRON** Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, B69 4RR 0121 552 1752

**CARLUCCIO'S** The Water's Edge, Brindleyplace, B2 2HP 0121 633 9262

**CENTENARY BAR & BRASSERIE** Broad Street, B1 2EP 0121 245 2080

**CHI BAR & GRILL** 61 Newhall Street, B3 3RB 0121 233 3150

**CHIMICHANGA** 41 Mill Lane Arcade, Touchwood, Solihull, B91 3GS 0121 704 0749

**CHUNG YING** 16-18 Wrottersley Street,

B5 4RT 0121 622 5669

**CHUNG YING CENTRAL** 126 Colmore Row, B3 3AP 0121 400 0888

**CHUNG YING GARDEN** 17 Thorpe St, B5 4AT 0121 666 6622

**CIELO** 6 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2JB 0121 632 6882

**COAST TO COAST** 9 Brindleyplace, Broad Street, B1 2HJ

**COTE** The Mailbox, B1 1RX 0121 631 1587

**CUCINA RUSTICA** 24 Ludgate Hill, B3 1DX 0121 233 2277

**EASTZEAST** 167 Broad Street, Birmingham, B15 1AY, 0121 643 4808

**EDMUNDS** 6 Brindley place, B1 2JB 0121 633 4944

**FIESTA DEL ASADO** 229 Hagley Road, Birmingham, B16 9RP 0121 445 9331

**FLEET STREET KITCHEN** Fleet Street, Islington Gates, B3 1JH 0121 236 0100

**ITIHAAS** 18 Fleet St, B3 1JL 0121 212 3383

**JAMIE'S ITALIAN** Middle Mall, Bullring Shopping Centre, B5 4BE 0121 270 3610

**JIMMY SPICES** Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 643 2111

**LAS IGUANAS** Arcadian Centre, Hurst St, B5 4TD 0121 622 4466

**LASAN** 3-4 Dakota Buildings, James St, St Paul's Square, B3 1SD 0121 212 3664

**THE LOST & FOUND** 143 Bromsgrove St, B5 6RG 0121 622 2444

**THE LOST & FOUND** 8 Bennetts Hill, B2 5RS 0121 643 9293

**LOVES** The Glasshouse, Browning St, B16 8FL 0121 454 5151

**MECHU** 47 - 59 Summer Row, B3 1JJ 0121 212 1661

**METRO BAR & GRILL** 73 Cornwall St, B3 2DF 0121 200 1911

**MINT** Yew Tree Retail Park, Stoney Lane Yardley, B25 8YP 0121 789 8908

**MOUNT FUJI** The Bullring, B5 4BH 0121 633 9853

**NUVO BAR** 11 Brindley Place, B1 2LP 0121 631 1600

**OPUS** 54 Cornwall St, B3 2DE 0121 200 2323

**THE ORIENTAL** The Mailbox, 128-130 Wharfside St, B1 1RQ 0121 633 9988

**PEACHY KEENS** 1741 Coventry Road, B26 1DS 0121 764 5519

**PENNY BLACKS** The Mailbox, 132-134 Wharfside St, B1 1XL 0121 632 1460

**PICCOLINO** 9 Brindleyplace, B1 2HS 0121 634 3055

**PITCHER & PIANO** Brindleyplace, B1 2HP 0121 643 0214

**POPPY RED** Arcadian Centre, Birmingham, B5 4TD 0121 687 1200

**PURNELL'S** 55 Cornwall St, B3 2DH 0121 212 9799

**PURNELL'S BISTO** 11 Newhall Street, B3 3NY, 0121 2000 1588

**RAJDOOT TANDOORI** 78 - 79 George St, B31 1PY 0121 236 1116

**THE RECTORY** 50-54 St Paul's Sq, B3 1QS 0121 605 1001

**RED PEPPERS** 117 Wharfside St, B1 1RF 0121 643 4202

**SAN CARLO** 4 Temple St, B2 5BN 0121 633 0251

**SHIMLA PINKS** 215 Broad St, B15 1AY 0121 633 0366

**SIMPSONS**, 20 Highfield Rd, Edgbaston, B13 3DU 0121 454 3434

**THE SLUG AND LETTUCE**, Brindley Place, Birmingham, B1 2HL 0121 633 3049

**STRADA** 109-111 Wharfside St, The Mailbox, B1 1XL 0121 643 7279

**TGI FRIDAYS** 180 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, B16 9NY 0121 454 1930

**THAI EDGE** 7 Oozells Sq, B1 2HL 0121 643 3993

**TURTLE BAY** 81-91 John Bright Street, B1 1BL

**THE VAULTS** Newhall Place, Newhall Hill, B1 3JH 0121 212 9837

**WAGAMAMA** Brindley Place, Birmingham, B1  
**WATERS ON THE SQUARE** Chad Square, Hawthorne Rd, Edgbaston, B15 3TQ

## Warwickshire

**7 SQUARE** 7 Old Square, Warwick, CV34 4RA 01926 411 755

**NO. 9 CHURCH STREET** Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6HB 01789 415522

**AGRA PLACE** 12 Abbey Green, Nuneaton, CV11 5DR 024 7635 0515

**THE ALMANACK** Abbey End North, Kenilworth, CV8 1QJ 01926 353637

**AUBERGE** 32 Smith St, Warwick, CV34 4HS 01926 400 086

**THE BELL** Alderminster, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 8NY 01789 450414

**BLUE BISTRO** 21 Spon St, Coventry, CV1 3BA 024 7622 9274

**CARLUCCIOS** 13 Waterside, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6BA 01789 267424

**CATALAN** 6 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EW 01926 498 930

**THE CHURCH STREET TOWNHOUSE** 16 Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HB 01789 262222

**COOMBE ABBEY** Brinklow Road, Coventry, CV3 2AB 024 7645 0450

**CROSSED KHUKRIS GURKHA** 115 Abbey Street, Nuneaton, CV11 5BX 024 7634 4488

**EDWARD MOON** 9 Chapel Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6EP 01789 267069

**EGO** 29 The Square, Kenilworth, CV8 1EF 01926 864463

**THE ENCORE** Bridge Street, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6AB 01789 269462

**FINEST CATCH** B'ham Rd, Henley in Arden, B95 5QR 01564 793783

**FIVE RIVERS** 20-22 Victoria Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV31 3AB 01926 431999

**HIGH PAVEMENT BAR & DINING** 3 High Street, CV34 4AP 01926 494725

**HELP OUT MILL** Heather Rd, Shakerstone, Nuneaton, CV13 0BT 01530 260666

**INDIA RED** 25 Abbey Street, Nuneaton, CV11 5BX 024 7634 2090

**LE BISTRO PIERRE** Swans Nest, Bridgford, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 7LT 01789 264804

**MALLORY COURT** Harbury Lane, Leamington Spa, CV33 9QB, 01926 330214

**MATRICARDIS** 97 High St, Henley in Arden, B95 5AT 01564 792735

**MERCHANTS** Swan Street, Warwick, CV34 4BJ 01926 403833

**NICOLINIS** 14 The Parade, Leamington Spa, CV32 4DW 01926 421620

**NUMBER SIX** Castle Street, Warwick, CV34 4BP 01926 497663

**ONE ELM** 1 Guild St, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6QZ 01789 404919



Marmalade, Broad Street, Birmingham

**PREZZO** 1-3 High St, Warwick, CV34 4AP 01926 475867

**RESTAURANT 23** 34 Hamilton Terrace, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa, CV32 4LY 01926 422422

**RISTORANTE DA VINCI** 50 Earlsdon Street, Coventry, CV5 6EJ 024 7671 3554

**ROBBIE'S RESTAURANT** 74 Smith Street, CV34 4HU 01926 400470

**ROOFTOP RESTAURANT** @ The RST, Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BB 01789 403449

**SAFFRON GOLD** Market St, Westgate House, Warwick, CV34 4DE 01926 402061

**THE SAXON MILL** Coventry Rd, Guys Cliffe, Warwick, CV34 5YN 01926 492 255

**TAILORS** 22 Market Place, Warwick, CV34 4SL 01926 410590

**THE TREVELLYN** Warwick Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6AB 01789 295252

**THE VINE INN** 86 - 88 West St, Warwick, CV34 6AW 07873 219005

**WARWICK SPICE** 24 Smith Street, CV34 4HS 01926 491736

**ZIZZI** 85-87 Regent Square House, Parade, Leamington Spa, CV32 4NL 01926 432532

**Worcestershire**

**ANAKARALI** 47 The Tythings, Worcester, WR1 1JT 01905 21412

**ANGEL CHEF** 1 Angel St, Worcester, WR1 3QT 01905 731131

**ANUPAM** 85 Church Street, Malvern, WR14 2AE 01684 573814

**BACCHUS** 44 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 0TA 01527 877557

**BENEDICTOS** 34 Sidbury, Worcester, WR1 2HZ 01905 21444

**BINDLES BAR & BRASSERIE** 55 Sidbury, WR1 2HU 01905 611120

**BRAMBLINGS** Hither Green Lane, Redditch, B98 9BE 01527 406600

**BRIDGE INN** Plough Road, Droitwich, WR9 7NQ 01905 345874

**CHADDESLEY RESTAURANT**

Brockencote Hall Hotel, Kidderminster, DY10 4PY 01562 777876

**THE CHASE INN** Chase Rd, Upper Colwall, Malvern, WR13 6DQ 01684 540276

**CHESTERS** 51 New St, Worcester, WR1 2DL 01905 611638

**CROWN & SANDYS** Main Rd, Ombersley, WR9 0EW 01905 62025

**ewe AND LAMB** Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove, B60 4DN 01527 871 929

**THE FIG TREE** 99 Church Street, Gt Malvern, WR14 2AE 01684 569909

**FUSION BRASSERIE** Hawbridge, Stoughton, Worcester, WR7 4RJ 01905 840647

**THE INN AT STONEHALL** Stonehall Common, Worcester, WR5 3QG 01905 820462

**KING CHARLES II** King Charles House, New St, Worcester, WR1 2D 01905 22449

**L'AMUSE BOUCHE** 51 Graham Rd, Malvern, WR14 2HU 01684 572427

**LE BRASSERIE** 5 Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster, DY11 6UU 01562 744976

**MAEKONG THAI** 12 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7AE 01527 578888

**MASSALLA LOUNGE** 35 Broad St, Worcester, WR1 3NH 01905 729955

**MUG HOUSE** Claines Lane, Worcester, WR3 7RN 01905 456649

**ON THE ROCKS** 44 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7AE 01527 882412

**PARADISE BALTI** 7 Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster, DY11 6UU 01562 60479

**PORTWAY ITALIAN**, Alcester Rd, Redditch, B48 7HT 01564 824794

**ROSADOS'S** 2 Finstall Rd, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove, B60 2DZ 01527 889948

**SAFFRON BISTRO** 15 New St, Worcester, WR1 2DP 01905 610505

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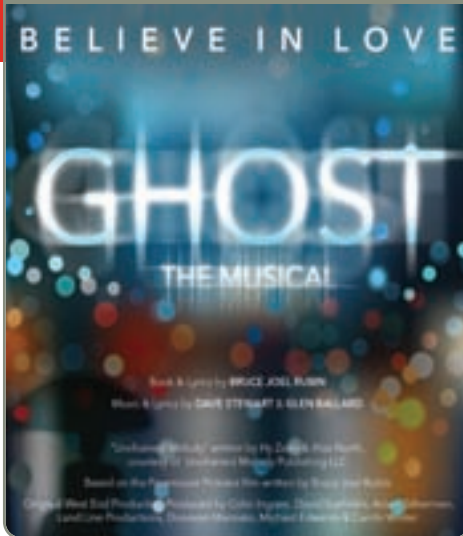
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SUN 14 JUNE



SAT 20 JUNE



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