

## October 2015



Strictly Nasty Craig Revel Horwood dresses for Annie Read the interview on page 42



Jason Donovan stars in Priscilla Queen Of The Desert page 27



Moira Buffini talks about Handbagged interview page 11



**Grand Designs Kevin McCloud back at the NEC**page **69** 

INSIDE: 4. News 11. Music 24. Comedy 27. Theatre 44. Dance 51. Film 63. Visual Arts 67. Days Out 81. Food



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#### What's On

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# News

## Whitby Jet amongst highlights at Winter Fair

This popular event, which makes a welcome return to the venue next month for its Winter Fair, is famed for its pottery, porcelain and glass. The recent addition of twentieth century and contemporary specialists has encouraged a more diverse range of buyers and designers. Among the Winter Fair highlights is a Whitby Jet exhibition. The display tells the story of the world's largest fashioned and rough Jet specimen collection of over two hundred pieces, most of which are being shown in public for the first time.

Antiques For Everyone's Winter Fair takes place at the NEC from 19 to 22 November.



#### New venue for gaming event

The UK's biggest gaming festival is relocating to Birmingham's NEC, having outgrown its current home at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry. Insomnia Gaming Festival is a twenty-four-hour event 'combining all the best bits of video-gaming'. It takes its NEC bow in December.

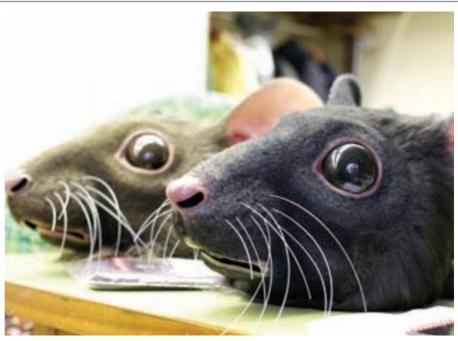
Commenting on the relocation, the founder and CEO of Multiplay, Craig Fletcher, said: "The Insomnia Gaming Festival has enjoyed an incredible journey in recent years. Ticket sales have soared in the last three years and we're expecting to welcome a total of over one hundred thousand visitors through our doors in 2015."

Insomnia Gaming Festival takes place at the NEC from 11 to 14 December.



#### Museum Trust launches new education programme

The chance to take 'a magical journey' through the starry night sky and enjoy some hair-raising fun experimenting with static and current electricity are just two of the activities featured in Birmingham Museums Trust's 2015/16 education programme.



#### 25 Years Of Costume showcased in Brum

As part of its twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations, Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB) is exhibiting a selection of costumes worn by its dancers during its quarter-century residency in the city.

The intimate exhibition has been designed to provide members of the general public with the chance to find out how the costumes are made, from initial sketches through to finished product.

Commenting on the exhibition, BRB's Head of Costume, Elaine Garlick, said; "This is an extraordinary opportunity to display the time, effort and craftsmanship that goes into each and every costume that we put on stage."

Birmingham Royal Ballet: 25 Years Of Costume runs at House of Fraser, Birmingham, until 11 October. Admission is free.

The programme has been designed to provide pupils and students with immersive opportunities not available in school classrooms.

Commenting on the new programme, Andrew Fowles, the Trust's Learning Manager, said: "All of our activities have been designed to support the National Curriculum. We can't wait to welcome school groups to our stunning attractions to be inspired by science, art and history."

## New sporting event aims to inspire youngsters

The Sports Show, taking place at the NEC from 24 to 26 June, has been created to inspire youngsters 'to play sport, love sport and live sport'. The event will bring together a wide range of sports activities under one roof, with a number of former and current sports stars also on hand to offer their advice and expertise.

Commenting on the new event, Sports Show Director Ed Rusling said: "The show is going to be a playground of fun for kids across the country. We'll be taking over most of the NEC and plan to pack every inch with as many different sports as we can."

## World premieres feature in new concert season

A work of classical music based on Samuel Taylor Coleridge's epic poem, The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner, is one of no fewer than thirteen world premieres being presented by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group in its 2015/16 season.

The verses of Shakespeare and AE Housman - author of A Shropshire Lad - will also be set to music and performed by the highly rated ensemble.

BCMG kicked-off their season at the end of last month with a performance of new piece Requiem To Let at Birmingham Weekender, the city's free arts festival.



#### **Going Dutch...**

Renowned Netherlands band The Busquitos are this month presenting a 'unique, one-off' show in Birmingham.

The band are real flag-wavers for Netherlands music and have appeared on international promotion tours of South Korea, Italy and Turkey. They're scheduled to tour Malaysia, South Korea and Suriname during 2016.

They perform at El Borracho de Oro in Edgbaston, Birmingham, on Tuesday 27 October.



#### **Get Inked in Leamington**

A Midlands art gallery and UK tattoo blog are collaborating to host a tattoo art exhibition in Leamington Spa this month.

Inked Palette is a collaboration between Deasil Art Gallery and Inkluded (inkluded.co.uk) which showcases the work of tattoo artists through different mediums. Commenting on the show, contributor Shaun Von Sleaze said: "It's nice for there to be a physical place where the general public can have access to the work we can

create. Art is art, regardless of placement, and it would be nice to show that we're artists, not what an outdated stereotype likes to portray." Inked Palette shows at Deasil Art Gallery, Leamington Spa, from 3 to 20 October.



#### A star-spangled adventure

One of Birmingham's newest visitor attractions is set to become distinctly 'star-spangled' this half-term holiday.

The Wonderful World Of Trains & Planes - offering an interactive journey through a world of models - is hosting a special US-themed experience to celebrate the start of its new American layout.

The week of special events and activities includes modellers explaining and demonstrating how they're building the new layout. Children can make flags to take home, and budding air cadets can fly down the Las Vegas Strip or over one of the Great Lakes in the visitor attraction's flight simulators.





## Celebrating children's theatre in Coventry

The Coventry Belgrade is this month hosting a festival of theatre for children and young people (19 - 31 October).

The festival is part of a year-long fiftieth anniversary celebration of the birth of Theatre In Education (TiE) at the Belgrade.

To tie in with the children's festival, the venue is also presenting a special two-day conference on 21 and 22 October. The conference brings together policy makers, teachers, young people, academics and theatre educators to discuss the vital role of drama and theatre in schools and the marginalisation of the arts in the national curriculum. The event includes a range of activities and discussions as well as an opportunity to see some of the work produced as part of the TiE celebration.

#### Take a trip down Abbey Road - in Brum...

A live re-staging of The Beatles at Abbey Road studios will visit Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena next May as part of a UK tour.

Part blockbuster stage show, part access-all-areas musical documentary, The Sessions is set

in a state-of-the-art reproduction of the iconic Abbey Road studio. The show features new live renditions of the time-less albums which The Beatles recorded there. Commenting on the production, Show Director Kim Gavin said: "It's really exciting to bring to life some of The Beatles' most iconic recording sessions, and offer the audience a unique glimpse into the band's creative process."

The Sessions shows at Barclaycard Arena on 13 May.



#### **IN BRIEF**

## Ignite your passion with Glee...

An event offering a platform for fervent speakers to talk on a subject they're passionate about makes its debut at Birmingham's Glee Club this month. lonite has been a sellout success at the Glee Club in Cardiff over the last year and arrives in Brum on 27 October. Each speaker is allocated five minutes to talk about any subject that takes their fancy. For further information, visit ignitebrum.com

#### **RSC** commemorative season announced

The Royal Shakespeare Company has announced details of its spring/summer 2016 season, which will commemorate the four hundredth anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

The Royal Shakespeare Theatre (RST) season will start with A Play For The Nation, an initiative bringing together fourteen amateur companies from across the UK to present one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies, A Midsummer Night's Dream.

The RST will also stage new versions of Hamlet and Cymbeline, while the adjacent Swan Theatre's programme comprises productions of Doctor Faustus, Don Quixote and The Alchemist. Other spring/summer attractions include the reopening of RSC studio theatre The Other Place and a new exhibition revealing

secrets and stories from over one hundred years of theatre-making history in Stratford.

There's also a fun-packed day of free outdoor events to enjoy on 23 April, the four hundredth anniversary of Shakespeare's death and also the date on which his unknown birthday is celebrated. For more information about the spring/summer programme, visit www.rsc.org.uk.





Actress, comedian and writer Meera Syal is probably best known for two TV comedy series -Goodness Gracious Me and The Kumars At No 42 - and her debut novel. Published in 1996, Anita And Me is this month coming to the stage for the very first time. It takes its inspiration from the novelist's own upbringing in the Black Country mining town of Essington.

Meera here talks to What's On about her experience of growing up - as she once put it - "an exotic flower in Midland soil"...

Anita And Me was arguably the first novel by a woman of British Asian origin to enjoy high-profile international success. What do you think made it so appealing, Meera? It's a universal story - and although it's ostensibly about a little Indian girl in a mining village, I think many people relate to it on different levels, be it Indian or English. It's about a British way of life that disappeared with the close of the rural mining communities. It's also about friendship - the pain and the joy of that.

#### Reviews of the novel made comparisons between Anita And Me and To Kill A Mocking Bird. Harper Lee's classic novel is even mentioned briefly by Meena in the story. How great an influence was Mocking Bird on you?

It was a huge influence. We all have one of those life-changing books, and that was the one for me. Up until that point, I hadn't and connected with how I felt as a first generation immigrant growing up here. Even though it was written by a southern writer in the States many years before, it was Scout's story - the pain of growing up, understanding what racism was about and discovering the need to do what's right - that really struck a chord with me. It changed the way I felt about myself and how I looked at society

#### What motivated you to write Anita And Me? Was there an event or person in your childhood that influenced you to write it?

I wrote it because an editor approached me after he'd seen something I'd written for television. He asked me if I'd ever thought of writing prose and whether there was something I'd like to write about. I immediately thought of my childhood. It was so extraordinary, so influential, so unusual, and I liked the idea of preserving that little piece of British history. I suppose I needed to tell the story because I didn't know if anybody would ever write it down again. I wanted people after me to know what it was like to grow up in that environment at that particular time. A lot of the book is fiction. The setting is autobiographical and a lot of the emotion is autobiographical, but there's plenty in the book that I made up. I suppose the influential event which I cover in the book that really did happen in my life sees ten-year-old Meena in did when I was four. I met a boy in hospital who passed away when I was there. It was my first experience of mortality. I was only four but I remember understanding then that life was short - and that it was a gift and I

#### You wrote the film adaptation of Anita And Me. Were you ever tempted to be the person who also wrote the stage adaptation?

No, not really. I've never really written anything for the stage, other than a onewoman show many years ago. It's not a medium I know well. Tanika Gupta, who did

write it, is a dear friend. She's a brilliant playwright and I knew she could do a much better job than me. Also, I was in the midst of writing my third novel at the time Anita And Me was being developed for the stage, so timing-wise I wasn't free to do it. Even if I had been, I still think I'd have said Tanika was the right person. And she's done a terrific job.

#### Was playing a part in the play not an

I don't know if that would've been just too weird; it's already like therapy on stage! I don't know if I'd want to take it a step further than that and actually be in it.

#### But you played Meena's aunt in the film... I did - because it was a fun sort of part. But no, I'm quite happy just to let people take it and run with it.

Going back to the storyline - when Meena is asked what she wants to be when she grows up, she replies 'Blonde'. What life opportunities was a young Asian girl likely be denied in early-1970s Britain that would've made her want to grow up to be white?

I think most kids just want to fit in. Nobody likes being different. It's no different in 2015 than it was in 1972. We all have a pack mentality - particularly as teenagers. Kids like me growing up didn't have any role models. We didn't see anybody who was like us being regarded as beautiful by the media or working in the media. As far as acting, writing and presenting were concerned, we were pretty invisible. When you don't see positive reflections of yourself out there, you begin to think you're invisible - or that how you are isn't beautiful or important. That's the sort of mindset that Meena's in, to some extent. Even though she has so much spark and potential, in Jackie magazine the pretty girls are always blonde, so that's what she thinks

#### While at university you won the National Student Drama Award for your performance in One Of Us. How did that feeling of accomplishment compare to when you received your CBE at the start of this year for your service to drama and

I suppose the first one is sort of almost more significant because I was on the verge of having a completely different life. I had an MA place booked and a teacher training course. I was all set to go off and have a sensible life. The award was quite a shock at twenty-two because I didn't know if I was any good at acting. I didn't know if anybody would get what I was trying to do, so the fact that people thought what I was doing was quite interesting sort of changed the course of my life. The CBE was lovely. It's gratifying when your work reaches people, but that first award was the one that actually made me think I might have a shot at doing this for a

#### So looking back on your career, what have been the highlights?

There are so many. I still wake up feeling a very lucky woman. It's such an insecure profession and I've been in it a while now. I'm gratified that I'm still managing to make a living out of something I never thought would do and something that I love so much. But there are lots of highlights. Goodness Gracious Me has been groundbreaking for all of us. It turned around all of our careers and changed the landscape a little bit. Personally, doing my first Shakespeare a couple of years ago, playing Beatrice at the RSC, was a great highlight because I'd never done any Shakespeare before. To do Shakespeare at the RSC, and play that iconic part, was pretty special. Shirley Valentine was another amazing experience. So there have been a few lovely things.

#### Quite diverse as well - Shirley Valentine, a bit of Shakespeare..

As an actor you want to keep pushing yourself and surprise people occasionally be kept on your toes. That's how you learn.

#### Have you got to the point in your career where you've stopped worrying about where the next job is coming from?

I wish I had reached that point. I'm a woman of a certain age, I'm a woman of colour, so it's never going to be straightforward. You always have to keep pushing. Success for me would be knowing what I'm doing for the next year. If I could look ahead and go, 'I've actually got work for a year and I'm doing this and that and then I'm having a holiday', that, for me, would be the definition of success. I haven't reached that yet, so you have to keep knocking on that door. At least they open it now, which is great.

#### Have you ever turned down a role and then

later regretted it?
I've had to turn down quite a few lovely roles because of my kids and tag-teaming it with course. As a working mother there are some things you just can't do - or at least that's the choice I've made while I've still got young

#### Going back to Anita And Me, is the play true to the book?

It's really faithful to the book, which is delightful. Tanika said the hardest bit was choosing what to keep in and what not to keep in. What she's done beautifully is ease out the friendship and the story and the life of that village and kept all of the humour. I think people will get in the play exactly what they loved about the book, which is obviously what you'd hope.

Anita & Me shows at The REP, Birmingham from Fri 9 - Sat 24 October Meera Syal and Tanika Gupta are. In conversation at The Rep on Sat 10 October





# Moira Buffini

## talks to Heather Kincaid about bringing her West End comedy to the Midlands



Moira Buffini's Handbagged is a raucous comedy that speculates about the relationship between the Queen and Mrs Thatcher. The play visits the Midlands this month after enjoying rave reviews in the West End. Moira here talks to What's On about the show, the subject of women in politics and her commitment to 'monsterism' - a movement campaigning for theatres to commission more large-scale work from new writers...

## What first got you interested in the relationship between Margaret Thatcher and the Queen?

I was asked to write a play as part of a season at Tricycle Theatre called Women, Power And Politics. I knew I was going to write about Thatcher, but I didn't want to write about Thatcher and men. Right from the start, she made sure there were no women in her cabinet, so the only longstanding, political relationship she had with another woman was with the Queen.

## As you started researching, did you find more similarities or differences between them?

Looking at them on paper, you'd think there must be similarities. They were both born in the same year, lived through the war, had very strong relationships with their fathers, and are very traditional in many ways and completely groundbreaking in others. But in terms of their actual personalities, I think they're chalk and cheese. For example, the Queen is well known for her sense of humour, and Mrs Thatcher didn't really have one. They're very different in the way they deal with people.

#### What kind of a relationship do you think they had?

The animosity between them is well-documented. And yet, it was complicated, because Thatcher revered the Queen. She was a real royalist, and I think she was terribly disappointed that the Queen didn't really like her or agree with her.

## How did you find the experience of writing about real people as opposed to fictional characters?

I loved doing all the research and being able to use words they really said, as well as trying to write between the lines. It's quite irreverent. I think my feelings about Mrs Thatcher are clear, but I did feel a great obligation to be fair. It's the first time I've done it, but I don't think it'll be the last.

#### Did writing *Handbagged* change your perspective on them at all?

It's certainly made me more respectful of the Queen. It's made me... admire some of Mrs Thatcher's personal qualities. And I can admire her conviction politics without supporting what she did.

## Mrs Thatcher very much made her views known, whereas the royals have a much more neutral public image. Was it difficult writing the Queen?

What I found with Mrs Thatcher was that everybody wanted to tell me their Thatcher story, but when it comes to the Queen, everyone's really circumspect. There are far fewer books and resources about the Queen, and publicly she's not allowed to declare her own opinions about anything. So I thought it would be much harder to write her, but actually I found it great fun imagining the private behind the public persona. Her character is much more of a work of imagination, but wherever I've been able to get facts, or quotes, or anything - even hearsay - I've used it.

## Mrs Thatcher died a few months before the full-length version debuted. Did that affect the finished play?

Absolutely. I did the bulk of the work during a residency at Tricycle Theatre, and she died just days into that, so I began it watching her funeral and seeing how much all of that old division was still there. I wanted to explain to my own children why people hated and revered this woman so much.

## Do you see any similarities between her government and our current Conservative leadership?

I'm not sure Mrs Thatcher would approve of the current government. She was never a fan of old Etonians. She was a revolutionary in her party, and the people she liked were working class Tories like Norman Tebbitt and John Major. I think she'd be quite shocked at what her policies have done.

## The subject of women and politics has been in the news again lately. Do you think we've moved on at all since then?

I think change has happened, but the battle is still on. It's still a very male world run along male lines, and female politicians have to cope with much more abuse - often about petty things like what kind of shoes they wear or how low their neckline is, rather than about their policies. But there are a lot more

women in politics now. Even the Conservative party has got a female Home Secretary, which you couldn't imagine happening in Thatcher's day. But then, no one could imagine Thatcher happening in Thatcher's day!

## You're known for writing stories with focal female characters, and in this case, you're writing about mature women. Do you think there's still a lack of stories being told from those perspectives?

Yes, definitely. One of the joys of watching Handbagged is seeing four fantastic actresses in one play, talking about global politics and being really brilliant and funny. There's an amazing generation of female writers coming up, and things will change, but currently I'm still among the ten to fifteen per cent of screenwriters who are women. I think there are so many interesting stories not being told because of the gender of the tellers.

## You're part of the 'monsterist' playwrights' movement which started some years ago. Do you think it's been successful in achieving its aims?

I do. I think the landscape is really changing, and there's a new generation of writers getting exposure on big stages. We've still got further to go, but if new writers aren't given big stages and big budgets, we'll lose a generation of writers who are able to write plays of scale, and not just little plays to be put on in black boxes. We've got to be able to fill big theatres with new work about people living in our world and dealing with our issues, otherwise they'll just become heritage boxes and will slowly die. There will always be companies specialising in heritage theatre, but even The Globe and the RSC are putting on far more new work and allowing writers big budgets now.

Actress Susie Blake (pictured left) stars as The Queen in Moira Buffini's Handbagged which shows at the **Belgrade Theatre**, **Coventry** from Tues 6 - Sat 10 October. Box office 0121 345 0600 www.thsh.co.uk



## What's on

To see what's on when, visit www.thsh.co.uk/whats-on

Entertainment



Jason Byrne 20 Years a Clown

Saturday 3 October Town Hall £17.50 plus transaction fee\*



In Conversation with Tom Jones

Friday 9 October ymphony Hall £35 - £50 plus transaction fee\*



Frankie Boyle Hurt Like You've Never Been Loved

Saturday 10 October 8pm ymphony Hall £20 plus transaction fee\*



Halloween Silent Movie Special The Phantom of

Saturday 31 October 7.30pm £15 plus transaction fee\*



Will Young Revolution Tour

Wednesday 4 & Monday 16 November Symphony Hall £35 & £45 plus transaction fee\*



Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra

Thursday 19 November ymphony Hall 29.50 - £25 plus transaction fee\*



Festival of the Spoken Nerd Just for Graphs

Saturday 21 November Town Hall £15 plus transaction fee\*



Dave Gorman Gets Straight to the Point\*

Thursday 26 November £24 plus transaction fee\*

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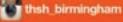


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# Music

#### **Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers**

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Fri 9 October

The Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers are the UK's first and only professional touring taiko group. They fuse thundering rhythms on huge taiko drums with layers of percussive soundscapes and the delicate sound of the shinobue bamboo flute, all of which are brought together in an impressive theatrical style.



#### **Mallory Knox**

Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, Fri 2 October

Mallory Knox played Reading and Leeds in 2013, as well as SummerJam, Burn Out Festival, Chaos and Coventry's Godiva. The band also released a deluxe edition of their album, Signals, featuring B-sides, acoustic tracks and live recordings from the album release show.

They may have missed out that same year to Lower Than Atlantis for the Kerrang! Best British Newcomer award, but the disappointment certainly didn't hold them back. They've since released second album Asymmetry and played the main stage at Download this summer.

The band here return to the UK on their Homecoming tour.

#### **James Bay**

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Thurs 8 October

After a number one debut album with Chaos And The Calm, twenty-four-year-old singer-songwriter James now heads out on tour.

This year's winner of the BRIT's Critics' Choice award, Bay also made numerous festival appearances during the summer months, including one on Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage.

Support comes from Elle King and Samm Henshaw





#### **Fall Out Boy**

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Tues 6 October

American rock band Fall Out Boy rose to fame in 2005 after the release of second album From Under The Cork Tree. The album produced two hit singles - Sugar We're Goin Down and Dance Dance - and went double platinum, transforming the group into world-famous stars.

Follow-up offering Infinity On High landed number one on the Billboard 200, whilst Folie à Deux, the band's fourth album, generated a mixed response.

After a three-year hiatus, the band re-grouped in 2013 to release fifth album (and second number one) Save Rock And Roll. Their sixth studio collaboration, American Beauty/American Psycho, was released earlier this year and also made the top spot.

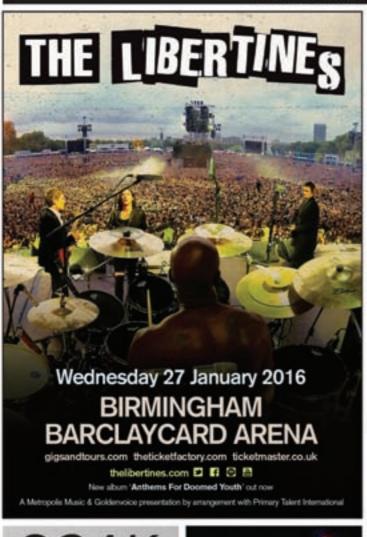


#### The Unthanks

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 26 October

Northumbrian folk band The Unthanks are marking their tenth anniversary with a short tour of small, intimate spaces and a pared-back line-up.

Very much a family affair, with sisters Rachel and Becky at the forefront, the band's long list of celebrity fans includes Elvis Costello, Colin Firth, Dawn French, Al Murray, Ade Edmondson and Nick Hornby.



















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#### **Music** Previews

#### **Ron Sexsmith**

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Wed 21 October

Even though fiftysomething Canadian Ron Sexsmith can count Paul McCartney and Elvis Costello among his fans, he's so far failed to achieve widespread commercial success. Not that he's particularly bothered. "I mostly feel grateful," Ron recently revealed to theartsdesk.com. "I was thirty when I got signed, which is considered old in the music business, so I was just glad to get in the door and have a career. It never really bothered me. I never really expected to be filling stadiums or anything like that."



#### **UB40**

The Copper Rooms, Coventry, Fri 23 October

It's thirty-plus years now since UB40 performed their first gig - at a Birmingham pub for the birthday of a friend - and the boys are still going strong.

Their big break came in a pub too, when Chrissie Hynde spotted them and gave them the chance to perform as support with The Pretenders.

Blending pop and reggae, the band continue to perform across the world, helping to spread the reggae word to places as far-flung as Russia and South America.



#### **Bruce Cockburn**

The Robin, Bilston, Mon 5 October
Canadian singer-songwriter Bruce Cockburn's output has been impressively eclectic since he burst onto the scene way back in the 1960s, successfully embracing the genres of folk, country, reggae, jazz, rock and blues. Along the way he's sung about all manner of injustice, fought hard for worthy causes and visited war-torn countries across the globe.

"It's kind of amazing," reflects Bruce, a Christian since the early 1970s. "There was a time when the idea of living to be forty seemed absolutely absurd, yet here I am well into my sixties and still doing the thing I love. And what's more, it still feels fresh. Old hat or boring it most definitely is not."



#### **Bass Festival 15**

various venues across Birmingham during October

The region's month-long celebration of Black music and art annually attracts an audience of around fifteen thousand people and in 2015 is celebrating its tenth anniversary. The festival comprises performances from around one hundred-and-fifty artists and this year features, amongst others: Mad Professor Meets Channel One Sound System (pictured above); The Lowdown; My Ten Radio; Carroll Thompson; and Victor Romero Evans. Find out more about BASS 15 in our interview with Ammo Talwar on page 46.

#### Seckou Keita

mac, Birmingham, Sat 10 October

Award-winning Senegalese musician Seckou Keita is a true master of the kora - a twentytwo-stringed West African harp - and has played and appeared with an impressive

array of hugely talented performers, including Yossou N'Dour, Miriam Makeba and Neil Finn. This UK tour follows on from his highly praised collaborative project with Welsh harpist Catrin Finch



#### Sons Of Kemet

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Thurs 22 October

MOBO award winners Sons Of Kemet here present a mix of music that spans jazz, rock, dub, Caribbean folk and traditional African diasporan history.

The four-piece's debut album, Burn, was released in autumn 2013 and received an impressive variety of nominations and awards. Expect an electric performance from the boys in Birmingham this month.



#### **Hot 8 Brass Band**

Kasbah, Coventry, Fri 30 October

Transcending genres and trends, Hot 8's rocking sound and indomitable energy are renowned across the world.

The New Orleans-based collective have performed with a wide range of artists, including Lauryn Hill and Mos Def, and released three albums: Rock With The Hot 8, Tombstone and The Life And Times Of The Hot 8 Brass Band. The latter was nominated for a Grammy in 2013.

They appear in Coventry as part of a tour to support fifth album Vicennial, released this month.



#### **Marcus Miller**

Birmingham Town Hall, Wed 28 October
Marcus Miller's often been called the most successful living jazz musician - and with over five hundred recording credits to his name and performances alongside the likes of Herbie Hancock, Aretha Franklin and Snoop Dogg, it's easy to see why.

Marcus is here performing material from recently released album Afrodeezia, the making of which saw him collaborate with musicians from West Africa, South America and the Caribbean







## TEN LIVE EVENTS **THROUGHOUT OCTOBER 2015**

27/09/15 LAUNCH OF BASS 15

THE IKON, BIRMINGHAM, B1 2HS

01/10/15 DIASPORA BRITAIN WITH AKALA

MILLENNIUM POINT, BIRMINGHAM, B4 7XG

04/10/15

mytenradio LAUNCH 87.7 FM ACROSS BIRMINGHAM

06/10/15 THE LOWDOWN

IMPACT HUB, BIRMINGHAM, B5 5NY

10/10/15

ICONS OF R&B: KEITH SWEAT AND BLACKSTREET

THE INSTITUTE, BIRMINGHAM, B5 6DY

16/10/15 MAD PROFESSOR MEETS CHANNEL ONE

THE RAINBOW, BIRMINGHAM, B12 OLD

17/10/15

IN SITU - FUTURE ICONS FEAT. AGE OF L.U.N.A

BL-NK, LONDON, N1 6AZ

21/10/15 DANCEHALL ROCKS 90's SPECIAL

JAZZ CAFE, LONDON, NW1 7PG

24/10/15

ICONS OF LOVERS ROCK

THE REP, BIRMINGHAM, B1 2EP

25/10/15 **DESI DIKHANA** 

BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM THE MAC, BIRMINGHAM, B12 9QH

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#### **Music** gig reviews

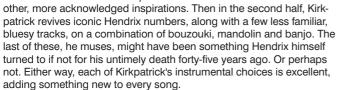
For further reviews, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

#### Benji Kirkpatrick mac, Birmingham

Bellowhead guitarist Benji Kirkpatrick's new Arts Council-funded project sees him channel the legendary Jimi Hendrix with masterful string-playing. The brilliantly titled

"Bendrix" is a stripped-back reimagining of Hendrix's hits on assorted traditional instruments, aiming in part to highlight his oftenforgotten talents as a songwriter.

Original songs dominate the first half, with effortlessly accomplished musicianship as reminiscent of Richard Thompson as it is of



This second section is also accompanied by intricate, kaleidoscopic artwork by Shropshire artist Esther Thorpe, projected onto a screen at the back of the stage. Each sequence has been specially designed to match the songs on the set list, and together they create an appropriately psychedelic, 60s vibe.

The show's one disappointment comes when Kirkpatrick cuts out "Little Wings" extended final solo. Despite his argument that no other guitarist has ever matched Hendrix's "unique" performance, the song comes to an oddly abrupt halt without something to follow the lovely but rather short lyrical section. Moreover, based on what we've already seen him do by this point, it's hard to believe Kirkpatrick's own take would have been anything short of show-stopping.

Nevertheless, as a whole, it's undoubtedly a stunning achievement, guaranteed to captivate die-hard Hendrix fans and enthusiastic new-comers alike. *Heather Kincaid* 

#### **Martin Simpson, Andy Cutting & Nancy Kerr**

mac, Birmingham

Each accomplished artists in their own right, the union of leading folk lights Martin Simpson, Nancy Kerr and Andy Cutting offers the perfect blend of masterful musicianship, historical folk knowledge and inventive song-writing.

Folk superstar and guitar legend Martin Simpson leads the set with the atmospheric Dark Swift and Bright Swallow, where a stroll on a beach prompts reflections on wartime tragedy and life's many comings and goings. Later, Simpson swaps his guitar for a banjo, for some superb renditions of songs from across the pond. He explains that working with Cutting and Kerr has finally enabled him to perform music he has loved since his teens.

"The great thing about working with these two is that they're not fazed by anything," he says. "I'll play them something and they'll go, 'Oh yeah,' and play it back to me."

On fiddle, Nancy Kerr's string sounds are easily a match for Simpson's own, but it's her exquisite singing and poetic sensibility that make her performances extraordinary. Named Folk Singer of the Year at the Radio 2 Folk Awards, Kerr has earned a reputation for her talents, and both Dark Honey (referring to inner-city bees that visit cola cans) and Not Even the Ground (commissioned for the Magna Carta anniversary celebrations) are choice examples of her always excellent song-writing.

On accordion and melodeon, the two-time Folk Musician of the Year and ever entertaining Andy Cutting offers the best explanations for his songs' origins, from traditional tunes picked up in the pub (work is as good an excuse as any for a visit), to original compositions invented while walking his dog (to the bemusement of passers-by). Among his selected tunes are an old favourite, the Staffordshire Hornpipe, and a new piece called Seven Years, written for the trio's album, Murmurs. A showcase of exceptional talent from performers all at the top of their game, the Murmurs tour is a outstanding collaboration that is not to be missed. *Heather Kincaid* 

#### **Music** LISTINGS

For full listing information on gigs, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

#### **THURS 1 OCT**

JO HARMAN AND THE **COMPANY** The Robin, Rilston RICH ROBINSON The Assembly, Leamington **NAVI** Bedworth Civic JENN GRANT The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham THE PICTUREBOOKS The Slade Rooms. Wolverhampton **UK SALUTES FRANK!** Malvern Theatres YIDDISH TWIST ORCHES-TRA mac, Birmingham WALK OFF THE EARTH The Institute B'ham **WILLE & THE BANDITS** Hare & Hounds, B'ham BEATS & PIECES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham **CHANTEL MCGREGOR** The Institute, Birmingham THE LEMONHEADS The Institute, Birmingham MAD ABOUT THE MUSI-CALS Palace Theatre, Redditch CLAY The Oobleck Birmingham

#### FRI 2 OCT

ROZI PLAIN The Tin

Music And Arts,

THE WEDDING PRESENT The Assembly, Leamington Spa
BERT CAMEMBERT'S ALL-STARS The Assembly, Leamington Spa JANE WEAVER Hare & Hounds, Birmingham THE WONDER STUFF Student Union Copper Rooms, Coventry JILTED GENERATION The Roadhouse, B'ham THE RED SHOES - KATE BUSH STORY The Robin. Rilston MALLORY KNOX Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton THE COAST ROAD Palace Theatre, Redditch MR BEN The Jam House, Birmingham **LETHAL BIZZLE** The Institute, Birmingham **EROL ALKAN Hare &** Hounds, Birmingham MARTY WILDE AND THE WILDCATS Evesham Arts Centre, Worcestershire GOD DAMN, MAX RAPTOR & GLEAM The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham BLUE NATION O2 Academy, Birmingham GREN BARTLEY Ort Cafe, Birmingham

#### **SAT 3 OCT**

THE ZZ TOPS The Roadhouse, Birmingham GORDON HENDRICKS IS ELVIS Artrix, Bromsgrove "WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC O2 Academy, Birmingham YAZZ AHMED CBSO Centre, Birmingham Leamington Spa **AFRONAUT & JAYSON** WYNTERS Hare & Hounds. Birmingham **SQUEEZE WITH DR JOHN** COOPER CLARKE Symphony Hall, B'ham KICK UP THE 80'S The Robin, Bilston THE ENGLISH BEAT O2 Academy, Birmingham KNOTSLIP O2 Academy, Birmingham WILL AND THE PEOPLE The Oobleck, B'ham PARADISE LOST Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton THE STRYPES The Rainbow Venues, B'ham **EAST INDIA YOUTH** The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry
KAST OFF KINKS Tamworth Assembly Rooms CHAS AND DAVE Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa KICK UP THE 80'S The Robin, Bilston MR BEN The Jam House Birmingham JACK SAVORETTI The Institute, Birmingham **EC-LECTRICITY**: DJ HAZ-ARD The Institute, Birmingham **ESSENTIAL HOLLIES** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester PETER HOOK & THE LIGHT The Assembly, Leamington Spa THE BOHICAS The Institute, Birmingham THE BAND OF THE WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE ANNUAL CONCERT: BRASS, WIND & FIRE Sutton Coldfield Town Hall ADAM BARNES, CHRIS AYER, LUCY ANNE SALE Fargo Village, Coventry INKERMAN, THE CLAUSE, SHORE SCENE & MOON-**SHINE** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham **BICEP MARTYN, MARK E &** ADAM REGAN The Rain-

**MIDNIGHT MAGPIE** Hare

PETER HOOK AND THE

LIGHT The Assembly,

& Hounds, Birmingham

## bow Venues, B'ham SUN 4 OCT

**GORDON HENDRICKS IS** ELVIS Artrix, Bromsgrove MIDGE URE Wulfrun Hall. Wolverhampton DMS ANNIVERSARY CON-**CERT - A FUSION OF** MUSIC AND DANCE Symphony Hall, B'ham **SNARKY PUPPY** The Institute. Birmingham **BELINDA CARLISLE** Birmingham Town Hall LEGENDS LIVE 2015 Barclaycard Arena, B'ham GABRIELLE APLIN The Institute. Birmingham ALDWYN VOICES Worcester Cathedral **GERRY COLVIN** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham **LAYLA TUTT** Hare &

Hounds, Birmingham CHEMKILL, EYES OF THE RAVEN, PYRAH, INSUMA, AONIA, HIDDEN, ELLIE DOWEN AND MORE The Roadhouse, B'ham SMOKED MANGO, AARON HOPPER, DOM KELLY, PERERA, BRADLEIGH & ASTON The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

#### **MON 5 OCT**

NORTHLANE The Asylum, Birmingham BRUCE COCKBURN The Robin, Bilston ALEXANDER The Institute, Birmingham BENJAMIN FOLKE THOMAS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham JOHNNY MARR The Institute, Birmingham THE BONFIRE RADICALS The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

#### **TUE 6 OCT**

FALL OUT BOY Barclaycard Arena, B'ham WHEATUS O2 Academy, Birmingham JOGLARESA Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa **ED ASKEW** The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry STANLEY BRNKS AND THE WAVE PICTURES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham THE INFERNAL SEA. DENI-**GRATA & MERCILESS TIDE** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham BY THE RIVERS, KIOKO & **LOBSTER** The Rainbow

## Venues, Birmingham WED 7 OCT

WISHBONE ASH The Assembly, Leamington **ERJA LYYTINEN & HER** BAND The Robin, Bilston MIKE PRINCE Palace Theatre, Redditch SIMPLY SOWETO ENCHA mac, Birmingham RALEIGH RITCHIE The Institute, Birmingham **BARENAKED LADIES** The Institute, Birmingham JOHN SPIERS Kings Heath Cricket Club, Birmingham THE VRYLL SOCIETY The Sunflower Lounge. Birmingham JIM JONES, THE RIGHT-**EOUS MIND & SUZIE STA-PLETON** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham **EEK, MEME DETROIT &** MIDSUMMER Hare & Hounds, Birmingham LAND OF THE GIANTS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

#### THUR 8 OCT

BILLY MITCHELL AND RAY LAIDLAW: THE LINDIS-FARNE STORY Solihull Arts Complex RAGLANS The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham LONELADY The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham THE DRIFTERS Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa LEO SAYER - RESTLESS YEARS TOUR 2015 The Robin, Bilston





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## **Music** LISTINGS

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JAMES BAY O2 Academy, Birmingham STARSAILOR Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton METRIC The Institute, Birmingham MARTIN STEPHENSON & THE DAINTEES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

## FRI 9 OCT LEFTFIELD The Institute.

Birmingham

MICHAEL MONROE The Institute, Birmingham **CHRIS CONNOR AS ELVIS** Solihull Arts Complex T'PAU FEATURING CAROL **DECKER** The Robin Bilston **ELIZA AND THE BEAR** O2 Academy, Birmingham YEARS AND YEARS O2 Academy, Birmingham **DAVY 0'LIST** The Assembly, Leamington Spa AGAINST THE CURRENT The Asylum, B'ham MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUM-MERS Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
URBAN INTRO The Jam House, Birmingham TANKCSAPDA The Institute, Birmingham **CHINA CRISIS** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester FEARFEST 2015 The Asvlum, Birmingham **TOM JONES** Symphony Hall, Birmingham **CRAIG CHARLES** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham **GLORY DAYS** The Roadhouse, Birmingham **DUSKY** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham JOHN MCCULLAGH & THE **ESCORTS, SAVANNAH AND RITUALS** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
THIS FEELING FT SUGAR-MEN, BROKEN WIT **REBELS, THE ASSIST & REGALE** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham **EMMA STEVENS** The

## Oobleck, Birmingham SAT 10 OCT

ONE DIRECTION Barclaycard Arena, B'ham PORT ISAAC'S FISHER-MAN'S FRIENDS Birmingham Town Hall DARK SIDE OF THE WALL The Roadhouse. Birmingham PEACE Civic Hall, Wolverhampton SECKOU KEITA mac, Birmingham **URBAN INTRO** The Jam House, Birmingham KEITH SWEAT AND BLACK-STREET The Institute, Birmingham **BLUE BROTHERS EXPERI-ENCE** Artrix, Bromsgrove **REGGAE CITY 2015** Alfie Bird's, Birmingham **NICK HARPER** The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry JOHNNY CASH ROAD-

SHOW Bedworth Civic CAUSE TO EFFECT The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton **BRADLEY ZERO** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham **HOT CLUB DE SWING** Hare & Hounds. B'ham **BONSAI KITTEN, SPIRIT BOMB, THE TEENAGE ZOMBIES, COMPLETE DYSFUNCTION & BLOOD-**THIRSTERS The Rainbow Venues Birmingham JOY ORBISON, FOLD. ADAM SHELTON & LEWIS **OXLEY** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham **HOSPITALITY** The Rainbow Venues. B'ham MC TRIGGA'S BIRTHDAY **BASH** O2 Academy Birmingham **NOTHING BUT THIEVES** Kasbah, Coventry

## SUN 11 OCT ONE DIRECTION Barclay-

card Arena B'ham RAE MORRIS The Institute, Birmingham **MARTIN CARTHY & DAVE SWARBRICK** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry **RAINTOWN** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton **GRAVE PLEASURES** The Oobleck, Birmingham R5 O2 Academy, Birmingham RHODES, JP COOPER & BENJAMÍN YELLOWITZ The Rainbow Venues. Birmingham WHILE & MATTHEWS Crescent Theatre, Birm-FRAZEY FORD The Glee Club, Birmingham KARNATAKA The Robin. Bilston KIMBERLY ANNE Hare &

## MON 12 OCT ONE DIRECTION Barclay-

card Arena, B'ham JOSEF SALVAT O2 Acad emy, Birmingham **ENCHANT & HASSE** FROBERG & MUSICAL COMPANION The Robin, Bilston **GENGAHR** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham **ULCERATE** The Asylum, Birmingham
JOANNE SHAW TAYLOR Artrix, Bromsgrove KWABS The Institute. Birmingham DU BLONDE & GOODNIGHT LENIN Hare & Hounds, Birmingham **BRAWLERS & ALLUSON-DRUGS** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

#### **TUE 13 OCT**

JOANNE SHAW TAYLOR
Artrix, Bromsgrove
911 The Institute,
Birmingham
THE PAT MCMANUS BAND
The Robin, Bilston
COUNTERPARTS The Asy-

lum, Birmingham GO WEST AND NIK KER-SHAW TOGETHER IN CON-CERT WITH SPECIAL GUEST T'PAU Symphony Hall, Birmingham TANKUS THE HENGE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

#### WED 14 OCT

THE UPBEAT BEATLES Wolverhampton Grand Theatre MAJOR LAZER O2 Academy, Birmingham **NEW MODEL ARMY** The Assembly, Leamington JOE STILGOE Artrix, Bromsgrove MARTIN TURNER'S WISH-BONE ASH The Robin, **GOSPEL CENTRAL** The Jam House, B'ham **SPECTOR** The Institute, Birmingham STEP UP TO THE MIC -STEPS INTO THE MUSI-CALS Albany Theatre, Coventry INTERPLAY No1 Shakespeare St. Stratford upon-Avon PROTOJE & THE INDIG-GNATION O2 Academy, Birmingham THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD SHOW Barclaycard Arena B'ham MARTHA TILSTON Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham

#### **THURS 15 OCT**

ANTI-NOWHERE LEAGUE The Robin, Bilston MIGUEL O2 Academy, Birmingham FEROCIOUS DOG The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham VOODOO ROOM - HENDRIX & CREAM Solihull Arts Complex VONDA SHEPARD Huntingdon Hall, Worcester **GRAHAM PARKER & THE** RUMOUR The Assembly, Leamington Spa
BESIDE ALL HOPE O2 Academy, Birmingham **RICH HOMIE QUAN The** Institute, Birmingham TREVOR BURTON The Roadhouse, B'ham

#### FRI 16 OCT

BRING IT ALL BACK: THE **ULTIMATE 90S SHOW** mac, Birmingham STEVE AJAO BLUES GI-ANTS Symphony Hall, Birmingham
PANIC ROOM The Institute, Birmingham THE ROBERT CRAY BAND Birmingham Town Hall MIDGE URE The Assembly, Leamington Spa BON GIOVI The Road house. Birmingham EDITORS O2 Academy. Birmingham THE PRETTY THINGS The Robin, Bilston PALACE The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham FRED ZEPPELIN The Slade Rooms Wolverhampton THE STARS FROM THE **COMMITMENTS** Palace Theatre, Redditch **SOUL LEGENDS** Malvern

**Theatres** 



**DETROIT SOUL** The Jam House, Birmingham CIRCA WAVES The Institute, Birmingham A\$AP ROCKY & WIZ KHAL-IFA Genting Arena, Birmingham LEONORE PIANO TRIO Artrix, Bromsgrove PAUL POTTS - LIVE IN **CONCERT** Wolverhampton Grand Theatre INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT Huntingdon Hall, Worcestershire CIRCA WAVES O2 Academy, Birmingham W00KIE Hare & Hounds. Birmingham
MAD PROFESSOR MEETS CHANNEL ONE SOUND SYSTEM The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham 99 SOULS, ICARUS KIDEKO. LEM & MALI & MISTANOIZE The Rainbow Venues, B'ham

## SAT 17 OCT WARTOUR 2015 The

Flapper, Birmingham **H00SIERS** The Oobleck. Birmingham NO JACKET REQUIRED -THE PHIL COLINS TRIBUTE The Robin, Bilston MAN OVERBOARD Kas bah, Coventry **BLOSSOMS** The Institute, Birmingham RONI SIZE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham **DETROIT SOUL** The Jam House, Birmingham SWIM DEEP The Institute, Birmingham

LOGICALTRAMP Huntingdon Hall, Worcester **ROCK OF AGES EXPERI-ENCE** Evesham Arts Centre, Worcestershire THE COMPLETE STONE **ROSES** The Slade Rooms. Wolverhampton THE OASIS EXPERIENCE The Roadhouse, B'ham THE ELO EXPERIENCE Palace Theatre, Redditch LONGSHOT The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham **RABID** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham HOLD YOUTH, DIEGO KRAUSE, ADAM SHELTON & LOPASKI The Bainbow Venues, Birmingham

#### **SUN 18 OCT**

ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW
AND THE LOW RIDERS
The Robin, Bilston
MUTOID MAN & PALM
READER The Rainbow
Venues, Birmingham
BLACK HONEY The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
KID INK O2 Academy,
Birmingham
THE SHIRES The Institute, Birmingham
NATHANIEL RATELIFF AND
THE NIGHT SWEATS The
Institute, Birmingham

## MON 19 OCT

The Robin, Bilston REEL BIG FISH The Institute, Birmingham CUPIDS Kasbah, Coventry SALENE & FRET & FIDDLE Crescent Theatre Birmingham YO LA TENGO Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS Solihull Arts Com-SIMONE FELICE The Glee Club. Birmingham HABITATS. OCEANIA & **OCEAN STATE** The Rain bow Venues, B'ham FOREVER CAME CALLING & BOSTON MANOR O2 Academy, Birmingham

#### **TUE 20 OCT**

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS Solihull Arts Complex CRADLE OF FILTH Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton RAVEN The Asylum, Birmingham GONG The Robin, Bilston FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham CHICO & THE GYPSIES Birmingham Town Hall

#### WED 21 OCT

THE PROCLAIMERS
Warwick Arts Centre,
Coventry
GHOST TOWN O2 Academy, Birmingham
DARWIN DEEZ The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
JOCELYN BROWN The

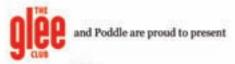
Jam House, B'ham ANTI FLAG, RED CITY RADIO, TROPHY EYES & THE HOMELESS GOSPEL CHOIR The Institute. Birmingham RON SEXSMITH The Glee Club, Birmingham FIGHTSTAR Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
THE GRANDMOTHERS OF **INVENTION - THE MUSIC** OF ZAPPA The Robin, Bilston MILE HIGH CLUB Hare & Hounds, Birmingham DMA'S Hare & Hounds, Birmingham THE OLD DANCE SCHOOL Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

#### THURS 22 OCT

GAGA Palace Theatre, Redditch GUNS 2 ROSES The Robin, Bilston SONS OF KEMET Hare & Hounds, Birmingham WOLFSBANE The Asvlum, Birmingham
CATTLE & CANE The Rainbow Venues Birmingham **DUKE SPECIAL** Student Union Copper Rooms, Coventry RIDE The Institute, Birmingham **DEAN FRIEDMAN** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester **GODSPEED YOU! BLACK EMPEROR** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry GA GA Palace Theatre. Redditch REAL LIES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham DAVE MCCABE & THE **RAMIFICATIONS** The Institute, Birmingham
THE DEMON BARBERS XL Birmingham Town Hall

#### FRI 23 OCT

BEN MONTAGUE The
Glee Club, Birmingham
GORDON DAVIS AS ELVIS
PRESLEY The Robin,
Bilston
THE JON SPENCER BLUES
EXPLOSION The
Oobleck, Birmingham
UB40 Student Union
Copper Rooms,
Coventry
SIMON & OSCAR FROM
OCEAN COLOUR SCENE
Warwick Arts Centre.







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Saturday 17th October Merry Hell TRADarrr

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Sunday 18th October Melrose Quartet **Blackbeards Tea Party** 

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Sat 10th Oct The Little Unsaid Sat 24th Oct Stomp and Holler Sun 25th Oct **Ashley Hutchings** Sat 7th Nov An Evening with Christian Reilly

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Sat 28th Nov **Idiot & Friend** 

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#### **Music** Listings

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Coventry HUMPHREY LYTTELTON BAND Warwick Arts Centre. Coventry CARCASS Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton **HOTHOUSE FLOWERS & RAINY BOY SLEEP** Symphony Hall, B'ham
THE WEST END OF **BROADWAY** Palace Theatre, Redditch **ROCKET** The Jam House, Birmingham **DELAIN** The Institute, Birmingham WISHBONE ASH Huntingdon Hall, Worcester ADAM WEDD, STEVE PLEDGER, GEMMA LEAHY Fargo Village, Coventry BEDWORTH BRASS Bedworth Civic Hall THE NOISE NEXT DOOR The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton HORSE MEAT DISCO Hare & Hounds, Birmingham THE WYTCHES, SPEEDY ORTIZ CHASTITY BELT Hare & Hounds. Birmingham **NICKY BLACKMARKET** The Institute, B'ham SKARLETT RIOT. THE RAVEN AGE, SISTER SHOT-**GUN & WINTER STORM** The Rainbow Venues. Birmingham

#### SAT 24 OCT

FROM THE JAM The Assembly, Leamington Spa A FOREIGNERS JOURNEY The Roadhouse, Birmingham QUADROPHENIA NIGHT Kasbah, Coventry
DIGBY FAIRWEATHER'S HALF DOZEN Solihull Arts Complex SOUL'D OUT The Robin, Bilston A BORN DISASTER 02 Academy, Birmingham ELVIS TRILOGIES Albany Theatre Coventry THE REAL THING Artrix. Bromsgrove **COASTS** The Institute, Birmingham JOE STILGOE mac. Birmingham **ROCKET** The Jam House, Birmingham MORGAN HERITAGE 02 Academy, Birmingham **SANTA CRUZ & LIBERTY** LIES The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
JUDY COLLINS Malvern **Theatres** EAST INDIA YOUTH. MONEY, DORCHA, FREE **SCHOOL & CHARTREUSE** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham **SYNKRO** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham MODERN MINDS The In-

stitute, Birmingham

**CABALLO BLANCO, FLIGHT** 

15, CHEVY CHASE STOLE

AVALANCHE The Bain-

bow Venues. B'ham

THE COMPUTERS The

MY WIFE & GHOST OF THE

Rainbow Venues, Birmingham THE STORMS The Rainbow Venues, B'ham ALEX ARNOUT, BUNNY, **BLEEPZ & CROFT, CASSY, CLIVE HENRY, ENZO SIRA-GUSA. HECTOR AND MORE** The Rainbow Venues. Birmingham BONDAX & FRIENDS The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

#### **SUN 25 OCT**

ELLA HENDERSON O2 Academy, Birmingham KING KING Student Union Copper Rooms, The Copper Rooms, Coventry **FOCUS FEAT THIJS VAN** LEER The Robin, Bilston JOE STILGOE The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton JOHN BRAMWELL The Institute, Birmingham

#### **MON 26 OCT** THE UNTHANKS Artrix

Bromsgrove SONGHOY BLUES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham STEPHEN HOUGH Symphony Hall, B'ham IN HINDSIGHT & ADEL-PHIA. 4TH STREET, SALLY PEPPER & MARTY JACK-SON O2 Academy, Birmingham **GLENN HUGHES FEATUR-**ING DOUG ALDRICH The Robin, Bilston THE VINTAGE CARAVAN The Rainbow Venues Birmingham HIGH HOPES The Asylum, Birmingham

#### **TUES 27 OCT**

PINK FAIRIES The Robin, Bilston **\$LUG** The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham RICHARD HAWLEY The Institute, Birmingham THE PEATROG FAERIES Huntingdon Hall. Worcester **SESSION AMERICANA** Hare & Hounds, B'ham **EAVES** Hare & Hounds. Birmingham
SETH LAKEMAN The Assembly, Leamington Spa **ALL STAR 60'S New** Alexandra Theatre,

#### Slade Rooms, Wolver-WED 28 OCT

STEVE 'N' SEAGULLS The

Birmingham

hampton

**SOUL LEGENDS** New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham KING HEAVY The Asylum, Birmingham BABAJACK The Robin, HOOTON TENNIS CLUB Hare & Hounds, B'ham **ASIAN DUB FOUNDATION** Warwick Arts Centre Coventry

MERRY HELL Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham MARCUS MILLER Birmingham Town Hall RADKEY Hare & Hounds, Birmingham BELLA HARDY Artrix, Bromsgrove
PETE OXLEY & NIC MIERER No1 Shakespeare St. Stratfordupon-Avon TURBOWOLF O2 Academy, Birmingham LADY LESHURR The Institute, Birmingham
NOTHING BUT THIEVES The Rainbow Venues Birmingham SAMOANS, FREEZE THE ATLANTIC, BLANK PARODY & OFFSHORE The Rainbow Venues, B'ham

#### **THURS 29 OCT**

SETH LAKEMAN The

Robin, Bilston LAZULÍ The Assembly, Leamington Spa THE BILLY FURY YEARS Solihull Arts Complex DEL CAMINO The Jam House, Birmingham AMBER RUN The Institute, Birmingham FOXES O2 Academy, Birmingham KYMBERLEY MYLES O2 Academy, Birmingham SPEAR OF DESTINY The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton THE GHOST RIDERS IN THE SKY & COLD YEARS The Rainbow Venues. Birmingham ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

#### FRI 30 OCT STEVE HACKETT Sym-

phony Hall, B'ham
THE CLONE ROSES O2 Academy, Birmingham FLEETWOOD BAC Huntingdon Hall, Worcestershire GINGER WILDHEART'S THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE HAL-**LOWEEN & HALLOWEEN** HOOTENANNY The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton Y&T The Robin, Bilston THE QUEEN EXTRAVA-GANZA The Assembly, Leamington Spa HARRY MANX The Glee Club, Birmingham STORMZY The Institute, Birmingham **DREADZONE** Student Union Copper Rooms, Coventry FRED ZEPPELIN The Roadhouse, B'ham THINK FLOYD - WISH YOU WERE HERE 40TH AN-**NIVERSARY** Artrix. Bromsgrove CLAIRE TEAL AND TRIO CELEBRATE DORIS DAY Stratford Artshouse CHAINSKA The Oobleck, Birmingham WAXAHATCHEE The Rainbow Venues, B'ham RICHARD DIGANCE Palace Theatre. Redditch **CLAUDE BOURBON Palace** Theatre, Redditch SOLID SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham **BERNIE TORME** The Institute. Birmingham

METZ Hare & Hounds, Birmingham **CORTINA NIGHTS** The Assembly, Leamington Spa LA BÊTE BLOOMS The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry
HOT 8 BRASS BAND Kasbah, Coventry

#### SAT 31 OCT

**GINGER WILDHEART'S THE** NIGHTMARE BEFORE HAL-**LOWEEN & HALLOWEEN HOOTENANNY** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton **SOLID SOUL** The Jam House Birmingham

Robin, Bilston **DAPPY** O2 Academy, Birmingham TOM ROBINSON & BAND The Assembly, Leamington Spa
SHIRLEY ACOUSTIC GUI-TAR CLUB Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull THE SEARCHERS Palace Theatre, Redditch KILLING JOKE The Institute, Birmingham THE LANCASHIRE HOT-POTS + THE BAR-STEW-ARD SONS OF VAL DOONICAN The Institute, Birmingham

THE IAN SIEGAL BAND Huntingdon Hall, Worcester THE UPBEAT BEATLES Evesham Arts Centre, Worcestershire **LUSTS** The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham **LUKE JACKSON TRIO** Artrix. Bromsgrove THE KOMMITMENTS The Roadhouse, B'ham THE LURKERS The Rainbow Venues, B'ham THE HAUTING BIRMING-HAM: BLONDE MY NII LENG. TAZER. WOZ AND MORE The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham



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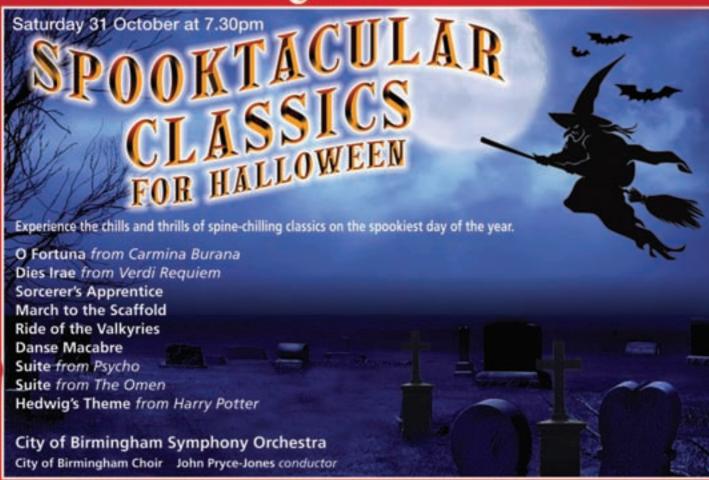
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For additional information and to find out What's On at these venues.





Saturday 14 November 2.30pm & 7.30pm

RETURNS AFTER TWO SELL OUT PERFORMANCES LAST YEAR

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ROSSINI Galop from William Tell Overture

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SUPPE Light Cavalry Overture

MASCAGNI Intermezzo & Easter Hymn from Cavalleria rusticana

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#### Classical Music PREVIEWS



#### **Gewandhausorchester Leipzig perform Strauss**

Symphony Hall, Mon 19 October

The oldest symphony orchestra in the world, Germany-based Gewandhausorchester was founded in 1743 by sixteen musical philanthropists. Renowned for its diverse repertoire, the orchestra presents over two hundred performances each year and assumes three different guises - concert orchestra in the Gewandhaus, orchestra of the Leipzig Opera, and orchestra for the weekly services of the cantatas of JS Bach.

This month Gewandhausorchester follows the monumental success of its Beethoven Cycle (2011) and Brahms Cycle (2013) with a homage to Richard Strauss and Wolfgang Mozart. Under the direction of Italian conductor Riccardo Chailly - and with accompaniment from Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires - the orchestra here performs Strauss' Don Juan and Ein Heidenleben and Mozart's Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat.

#### **Ex Cathedra: The Grand Tour**

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 11 October

British choir and early music ensemble Ex Cathedra has based its reputation on the performance of choral music from the fifteenth century onwards. The choir comprises between twenty and forty singers and regularly commissions new works

In The Grand Tour, Ex Cathedra takes audiences on 'a magnificent journey' to discover afresh the works of some of Europe's finest composers. The programme comprises: Handel's Zadok The Priest; Mondonville's Venite adoremus; Lalande's La Grande pièce royale; Gabrieli's In ecclesiis; Allegri's Miserere mei; and Handel's Dixit Dominus.





#### **English Symphony Orchestra**

Hereford Cathedral, Wed 7 October; Malvern Theatre, Thurs 8 October; Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham, Fri 9 - Sat 10 October

Worcestershire-based English Symphony Orchestra is this month visiting three Midlands venues with a concert celebration of Edward Elgar's life and music. Included alongside some of the Worcestershire-born composer's most iconic pieces are music by his contemporaries, new commissions and a world premiere (University of Birmingham, 9 Oct).

Principal Conductor Kenneth Woods is the man with the baton.

For details of all concerts, visit eso.co.uk

#### Robert Levin

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire. Tues 6 October

Robert Levin is one of America's leading pianists and music polymaths. Both championing and composing contemporary music, Levin has famously reconstructed Mozart choruses from sketches, including the Amen fugue in the Requiem. Arriving in Birmingham direct from Wigmore Hall, Levin here presents a specialist programme alternating Mozart's Preludes and Sonatas. Included is: Four Preludes, K.284a; Sonata in B flat, K.333; Sonata in E flat, K.282; and Sonata in C. K.330.



#### **Stratford Music Festival**

Various locations, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 10 - Sat 24 October

Whether your interest is in early music or current-day sounds, Stratford's annual festival has it covered.

This year marks the event's twentieth anniversary and, to celebrate, organisers have compiled a truly eclectic programme. Performances by both rising and internationally established stars are complemented by a lunchtime concert series, a fringe festival and free buy-a-beer recitals in local pubs, hotels and cafes.

Main programme artists include: earlymusic specialists Duo Dorado; acclaimed pianist Martin Roscoe; cellist Laura van der Heijden (BBC Young Musician of the Year 2012); classical guitarist Laura Snowden; and award-winning violinist Joo-Yeon Sir.

For full programme details, visit stratford-musicfestival.com





Friday, 9 October at 7:30pm

Brahms- Piano Quartet in G minor, opus 25
Elgar- Piano Quintet in A minor, opus 85

Alexander Sitkovetsky violin
Tamsin Waley-Cohen violin
Louise Lansdown viola
Matthew Sharp cello
Clare Hammond piano

Saturday, 10 October at 4pm

English Symphony Orchestra
Kenneth Woods conductor
Njabulo Madlala baritone

Bach/Elgar: Fantasia and Fugue in C minor, opus 86
Mahler- Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen

(Songs of a Wayfarer)

A minor, opus 84 (world premiere)

Part of ESO's Elgar Pilgrimage series





Elgar / Fraser- Symphonic Realization of Piano Quintet in



## what's on...

#### **Comedy Nights**

Starring Ivan Brackenbury, Ian D Montfort with compere Chris Turner

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

#### Jazz

**Neon Villages Band** 

8 October 2015, 5,00pm Neon Villages are a vibrant and versatile group, made up of some exceptional UK based musicians. FREE event

#### World Music

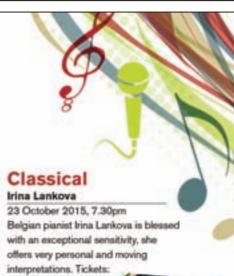
One Many People

1 October 2015, 7.30pm

A bright fusion of Afro-Cambbean melodies and song forms, with Polish folk rythms and European harmonies, bringing Reggae, Jazz and Afrobeats together. FREE event

#### Corado de Ouro Birmingham presents Brazilian Folk

2 and 3 October 2015, 7.30pm
Experience Brazil through the fusion of dance and music; celebrating the country's diverse cultural history. (There is also the opportunity to enjoy family friendly workshops and master classes from 11.00am on 3 October at the Barber) Tickets: £10 Adults, £5 Concessions



£12.20 Adults, £10

Concessions (over

£5 students

65s and unwaged),

To purchase tickets and for future events, go to www.birmingham.ac.uk/events UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

#### Classical LISTINGS

For full listing information on classical concerts, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

CBSO SIBELIUS' FIFTH Programme includes works by Mendelssohn. Mozart & Sibelius, Thurs 1 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham **CBSO WIND ENSEMBLE & LARS VOGT** Programme includes works by Debussy, Thurs 1 Oct, CBSO Centre, B'ham RUSSELL WATSON Fri 2 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa LUNCHTIME CONCERT WITH CLARA MOURIZ (MEZZO-SOPRANO) & **JOSEPH MIDDLETÓN** (PIANO) Programme includes works by Respighi, Mompou, Ravel & Montsalvatge, Fri 2 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham ARMONICO CONSORT WITH CATRIN FINCH Fri 2 Oct, Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire RICHARD STRAUSS SALOME Presented by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra & featuring an all-star cast including Lise Lindstrom as Salome, Fri 2 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham ADRIAN MOORE ORGAN CONCERT Fri 2 Oct, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa
MET OPERA LIVE: IL TROVATORE (VERDI) Sat 3 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre. Coventry ST JAMES' SINGERS & **CHARLES MATTHEWS** (ORGAN) Sat 3 Oct, St Mary's Church, Preston on Stour, Warwickshire BLAKE Sun 4 Oct. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury JOGLARESA Tues 6 Oct, St Mary's Church, Warwickshire ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN & TAMSIN WALEY-**COHEN** Programme includes works by Mendelssohn & Mozart, Tues 6 Oct, Stratford Artshouse ROBERT LEVIN (FORTEPI-ANO) Tues 6 Oct, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire **ORCHESTRA OF THE** SWAN & TAMSIN WALEY-**COHEN** Programme includes works by Mendelssohn & Mozart, Wed 7 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall **CBSO: ELGAR'S FIRST** Programme includes works by Wigglesworth, Britten & Elgar, Wed 7 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham **ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PLAY ELGAR** & BRAHMS Thurs 8 Oct, Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire DRESDEN PHILHARMONIC & ANDREI KOROBEINIKOV (PIANO) Programme

includes works by Brahms Rachmaninov & Beethoven, Thurs 8 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
KALEIDOSCOPE ENSEM-**BLE** Programme comprises Stravinsky's The Soldier's Tale: Suite for violin, clarinet & piano, Thurs 8 Oct, CBSO Centre, B'ham **ROYAL STRING QUARTET** Programme includes works by Bach, Haydn and Beethoven, Fri 9 Oct. Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: ELGAR PIL-**GRIMAGE** Featuring Tamsin Walev-Cohen. Alexandra Sitkovetsky, Louise Lansdown & Matthew Sharp, Fri 9 Oct, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham ENSEMBLEF2: DISCOVER-ING DANZI Programme includes works by Danzi & Mozart, Fri 9 Oct, Barber Concert Hall, The Barber Institute B'ham BEAUCHAMP SINFONIETTA & ANNA NOAKES Programme includes works by Mozart, Wagner, Damase & Haydn, Sat 10 Oct, St Nicholas Church, Warwick ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: ELGAR PIL-GRIMAGE Sat 10 Oct, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham FESTIVAL OF VOICES Sat 10 Oct, All Saints Church, Leamington WIHAN STRING QUARTET Programme includes works by Mozart, Schubert & Beethoven, Sat 10 Oct. All Saints Church, Leamington Hastings BEAUCHAMP SINFONIETTA & ANNA NOAKES Sun 11 Oct, Town Hall, Leamington Spa **EX CATHEDRA** Programme includes works by Handel, Mondonville, Lalande, Gabrieli & Allegri, Sun 11 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham LUNCHTIME ORGAN CON-CERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by Boëllmann, JS Bach Messiaen, Holloway & Liszt, Mon 12 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall FRONTIERS: LEGACIES IN TECHNOLOGY XIV.II Featuring Horacio Vaggione, Stephane Roy & François Bayle, Mon 12 Oct, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire FRONTIERS: LEGACIES IN **TECHNOLOGY VIX.IV** 

Mixed works curated &

diffused by Adrian

Moore & featuring Sarah Farmer on violin, Tues 13 Oct, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire CBSO: DVORAK'S SIXTH Programme includes works by Mozart, Nielsen & Dvorak, Wed 14 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham THE SCHUBERT ENSEM-**BLE** Programme includes works by Mahler, Enescu & Schumann, Thurs 15 Oct, Malvern Theatres. Worcester WARWICK SCHOOL **CHAMBER CONCERT** Thurs 15 Oct, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick CBSO CENTRE STAGE: THE SOLDIER'S TALE Programme comprises Stravinsky's The Soldier's Tale: Suite for violin, clarinet & piano, Thurs 15 Oct, CBSO Centre, B'ham CBSO: FRIDAY NIGHT **CLASSICS - STAR WARS** Featuring Mark Seal (conductor) & Marc Silk (presenter), Fri 16 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham **LÉONORE PIANO TRIO** Programme includes works by Beethoven, David Matthews & Mendelssohn, Fri 16 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove **DAUTRICOURT TRIO** Programme includes works by Schumann, Jean-Frederick Neuberger & Ravel, Fri 16 Oct, Barber Concert Hall, The Barber Institute, B'ham **MAGGIE BARTMANIS** Fri 16 Oct, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa OPERA LOKI Present Puccini's La Boheme, Sat 17 Oct, St. Nicholas Church, Warwick WARWICKSHIRE SYM-PHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes WSO Space Odyssey, Richard Strauss Sprach Zarathustra & Holst's Suite The Planets. Sat 17 Oct. All Saints Church, Leamington Spa MALCOLM ARNOLD FESTI-VAL SYMPHONY ORCHES-TRA Sat 17 Oct, St Matthew's Church, Northampton BIRMINGHAM ICKNIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR ANNUAL CONCERT Featuring special guest Lesley Delo, Sat 17 Oct, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham
BIRMINGHAM PHILHAR-MONIC ORCHESTRA: **CLASSIC & ROMANTIC** Programme includes works by Beethoven, Strauss & Mendelssohn, Sun 18 Oct, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham MARTIN ROSCOE PIANO **CONCERT** Programme includes works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Ravel & Debussy, Sun 18 Oct, Stratford Town Hall

GEWANDHAUSORCHESTER

**LEIPZIG** Mon 19 Oct

gramme includes works by Beethoven, Copland & Rachmaninov, Mon 19 Oct, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire EEDEN STRING QUARTET Programme includes works by Haydn & Beethoven plus new work by Student composer Joe Cutler, Mon 19 Oct, Town Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon LUCY PARHAM, HENRY **GOODMAN & JOANNA DAVID** Featuring work inspired by Lucy's lifelong passion for the music of Schumann & Brahms, Mon 19 Oct, Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: BATTLE OF AGIN-**COURT** Programme includes works by Walton & Vaughan Williams, Tues 20 Oct, Stratford Artshouse ALESSANDRO RUISI (VIO-LIN) & DINA DUISEN (PIANO) Tues 20 Oct, Town Hall. Stratfordupon-Avon TOBY YOUNG & CONTEM-PORARY CONSORT Wed 21 Oct, Shakespeare Institute, Stratfordupon-Avon LUKA OKRAS (PIANO) Programme includes works by Schumann, Chopin, Schubert & Liszt, Wed 21 Oct, Town Hall, Stratfordupon-Avon **COULL QUARTET Pro**gramme includes works by Debussy, Hallgrimsson & Beethoven, Thurs 22 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry SARAH THURLOW (CLAR-INET) & JONATHAN MUS-GRAVE (PIANO) Programme includes works by Schumann & Brahms, Thurs 22 Oct, Town Hall, Stratfordupon-Avon LAURA VAN DER HEIJDEN (CELLO) & ALISON RHIND (PIANO) Programme includes works by Beethoven, Glinka & Rachmaninov, Thurs 22 Oct, Town Hall, Strat-

Symphony Hall, B'ham

RACHNANINOV, COPLAND

MONDAY SHOWCASE:

& BEETHOVEN Pro-

ford-upon-Avon CBSO: BRAHMS' GERMAN **REQUIEM** Programme includes works by Mozart & Brahms Thurs 22 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham IRINA LANKOVA PIANO **RECITAL** Programme includes works by Rachmaninov, Scriabin & Chopin, Fri 23 Oct, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham LAURA SNOWDEN (GUI-TAR) & JOO-YEON SIR (VIOLIN) Programme includes works by Bach, Paganini & Schubert, Fri 23 Oct, St Helen's Church, Stratford-upon-Avon YU-MIÈN SUN & WAI LAM (VIOLINS) Programme includes works by Arnold & Walton, Fri 23 Oct. Adrian Boult Hall. Birmingham Conserva-APOLLO SAXOPHONE QUARTET Fri 23 Oct, Barber Concert Hall. Birmingham THE CASSIA STRING **QUARTET** Programme includes works by Schubert & Dvorak, Fri 23 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery FIDELIO PIANO TRIO Programme includes works by Beethoven & Mendelssohn, as well as new work, Fri 23 Oct. Town Hall. Stratford-upon-Avon CBSO: BRAHMS' GERMAN **REQUIEM** Programme includes works by Mozart & Brahms, Sat 24 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
EBORACUM BAROQUE Programme includes works by Handel, Purcell & Vivaldi, Sat 24 Oct, Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon
LUNCHTIME ORGAN CON-**CERT WITH THOMAS** TROTTER Programme comprises works by JS Bach, Mon 26 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham STEPHEN HOUGH IN **RECITAL** Programme includes works by Schubert, Franck,

MARIINSKY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Debussy. Tchaikovsky. Mendelssohn, Verdi & Liszt, Wed 28 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham BINCHOIS CONSORT: THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT Featuring Andrew Kirkham (conductor), James Hall & Tim Travers-Brown (alto), Will Balkwill, Dominic Bland, Tom Raskin & George Pooley (tenor), Wed 28 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham CBSO - PICTURES AT AN **EXHIBITION** Programme includes works by Dvorak, Brahms & Mussorgsky, Thurs 29 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham **BIRMINGHAM CONSERVA-TOIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Elgar & Britten, Thurs 29 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham BIRMINGHAM CONSERVA-TOIRE RECORDER **DEPARTMENT: VIVA** I'ITALIA! Thurs 29 Oct. Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire KATHRYN ELLIS, SUE **ROBERTSON AND DAVID BORSADA** Lunchtime recital, 30 Oct, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa INSTRUMENTAL: AN **EVENING WITH JAMES** RHODES Fri 30 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall TAKAHASHI. STRINGFEL-LOW & WHIFFEN Programme includes works by Jacquet de la Guerre, Senaillé & Rameau, Fri 30 Oct, Barber Concert Hall, The Barber Institute, Birmingham FRIGHT NIGHT CLASSICS WITH CBSO Sat 31 Oct. Symphony Hall, B'ham HALLOWEEN SPECIAL WITH NIGEL OGDEN Rare opportunity to see a big screen showing of The Phantom of the Opera. accompanied by a unique soundtrack, Sat 31 Oct, Birmingham

Birmingham

**VALERY GERGIEV & THE** 



Debussy & Liszt, Mon

26 Oct, Symphony Hall,

Town Hall

# Comedy

#### **Ruby Wax: Sane New World**

The REP, Birmingham, Sun 25 October; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Thurs 29 October

In a career that's never really seemed to slow down, Ruby Wax has been not only a stand-up comedian but also, among other roles, a chat show host, an actress and a script editor. She's nowadays forging a career for herself away from the limelight too, having studied Psychotherapy and gained a Master's degree in Mindfulness-based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy from Oxford University.

Reflecting her new-found knowledge, this touring show explores how people's own thinking can sometimes sabotage their sanity.

## **Leamington Spa Comedy Festival**

Various venues, Leamington Spa, Sat 10 - Sat 17 October

A host of top names are taking part in Leamington's annual comedy festival - a sure sign that the event's reputation continues to grow. Included among the funny-bone ticklers visiting the spa town for this year's comedy gettogether are Henning Wehn, Mark Watson, Jimeoin, Scottish Falsetto Socks and Gary Delaney.

A comedy club for kids ensures youngsters get a chance to exercise their chuckle muscles too.



#### **Festival Of The Spoken Nerd**

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 9 October; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 22 October

Described as 'a comedy night for the fearlessly inquisitive', this hugely popular show brings together stand-up mathematician Matt Parker, geeky songstress Helen Arney and experiments guy Steve Mould. These three nerdy performers hope to find the answers to questions such as: How can you use a parabola to set stuff on fire? How does the angler fish make love? And how dangerous can things get with just numbers?





#### **Birmingham Comedy Festival**

Various venues, Birmingham, Fri 2 - Sun 11 October

Tickling the ribs of Midlanders since 2001, this annual event is one of the longest-running comedy festivals in the UK. In the past it's played host to high-profile laughter merchants including Peter Kay, Lee Evans, Michael McIntrye, Lenny Henry, John Bishop, Miranda Hart and Jimmy Carr, all of whom have strutted their comedic stuff in the name of second-city fun.

Returning this month to provide another ten days of marvellous mirth, the festival features performances from the legendary Weird Al Yankovic (pictured), Germany's comedy ambassador Henning Wehn, Frankie Boyle, Lee Nelson, Chris Ramsey, Andrew Maxwell, Rob Beckett and Daniel Sloss.

#### Frankie Boyle

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 10 October

Scottish funnyman Frankie has managed to make it big on the telly despite his reputation for peddling material which can often be spectacularly tasteless and incredibly insulting. Printable jokes include, "Nobody thought Mel Gibson could play a Scot, but look at him now! Alcoholic and racist!" Boyle is here bringing to the Midlands his brand new show, Hurt Like You've Never Been Loved, written as a response to Kendrick Lamar's last album



#### Comedy Box Office

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WULFRUN HALL, WOLVERHAMPTON 0870 320 7000

#### **Comedy** LISTINGS

For full listing information on comedy gigs including times and dates visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

**ROB BECKETT** Thurs 1 Oct. Evesham Arts Centre ANDY PARSONS Thurs 1 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa HARDEEP SINGH KOHLI Thurs 1 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove NISH KUMAR, MARK **MAIER & COMEDY** CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 1 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham
KUM-N-AVALOFF COMEDY NIGHT Thurs 1 Oct, Stourbridge Town Hall **JETHR0** Fri 2 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury MILTON JONES Fri 2 Oct, **Dudley Town Hall** TOM STADE Fri 2 Oct. Station Pub. Sutton Coldfield JARLATH REGAN, HAYLEY **ELLIS & HARRIET DYER** Fri 2 Oct, The Courtyard, Hereford BIRMINGHAM COMEDY **FESTIVAL BREAKING** TALENT AWARD 2015 Fri 2 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham ANDREW BIRD, DOMINIC WOODWARD, WAYNE THE WEIRD & ANNETTE FAGON Fri 2 Oct, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton NISH KUMAR, MARK MAIER, ALISTAIR BARRIE & BRENDAN DEMPESY Fri 2 - Sat 3 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham RED BASTARD Fri 2 - Sat 3 Oct, mac, B'ham JOHN MOLONEY, JAVIER JARQUIN, ROGER **MONKHOUSE & ANDREW** 0'NEILL Fri 2 - Sat 3 Oct, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham LEE NELSON Sat 3 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham JASON BYRNE Sat 3 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall FELICITY ETHNIC, ATHENA KUGBLENU. KEVIN J & AXEL BLAKE Sat 3 Oct, The Drum, Birmingham ROGER MONKHOUSE MATT RUDGE, MATTHEW

**OSBORN & JAY HANLEY** Sat 3 Oct, Coventry Showcase ALFIE MOORE Sun 4 Oct The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton THE NOISE NEXT DOOR Mon 5 Oct, Station Pub. Sutton Coldfield SEAN LOCK Tue 6 Oct, Evesham Arts Centre RICE N PEAS N CAVIAR Tue 6 - Thurs 8 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham **BOB BECKETT** Wed 7 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham **DOUG STANHOPE** Wed 7 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
SEAN LOCK Wed 7 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove JUSTIN MOORHOUSE Thurs 8 Oct Artrix, Bromsgrove **DANIEL SLOSS** Thurs 8 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham IVAN BRACKENBURY, IAN D MONTFORT & CHRIS **TURNER** Thurs 8 Oct Bramall Music Building. Birmingham JOHN FOTHERGILL, DAVID HADINGHAM & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 8 Oct. The Glee Club, B'ham JIMMY CARR Fri 9 Oct, Civic Hall, W'hampton ANDREW MAXWELL Fri 9 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham NINA CONTI Fri 9 Oct. Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton FESTIVAL OF THE SPOKEN NERD Fri 9 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove SIMON MUNNERY Fri 9 Oct, mac, Birmingham JOHN FOTHERGILL, DAVID HADINGHAM, JAY HANDLEY & LARRY DEAN Fri 9 - Sat 10 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham GEOFF BOYZ, DANE BAPTISTE, BRENDAN **RILEY & THE RAYMOND** AND MR TIMPKINS REVUE Fri 9 - Sat 10 Oct Jongleurs Comedy

Oct. Symphony Hall, Birmingham ALFIE MOORE Sat 10 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry MANFORD'S COMEDY CLUB (ACTS TBC) Sat 10 Oct. Players Bar. Birmingham KATHERINE RYAN Sat 10 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa PETE OTWAY, TIM CLARK. CARLY SMALLMAN & CHRIS WASHINGTON Sat 10 Oct, Coventry Showcase CHRIS RAMSEY Sun 11 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham NINA CONTI Sun 11 Oct Warwick Arts Centre. Coventry ALBERT EINSTEIN: RELA-**TIVELY SPEAKING** Sun 11 Oct, mac, Birmingham JETHRO Sun 11 Oct, The Courtyard, Hereford **ALEX HORNE** Mon 12 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry LOUDEEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT Mon 12 Oct. The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham TONY JAMESON Tue 13 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
TIERNAN DOUIEB Wed 14 Oct, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa DANA ALEXANDER, BEC HILL, JENNY COLLIER & **CERYS NELMES** Wed 14 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa JOE LYCETT Wed 14 Oct. The Glee Club, B'ham SHAZIA MIRZA & MAUREEN YOUNGER Wed 14 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham JIMEOIN Thurs 15 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa MICHAEL LEGGE, FOIL ARMS & HOG & COMEDY **CAROUSEL WITH ANDY** ROBINSON Thurs 15 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham MATT FORDE Thurs 15 Oct. The Glee Club. Birmingham THE BIG LAUGHTER AFTERNOON Thurs 15 Oct, Belgrade Theatre,

Club, Birmingham

FRANKIE BOYLE Sat 10









Civic Hall, W'hampton **HENNING WEHN** Fri 16 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa HOWARD READ, JENNY COLLIER, GEORGE RIGDEN & BECKY BRUNNING Fri 16 Oct, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa MARK SMITH, TONY JAMESON & DANNY DEEGAN Fri 16 Oct, The Courtyard, Hereford **ALISTAIR BARRIE, STEVE** SHANYASKI, INEL TOMLINSON & DAVID MORGAN Fri 16 Oct, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham MICHAEL LEGGE, FOIL ARMS AND HOG, MATT REED & OLA Fri 16 - Sat 17 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
COMEDY CLUB FOR KIDS Sat 17 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington **ALISTAIR BARRIE, STEVE** SHANYASKI, INEL TOMLINSON & COMIC TBC Sat 17 Oct, Jongleurs Comedy Club, B'ham MARK WATSON, STUART GOLDSMITH, GARY DELANEY, FÉLICITY WARD & MATT RICHARDSON Sat 17 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington ANDREW O'NEILL Sat 17 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove IVO GRAHAM, ROBERT WHITE, NICK PAGE & LAURA LEXX Sat 17 Oct. Malvern Theatres LITTLE HOWARD'S BIG SHOW FOR KIDS Sat 17 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa BARNSTÖRMER'S COMEDY NIGHT Sat 17 Oct. Artrix. Bromsgrove NICK DOODY, JOE **BROMEHEAD, CIAMH** MCDONNELL & GARRETT MILLERICK Sat 17 Oct, Coventry Showcase TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Sun 18 Oct, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham DANNY 'SLIM' GRAY, WAYNE ROLLINS, AXEL **BLAKE, JUDY LOVE &** SMASH Sun 18 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham SARAH MILLICAN Mon 19 Oct Malvern Theatres RICHARD HERRING Mon 19 Oct, Warwick Arts

Centre, Coventry

ED BYRNE Tue 20 Oct,

Palace Theatre, Redditch **ROB BECKETT** Tue 20 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry JO BRAND Wed 21 Oct, Stratford Artshouse, Stratford-upon-Avon FESTIVAL OF THE SPOKEN NERD Thurs 22 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre. Coventry ANDY ZALTZMAN Thurs 22 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham DAMIAN CLARK, GEOFF NORCOTT & COMIC TBC Thurs 22 Oct, The Glee Club. Birmingham TIM VINE Fri 23 Oct, Civic Hall, W'hampton THE NOISE NEXT DOOR Fri 23 Oct, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton STUART MITCHELL, KEVIN GILDEA, RUDI LICKWOOD & JEFF INNOCENT Fri 23 Oct, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham DAMIAN CLARK, GEOFF NORCOTT, TANYALEE DAVIS & MATT GREEN Fri 23 - Sat 24 Oct. The Glee Club, Birmingham STUART MITCHELL, KEVIN GILDEA, RUDI LICKWOOD & ALISTAIR WILLIAMS Sat 24 Oct, Jongleurs Comedy Club, B'ham JOE LYCETT Sat 24 Oct. Solihull Arts Complex PATRICK KIELTY Sat 24 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester HENNING WEHN Sat 24 Oct, The Courtyard, Hereford MICKEY SHARMA Sat 24 Oct, mac, Birmingham FRED MACAULAY Sat 24 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa HAYLEY ELLIS, ANDY WHITE, TOM PRICE & AMY HOWERSKA Sat 24 Oct, Coventry Showcase LEE NELSON Sun 25 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre. Coventry PATRICK KIELTY Sun 25 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham RUBY WAX Sun 25 Oct, The REP, Birmingham
THE LAUGHING SOLE Sun 25 Oct mac Birmingham JIMEOIN Tue 27 Oct, Stratford Artshouse. Stratford-upon-Avon STEWART FRANCIS Tue

27 Oct, Artrix, ED BYRNE Wed 28 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa ONE MAN BREAKING BAD Wed 28 Oct, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton DAVE SPIKEY Wed 28 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham ED BYRNE Wed 28 Oct. Royal Spa Centre. Leamington Spa JAMES ACASTER Thurs 29 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham DAN CLARK Thurs 29 Oct. Artrix. Bromsgrove MILTON JONES Thurs 29 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa BEN NORRIS, FREDRIK **ANDERSSON & COMEDY** CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 29 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham **RUBY WAX** Thurs 29 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch PADDY MCGUINNESS Thurs 29 - Fri 30 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham JIMMY CARR Fri 30 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry JO BRAND Fri 30 Oct, Evesham Arts Centre JOJO SUTHERLAND, TOM PRICE, MARK NELSON & ANDY ADDY VAN DER BORGH Fri 30 Oct, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham BEN NORRIS. FREDRIK ANDERSSON, ANDRE VINCENT & STEVE HARRIS Fri 30 - Sat 31 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham JOJO SUTHERLAND TOM PRICE & MARK NELSON Sat 31 Oct, Jongleurs Comedy Club, B'ham TIM VINE Sat 31 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry HARRY ENFIELD AND PAUL WHITEHOUSE Sat 31 Oct. Civic Hall. Wolverhampton MILTON JONES Sat 31 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham **ROB ROUSE, JACK** CAMPBELL, GARETH RICHARD & ARCHIE MADDOCKS Sat 31 Oct, Coventry Showcase



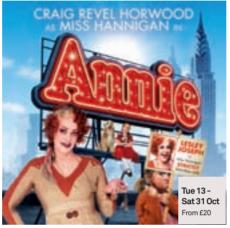






## Autumn 2015 A new look for a new season





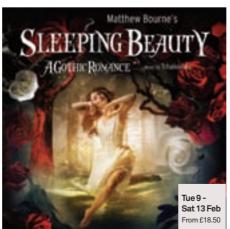


















Sun 31 Jan

## **Theatre**



Jason Donovan this month resumes the role of Tick in this internationally acclaimed feelgood musical.

Based on the movie of the same name, Priscilla the stage show has wowed both West End and Broadway audiences, picking up a coveted Olivier Award and an equally prestigious Tony Award along the accolade-strewn way.

At its heartland is an uplifting story of the friendship shared between

three pals, who hop aboard a battered old bus together and head off in search of love and romance.

The show originally opened in Australia in 2006 - running there for two years before hitting the West End stage - and comes complete with a dazzling array of costumes and a glorious selection of dancefloor favourites, including It's Raining Men, Say A Little Prayer, Go West, Hot Stuff and Always On My Mind...



Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 13 - Sat 31 October

Strictly Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood stars as the far-from-pleasant Miss Hannigan in this latest version of the oft-touring Broadway hit. A heart-warming rags-to-riches tale about a little girl who finds herself transported from a New York orphanage to the luxurious world of millionaire Oliver Warbucks, the show features plenty of memorable songs, including It's A Hard Knock Life and the legendary Tomorrow. Lesley Joseph (Birds Of A Feather) will play Miss Hannigan in all Saturday performances (17, 24 & 31 October)

#### **Love For Love**

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Wed 28 October - Fri 22 January

William Congreve's Restoration comedy scored a significant success when it debuted in 1695. Indeed, during the playwright's life it was actually viewed more favourably than The Way Of The World, the work for which Congreve has since become best known.

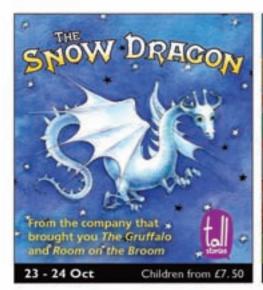
The play follows the adventures of the dissolute Valentine, who finds himself taking drastic action to retain what's rightfully his after being persuaded by his father to sign away his inheritance. Selina Cadell makes her RSC directorial debut. Nicholas Le Prevost (below) stars as Sir Sampson Legend.

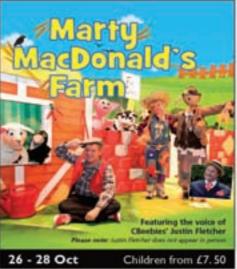


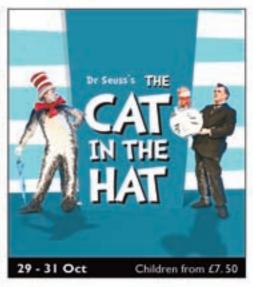




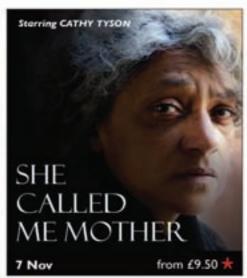


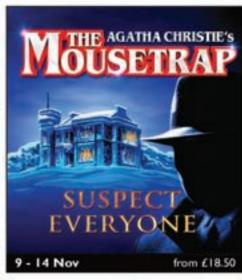


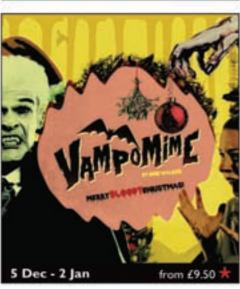


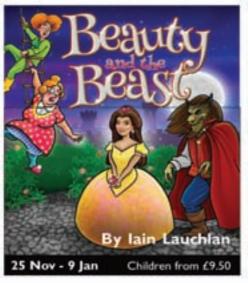


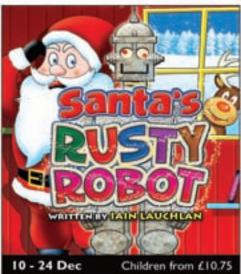












Look for the 🕏 to save 20% off the cost of your full price tickets when you book equivalent amounts for two or more participating shows at the same time. See website for further information on ticket prices and other concessions.

#### Theatre PREVIEWS

#### A Clockwork Orange

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 28 - Sat 31 October

It may be best known in its cult 1971 Stanley Kubrick-directed cinematic incarnation, but this latest version of A Clockwork Orange uses Anthony Burgess' original novella as its main reference point.

Tin Robot Theatre and the Old Joint Stock Theatre are the ensembles behind the production, which presents a corrupt state and a bankrupt civil society in which, to be young and to survive, you have to be violent, drunk, drugged and debauched.

#### Fire In The North Sky: Epic Tales From Finland

mac, Birmingham, Thurs 8 October

Celebrated storytelling company Adverse Chamber here bring to life traditional stories from the Kalevala, an epic nineteenth century Finnish poem presenting tales of folklore and mythology. The production sees leading storyteller Nick Hennessey teaming up with three virtuoso Finnish musicians to present a blend of 'offbeat fun, enchantment, and music that moves between dancing flutes, intoxicating rhythms and hauntingly beautiful sung melodies'.



## And This Is My Friend Mr Laurel

Solihull Arts Complex, Wed 21 October

"I loved the way Olly thought he was smarter than Stan when in fact he was far more stupid," says Jeffrey Holland. "It always made me laugh."

Hi-de-Hi favourite Jeffrey is here starring as the legendary Stan Laurel in a one-man show which he's co-written with award-winning playwright Gail Louw.

A loving homage to one of the twentieth century's greatest comedy duos, the production has received plenty of positive reviews since making its debut last year.

Set in Olly's bedroom, it finds Stan visiting his sick friend and recalling their glory days together on the silver screen. "Stan and Olly

became my friends - metaphorically speaking, of course," continues the Walsall-born Jeff, recalling his childhood days. "I always looked forward to Laurel and Hardy films. If there wasn't one, I was bereft!"





#### **Anita And Me**

The REP, Birmingham, Fri 9 - Sat 24 October

Meera Syal's poignant coming-of-age novel has been adapted by award-winning playwright Tanika Gupta and is here being staged for the very first time.

Set in a Black Country mining village in the early 1970s, Anita And Me follows the story of a young girl named Meena as she grows up in the village's only Punjabi family. Meena spends her days happily enough, getting into scrapes with other local children - but when the impossibly cool Anita enters her life, the young girl finds her world suddenly turned upside-down...

#### The Silver Sword

The Old Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 October

Puppetry, projections and a cast of talented actor/musicians are here brought together in a brand new stage version of one of the most famous children's books of the twentieth century.

Set during the immediate aftermath of World War Two, the story follows the Balicki children as they suffer an existence of hardship and deprivation fending for themselves on the streets of Warsaw.

But when they meet a fourteen-year-old boy named Jan, they suddenly see a glimmer of hope on the horizon...



#### **Bad Jews**

Malvern Theatre, Mon 26 - Sat 31 October

Joshua Harmon's highly praised comedy recently became the best-selling play in the history of London's St James's Theatre. An extended run at the West End's Arts Theatre then offered further evidence of its impressive credentials.

Set in a Manhattan apartment, the play focuses on the characters of Daphna, Liam and Jonah, who find themselves engaged in a vicious brawl over issues of faith, family and legacy.

## Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 29 October - Sat 7 November

Described as a musical thriller, this hugely enjoyable Stephen Sondheim production was a big hit on Broadway. It follows the diabolical endeavours of demon barber Sweeney Todd and his pie-making accomplice Mrs Lovett, as they slice and bake their way through Victorian London...

This particular version of the show is being presented by Blue Orange Arts in association with Night Project Theatre.

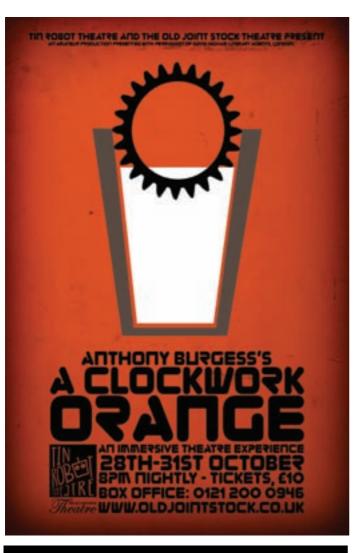
#### **Every Brilliant Thing**

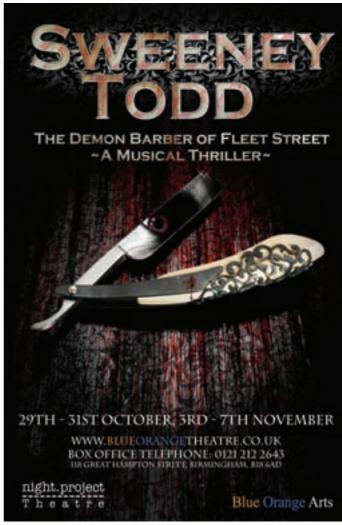
Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 28 October

Paines Plough and Pentabus here come together to produce this contemplation on the subject of depression. When a six-year-old girl finds that her mother's been taken to hospital having 'done something stupid', she determines to make a list of everything that's brilliant about the world. Twenty years later, the list takes on a life of its own...

Every Brilliant Thing involves the participation of members of the audience, a fact which ensures each performance is unique.







## BROMSGROVE'S **THEATRE**, **CINEMA**, LIVE **MUSIC** AND **COMEDY** VENUE

Friday 9th October **FESTIVAL OF THE SPOKEN NERD** 

GEEKY TRIO RETURN WITH JUST FOR GRAPHS



Saturday 17th Octobe **ANDREW O'NEILL** 

SURREAL & SILLY STAND-UP SHOW MINDSPIDERS



Saturday 10th October BLUES BROTHERS EXPERIENCE

ME AND SHAKE A TAIL Ather at artrix



Wednesday 28th October **BELLA HARDY** 

AWARD-WINNING FOLKSINGER'S 'WITH THE DAWN' TOUR



Saturday 31st Octobe **DRACULA:** 

**OCTOBER** 

Sunday 11th October

PRESENTED BY THE VIENNA FESTIVAL BALLET

2015

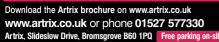
**COPPELIA** 

THE KISSES... SPEND HALLOWEEN WITH THE SCARY LITTLE GIRLS



FORTHCOMING CINEMA: FROZEN SINGALONG (PG) // RICCI & THE FLASH (12A) BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (12A) // THE COLOUR PURPLE (15) // INSIDE OUT (U) MR HOLMES (PG) // A WALK IN THE WOODS (186) // DOREEN - THE MOVIE (15)







**FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 2015** 

TICKET HOTLINE: 01789 403416



25 Sept - 3 Oct | 7.30pm | £12 / £10 concs **APRIL IN PARIS** 

A romantic comedy, written by John Godber



A comic masterpiece by Alan Ayckbourn



A Second Thoughts Drama Group Production.



4 - 12 December | 7.30pm | £12 / £10 concs **BRIEF ENCOUNTER** 

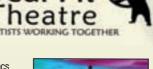
Noel Coward's Brief Encounter, adapted by Emma Rice

18 December | 7.30pm | £10 / £8 concs

**DID WE MENTION THE FREE MINCE PIES** Join The Bear Pit for some festive fun at their annual comedic concert

The Bear Pit Theatre, Rother Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6LU www.thebearpit.org.uk













#### Theatre PREVIEWS

#### Vanity Bites Back

The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 22 October

Helen Duff's solo debut has been described as 'a bold, subversive and very funny clown cookery show about searching for self-worth in a cheesecake'.

Duff plays an aspiring TV cookery host, using the character as a means of exploring the complexities of anorexia nervosa. The eating disorder is one from which the playwright and actress herself has suffered.

"The clowning and comedy has allowed me to celebrate skills in which I was never able to place any confidence when I was ill," explains Helen. "Even though it's ten years ago that I suffered with the illness, it's only in the past two years that I've been able to openly discuss it."



## The Holy & Horny Farewell Tour

The Drum, Birmingham, Sat 10 October

Tonya Joy Bolton here returns with a highly acclaimed work examining concepts of identity, gender, religion and culture.

When Sheila, a frustrated Christian, embarks on a series of disastrous dates, she discovers that the experiences lead to unexpected and life-changing consequences...

The show contains strong language and sexual content, and has been deemed suitable for audience members aged fifteen-plus. This production shows as part of Black History Month. See page for 46 for further detail.



#### Nosferatu

mac, Birmingham, Wed 28 October

The renowned 1922 German Expressionist movie of the same name - and, of course, the classic Bram Stoker novel, Dracula - provide the inspiration for this new theatrical offering from Proper Job Theatre.

Featuring original music and libretto, live musicians and the sleight-of-hand magic of a talented illusionist, the show explores the psychological relationship that evolves between a group of sailors as they journey from Varna to Whitby with an unknown and mysterious cargo...



## **Your Fragrant Phantom**

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 23 - Sat 24 October

Legendary American author F Scott Fitzgerald and his wife Zelda were the very epitome of the Roaring 20s. They led a lifestyle that was seemingly as wild, self-indulgent and elaborate as that of the writer's most famous fictional character, the Great Gatsby.

This brand new work not only offers an intriguing insight into two lives lived in the fast lane but also takes a thought-provoking peek behind the glitz and the glamour, revealing what happened to the Fitzgeralds when the party was finally over.

#### The Faithless Healer

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 28 - Sat 31 October

Fresh Blood theatre company describe their dark new comedy as an exploration of 'blind faith, growing up and trying to find your place in a confusing world'.

The outlandish village of Finklebury in North Wartfordshire is the home of Mary Smith-

Longstone, a young girl whose inexplicable healing powers make her the talk of the town. But when a secret is revealed on her eighteenth birthday, Mary suddenly finds herself in grave danger...



#### Hecuba

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Thurs 15 October

The RSC's inventive telling of Euripides' tale of 'war, womanhood and courage' has been adapted by Marina Carr and is helmed by Erica Whyman, who enjoyed a roaring success with 2014's The Christmas Truce. Written by Euripides around 424 BC, the play finds the Trojan War at an end and the great queen Hecuba imprisoned by charismatic victor Agamemnon. Her sons are dead and her daughters face a world they no longer understand. Although Agamemnon has

slaughtered his own daughter to win the war, another sacrifice is now demanded...

The production contains some violence and distressing scenes, and has been deemed suitable for audience members aged twelve and older.



#### The Smallest Show On Earth

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 13 - Sat 17 October

One-time Bergerac star Liza Goddard teams up with former Coronation Street actor Brian Capron for a show inspired by the 1950s Peter Sellers movie of the same name. Two innocent newly-weds can't believe their good fortune when they discover they've inherited a cinema - only to find that the venue in question is nothing more than a decrepit flea-pit. Undeterred by their discovery, the couple hatch a plan to restore the cinema to its former glory - a challenge

which requires them to enlist the assistance of both the venue's eccentric manageress and its unreliable projectionist... Classic Irving Berlin numbers Blue Skies, Shakin' The Blues Away and Steppin' Out With My Baby all feature in the show.



#### The Hundred Years' War

The DOOR at The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 8 October

Poetry and theatre are here combined to create a show that's being described by its promoters as 'a distinctive and deeply moving portrayal of life under fire'...

Comprising thirty-five war poems written between 1914 and 2013, The Hundred Years' War is a new production featuring three performers, live music and striking imagery. The production is appropriate for audience members aged fourteen-plus.



#### Discover Tewkesbury's **Newly Reopened Arts Centre**



Beyond The Barricade Sunday 18 October 7.30pm



**Cscape Dance: Taste** Tuesday 20 October 7.30pm



Flanders & Swann Friday 23 October 7.30pm



The Irish House Party Sunday 25 October 7.30pm



**Ballet Theatre UK** The Snow Queen Wednesday 28 October 7.30pm



ondon Contemporary Theatre Pygmalion

Friday 6 November 7.30pm



**Ballet Cymru** Triple Bill Saturday 14 November 7.30pm Sat 28 Nov - Sat 2 Jan



Visit rosestheatre.org for full programme

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#### The Lindisfarne Story

With former members Billy Mitchell & Ray Laidlow performing acoustic versions of their classic songs. £18.50

15/10 Voodoo Room-Hendrix & Cream High-energy show in the true spirit of these legendary stars, at 8pm.

21/10 "And This is my Friend Mr Laurel" Jeffrey Holland (Hi-de-Hi) stars in a one-man show set in the bedroom of a dying Oliver Hardy. £14 (£12)





#### **Theatre**

#### for younger audiences

#### **The Snow Dragon**

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 23 - Sat 24 October

Tall Stories have previously presented hit shows The Gruffalo and Room On The Broom. The company here returns with the enchanting story of a young goat named Billy and his encounter with the legendary Snow Dragon.



#### **Jurassic Adventures**

Solihull Arts Complex, Fri 23 October

A large-scale show for children, Jurassic Adventures tells the story of what happens when hunters stumble across a dinosaur. The production features large and small-scale dino-puppets.



## The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark

Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire, Tues 20 October; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 8 November

Jill Tomlinson's bestselling children's classic is here brought to the stage by the talented Blunderbus. The ensemble utilise music, puppetry and storytelling to present the delightful tale of a baby barn owl who's not as comfortable with the darkness of night as maybe he should be...

#### **The Basil Brush Show**

The Regal Cinema, Evesham, Sun 25 October; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Fri 30 October; Solihull Arts Complex, Sat 31 October

Every child's favourite fox is nowadays accompanied by Mr Stephen (aka Chris Pizzey). Basil's roadshow brings together songs and storytelling with plenty of humour.





## **Disney On Ice: Worlds Of Enchantment**

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Wed 21 October - Sun1 November

Get your skates on for the return of Disney's ever-popular ice spectacular, complete with highenergy music, glittering sets, dramatic choreography and four of the Mouse House's bestloved stories: Cars, The Little Mermaid, Toy Story and Frozen.

#### How The Koala Learnt To Hug

mac, Birmingham, Sat 3 October
Based on Steven Lee's book of the same title, this regularly touring show features a host of puppet characters, numerous games, singalong songs - and a considerable

#### **Marty MacDonald's Farm**

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 26 - Wed 28 October

amount of top-quality hugging!

A colourful farmyard, loveable puppet characters and the voice of CBeebies' Justin Fletcher (aka Mr Tumble) all feature in a show that sees Marty, Pongo the Pig, Molly-Moo the Cow and Sheena the Sheep trying to find a way to rescue the corn and save their farm.



#### **Shrek The Musical**

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, until Sat 11 October

The popularity of this family-friendly West Ender is hardly a surprise. After all, Dreamworks' animated Shrek movies - inspired by cartoonist William Steig's 1990 book - were absolutely huge.

Pretty much retelling the story of the first film, the stage show peddles a line in humour that calls to mind both the surrealist Pythons and an evening of festive-season panto fare. There are plenty of new songs to enjoy too, presented alongside the cult Shrek anthem I'm A Believer.



#### The Selfish Giant

The Hive, Worcester, Thurs 29 October

Sea Legs Puppet Theatre Company present the much-loved story of a giant who builds a wall to keep children out of his garden. The production combines puppets, music and storytelling.

#### **Light Show**

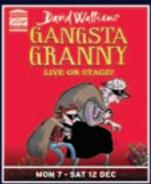
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 27 - Wed 28 October

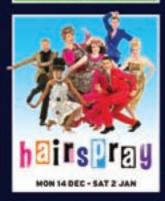
Light Show is part of the Belgrade's October Festival of Theatre for Children & Young People. The show invites its audience into a magical paper palace, where the sensory delights of nature provide a fully immersive experience.

















NEW ALEXANDRATHEATRE BIRMINGHAM WORLD CLASS THEATRE

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#### SUN 18 OCTOBER

#### VINCE CABLE

In a unique position to provide an unreported inside view of the coalition Vince Cable shares his advice for the future, offers his thoughts on the 2015 election and answer questions from the audience.



#### SUN 18 OCTOBER

#### THE MOVIE DOCTORS

Mark Kermode and Simon Mayo, the nation's 'go to' experts on all things film, celebrate the publication of their book. The Movie Doctors, with a new, unique blend of movie trivia, forthright opinion, and no-holds-barred bickering.



#### TUE 03 NOVEMBER

#### HUGH CORNWELL

One of the UK's finest live performers, Hugh Cornwell is best known as the guitarist & singer in The Stranglers, and is the voice of such classic songs as Peaches, No More Heroes, Golden Brown, Always the Sun and Duchess.



#### SUN 08 NOVEMBER

#### SEAN HUGHES: MUMBO JUMBO

A show consisting of stories of being serenaded by Robert Smith, mountain gorillas and Sean realising that he will never have a proper conversation with his mum, and also includes a 3-minute musical about ageing...



#### TUE 10 NOVEMBER

#### RICHARD ALSTON

Proudly celebrating its twentieth year. Richard Alston Dance Company brings to Shrewsbury three works showcasing world renowned choreography. "Gambit", "Mazur" and 'Brisk Singing' performed by superbly skilled dancers.



#### THU 19 NOVEMBER

#### TASTE

Inspired by the tapeshies of Grayson Perry, Taste is a delicious romp of a show with humour, and playfulness at its heart. Blending dance and drama, and exploring what defines our identity, Taste might just be your cup of teal

BOX OFFICE 01743 281281 www.theatresevern.co.uk

#### Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

#### **Commencing THUR 1 OCT**

SEEING THE LIGHTS An uplifting drama about a family's attempt to arrange a rare get-together for their mum's birthday, until Sat 3 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

THE SILVER SWORD A stage production of lan Seraillier's highly acclaimed and much-loved children's novel, until - Sat 3 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry THE GLENN MILLER STORY An extraordinary take on the world's most famous big band leader, until Sat 3 Oct.

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION until Sat 3 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham BEFORE THE PARTY An adaptation of a short story by

**BEFORE THE PARTY** An adaptation of a short story by Somerset Maugham, until Sat 3 Oct, Malvern Theatres

APRIL IN PARIS Anne Bowen stars in John Godber's comic masterpiece, until Sat 3 Oct, The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Oscar Wilde's

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Oscar Wilde's much-loved and brilliantly witty masterpiece, direct from the West End. Starring Nigel Havers, Sian Phillips and Christine Kavanagh, until Sat 3 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

DEAD DOG IN A SUITCASE (AND OTHER LOVE SONGS)

Kneehigh with Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse
present Carl Grose's A New Beggar's Opera, until
Sat 3 Oct. The REP. Birmingham

HOW TO BE A HERO Tessa Walker directs the world premiere of Bernadette Russell and Gareth Brierley's play, which draws on real stories of heroism from Birmingham and beyond, until Sat 3 Oct,

The REP, Birmingham BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET'S SWAN LAKE Filled with exquisite ensembles, lyrical pas de deux and bravura solos, until Tues 6 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

BRIEF ENCOUNTER Noël Coward's play, adapted for the stage by Emma Rice. Combining the love story from the classic 1945 film with comedy, dance and song, until Sat 3 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

BLUE STOCKINGS Powerful new play exploring the role of women, until Sat 3 Oct, Dream Factory, Warwick

**SUNSHINE ON LEITH** Following the highs and lows of Ally and his friend Davy as they return home to Leith from the army, until Sat 3 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SHREK THE MUSICAL The popularity of this familyfriendly West Ender is hardly a surprise. After all, Dreamworks' animated Shrek movies - inspired by cartoonist William Steig's 1990 book - were absolutely huge, until Sun 11 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

HECUBA Erica Whyman directs Marina Carr's reimagining of the legend of Hecuba in a visceral new play. A searing version of war, womanhood and courage, until Sat 17 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**HENRY V** Alex Hassell returns as Henry V in Gregory Doran's continued exploration of Shakespeare's history plays, until Sun 25 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

AN EVENING WITH RUTH PADEL Poet Ruth Padel reads from her celebrated verse biography of Charles Darwin, Thurs 1 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury MAD ABOUT THE MUSICALS Celebrating the very best songs from the shows. Starring Gareth Gates and Michael Courtney, Thurs 1 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

EDMUND THE LEARNED PIG A 'darkly pleasant' tale based on a poem by Edward Gorey, Thurs 1 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** A musical romp through the youthful days of Rock'n'Roll in the '50s, on through the Swinging '60s and into the taste-free days of the 1970s, Thurs 1 - Fri 2 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**BOUNCERS** John Godber's classic comedy, Thurs 1 - Sat 3 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY Presented by European Arts Company and adapted by Oscar Wilde's grandson, Merlin Holland, Fri 2 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

WWI OLD TIME MUSIC HALL Fri 2 Oct, Stourbridge



**WOMEN AT THE EDGE** Two funny women, two monologues, several songs... Fri 2 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

RED BASTARD After five-star reviews and sold-out shows across North America, Europe and Australia, America's premier bouffon delivers on his promise in this critically acclaimed show, Fri 2 - Sat 3 Oct, mac. Birmingham

BLACK ROSES Steven Downs' moving play focusing on the role of women during the miners' strike of 1984, Fri 2 - Sat 10 Oct, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

**HOW THE KOALA LEARNT TO HUG** A charming tale about the magic of family and, of course, the importance of a nice warm hug! Sat 3 Oct, mac, Birmingham

**CLAPPER BOX** Fetch Theatre fuse puppetry and object manipulation to present a curious, interactive puppet-booth experience, Sat 3 Oct, Wigmore Village Hall, Herefordshire

CAPTAIN CRAB'S TREASURE Fun, songs & audience participation for two-to-nine-year-olds, Sat 3 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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 promise to take audiences on a journey of laughs, storytelling & song in a brand new stage show, Sat 3 Oct, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

TREE FU TOM LIVE New show starring the world's smallest superhero, direct from the smash-hit CBeebies series, Sat 3 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

OH DEAR DIARY An evening of embarrassing, angstridden and often unintentionally hysterical real-life stories, as brave volunteers read aloud from their teenage diaries, Sat 3 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BUGSY MALONE Get Your Wigle On present an amateur production of Alan Parker's gangster hit, Bugsy Malone, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

METAMORPHOSIS The Crescent Theatre Company present Berkoff's adaptation of Kafka's literary masterpiece, Sat 3 - Sat 10 Oct, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

#### Week Commencing MON 5 OCT

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO Live broadcast of one of Mozart's great masterpieces, directly from the Royal Opera House, Mon 5 Oct, Malvern Theatres HAIRSPRAY THE MUSICAL New production of the smash-hit musical comedy. Starring Claire Sweeney as Velma Von Tussle, Mon 5 - Sat 10 Oct, Malvern Theatres

RELATIVELY SPEAKING Amateur production of Alan Ayckbourn's comedy of confusion and mistaken identity, Mon 5 - Sat 10 Oct, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

HANDBAGGED Moira Buffini's Olivier Award-nominated comedy is a wickedly funny new play, examining the relationship between Queen Elizabeth II and Margaret Thatcher, Tues 6 - Sat 10 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE An amateur production from the Worcester Musical Theatre company filled with

songs, dance and laugh-out-loud comedy, Tues 6-Sat 10 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Worcester CONFUSIONS Human frailty is laid bare in Alan Ayckbourn's 'sharp, sad and funny' play, Tues 6 - Sat 24 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme MINISTRY OF SCIENCE LIVE! From the creators of Brainiac Live comes a brand new show which takes an anarchic approach to science communication whilst looking at the inventors & engineers who have shaped and inspired the modern world, Wed 7 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

NELSON: THE SAILOR'S STORY One-man show written & performed by Nicholas Collett, Wed 7 Oct, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall THE FOOTSIE CLUB Evening of burlesque, variety &

THE FOOTSIE CLUB Evening of burlesque, variety & cabaret, with special guest performances from Velma Von Bon Bon and Kiki Lovechild, Wed 7 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

STALAG HAPPY The true story of artists Sir Terry Frost and Adrian Heath whilst interned at World War Two prisoner-of -war camp Stalag 383, Wed 7 -Thurs 8 Oct, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

WEAKLINGS The world premiere of Chris Goode and company's new show. A show loosely based around the notorious blog of the writer Dennis Cooper, Wed 7 - Thurs 8 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**OLIVER!** Alcester Musical Theatre Company present the stage musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist, Wed 7 - Sat 10 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

HALF A SIXPENCE CLOC Musical Theatre Company present an amateur version of the popular musical comedy based on HG Wells' novel, Kipps, Wed 7-Sat 10 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Live from London's Vaudeville Theatre, David Suchet stars as the formidable Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's muchloved masterpiece, Thurs 8 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry & Malvern Theatres

AN EVENING WITH ADAM HENSON Farmer and presentations.

AN EVENING WITH ADAM HENSON Farmer and presenter from BBC TV's Countryfile, Adam Henson, talks about farming life, his TV career and British agriculture, Thurs 8 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury ADVERSE CHAMBER: FIRE IN THE NORTH SKY Traditional Finnish tales of epic heroes and the dark river of the underworld, Thurs 8 Oct, mac, Birmingham THE ENCOUNTER Simon McBurney follows Loren McIntyre's journey into the Amazon rainforest. An exploration of nature, time and our own consciousness, Thurs 8 - Sat 10 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre,

HERO'S WELCOME The latest addition to Alan Ayckbourn's extensive repertoire is a ruefully comic view of the human predicament, Thurs 8 - Sat 24 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

LA TRAVIATA The Russian State Ballet & Opera House present Verdi's haunting tragedy, Fri 9 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

EMMA Hotbuckle return to Shrewsbury to present one of Jane Austen's most perfect novels, Fri 9 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE SECOND BEST BED Worcester Repertory Company present a one-woman play about Anne Hathaway on the night of husband William Shakespeare's funeral, Fri 9 Oct, Malvern Theatres THE PICTURE OF DOREEN GRAY LipService Theatre

## **WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT**



J.B. PRIESTLEY'S
CLASSIC THRILLER
AN INSPECTOR
CALLS

TUE 13 - SAT 17 OCT



LIVE, STUNNING
AND TIMELESS
THE RAT PACK
VEGAS SPECTACULAR
SHOW





THE SENSATIONAL SMASH-HIT THE FULL

THE FULL Monty

MON 26 - SAT 31 OCT



THE MOST DYNAMIC 60S
SHOW TOURING THE UK
THE SENSATIONAL
60'S EXPERIENCE
SAT 31 OCT



SWINGING INTO TOWN, CBEEBIES HERO TREE FU TOM SUN 1 NOV



AN ORDINARY WOMAN WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY GIFT PSYCHIC SALLY TUE 3 NOV



JOURNEY WITH
JOOLS HOLLAND
AND HIS RHYTHM AND
BLUES ORCHESTRA
THU 5 NOV



VAMPIRES ROCK
THE GHOST TRAIN
SUN OB NOV



SAINT PETERSBURG
CLASSIC BALLET PRESENTS
THE
NUTCRACKER
THU 12 - FRI 13 NOV



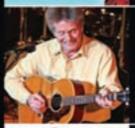
SHOW OF HANDS



MERCURY
THE ULTIMATE
QUEEN TRIBUTE
SAT 14 NOV



HALFWAY TO
PARADISE
THE BILLY FURY STORY
WED 18 NOV



LIVE SENSATION

JOE BROWN
IN CONCERT
WED 18 NOV



A MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA WITH THE DRIFTERS THU 19 NOV



REGENT THEATRE & VICTORIA HALL STOKE-ON-TRENT

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#### Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

return with a comedy about the life of Doreen Gray, a fifty-year-old radio show host whose career takes a turn for the worse, Fri 9 Oct, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

ALL OUR HEROES Physical theatre, verbatim accounts and vibrant storytelling come together to recount what it was like for the men of the Indian sub-continent who left their homes to fight for the British Raj on continents far away, Fri 9 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

DICKENS ABRIDGED A high-speed comic journey through Dickens' greatest hits, written and directed by Adam Long, Fri 9 Oct, Malvern Theatres
MISTER MAKER Evolution Productions presents Mister Maker and The Shapes Live, Fri 9 - Sat 10 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**OUR MAIN STORY TONIGHT** A brand new play inspired by whatever major story is dominating the news that week, Fri 9 - Sat 10 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

ANITA AND ME New adaptation of Meera Syal's much-loved novel, Fri 9 - Sat 24 Oct, The REP,

MEERA SYAL AND TANIKA GUPTA IN CONVERSATION Join the duo as they discuss their remarkable careers and the process of bringing Anita And Me to the stage, Sat 10 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

THE PICTURE OF DOREEN GRAY LipService Theatre return with a comedy about the life of Doreen Gray, a fifty-year-old radio show host whose career takes a turn for the worse, Sat 10 Oct, Theatre Severn,

THE KING OF TINY THINGS Metta Theatre bring an enchanting story to life aided by circus, puppetry and song. Suitable for children aged three-plus, Sat 10 Oct, Malvern Theatres

THE HOLY & HORNY FAREWELL TOUR One-woman show which tells of love, longing & ultimate betrayal, Sat 10 Oct, The Drum, Birmingham

DOWN TO EARTH: AN EVENING WITH MONTY DON Hear Monty's stories about his travels and visits to gardens all over the world, Sat 10 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

#### Week Commencing MON 12 OCT

SALLY MORGAN: PSYCHIC SALLY ON THE ROAD Mon 12 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY European Arts present their adaptation of Oscar Wilde's classic play using a cast of five versatile actors, Mon 12 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

MACBETH: BLOOD WILL HAVE BLOOD One-man adaptation of Shakespeare's story of ambition, greed and the abuse of power, Mon 12 - Tues 13 Oct, mac, Birmingham

OUR HOUSE Stratford Musical Theatre Company present an amateur production of the Madness musical, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Oct, Stratford Artshouse AVENUE Q Tony Award-winning musical that centres on a group of loveable yet hopeless characters on a downtown New York street, Mon 12 - Sat 17 Oct, Malvern Theatres

CERI DUPREE: EYECONS Female impersonator Ceri Dupree presents an evening of visual comedy, impressions, music and thousands of pounds worth of jaw-dropping costumes, Tues 13 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
THE GOOD OLD DAYS OF VARIETY New stage show

featuring the legendary Duggie Brown, Tues 13 Oct, Dudley Town Hall

OF MICE AND MEN John Steinbeck's powerful and gripping masterpiece tells the story of two outsiders in search of the American Dream, Tues 13 - Thurs 15 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE FULL MONTY Amateur production presented by the Lichfield Operatic Society, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

THE SMALLEST SHOW ON EARTH Liza Goddard & Brian Capron star in a brand new version of Irving Berlin's musical comedy, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Oct, Bel-

grade Theatre, Coventry SWEENEY TODD Stafford & District Operatic Society's amateur staging, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

AN INSPECTOR CALLS JB Priestley's award-winning thriller, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

ANNIE Starring Craig Revel Horwood as the tyrannical Miss Hannigan. Lesley Joseph (Birds Of A Feather) will play Miss Hannigan in all Saturday performances (17, 24 & 31 October), Tues 13 - Sat 31 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

HOW TO BE A HERO Story inspired by real-life vigilante groups who often cause more trouble than they prevent, Wed 14 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolver-

THE GAME'S AFOOT Mad Cow Productions present an amateur production of Ken Ludwig's comedic thriller, Wed 14 - Sat 17 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MOONLIGHT ON THE CUT New play which tells a tale of love against the odds, Wed 14 - Sat 17 Oct, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS Marches Theatre Company present a staging of what is described as one of Neil Simon's funniest plays, Wed 14 - Sat 24 Oct,

The Wightman, Shrewsbury

ONLY FOOLS AND BOYCIE An intimate evening with John Challis, Thurs 15 Oct, Lichfield Garrick MINISTRY OF SCIENCE LIVE! From the creators of Brainiac Live comes a brand new show which takes an anarchic approach to science communication whilst looking at the inventors & engineers who've shaped and inspired the modern world, Thurs 15 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

GRANDMA REMEMBER ME Fusion of drama, puppetry & storytelling reflecting on a special relationship between a grandma and her granddaughter, Thurs 15 Oct. The Hive, Worcester

NT LIVE: HAMLET Benedict Cumberbatch takes the title role in Shakespeare's greatest tragedy, Thurs 15 Oct,

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BERYL: A ROMANCE ON TWO WHEELS West Yorkshire Playhouse present a celebration of the life of cyclist Beryl Burton, Thurs 15 Oct, The Talbot Theatre, Whitchurch

WAITING FOR GODOT London Classic Theatre present Samuel Beckett's reflection on the random futility of existence, Thurs 15 - Fri 16 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

COPACABANA Amateur production of the Barry Manilow musical, Thurs 15 - Sat 24 Oct, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

#### TALBOT HOUSE: A HOME FROM HOME

Peter Gill's drama about the house in Poperinge, Belgium, which became a refuge for Allied troops during the Great War, Fri 16 Oct, mac, Birmingham UNDER MILKWOOD Guy Masterson brings Dylan Thomas' timeless masterpiece vividly to life to mark the centenary of Wales' greatest poet, Fri 16 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES Presented by Fired Up Theatre, Fri 16 - Sat 17 Oct, Lichfield Garrick EDITH PIAF - THE SONGS Eve Loiseau performs the works of France's most popular singer, Sat 17 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire 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 17 Oct, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

I SPY! All-acting, all-dancing, all-singing spectacular, Sat 17 Oct. Solihull Arts Complex

CAROL ANN DUFFY & JOHN SAMPSON A demonstration of eclectic, iconoclastic, profound and moving poetry - accompanied by a selection of music, from medieval to modern, Sat 17 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

BERYL: A ROMANCE ON TWO WHEELS West Yorkshire Playhouse present a celebration of the life of cyclist Beryl Burton, Sat 17 Oct, SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

CLAPPER BOX Fetch Theatre fuse puppetry and object manipulation to present a curious, interactive puppet-booth experience, Sat 17 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

CARMEN Ellen Kent Productions present their version of Bizet's passionate opera, Sun 18 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

HIMALAYAN JOURNEYS Ben Osbourne presents the stories of two journeys, with images and compelling commentary, Sun 18 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

BERYL: A ROMANCE ON TWO WHEELS West Yorkshire Playhouse present a celebration of the life of cyclist Beryl Burton, Sun 18 Oct, Conquest Theatre, Herefordshire

THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA A light-hearted & zany reinterpretation of the classic fairytale, Sun 18 Oct, The Dream Factory, Warwick

WEBBER STREET New production based on a host of colourful characters and their comings and goings on Webber Street. Featuring songs from Cats, Starlight Express, Oliver! & Joseph, Sun 18 Oct, Artrix. Bromsgrove

PLAYING WITH WORDS Stories & songs for all the family with Sally Tongue, Sun 18 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

#### Week Commencing MON 19 OCT

DOREEN: THE MOVIE! A must for Doreen fans, indie movie fans, and lovers of Black Country comedy, Mon 19 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

POCKET MERCHANT A condensed version of Propeller's critically acclaimed 2009 production brings one of Shakespeare's darkest plays to life using the company's unique revelatory style, Mon 19 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
MICHAEL PORTILLO - LIFE: A GAME OF TWO HALVES

Mon 19 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

RISE UP Theatre Centre presents a new play about the Freedom riders - principled young Americans in the 1960s who peacefully challenged the racism of the deep South, Mon 19 - Wed 21 Oct, Belgrade

THE GLENN MILLER STORY An extraordinary take on the world's most famous big band leader, Mon 19 -

Sat 24 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre CRACKED A new play by Mike Kenny & Julie Boden about a first episode of psychosis & cultural difference, Tues 20 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

THE OWL WHO WAS AFRAID OF THE DARK

A blend of live music, puppetry and storytelling, based on the classic children's book by Jill Tomlinson. Suitable for children aged three to seven, Tues 20 Oct, Malvern Theatres

CAN I START AGAIN PLEASE Coffin dark humour, a poetic script delivered in BSL, and choreographed theatre combine to reveal a tale of silence and childhood sexual abuse, Tues 20 - Wed 21 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ROUND THE HORNE Step back in time to the BBC's Paris Studios for a spoof-tastic experience celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the comedy classic, Tues 20 - Wed 21 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT Feelgood international musical direct from the West End and Broadway. Jason Donovan stars as Tick, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham SUNSET BOULEVARD WODS present Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

ROMEO & JULIET The Worcester Repertory Company presents its version of the world's greatest love story, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Oct, Worcester Cathedral HYPNOSIS A Lichfield Players production of David Tristram's mesmerising thriller, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

AND THIS IS MY FRIEND MR LAUREL One-man play performed by Jeffrey Holland, Wed 21 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex

THE FOREST Multi-sensory tale which immerses audiences in a world of new sights, sounds, smells & sensations, Wed 21 - Thurs 22 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

EVITA TADLOP present an amateur staging of Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic musical, Wed 21 Sat 24 Oct, The Place, Oakengates, Telford **DISNEY ON ICE: WORLDS OF ENCHANTMENT** Be swept away with your favourite Disney stories, including The Little Mermaid, Disney/Pixar's Cars and Toy Story, Wed 21 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

VANITY BITES BACK Unique solo debut from Helen Duff, described as a 'bold, subversive and very funny' clown cookery show about searching for self-worth in a cheesecake, Thurs 22 Oct, The REP, B'ham

PELLÉAS ET MELISANDE English Touring Opera present Debussy's only finished opera, Thurs 22 Oct, Malvern Theatre

THE HATE PLAY Developed in partnership with Essex Police. An interactive performance portraying the devastating impact of victimisation and hate crime on a group of young friends, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE SILVER SWORD A stage production of lan Seraillier's highly acclaimed and much-loved children's novel, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

MINDGAME Staging of Anthony Horowitz's gripping thriller, Thurs 22 - Sat 31 Oct, Sutton Arts Theatre, Sutton Coldfield

MONOLOGUESLAM UK AUTUMN 2015 Witness the brightest new acting talent and watch as the actors go head to head, competing to be crowned the winner of their respective rounds. Visit triforcepromotions.co.uk for more information. Fri 23 Oct. The REP, Birmingham

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exploring the role of theatre in the mental health system and asking what it is to be normal, Fri 23 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

CERI DUPREE: EYECONS Female impersonator Ceri Dupree presents an evening of visual comedy, impressions, music and thousands of pounds worth of jaw-dropping costumes, Fri 23 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

JURASSIC ADVENTURES Lively & fun show for young dinosaur fans, Fri 23 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex DICKENS ABRIDGED A high-speed comic journey through Dickens' greatest hits, written and directed by Adam Long, Fri 23 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove FLANDERS AND SWANN: AT THE DROP OF A HIPPOPOTA-MUS Evening of wit and piano playing from pianist Duncan Walsh Atkins & comedian Tim Fitzhigham, Fri 23 Oct, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

TALES OF HOFFMAN English Touring Opera present a dark comedy from the masters of French operetta, based on the brilliant, bizarre stories of fantasy author ETA Hoffman, Fri 23 Oct, Malvern Theatre THE CANTERBURY TALES Impulse Collective present a contemporary take on Chaucer's fourteenth century classic, Fri 23 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton YOUR FRAGRANT PHANTOM Passionate story of love loss & legacy which explores the life and times of F Scott Fitzgerald and his wife Zelda - one of the most iconic couples of the Roaring '20s, Fri 23 - Sat 24 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

THE SNOW DRAGON Tall Stories combine storytelling, comedy & songs to create a magical, mysterious world for children aged three-plus, Fri 23 - Sat 24 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

ROMEO & JULIET The Flanagan Collective present an

all-female production of one of the greatest love stories ever told, Fri 23 - Sun 25 Oct, mac, Birming-

THE AMAZING BUBBLE MAN The international hit show, with bubble art, magic, science and lots of fun, Sat 24 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury THE HOLLYWOOD SPECIAL EFFECTS SHOW An interac-

tive family show offering a behind-the-scenes look into how some of the special effects in your favourite films have been created, Sat 24 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

WERTHER English Touring Opera present Massenet's domestic story of a seemingly idyllic middle-class family torn apart by uncontrollable passion, Sat 24 Oct, Malvern Theatre

LOVERS ROCK MONOLOGUES Join Janet Kay, Carroll Thompson & Victor Romero Evans as they fuse timeless music with theatrical storytelling. This event forms part of Punch Records BASS 15, Sat 24 Oct, The REP, B'ham

I BELIEVE IN UNICORNS Sat 24 Oct, Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Evesham

MORBID CURIOSITIES Don't Go Into The Cellar present a theatrical anthology of classic ghost and horror stories, Sun 25 Oct

Croft Castle, Leominster
THE SCARECROW'S WEDDING Scamp Theatre present a stage adaptation of Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's new best-selling book, Sun 25 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA A light-hearted & zany reinterpretation of the classic fairytale, Sun 25 Oct, The Dream Factory, Warwick
ALIENS LOVE UNDERPANTS Family fun with stunning

effects, madcap action, original music and more... Sun 25 - Mon 26 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

#### Week Commencing MON 26 OCT

LITTLE FRANKENSTEIN Lempen Puppets present a gentle horror which promises to tickle the imagination of everyone from five to one hundred-and-five, Mon 26 Oct, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolver-

ERROR 404 ARC Stockton present a Polka Theatre production which encourages audiences to look again at everything they thought they knew, Mon 26 Oct, mac, Birmingham

HOW THE KOALA LEARNT TO HUG A charming tale about the magic of family - and, of course, the importance of a nice warm hug! Mon 26 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

TREE FU TOM LIVE! New show starring the world's smallest superhero, direct from the smash-hit

CBeebies series, Mon 26 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MARTY MACDONALD'S FARM Children's theatre featuring the voice of CBeebies star, Justin Fletcher, as Pongo the Pig, Mon 26 - Wed 28 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

BAD JEWS Joshua Harmon's best-selling play stops off in the Midlands as part of a national tour, Mon 26 - Sat 31 Oct. Malvern Theatre

THE FULL MONTY Sheffield Theatres present a staged version of Simon Beaufoy's award-winning film, Mon 26 - Sat 31 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's musical, set in his native Liverpool. Maureen Nolan & Marti Pellow star, Mon 26 - Sat 31 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand The-

NOTHING TO HYDE 4Front Theatre present a modern adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale, exploring the war that rages within us, Mon 26 - Sat 31 Oct, Malvern Theatres

SID'S SHOW Join Sid from Cheebies live on stage in a fun-filled adventure that promises to knock your socks off!, Tues 27 Oct, Stourbridge Town Hall OH, WHISTLE Two supernatural tales by MR James, the master of the English ghost story, Tues 27 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

PUSS IN BOOTS Join CBeebies star Patrick Lynch as he adds a new spin to this much-loved classic, Tues 27 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre LIGHT SHOW Oily Cart present a fully immersive theatre experience for three-to-eleven-year-olds, Tues 27 - Wed 28 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry DEAD DOG IN A SUITCASE (AND OTHER LOVE SONGS)

Kneehigh Theatre presents John Gay's blazing new show, based on the Beggars Opera, Tues 27 - Sat 31 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

POLES APART John Godber's scorching new comedy sees two worlds collide when the scaffolders from hell descend on a quiet theatre, Tues 27 - Sat 31 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme PETER PAN Amateur production, presented by the Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company, Tues 27

 Sat 31 Oct, Lichfield Garrick ABIGAIL'S PARTY An amateur production of Mike Leigh's story of 1970s suburbia, Tues 27 - Sat 31

Oct, The Swan Theatre, Worcester DRACULA'S GHOST Don't Go Into The Cellar present

an original stage play concerning the story of Count Dracula, Wed 28 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre NOSFERATU Proper Job Theatre Company blend original music and illusion to present a new touring show inspired by F Murnow's renowned German Expressionist film of the same name - which, in turn, was inspired by Bran Stoker's Dracula, Wed 28 Oct, mac, Birmingham

EVERY BRILLIANT THING Paines Plough and Pentabus Theatre Company present a play about depression and the lengths people will go to for those they love, Wed 28 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ONCE UPON A TIME Fiercely unapologetic show about ageing and the passing of time, Wed 28 Oct, Malvern Theatre

THE FAITHLESS HEALER A dark comedy about a young girl with inexplicable healing powers, Wed 28 Sat 31 Oct. Warwick Arts Centre. Coventry AS YOU LIKE IT Presented by Shropshire Drama

Company, Wed 28 - Sat 31 Oct, Theatre Severn,

PARADE Forest Arts Theatre Company present an amateur production of the award-winning musical, Wed 28 - Sat 31 Oct, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall **ORPHEUS** Acclaimed company Little Bulb Theatre are here joined by French guitarist Django Reinhardt & songstress Yvette Pepin in a musical reimagining of the Greek myth, Wed 28 - Sat 31 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE Tin Robot Theatre in collaboration with the OJS Theatre present a radical retelling of Anthony Burgess's masterpiece for the modern day, Wed 28 - Sat 31 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

LOVE FOR LOVE Selina Cadell makes her RSC directorial debut with Congreve's restoration comedy, where love for love is stronger than love for money. Nicholas Le Prevost stars, Wed 28 Oct 2015 - Fri 22 Jan 2016, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon THE SELFISH GIANT Children's theatre presented by Sea Legs Puppet Theatre Company, Thurs 29 Oct, The Hive, Worcester

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 29 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

BRIAN BLESSED: ABSOLUTE PANDEMONIUM Join the

larger-than-life actor as he takes audiences on a

journey through his life, Thurs 29 Oct, Stratford

Artshouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

DR SEUSS'S THE CAT IN THE HAT Lively and engaging theatre experience for young children aged three-plus, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

SWEENEY TODD Blue Orange Arts in association with Night Project Theatre present the story of the Demon Barber of Fleet Street, Thurs 29 Oct - Sat 7 Nov, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham **DON QUIXOTE** Based on episodes from Miguel de Cervantes' famous novel Don Quixote de la Mancha, Fri 30 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury FALLEN VOICES Local performers re-enact the experiences of those living during the First World War, Fri 30 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Learnington Spa

DINOSAUR DETECTIVES Using rod puppets, shadow
play & children's toys, Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre
invite audiences to join them on a journey of discovery, Fri 30 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South

DUCK IN THE TRUCK Children's theatre based on the bestselling book by acclaimed children's author Jez Alborough, Fri 30 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex THE AMAZING BUBBLE MAN The international hit show, with bubble art, magic, science and lots of fun, Fri 30 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

TREE FU TOM LIVE! New show starring the world's smallest superhero, direct from the smash-hit CBeebies series, Fri 30 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall DRACULA: THE KISSES... Scary Little Girls turns the Dracula myth on its head in this new production featuring an all-female cast, Fri 30 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

WILL SEAWARD'S SPOOKY GHOST TALES Storyteller & comedian Will Seaward presents a 'mighty dose of spine-tingling, blood-soaked, torch-wielding comedy spookiness', Fri 30 Oct, mac, Birmingham DRACULA Rabbit Theatre present a new adaptation of Bram Stoker's classic tale, Fri 30 Oct, Snailbeach Village Hall, Shropshire

I WISH I HAD A MOUSTACHE A coming-of-age story that explores beauty, gender anxieties and the taboo of body hair, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Oct, Belgrade

THE SNOW DRAGON Tall Stories combine storytelling, comedy and songs to create a magical mysterious world for everyone aged three-plus, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**RELATIVELY SPEAKING** Bear Pit Theatre Company present Alan Ayckbourn's comic masterpiece, Fri 30 Oct - Sat 7 Nov, The Bear Pit Theatre - The United Reformed Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

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, Sat 31 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex

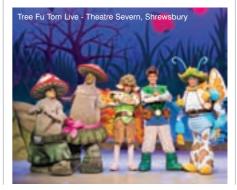
MAD ABOUT THE MUSICALS Celebrating the very best songs from the shows. Starring Gareth Gates and Michael Courtney, Sat 31 Oct, Malvern Theatres RUMMAGE Language Alive! and Theatre Company Blah Blah fuse creative storytelling & puppetry to explore the imaginative possibilities of the things we throw away every day, Sat 31 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

DRACULA: THE KISSES ... Scary Little Girls turns the Dracula myth on its head in this new production featuring an all-female cast, Sat 31 Oct, Artrix,

UNEXPECTED OPERA Opera Naked present a fusion of singing, true stories & comedy, Sat 31 Oct, Stratford Artshouse

DRACULA Rabbit Theatre present a new adaptation of Bram Stoker's classic tale, Sat 31 Oct, The Market Theatre, Ledbury, HR8 2AQ

GREAT EXPECTATIONS The Crescent Theatre Company present an adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale, Sat 31 Oct - Sat 7 Nov, The Crescent Theatre. Birmingham



#### Theatre REVIEWS

Below are reviews of theatre/dance productions we checked out last month. For further theatre reviews, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

#### **Crush** Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

If Crush isn't a huge hit, I'll eat my hockey stick... naked... in public.

This new musical comedy has all the heart-warming elements of those charming girls' boarding school novels of yesteryear; laced with hearty humour, singable songs and nifty dance routines.

Maureen Chadwick and her composing companion, Kath Gott, have transformed the Girl's Own Annual formula into something far more compelling. It's the early '60s and a horrible headmistress (Miss Bleacher, masterfully played by Rosemary Ashe) has taken command at Dame Dorothea Dosserdale's School for Girls with a harsh mission to dominate and destroy; and there certainly won't be any of 'that' in her school.

Rallied by lovely deputy head Miss Austin (a perfect part for Sara Crowe), the distraught girls vow to vanquish their tyrant. But they hadn't reckoned on the dastardly deeds of school sneak Brenda... a cute comedy character of which Georgia Oldman makes the absolute most.

Kath Gott has created twenty new songs for this show and there are no makeweights.

She and choreographer Richard Roe clearly recall the thwack of hockey sticks and the clatter of studs on changing room tiles - and have conjured up a fabulously jokey tap routine, led with gusto by Kirsty Malpass as the mysterious gym mistress who's come to save the school.

The only obstacle I fear might stand in this excellent

new show's way to the West End is the title. 'Crush' is such an ugly word with other, crueller meanings. There has to be something better. Chris Eldon Lee



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#### Sylvie Guillem Birmingham Hippodrome

From being the youngest ever étoile (highest ranking female dancer) at the Paris Opera House to Associate Artist at London's Sadler's Wells, Sylvie Guillem has enjoyed a career of which any dancer would be proud. So when the decision came to say goodbye to dancing, one last world tour was the only way to do so.

Life In Progress opened with Akram Khan's brand new work, Technê - made specifically for Guillem. A key figure in Sylvie's career, it's no surprise Akram's choreography made an appearance in the show. Guillem effortlessly managed to capture all the qualities we'd expect from a Khan work, amplifying them in her own unique way.

Duo2015, meanwhile, featured two wonderful male dancers; Guillem sat this one out.

Russell Maliphant is another choreographer who's had a massive impact on Sylvie. Her performance in his Here And After was one to remember.

Guillem danced the final work. Mats Ek's Bye, with

Guillem danced the final work, Mats Ek's Bye, with great passion, after which she left the Hippodrome stage for the very last time.

This show isn't a 'best of'. It's a thank you and tribute to the choreographers who've helped create, mould and define the career of Sylvie Guillem, a dancer truly deserving of legendary status.

Jamie Ryan



#### King Charles III The REP, Birmingham

Stunning choral music sets a sombre tone at the start of King Charles III, quickly undercut by Prince Harry's comically late arrival at his grandmother's funeral. This shifting mood characterises Mike Bartlett's fascinating state of the nation play, as it does the fickleness of public opinion and the press, who are the largely unseen heart of this production.

The premise is interesting if not wholly convincing: it takes time to get past disbelief at a modern monarch's attempt to wield parliamentary influence, particularly over a bill pertaining to press freedom. Nevertheless, as the story progresses, the power of Robert Powell's performance in the title role is such that it's easy to forget it isn't Charles himself on stage. Powell is magnetic, deftly conveying conflict, reflectiveness and, perhaps most importantly, frailty.

Like The King's Speech, this is a story of the imposition of royalty and hereditary celebrity. It's tough enough for Charles's sons (excellently portrayed by Richard Glaves and Ben Righton), but the effective exercise of sovereignty in one's seventies seems an impossible ask. Unlike his mother, Charles hasn't had decades to learn the ropes - and with the modern world in constant flux, the new King is instantly out of his depth. At the other end of the spectrum is Prince Harry, destined never to be king but still to bear the family burden. He and his newfound 'common' love, Jess (aptly studying at St Martin's College, with Lucy Phelps sparkling in the role), are among the most sympathetic characters - though the Falstaffian quality of their forbidden friendship creates a sense of foreboding. Tim Treloar, too, makes a wonderfully grounded Prime Minister, his principled, working-class persona reflecting increased favouring of Jeremy Corbyn and left alternative parties.

Shakespearean references are woven throughout, among them parental ghosts, otherwordly promises of kingship, and Katherine's Lady Macbeth-like qualities. Jennifer Bryden's Kate is the most pantomime character, but here a point is made: her plastic shell of a public persona could hide anything beneath. Equally deliciously dastardly is Giles Taylor as the scheming Mr Stevens. Less effective is the stylised writing: the blank verse works best when least apparent, with poetic archaisms sometimes jarring. Among the most memorable scenes is one in which the disillusioned Harry unfolds his woes to a kebab shop server. In Parth Thakerar's earnestly delivered reply, unlikely parallels are drawn between the royals' existential angst and that of the teeming masses, lost and redundant in a world that is yet busier and better connected than ever. This drawing on the general confusion of our times is perhaps the play's greatest strength: in his frustrated impotence, the King really does seem to speak for his people. Heather Kincaid

#### Waiting For Godot Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

London Classic Theatre's version of Samuel Beckett's Waiting For Godot was spot on. It made for a hypnotically meditative evening when it showed at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn - although stamina was required to see it through.

The main characters - two tramps - were a delight. Richard Heap (as a northern, nonnesense Estragon) and Peter Cadden (as the light, intellectual Vladimir) appeared to understand every word of Beckett's convolutions, even making sense of the bits that don't make sense.

Desperately waiting for something to happen, the bowler-hatted, love-hate duo passed the time by speculating about the mysterious Godot's arrival.

Who did turn up was Pozzo, played with loud, boorish bluster by Jonathan Ashley. Pozzo is used by Beckett in the play to point up the inequality of our social structure. This arrogant ringmaster had his poor serving boy, Lucky, on a long lead and treated all three fellows with contempt - until, that was, he desperately needed them in Act Two. Waiting For Godot will never be a crowd pleaser. It's a play for the connoisseur rather than the casual theatregoer. But this sixtieth anniversary production is as good as it gets and proves that you can please most of the people for much of the time. You just have to remember you're watching a pivotal piece of theatre history.

The play simply wouldn't have worked if it had been written today... One of the tramps would surely have texted Godot to ask him what the hell he was playing at.

Chris Eldon Lee ■■■■

#### Theatre WEST END

#### What the Dickens! It must be Christmas...

Jim Broadbent is to return to the West End to star in a new production of A Christmas Carol.

The Academy Award-winning actor will play Ebenezer Scrooge in Patrick Barlow's adaptation of Charles Dickens' tale of greed, ghosts and redemption.

Directed by the Olivier Award-winning Phe-

Directed by the Olivier Award-winning Phelim McDermott (Shockhead Peter), A Christmas Carol shows at the Noel Coward Theatre from 30 November to 30 January. Further casting is yet to be announced.



#### Holy puppet! Hand To God to open in West End

Robert Askin's controversial and blasphemous play, Hand To God, is to transfer to the West End early next year.

The play is currently proving a hit on Broadway and has been described by The New Yorker as 'Sesame Street meets The Exorcist'. Its story concerns a shy teenager named Jason who's surprised to find his Bible School project, a puppet named Tyrone, taking on a

shocking, truth-telling personality all its own. The puppet forces everyone in its path - and especially Jason's mother, Margery - to confront their own demons in a search for redemption.

Featuring some genuinely shocking twists, Hand To God is performed for the final time on Broadway on 3 January. The play then opens at London's Vaudeville Theatre on 5 February.



#### War-time classic at Duke of York's Theatre

Chichester Festival Theatre's much-acclaimed production of Goodnight Mr Tom is to return to the West End in December for a tenweek season.

Based on Michelle Magorian's modern classic, David Wood's stage version beautifully brings to life the World War Two story of William

Beech. A young boy evacuated to the idyllic English countryside, William forges a heart-warming relationship with elderly recluse Tom Oakley, played by David Troughton. William's life seems perfect until, that is, he's suddenly summoned by his mother to return to London.

Goodnight Mr Tom shows at Duke of York's Theatre from 11 December to 20 February.



#### Sounds of Burt Bacharach at the Criterion

A New York Theatre Workshop production paying homage to one of America's finest songwriters is transferring to the West End's Criterion Theatre this month.

Close To You: Bacharach Reimagined arrives at the Criterion following a successful run at the Menier Chocolate Factory.

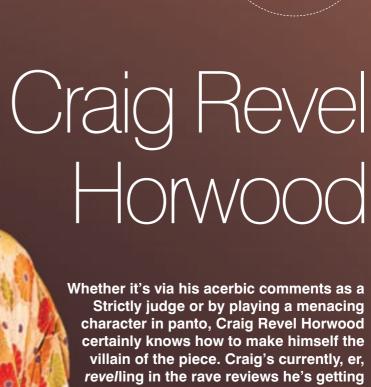
Described as 'a dynamic, uplifting and magical journey' through over thirty classic Burt Bacharach hits, Close To You is directed by the Olivier Award-winning Steven Hoggett. It features a (yet to be announced) cast of multi-talented musicians, all of whom are led by visionary composer and performer Kyle Riabko.

Featured Bacharach classics include Alfie, Anyone Who Had A

Heart, I Say A Little Prayer, Walk On By, Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head and What's New Pussycat?. For further information about Close To You (Criterion Theatre, 3 October - 10 January) and to purchase tickets, visit criterion-theatre co.uk







for starring as the emotionally challenged Miss Hannigan in a new touring production of Annie.
Recently catching up with him to talk about this latest role, What's On was pleased to discover that, in direct contrast to his well-managed public persona, Craig is really rather nice...

#### What appeals to you most about the role of Miss Hannigan, Craig?

I like the fact she's a villain. I love playing villains because they're just a lot more fun. There's a lot of depth to the character, which is good too. I also find the fact she's a ginswigging woman who lusts after men and hates children attractive.

#### So what qualities do you have that make you ideal for the role?

I play her just as any actor would play her. I've invested in the character and hopefully the audience will believe in me. It's not a drag role, it's just me playing Miss Hannigan, that's all. There's no sight of Craig Revel Horwood in the show at all.

#### So how did the chance to play the part come about? Were you surprised to be approached? Was it an instant yes from you or did you need some time to think about it?

When I was first approached, my initial thought was that they were going to ask me to direct and choreograph. I'd done panto but hadn't done any serious acting for a long time, because I love directing and I love choreographing. I took a week to think it over. I read the script and really did love the character, so I thought, 'Yeah, why not, let's give it a bash and see how we get on'. That's how it came about and it's been a huge success.



#### I love playing villains because they're just a lot more fun

#### Where did your research for Miss Hannigan take you?

I have an alcoholic father, so I'm quite 'in the know' about alcoholism. I know how alcoholics react because I lived with it as a child and grew up with it. I guess I'm a fountain of knowledge when it comes to that sort of thing. I've played women before. I once created a character called Lavish, but that was just for clubs so is slightly different to what I'm doing here. For Miss Hannigan, I studied the New York accent and visited an accent coach for guidance.

#### How're you finding the heels and makeup?

I've danced in heels before. I was doing a show where I first learned to dance as a woman, because it's very different to dancing as a man. Heels, of course, are a very big part of that, so I had a lot of blisters to begin with. They've subsided now and I've got used to it. Quite frankly, it's like putting on a pair of slippers now. I apply all my make-up myself. It took me a while initially but with practice it becomes faster. I arrive ninety minutes before the show as it takes that long to get ready.

#### They say you should never work with children or animals. How're you finding the experience?

Yes, they would be right! They're unpredictable, but the kids in the show are absolutely incredible and are really, really talented. There are three different Annies and three groups of orphans who play three days each. Each group then has a week off, so it works out perfectly well. They're tutored on the road as well, so that's pretty cool. They're actors and aspiring actors who've been selected from all over the UK and who want to go on and do this as a career, so they've been trained very, very well.

#### Do you have a pre-show routine that you go through to get into character?

Miss Hannigan opens the show at four o'clock in the morning, absolutely slaughtered out of her head - so I can't completely get into character until I'm at the door, otherwise I'd be falling all over the place! Mainly I just concentrate. I have a bit of quiet time before getting into character and going on stage.

#### Miss Hannigan loves gin. What's your favourite tipple away from the stage?

I like vodka. Vodka and anything diet so that it's not as many calories, because I have to watch my weight. That or Sauvignon Blanc.

#### Do you suffer pre-show nerves?

I always do because it's a live crowd and you never know what's going to happen. Each audience is different and the show itself is a little bit different every day, but I do think it's good to be nervous. It's my job to get up there, to play the character and play the part well, so I do get nervous.

#### You've got a proven record when it comes to dancing, choreography and directing, but how's your singing?

I think it's fantastic! I love it because it's right

in my key and all the keys were specifically chosen for my vocal ability. It's something I used to do way back when anyway. I was in Miss Saigon for a long time, and I was also in Cats. At the end of the day, though, it's up to the person who's listening, not me, to make a decision on my vocal ability, but I do enjoy it.

#### You're used to directing. How are you adapting to taking instructions from others?

It did take some getting used to, but I go back to being professional and listening to the director and the choreographer and doing what I'm told. They criticise me and give me notes, but that's what it's all about. They do it to make me better. I suppose that's why I'm so harsh on Strictly, because I'm hard on myself in that way.

#### Where are you most comfortable - in front of or behind the stage?

I prefer being in the dark, making people better, than performing, but that's because I've had such a long step off the stage - apart from with panto, of course. It's been great and I've loved being on tour. Every week is different. We get to go to another place and discover these lovely cities all over again. I'm enjoying that side of it.

As you mentioned earlier, you enjoy playing the villain. You played the Wicked Queen in Snow White, now Miss Hannigan in Annie, and later this year you'll be playing Captain Hook in Peter Pan. Do you ever yearn to play someone who's nice? No, not at all. I like the villains. They get the best lines and the best parts. Being dark, sometimes sinister, is much more fun; far better than playing some boring old love interest.

#### Do you ever get tired of being called 'Craig Revel Horrid'?

No, I don't care. It's like water off a duck's

#### Has being back on the stage given you a taste for more in the future?

Yeah, definitely, I would most certainly consider doing it again, as I've enjoyed it enormously. It would be great to do a West End run, but we'll see what happens in the future. That's the beauty of this business and why I like it so much. You never know what you're going to be doing or what opportunities there will be. As one door closes, another one opens and vice versa, so it's all very good.

#### What's the worst criticism you've received as a performer?

The worst criticism was about my first performance. It was by a newspaper and in bad taste. They said I had varicose veins, that I couldn't dance, I couldn't sing, I couldn't act and was too fat. It really was just a two-page blast off, but they had thousands of complaints from readers.

#### What are your initial thoughts about the quality of this year's Strictly contestants? Well, some of them can actually dance, which

is a delight. I'm seeing some really lovely lines, some lovely arms and some lovely feet, so that's good. A couple of them got in a few high kicks too, which is wonderful. Then, equally, there are people who don't have much rhythm - so it should be fun seeing the dancers teaching them. Peter Andre looks like he'll be good. I suppose he could become a finalist because of his popularity - as well as the fact he can move quite well. He certainly looks like a front runner.

#### Which previous dancer and/or routine still gives you a chuckle?

Ann Widdecombe. She's funny. I just think of her and it makes me laugh. She's actually become a friend now, because we did panto for two years after she was on Strictly and we danced together on the tour. We did forty-two shows dancing together on the tour and forty-two panto shows. We've sort of become a double act - and an unlikely one at that, which I think is quite good. She makes me laugh because she's just out there having fun and having a laugh with it. That's a great approach.

#### Who would be your ideal contestant on a future show?

Simon Cowell. He would be fantastic. That would be excellent.

#### There's been a call for same-sex couples to be featured on the show. What's your opinion?

I think it's a good idea. I have no problem with it because there are same-sex competitions, and Strictly Come Dancing isn't entirely a dance competition. The winners aren't going to become world champions and do dance tours around the world, are they? I can't see any reason why it should be an issue on the show, although I can professionally. At that level it raises points about lifts and stuff like that, and certain things they do in the rule book. As for Strictly, I say bring it on.

#### Post-Annie, what's next for Craig Revel Horrid, er, Horwood?

I go into panto in High Wycombe, where I'll be doing two shows a day, every day - except Saturdays because I'll be doing Strictly. Then, when Strictly finishes at Christmas, I continue in panto until the beginning of January. Then there's Strictly Come Dancing Live, which tours arenas across the country up until February. I'll then be off to Berlin to choreograph a dance show. After that I'm doing Hood The Musical, a new show all about Robin Hood which opens in June. In July/August I'm directing and choreographing a new version of Sister Act The Musical. Then we're back into Strictly, panto and the Strictly tour again. Talking through my diary with you makes me realise I need to sort a holiday.

Craig Revel Horwood stars as Miss Hannigan in Annie at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tues 13 - Sat 31 October. Of A Birds of a Feather star Lesley Joseph will play Miss Hanniganin in all Saturday performances.

# Dance



#### Rambert Presents: Rooster & Other Works The REP, Birmingham, Wed 28 - Sat 31 October

Britain's oldest dance company makes a welcome return to the Midlands this month to perform a triple bill of works - including its most popular and best-loved piece, Rooster.

Christopher Bruce's colourful celebration of the Swinging '60s was first performed in 1994. It features sharp-suited, snake-hipped men coming together with strong, sassy women to perform courtship dances to hits by the Rolling Stones.

Next up is an innovative work from one of British dance's hottest

properties. Alexander Whitley's Frames dissects the process of theatre making, with dancers using metal structures to construct and deconstruct a stage within a stage.

Closing the programme, Kim Brandstrup's Transfigured Night is a dramatic love story in which intimate duets are complemented by ensemble dancing, all of which amplify the beauty and romance of Arnold Schoenberg's brilliant score, Verklärte Nacht.

#### Without Stars/There We Have Been

DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 16 - Sat 17 October

Love, loss and loyalty are explored to great effect in this double-bill of works by James Cousin Company.

Two stories telling the tale of two lovers, both works are inspired by Haruki Murakami's best-selling novel, Norwegian Wood.
Without Stars is presented from a

female perspective, as a quartet of dancers provide an intimate glimpse into a secluded world of fragile dependency.

By contrast, There We Have Been opens the door on the male version of events.

Presented as a mesmerising duet, the male and female bond is explored in an incredible feat of stamina and choreographic invention, with the female form not touching the floor once throughout the piece.



#### **Coppelia**

Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 8 - Fri 9 October; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 11 October; The Place, Oakengates, Shropshire, Tues 13 October

Delibes' enchanting comic ballet has delighted audiences for generations.

When Dr Coppelius leaves mechanical doll Coppelia on his workshop balcony, she's soon causing a stir in the village - particularly in the heart of the red-blooded Franz and the mind of his jealous fiancee, Swanilda - who's mistaken the mannequin for a flesh-and-blood rival...

This particular production is brought to the stage by Vienna Festival Ballet. Featuring a talented

array of young dancers, the company was founded in 1980 by Austrian dancer Peter Mallek and typically spends eight months of the year performing works from its extensive repertoire in smaller venues across the UK.



#### **Dance** LISTINGS

For full listing information on dance, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

MANA: THE POWER WITHIN A double bill featuring two emotive and spiritual works directed by Gail Parmel, presented as part of Birmingham Black History Month 2015, Thurs 1 Oct, DanceXchange, Birmingham

VARIATIONS TRIPLE BILL Featuring work from George Balanchine, Alexander Whitley and Frederick Ashton, Thurs 8 - Sat 10 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

COPPELIA Vienna Festival Ballet present the captivating story of an eccentric toymaker and his beloved doll, Thurs 8 - Sat 10 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

SUPERNATURAL Performance artists Simone
Aughterlony and Antonija Livingstone explore the
meeting place between choreography and performance art in an elegant use of movement, coupled
with challenging physical action that dissects our
perceptions of gender, Fri 9 Oct, DanceXchange,
Birmingham

COPPELIA Vienna Festival Ballet present the captivating story of an eccentric toymaker and his beloved doll, Sun 11 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove ...IN THE MIDDLE WITH YOU Hagit Yakira Dance present a poignant work which focuses on the nature of human experience, Tues 13 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

COPPELIA Vienna Festival Ballet present the captivating story of an eccentric toymaker and his beloved doll, Tues 13 Oct, The Place, Oakengates, Shropshire PHOENIX DANCE THEATRE: MIXED PROGRAMME 2015

PHOENIX DANCE THEATRE: MIXED PROGRAMME 2015 Wed 14 Oct, Malvern Theatres

WITHOUT STARS & THERE WE HAVE BEEN James Cousins Company. Inspired by the best-selling novel, Norwegian Wood, by Haruki Murakami, this double bill portrays two sides of a tender story of love, loss and loyalty. Cousins is the inaugural win-



ner of Matthew Bourne's New Adventures Choreography Award, Fri 16 - Sat 17 Oct, DanceXchange, Birmingham

CSCAPE DANCE: TASTE The tapestries of Grayson Perry are the inspiration behind this exploration of what defines our identity, Tues 20 Oct, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE NUTCRACKER Presented by Vienna Festival Ballet, Thurs 22 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall THE SNOW QUEEN Ballet Theatre UK present a retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale ballet, Fri 23 Oct, Albany Theatre, Coventry A DANCE FOR ALL SEASONS Showcase of work by the Bloxwich-based Russon Dance School, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Oct, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock THE SNOW QUEEN Ballet Theatre UK present a retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale ballet, Mon 26 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch THE SNOW QUEEN Ballet Theatre UK present a retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale ballet, Tues 27 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex THE SNOW QUEEN Ballet Theatre UK present a retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale ballet, Tues 17 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex THE SNOW QUEEN Ballet Theatre UK present a retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale

THE SNOW QUEEN Ballet Theatre UK present a retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale ballet, Wed 28 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury RAMBERT PRESENTS: ROOSTER & OTHER WORKS Wed 28 - Sat 31 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

**THE NUTCRACKER** The Russian State Ballet present the all-time family favourite, Thurs 29 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

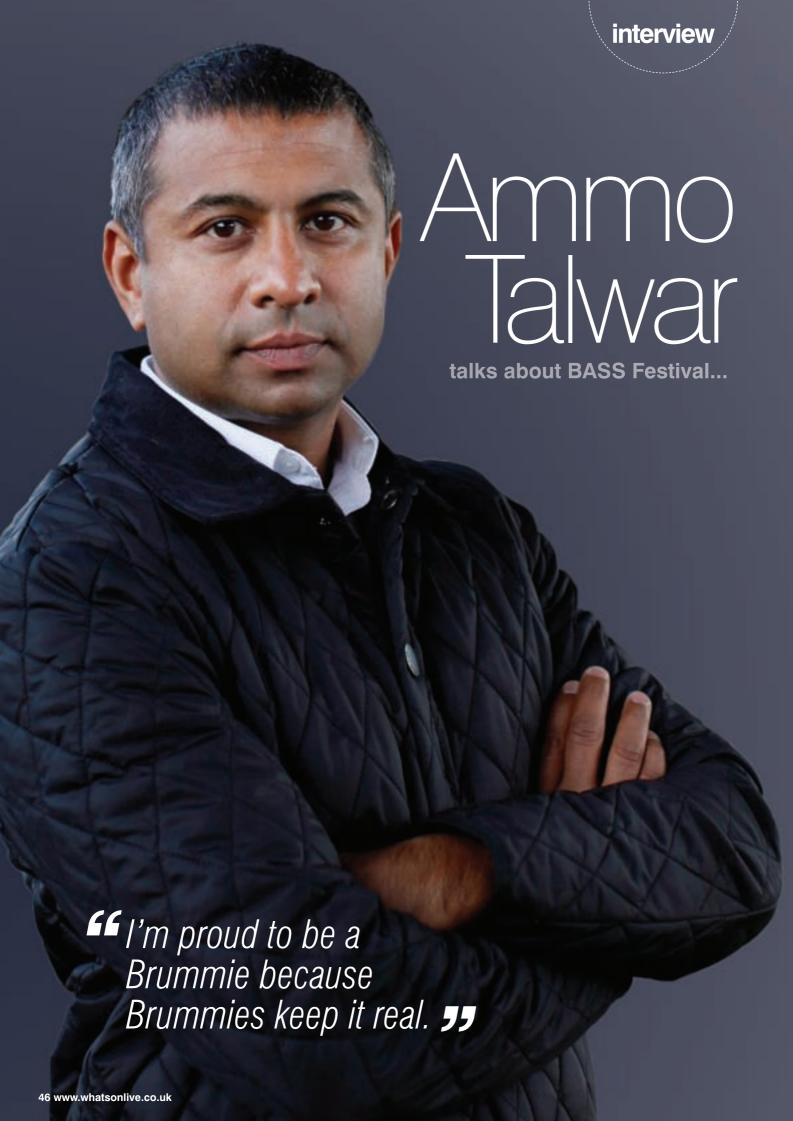
**BROMANCE** Crying Out Loud & Barely Methodical Troupe present a jaw-dropping show which promises to take British circus to new heights, Thurs 29 - Fri 30 Oct, DanceXchange, B'ham

C-12 DANCE THEATRE: SHHH! Contemporary dance story of a library that's closed down, with five theatrical performers manipulating the set and surroundings to create an innovative and powerful piece of dance theatre, Thurs 29 Oct, mac, Birmingham

DON QUIXOTE The Russian State Ballet & Opera House present a 'new & vibrant' production based on episodes from the novel Don Quixote de la Mancha, Fri 30 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury SWAN LAKE The Russian State Ballet and Opera House perform Tchaikovsky's world famous ballet, Sat 31 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury INFUSION EMPORIUM A locally developed world fusion dance event showcasing some of the most innovative contemporary choreographers to have emerged from the scene, Sat 31 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton







A cultural entrepreneur whose venture into music and arts 'evolved organically', Ammo Talwar is the Chief Executive of Punch Records and the man at the helm of BASS, the UK's leading annual Black arts festival. This month the festival marks its tenth anniversary by staging ten live events paying homage to Black icons. What's On recently caught up with Ammo to reflect on, among other subjects, the festival's journey to date and his aspirations for BASS's future.

#### Tell us about the origins of BASS Festival, Ammo...

It was the result of conversations with young people - particularly from Afro Caribbean communities - in terms of representation in the arts and commissioning new work. What we wanted to do as an arts company was create something that would connect young people to mainstream arts organisations through a commissioning process. We wanted to commission new work, individuals, producers, to create something that connected their art form to the broader arts community. That was the idea in theory. The first couple of years, we were making it up as we went along, but over the years it really has become a defined part of Birmingham's cultural offer.

#### Has it been easy to maintain that original

It's been a bit up and down. Some years were easier because there was more momentum, there was a lot more investment and there were a lot more partners. Venues like The Drum or The REP would come on board and help co-commission work. Some years have been hard primarily because we've not got sponsorship or we've not got support from the local authority. But during the last three or four years we've really been able to define the festival.

We were always acutely aware that we didn't want to create a two-day, weekend festival. What we wanted to do was put together beautifully crafted small events across a period of time.

#### The festival historically takes place in June, so what was behind the decision to move this year's event to October?

Because it's the tenth anniversary we wanted it to be special. We also wanted to get a bit more for our buck, and we knew that by staging it during Black History Month we'd get a bit more media support. We'd already planned to produce a radio

station - mytenradio - throughout October to give young people an opportunity to talk about real issues. Birmingham's airwaves are pretty poorly represented in terms of youth voice. We have a lot of commercial stations and we have a lot of niche radio stations, but nothing that represents the youth voice. So we decided on Radio Ten. We did something similar two years ago with BASS FM and it was one of the best things we've done - so much so that we thought we'd do it again for

The station will be driven by the youth; we have a remit that you have to be under

twenty-five. We want it to be an authentic youth voice. We've got partnerships with Access to Music, BOA and BCU. It's running twenty-four/seven, with dedicated talk-and music shows from eight to ten pm, then we go to specialist shows that cover niche sounds. It's all very exciting, and I know when we launch on 4 October it's going to be really good for the city.

#### The festival has a different theme each year. In 2015, it's Icons. Tell us about

I have quite a few. In terms of values it has to be Mahatma Ghandi. In politics it's Malcolm X. In music it's Public Enemy. All those personal icons have helped shape my business, obviously all in different ways.

#### Looking back at the festival over the past ten years, what would you say has been your highlight?

We did something called the Decypher Collective in our first year. It was about bringing grime music into a theatre space. It was a collision of ideas and people. We had grime artists next to theatre makers and we created this great work. A lot of those artists have now achieved bigger and better things. They've toured and gone on to carve careers out of these art forms, either working in theatre or spoken word. That was in our first year and it definitely remains a highlight.

#### What's your favourite festival - apart from

BASS, obviously?
The best one I've been to is a performing arts festival in Graham's Town in South Africa. On a local level, I enjoy Mostly Jazz, Simmer Down - all of the festivals where community meets good music.

#### Birmingham is renowned for its cultural diversity and eclectic artistic offer. What do you think could and should be done to further improve this?

I think the arts need to be statutory. We need to teach more arts in schools and we need the art work in the city to be more reflective of the city. We need to reflect what's going on in Alum Rock, Nechells, Handsworth, Kings Heath etc. I think a local agenda really is the

#### What contribution does Punch make to

We work in schools and work closely with teachers and academies, helping them to look at the curriculum specifically in relation to music. It's all about us as a business or local arts organisation ensuring we look at

the connectivity between theory and practice, and between learning and getting a job.

#### Does the educational side play a big role in the wider scheme of things with Punch? Absolutely. We have four core values at

Punch. Those are written through everything we do and aren't just about our business plan. To us, it's all about creating work, touring work, educating through work and showcasing through work. Not everything we do is in Birmingham, but

when we tour artists nationally we make sure there's always a Birmingham flavour or feeling.

#### Which up-and-coming local artist excites

Lady Leshurr. She's someone who I think is going to take the city to another level internationally. Laura Mvula has done it in one particular theme, but Leshur is definitely one to watch from an international perspective.

#### You were awarded an MBE in 2008 for contributions to music and young people. What was your first reaction on hearing about the honour?

I thought it was a joke at first because I've got some quite bizarre friends who do all sorts of weird and wonderful things. When I realised it wasn't a prank, I was genuinely surprised. It was obviously reflective of the work we were doing at the time. Although it was good to receive it, it was always about the impact we were having on our locality and the quality of the work we were producing. I never planned to work in music or the arts. I never planned to run a festival, set up a radio station or publish books. It all just sort of evolved

#### Where would you like to see the festival in ten years' time'

At the moment we're quite boutique, with I'd love to bring more international artists to Birmingham, to get a feel of what the city's about. I'd like bigger, higher quality events, some outdoors. It's about keeping it fresh.

#### Finally, what are you most proud of about being a Brummie?

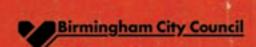
I'm proud to be a Brummie because Brummies keep it real.

BASS 15 takes place across various venues in Birmingham until 25 October. Find out more at punchbass.com

# SUN 27 SEP - SAT 1 NOV

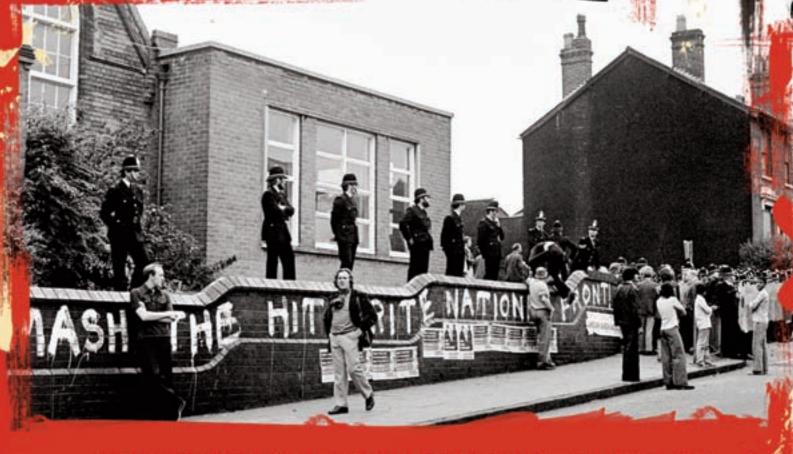


# MALCOLM VISITS BIRMINGHAM & Race Relations Act 50 years On





The Drum Arts Centre, 144 Potters Lane, Aston, Birmingham, B6 4UU



### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2015**

Black History Month (BHM) made its UK debut in London in the late 1980s and has since grown into a nationwide celebration. The event is designed to honour the achievements, contributions and struggles of African, Asian and Caribbean people within the context of their diversity and heritage.

Birmingham's 2015 programme of BHM events has been jointly developed by the city council and intercultural arts centre The Drum. Its highlights include the showing of a looping video projection, Crossing Boundaries, against the exterior of the University of Birmingham's Watson Building. The projection explores the subject of diversity on the university's campus.

Other BHM events in Birmingham include a number of local libraries displaying The Black Pioneers - a series of stories about inspirational black men and women who overcame prejudice. There's also a special exhibition entitled RACE 50 which takes a look at 'race relations half a century on'.

An 'accessible and engaging' University of Birmingham talk explores the changing face of racism, while Celebrating The Light sees young musicians investigating the way in which the issue of race relations has diversified British music over the past fifty years. Birmingham's BHM 2015 celebration is launched at The Drum on Friday 2 October with a keynote speech by sociology lecturer Dr Kehinde Andrews. Dr Andrews will be talking about the visit of Malcolm X to Smethwick fifty years ago. He will also explore how attitudes to racial discrimination have changed in Birmingham since the passing of the Race Relations Act in 1965.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**



MANA THE POWER WITHIN
The Patrick Centre,
Birmingham,
Thurs 1 October



ONE MANY PEOPLE Bramall Music Building, Birmingham, Thurs 1 October



**3 THE HARD WAY**The Drum,
Birmingham,
Thurs 29 October



STOGIE KENYATTA 'THE WORLD IS MY HOME - THE LIFE OF PAUL ROBESON' Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

Fri 30 October-

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# Film



#### Spectre CERT tbc

Starring Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Andrew Scott, Léa Seydoux, Monica Bellucci, Naomie Harris, Dave Bautista, Ralph Fiennes, Ben Whishaw, Rory Kinnear, Jesper Christensen Directed by Sam Mendes (UK/USA)

The last James Bond movie, Skyfall, is now the highest-grossing film in the UK of all time. So it's good news that Skyfall's director, Sam Mendes, is back behind the camera for the twenty-fourth official Bond movie. Daniel Craig returns (for the last time) as 007 and is sent on a mission to uncover a secret organisation (Spectre) that is really, really bad news. The theme song, Writing's On The Wall, will be sung by Sam Smith, making him only the second male solo English artist (alongside Matt Monro) to have had the honour. Filming took place in Morocco, Mexico City, Rome, Austria, London and Oxfordshire. And, of course, Dame Judi will be sorely missed.

#### **Released 26 October**



Suffragette CERT 12a (106 mins)

Starring Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Brendan Gleeson, Anne-Marie Duff, Meryl Streep, Ben Whishaw, Romola Garai Directed by Sarah Gavron (UK)

The opener for this year's London Film Festival, Suffragette focuses on the working women who fought for equal rights for their sex in the early part of the twentieth century. Starting off in 1912, the film takes a fictitious wife and mother, Maud Watts (Mulligan), and charts her involvement with key figures in the movement. However, the scenarist Abi Morgan has failed to find a sufficiently gripping narrative to thrust the story forward, other than to detail the misery of Maud's life. Edu Grau's photography is also pretty miserable, a drab and grainy affair, captured via an agitated hand-held camera - presumably in an effort to inject a newsreel immediacy. It's all very worthy, of course, but nowhere near as compelling as it should be.

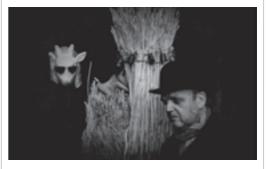
Released 12 October

#### Released from Fri 2 Oct

#### By Our Selves CERT 15 (83 mins)

Starring Toby Jones, Freddie Jones, Alan Moore, Iain Sinclair Directed by Andrew Kötting (UK)

Considering that the pastoral poet John Clare ended up in a lunatic asylum, it is perhaps apt that Andrew Kötting's film is quite mad. Kötting is one of Britain's most distinctive filmmakers (Gallivant, This Filthy Earth, Ivul), although he refuses to pigeon-hole himself as a feature filmmaker. He does make a lot of experimental shorts. Here, he's cast Toby Jones as Clare, who wanders, on foot, from Epping Forest to Northampton in the year 1841, although the passing traffic and visibility of the camera operator Anonymous Bosch detracts from the period feel. The film's ace card, though, is the presence of the eighty-seven-year-old Freddie Jones (Toby's father) who reads Clare's work on screen. As much a comment on insanity and the filmmaking process as on the poet, the film will prove far too self-indulgent for most tastes.



#### The Intern CERT 12a (121 mins)

Starring Robert De Niro, Anne Hathaway, Rene Russo, Adam DeVine, Christina Scherer, Nat Wolff Directed by Nancy Myers (USA)

Robert De Niro is back in comedy mode, this time playing a seventy-year-old who's not all that content with retirement. So he enrols himself as an intern at a fashion-based e-commerce company founded by the somewhat younger Jules Ostin (Anne Hathaway). The director, Nancy Myers, is a past mistress at frothy comedy, having previously brought us What Women Want and The Holiday. And so the music is relentless, the running time a little generous (one hundred-and-twenty-one minutes) and the gloss as thick as the contents of a tin of industrial Dulux. Still, De Niro and Hathaway do generate a genuine warmth and chemistry, the dialogue sparkles and De Niro proves to be a rather adept light leading man. Who would have thought?



#### FILM NEW RELEASES

#### Macbeth CERT 15 (113 mins)

Starring Michael Fassbender, Marion Cotillard, Paddy Considine, Sean Harris, Elizabeth Debicki, David Thewlis
Directed by Justin Kurzel (UK)

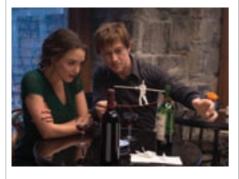
A Scottish thane lusts for power and thanks to the goading of his flaky wife and some premonitions, embarks on a path of considerable tragedy and much blood-letting. Words by William Shakespeare.



#### The Walk CERT PG (123 mins)

Starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Ben Kingsley, James Badge Dale, Ben Schwartz, Charlotte Le Bon Directed by Robert Zemeckis (USA)

Of course, this is no ordinary walk. This is the life-threatening, highly illegal saunter between the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center taken by the funambulist (tightrope walker) Philippe Petit in 1974. The subject was previously explored in the Oscar-winning documentary Man On Wire in 2008. In 3D



#### Regression CERT 15 (106 mins)

Starring Ethan Hawke, Emma Watson, David Dencik, David Thewlis
Directed by Alejandro Amenábar (USA/Spain)

According to those in the know, Emma Watson comes of age as a serious actress in this thriller. She plays the daughter of a man (Dencik) who confesses to sexually abusing her, even though he has no memory of it. Intriguing. Amenábar previously directed Open Your Eyes and The Others.





#### **Released from Fri 16 Oct**

#### **Hotel Transylvania 2**

CERT U (89 mins)

Featuring the voices of Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez, Kevin James, Steve Buscemi, David Spade, Mel Brooks Directed by Genndy Tartakovsky (USA)

You can't escape Adam Sandler these days -

or cartoons. Here, Count Dracula (Sandler) attempts to fine-tune the blood-sucking skills of his halfhuman grandson, Dennis. In 3D.



#### The Lobster CERT 15 (118 mins)

Starring Colin Farrell, Rachel Weisz, Jessica Barden, Olivia Colman, Léa Seydoux, Ben Whishaw Directed by Yorgos Lanthimos (Ireland/UK/Greece/France/The Netherlands)

Contender for weirdest film of the year, The Lobster is set in the near future where single people must find a mate or be turned into a beast - or crustacean. File it under 'Absurdist black comedy'.



#### Pan CERT PG (111 mins)

Starring Hugh Jackman, Garrett Hedlund, Rooney Mara, Levi Miller, Amanda Seyfried, Cara Delevingne Directed by Joe Wright (USA)

Like its protagonist, the story of Peter Pan will never grow up. This edition reverts to Peter's beginnings and explores how he became the airborne child that we all know and love. The director Joe Wright previously brought us Pride & Prejudice and Atonement. In 3D.

#### Sicario CERT 15 (121 mins)

Starring Emily Blunt, Benicio del Toro, Josh Brolin, Victor Garber, Jon Bernthal Directed by Denis Villeneuve (USA)

It sounds like a routine action thriller. An idealistic FBI agent (Emily Blunt) is enlisted to track down a nameless drug lord operating on the US-Mexican border. However, the film has received ecstatic acclaim and is being tipped for Oscar glory, with Ms Blunt a front-runner for best actress.

#### The Program CERT 15 (103 mins)

Starring Ben Foster, Chris O'Dowd, Guillaume Canet, Jesse Plemons, Lee Pace, Dustin Hoffman Directed by Stephen Frears (UK/France)

If nothing else, Lance Armstrong was a terrific inspirational speaker. He could look you straight in the eye and convince you he was telling the truth. At cancer seminars he proclaimed: "The pain is temporary, quitting is forever." His other key line was that the Tour de France is "the hardest sporting event in the world." Armstrong not only contracted stage three metastatic testicular cancer, but he beat it - and then went on to win the 'Tour' seven consecutive times. It's a compelling narrative and, as Armstrong, the blue-eyed Ben Foster is more than up to the task. More problematic is the act of compressing such a big story into less than two hours and to bring a freshness to a tale so often told. The masterly documentarian Alex Gibney previously tilled the same ground with his acclaimed The Armstrong Lie (2013) - which leaves this slick undertaking little room to improve on.



#### Crimson Peak CERT tbc

Starring Mia Wasikowska, Jessica Chastain, Tom Hiddleston, Charlie Hunnam, Jim Beaver, Leslie Hope Directed by Guillermo del Toro (USA)

It sounds like something a Brontë might have written, but is actually the product of Guillermo del Toro, the Mexican master of fantasy. Here, Wasikowska (who once played Jane Eyre on film) marries Sir Thomas Sharpe (Hiddleston), and moves to his crumbling mansion in the north of nineteenth century England (Cumbria). There, she discovers that her new sister-in-law (Chastain) is bent on protecting the ominous secrets of the house...



#### Released from Fri 23 Oct

#### The Last Witch Hunter CERT the

Starring Vin Diesel, Rose Leslie, Elijah Wood, Michael Caine, Rena Owen
Directed by Breck Eisner (USA)

Unbeknownst to most people, our planet is still haunted by witches who are now about to unleash a terrible plague. So it's up to the immortal witch hunter Kaulder (Vin Diesel) to team up with a beautiful witch in order to save New York City.



#### Mississippi Grind CERT 15 (109 mins) Starring Ryan Reynolds, Ben Mendelsohn, Sienna Miller, Analeigh Tipton, Alfre Woodard Directed by Anna Boden & Ryan Fleck (USA)

A veteran gambler down on his luck (Mendelsohn) embarks on a road trip with a younger man (Reynolds) hoping to up his game. It's quite a gamble, as most films about gambling don't do very well at the box-office.

#### Paper Planes CERT U (97 mins)

Starring Sam Worthington, Ed Oxenbould, Deborah Mailman, David Wenham
Directed by Robert Connolly (Australia)

The World Paper Plane Championships in Japan are approaching and young Dylan Webber (Oxenbould) is determined to compete - in spite of a slew of setbacks, not least his father (Worthington), who is grieving over the loss of Dylan's mother in a car crash.

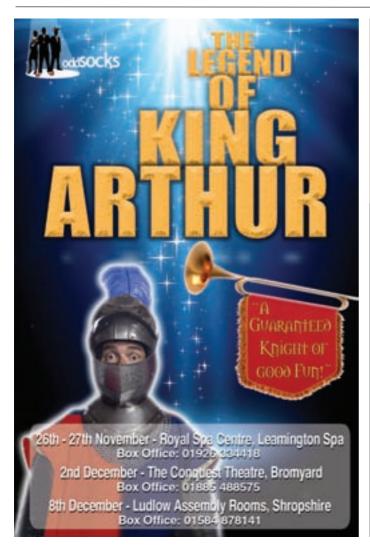
#### Released from Fri 30 Oct

#### Taxi Tehran CERT the

Starring **Jafar Panahi**, **Hana Saeidi** Directed by **Jafar Panahi** (**Iran**)

Following The Circle (2000) and Crimson Gold (2003), Jafar Panahi was banned from making any more films for twenty years (and from leaving Iran). So, he shot this drama in the back of a taxi while driving around Tehran, recording his passengers' confidential comments and opinions. Winner of the Golden Bear (best film) at this year's Berlin film festival.







#### Film A-Z LISTINGS

All films are currently on general release unless otherwise stated. For full listing information, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

#### 45 Years 15

Kate and Geoff Mercer (Charlotte Rampling & Tom Courtenay) are planning their forty-fifth wedding anniversary when an unexpected discovery threatens to torpedo the celebration, not to mention the couple's marriage... Both Ms Rampling and Mr Courtenav won best acting gongs at this year's Berlin Film Festival. Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 2 -Sat 3 & Tues 6 Oct; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry Fri 2 - Thurs 8 Oct. The Courtvard, Hereford, Sat 3 - Wed 7 Oct; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 5 -Sat 10 Oct; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Tues 6 Oct: Festival Dravton Centre, Market Drayton, Fri 9 - Sat 10 Oct

#### The Abominable Crime

A documentary that gives voice to gay Jamaicans who, in the face of endemic anti-gay violence, are forced to flee their homeland. The film follows Simone Edwards, a mother, and Maurice Tomlinson, a human rights activist, as they navigate the conflict of loving their homeland and staying alive. Showing at The Drum, Birmingham, Wed

#### **Absolutely Anything 12a**

As an off-the-wall experiment, a gaggle of unorthodox aliens decide to confer a disenchanted, human school teacher with the ability to do absolutely anything. Stars Simon Pegg & Kate Beckinsale. Showing at Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Fri 2 Oct; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 6 Oct

#### The Age Of Adaline 12a Some accidents come at

some accidents come at a price. The reclusive Adaline Bowman, 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... Stars Blake Lively & Michiel Huisman. Showing at Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 5 Oct

#### Appropriate Behaviour

An offbeat comedy telling the tale of Shirin, whose family don't know is bisexual. Following her brother's engagement, Shirin embarks on a private rebellion... Stars Desiree Akhavan. Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Sat 17 Oct

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#### Biutiful 15

This is the journey of Uxbal, a conflicted man who struggles to reconcile fatherhood, love, spirituality, crime, guilt and mortality amidst the dangerous underworld of modern Barcelona. His livelihood is earned out of bounds, his sacrifices for his children. Stars Javier Bardem & Maricel Álvarez. Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Wed 28 Oct

#### Cinderella u

Once upon a time... Oh, don't let us spoil the plot for you. Let's just say there are long work hours, really horrible step-sisters and a rather dashing prince. 'This version actually adheres more to Disney's classic cartoon version of 1950 than Charles Perrault's original folk story. Stars Cate Blanchett & Lily James. Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Fri 30 Oct

The Color Purple 15
An epic tale spanning forty years in the life of

Celie (Whoopi Goldberg), an African-American woman living in the South who survives incredible abuse and bigotry. Also stars Oprah Winfrey & Danny Glover. Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 22 Oct

#### The Diary Of A Teenage Girl 18

Longing for love, Minnie sets her sights on her hippie mother's boyfriend, the happy-go-lucky Monroe. The '70s palette of burgeoning feminism, bad acid trips and brown corduroy is enlivened by bursts of psychedelic animation that perfectly illustrate Minnie's blossoming imagination. Stars Bel Powley. Alexander Skarsgård & Kristen Wiig. Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, Sat 3 - Wed 7

#### Far From The Madding Crowd 12a

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. Stars
Carey Mulligan & Matthias
Schoenaerts. Showing at
The Courtyard, Hereford,
Wed 14 - Thurs 15 Oct

#### Girl Rising PG

From Academy Awardnominated director Richard E Robbins, Girl Rising journeys around the globe to witness the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change the world. Viewers get to know nine unforgettable girls living in the developing world: ordinary girls who confront tremendous challenges and overcome nearly impossible odds to pursue their dreams. Showing at Foxlowe Arts Centre. Leek. Staffs. Wed 7 Oct

#### A Girl Walks Home Alone At Night PG

In the deadbeat Iranian ghost town of Bad City, a lone female vampire stalks the streets looking for prey. Across town, reluctantly and against his better nature, Arash is pulled into Bad City's un-

derworld by his junkie father. But things seem to be looking up when he finds himself drawn to the mysterious girl with kohlbrimmed eyes and billowing hijab. Stars Sheila vand & Arash Manesh. Showing at Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 13 Oct

#### Hotel Transylvania PG

Dracula operates a highend resort away from the human world. He goes into overprotective mode when a boy discovers the resort and falls for the count's teenaged daughter. Featuring the voices of Adam Sandler & Kevin James. Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 30 Oct

#### The Imitation Game 12a

Based on the biography Alan Turing: The Enigma by Andrew Hodges, the film chronicles Turing's part in winning the Second World War (by helping to crack the Nazi's Enigma code) and then his criminal prosecution for being homosexual. Stars Benedict Cumberbatch & Keira Knightley. Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Fri 9 Oct

#### Inside Out U

Largely set inside the brain of an eleven-year-old girl, the film's five protagonists are the emotions that dominate her actions: Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness, each given its own voice. But there's more to this set-up than meets the mind, as Joy and Sadness get lost! Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, Sat 10 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 26 - Tues 27 Oct.

#### Irrational Man 12a

Fans of William Barrett's 1958 eponymous book, a study in existential philosophy, may thrill to Woody Allen's latest comedydrama. Here, Joaquin Phoenix plays an alcoholic, unconventional philosophy professor who embarks on an irrational act in order to salvage his ego. Devotees of Nietzsche may also get a kick out of Woody's worldview. Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 9 -

Thurs 16 Oct

#### La Famille Bélier 12a

Being the only hearing member of a deaf and mute family, Paula is struggling to find her voice and make her own life decisions. After discovering a talent for singing and receiving encouragement from her choir teacher, she decides to pursue a singing career, leaving the family facing numerous challenges. Stars Karin Viard & François Damiens, Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fr2 2 & Sun

#### Laurel & Hardy - In Trouble U

Three classic films from one of the biggest comedy double acts of all time, Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, which find the duo in deep trouble with their long-suffering wives. Chickens Come Home (1931), Their First Mistake (1932) and Blotto (1930). Showing at mac, Birmingham, until Thurs 1 Oct

#### Legend 15

Tom Hardy stars opposite Tom Hardy in this biographical thriller about the notorious twins, Ronald and Reginald Kray. Based on John Pearson's 1972 book, The Profession Of Violence: The Rise And Fall Of The Kray Twins. Also stars Emily Browning. Showing at mac, Birmingham, until Thurs 1 Oct; Malvem Theatres, until Thurs 1 Oct; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 2 - Thurs 8 Oct

#### Life 15

Based on a friendship with Life photographer Dennis Stock. Celebrated photographer Anton Corbiin is the man behind the camera. Corbiin previously helmed the celebrated Control (2007) about Ian Curtis and Joy Division - and the rewardingly intelligent The American, with George Clooney. Stars Robert Pattinson & Dane DeHaan. Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 18 -Thurs 22 Oct

#### The Legend Of Barney Thomson 15

Unlike Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street, Glaswegian barber Barney Thomson stumbles into serial murder by accident. Following a somewhat low profile on the big screen in recent years, Robert Carlyle (The Full Monty) comes back with a bang, making his directorial debut to boot. Also stars Emma Thompson. Showing at Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 17 Oct

#### A Little Chaos 12a

There just aren't enough films about landscape gardeners. This one pits Kate Winslet's Sabine against the designs of André Le Nôtre, both of whom are competing to win the prize of constructing a new fountain at the Palace of Versailles. Alan Rickman plays King Louis XIV. Also stars Matthias Schoenaerts. Showing at Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 19 Oct

#### Me And Earl And The Dying Girl 12a

Social misfit Greg and his friend and 'co-worker' Earl spend most of their time making hilarious parodies of arthouse films. When Greg's mum urges him to spend time with a girl who has Leukaemia, an unexpected friendship develops. Stars Thomas Mann, Olivia Cooke & RJ Cyler. Showing at Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Tues 13 Oct; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 16 - Sat 17 Oct

#### Manglehorn 12a

Al Pacino got terrific reviews for this drama, in which he plays an eccentric, small-town locksmith in Texas still mourning an unresolved relationship of twenty years ago. Also stars Holly Hunter. Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, Fri 9 - Tues 13 Oct

#### Miss Julie 12a

August Strindberg's play on class and gender has been filmed twice before on the big screen, and is here directed by the actress Liv Ullmann. Showing at Warwick Arts
Centre, Tues 6 - Wed 7
Oct; Old Market Hall,
Shrewsbury, Fri 9 - Thurs
15 Oct

#### Mr. Holmes 12a

Just when you think they've tried every angle

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#### **Black Country**

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THE ROSE'S THEATRE TEWKESBURY 01684 295 074 on Sherlock Holmes, along comes a new interpretation. In this version, Holmes is retired and suffering from dementia but still resolved to solve a fifty-year-old case. Stars lan McKellen, Laura Linney. Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 29 Oct

Peppermint Candy 12a
Backtracking from his suicide as a broken and depressed man, this film recounts the life of Yongho, from his tragic demise to his innocent and idealistic youth, in reverse order. Stars Kyung-gu Sol. Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Wed 14 Oct

Ricki And The Flash 12a Having sung in Postcards From the Edge, A Prairie Home Companion, Mamma Mia! and Into The Woods, Meryl Streep returns to the music scene to play Ricki Rendazzo, a rocker who pursued her dreams of stardom over the needs of her family. Then she attempts a reconciliation with her daughter, Julie (played by Streep's reallife daughter, Mamie Gummer). Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Thurs 1 Oct; The Courtyard, Here ford, Fri 9 - Thurs 15 Oct; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 18 - Tues 20 Oct: Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 19

#### The Salvation 15

This is a Danish cowboy drama shot in South Africa. Mads Mikkelsen plays a settler whose family is murdered, and so he takes the law into his own hands... Expect strong violence. Also stars Eva Green & Eric Cantona. Showing at Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tue 6 Oct

#### The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel PG

The sequel in which the hapless Sonny Kapoor (Dev Patel) has opened the new hostelry of the title, in spite of his impending marriage. Still, he has a new co-manager, the dauntless Muriel Donnelly (Maggie Smith). Also stars Judi Dench & Bill Nighy. Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire. Mon 19 Oct

Song For Marion PG

This dramatic comedy stars Vanessa Redgrave as Marion, a woman dying of cancer. Her husband (Terence Stamp), curmudgeon that he is, agrees to join her senior singing group because he knows how happy it makes her. It's really not his thing, though, and he's surprised by the effect it has on him. Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, Tues 13 Oct

#### Selma 12a

The story of Martin Luther King's legendary march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965, to secure equal voting rights for black Americans. Stars David Oyelowo & Tom Wilkinson. Showing at The Drum, Birmingham, Thurs 15 Oct

The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water u

You just can't keep a good sponge down. Here, the jolly yellow sea sponge joins forces with his adversary Plankton to help retrieve his precious 'Krabby Patty' formula. The villain of the piece - pirate named Burger-Beard - is played by Antonio Banderas. Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Wed 28 Oct

#### Theeb 15

Theeb is a young Bedouin boy, engaged upon a perilous desert journey with his elder brother Hussein, guiding a secretive British officer to a clandestine rendezvous, encountering Arab revolutionaries, Ottoman mercenaries and bloodthirsty raiders en route. Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 13 Oct; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 26 Oct

#### Timbuktu 12a

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. Stars Abel Jafri & Hichem Yacoubi. Showing at Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 20 Oct

Two Days, One Night 15 Sandra has one week to convince her workmates to give up their bonuses so that she can keep her job... Stars Marion Cotillard & Fabrizio Rongione. Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 23 Oct

#### Tuplan 12a

Young Asa travels back from the city to the steppe where his family live a nomadic life. He wants to become a shepherd and get married but encounters some surprising obstacles. Starring Tolepbergen Baisakalov & Samal Yeslyamova. Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 9 Oct

#### Victim 12

In 1960s London, barrister Melville Farr's life is near perfect, with a loving marriage and successful career. However, when blackmailers link Farr to a young gay man, everything Farr has worked for is threatened. Stars Dirk Bogarde & Sylvia Syms. Showing at The Hive,

Shrewsbury, Sat 17 Oct

A Walk In The Woods 12 It's hard to imagine Bill

Bryson's 1998 memoir being turned into a film, let alone having Robert Redford play Bryson. The cuddly Bryson was in his mid-forties then and Redford is seventy-eight now. The walk in the woods was actually a two thousand, two hundred-mile trek along the Appalachian Trail, an amble that was somewhat complicated by the accompaniment of Bryson's dissolute 'former' friend, Stephen Katz (Nick Nolte). Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 9 - Thurs 15 Oct

The Way He Looks 12 Leonardo and Giovana are best friends. Like all teenagers they yearn for more independence and, being blind, Leonardo even more so. They dream of going abroad and of experiencing love's first kiss. Gabriel, the new boy at school, becomes fast friends with them both, but ultimately three becomes a crowd... Stars Fabio Audi & Ghilherme Lobo. Showing at Old Market Theatre, Shrewsbury, Fri 16 Oct

#### Whiplash 15

A promising young drummer enrolls at a cut-throat music conservatory where his dreams of greatness are mentored by an instructor who will stop at nothing to realise a student's potential. Stars Miles Teller & JK Simmons. Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock. Mon 12 Oct

#### Who Polices The Police?

Sean Rigg died in a caged area in Brixton Police Station in August 2008. Using powerful testimonies, poetry and a political analysis of police violence, the film explores the tactics of the IPCC and, through the family of Rigg, challenge its claim that it is independent of the police. Showing at The Drum, Birmingham, Thurs 29 Oct

#### Wild 15

Adapted (by Nick Hornby) from her own memoir, this is the story of Cheryl Strayed, who hiked one thousand, one hundred miles of the Pacific Crest Trail - alone. Reese Witherspoon, Laura Dern & Thomas Sadoski star. Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 26 Oct; Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 27 Oct

#### **DVD** NEW RELEASES

#### **Good People 15**

- Thurs 22 Oct

NB. If you stumble across a large cache of somebody else's money and don't tell anybody, the likelihood is that you will invite more trouble into your life than you can handle. At least, in the movies. And that's what happens to Tom and Anna Wright (James Franco, Kate Hudson), an American couple living in London up to their ears in debt.

#### Released 5 Oct



Mad Max: Fury Road 15
Thirty years after the last
Mad Max film and
twenty-five years in 'development hell', Fury
Road has arrived. Two
rebels - a man and a
woman - join forces to
circumnavigate the
desert in a post-apocalyptic universe gone
mad... Stars Tom Hardy,
Charlize Theron and Zoë

Released 5 Oct

Kravitz.

#### **Insidious Chapter 3** 15

The second outing in this horror franchise received a somewhat lukewarm reception. The film's producers opted for a prequel this time round. So the psychic Elise Rainier (Shaye) finds herself reluctantly aiding a teenage girl badgered by a malevolent supernatural entity.

Released 12 Oct



#### Mister Holmes PG

Just when you think they've tried every angle on Sherlock Holmes, along comes a new interpretation. In this version, Holmes is retired and suffering from dementia but still resolved to solve a fifty-year-old case. Based on the 2005 novel A Slight Trick Of The Mind by Mitch Cullin. Released 26 Oct





#### Jurassic World 12a

Released 19 Oct

Jurassic World is the continuing story of the Costa Rica theme park, a somewhat different place than it was twenty-two years ago. However, in spite of everything now running smoothly, visitor rates have declined. So, in an effort to sex the place up, the Masrani Global Corporation decides to create a hybrid dinosaur, the Indominus Rex. Of course, it's all a terrible mistake... Word has it that Steven Spielberg – along with the screenwriter Mark Protosevich – came up with a story idea for the film, but it was rejected. However, to honour Spielberg, director Trevorrow introduced sharks as scrummy morsels for the dinosaurs. Stars Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard.



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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

# Looking ahead to Christmas!

It may only be October, but theatres around the region are already busying themselves with preparations for the festive season. And, as always, there are plenty of big names winging their way to the Midlands to appear in some of the best pantos in the land...

A bumper treat awaits Midlands theatre-goers this Christmas, with a Santa's sackful of stars descending on the region.

With its long-held reputation for hosting the country's biggest pantomime, the Birmingham Hippodrome this year presents Aladdin. Its all-star cast features Wet, Wet, Wet frontman Marti Pellow, panto veteran Julian Clary, West End star Lee Mead and comic genius Matt Slack. Up the motorway at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, meanwhile, comedy legends the Chuckle Brothers promise plenty of laughs as Starky and Smee in the swashbuckling tale of Peter Pan. The Chucklevision duo are joined by the ultimate Mr Nasty, John Altman - better known as EastEnders' badboy Nick Cotton.

Moving north of the region, Stoke's much-loved son Jonny Wilkes makes his near-annual 'festive pilgrimage' to his home town, this year performing alongside regular sidekick Christian Patterson in another version of Peter Pan.

If panto's not your thing, fear not, as there are plenty of festive alternatives available.

The RSC, for instance, is taking a more serious approach to JM Barrie's classic tale of the boy who wouldn't grow up. Ella Hickson's acclaimed production of Wendy And Peter Pan features Benidorm actor Adam Gillen as pirate's cabin boy and Tink's love interest, Martin. Elsewhere, the award-winning Hairspray The Musical stops off at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre, a brand new production of The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe runs at the Birmingham REP, and The Gruffalo's Child enjoys an adventure at Warwick Arts Centre. And for those who like their festive tales good'n'ghostly, a new version of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol shows at Birmingham's Old Joint Stock Theatre.

A new kid on the block for 2015 is Cinderella, at the Barclaycard Arena. Claiming to be the 'world's biggest pantomime', the production features Bradley Walsh, Paul O'Grady, Dick & Dom and a cast of over one hundred.

For more information on festive offerings in the region, visit whatsonlive.co.uk

#### Festive show LISTINGS

#### **ERIC'S CHRISTMAS**

PARTY Mon 30 Nov - Sat 12 Dec, New Vic Theatre, Newcastleunder-Lyme, £16.00 £22.50

#### WENDY & PETER PAN

Tue 17 Nov - Sun 31 Jan, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, £6 - £65

#### TREASURE ISLAND

Presented by Scott Ritchie and BOA, Fri 20 Nov - Sun 3 Jan, Old Rep, Birmingham, £15.95, Family tickets £55

#### **ROBIN HOOD & MARIAN**

Sat 21 Nov - Sat 30 Jan, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, £16 - £23

#### BEAST Wed 25 Nov -

Sat 9 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Warwickshire £8.25 - £22.25

#### THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD

Thu 26 Nov - Sun 3 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, £14.50

#### CINDERELLA Sat 28 Nov

- Sat 2 Jan, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, £11.50 - £24.25

#### THE WIZARD OF OZ

Mon 30 Nov - Sat 5 Dec, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, £12.50

#### **DICK WHITTINGTON**

Wed 2 Dec - Sun 10 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury £11.50 - £23

#### CINDERELLA: A FAIRYTALE Thurs 3 Dec

- Sat 9 Jan, mac, Birmingham, £8.50 - £21

#### **GRIMM TALES** Sat 5 -

Sat 19 Dec, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, £8 - £15, Family tickets £36

#### JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Sat 5 Dec -

Sun 27 Dec, Bedworth Civic Hall, Warwickshire £9 - £14.50, Family tickets £45

#### JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Sat 5 Dec -

Sat 2 Jan, Royal Spa Centre, Learnington, from £12.50

#### **JACK AND THE**

BEANSTALK Sat 5 Dec -Sun 3 Jan, Lichfield Garrick, Staffs, £12.50 -£21.50, Family tickets

#### JACK AND THE

BEANSTALK Starring Eternal's Vernie Bennett and X Factor's Lloyd Daniels, Mon 7 Dec -Sun 3 Jan, Palace Theatre, Redditch, £18 -£65.25

#### SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS Tue 8

Dec - Sun 3 Jan, The Place, Oakengates, Shropshire, £9.50 -£17.50

#### THE WITCHES Wed 9 Dec - Sun 10 Jan, The Curve Leicester, from £12 - £16

#### JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Thurs 10 Dec - Sun 20 Dec,

Dec - Sun 20 Dec, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, £5.50 - £7

#### SANTA'S RUSTY ROBOT

Presented by Imagine Theatre, Thurs 10 -Thurs 24 Dec, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, £7.25 - £10.25

#### PETER PAN Starring Mark Moraghan and Hannah-Jane Fox.

Hannah-Jane Fox, Thurs 10 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, Malvern Theatres, £10.34 - £26.88

#### ALADDIN Fri 11 Dec -Sun 3 Jan, Solihull Arts Complex, £16 - £19

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Fri 11 Dec -Sun 10 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, £18 (£14) Family tickets £58

#### THE LOST GIFT Sat 12 Dec - Thu 31 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, £12 - £14

#### PETER PAN Starring The Chuckle Brothers and John Altman, Sat 12 Dec - Sun 24 Jan, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, £17.00

#### DICK WHITTINGTON

-£31.50

Presented by All & Sundry, Sun 13 Dec -Sun 20 Dec, Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove, £14 - £15, Family tickets £43 - £47

#### HAIRSPRAY THE MUSI-

CAL Mon 14 Dec - Sat 2 Jan, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham from £15 - £67.40

#### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Tue 15 Dec - Wed 23 Dec, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, £15

#### THE THREE MUSKE-

TEERS Thurs 17 Dec -Sun 3 Jan, Playbox Theatre, Warwick, £14

#### **CINDERELLA** Sat 19 Dec - Tue 29 Dec, Prince

Of Wales Theatre, Cannock, £14 - £48

#### PETER PAN Sat 19 Dec -Sun 2 Jan, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

ALADDIN Starring Marti Pellow, Julian Clary, Lee Mead and Matt Slack, Sat 19 Dec - Sun 31 Jan, Birmingham Hippodrome, £14 - £42

#### DOREEN'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER Mon 21 Dec -Tue 22 Dec. Rose

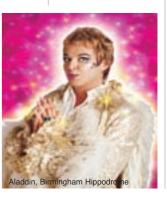
Tue 22 Dec, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, £12.50

#### WE'RE GOING ON A BEARHUNT Tues 22 Dec

- Wed 13 Jan, Town Hall, Birmingham £12 - £14









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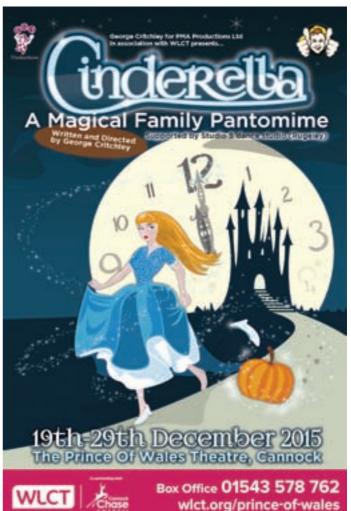


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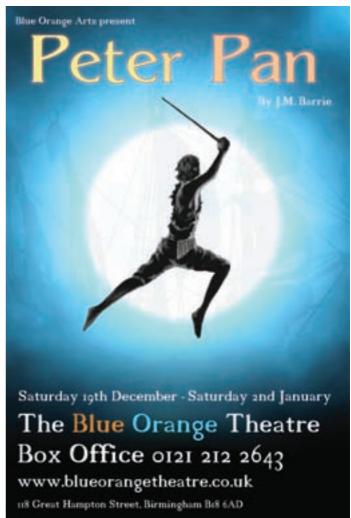






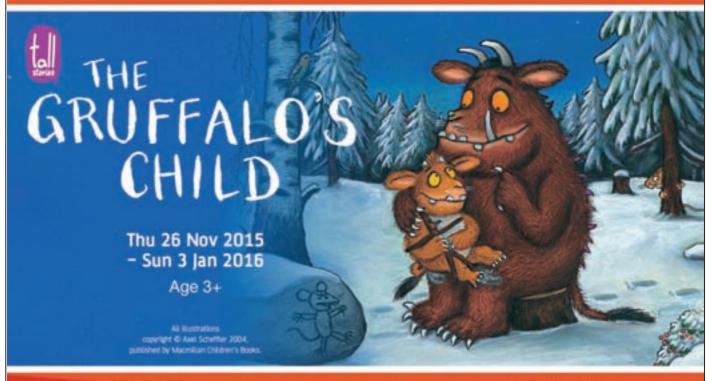






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# Visual Arts

#### Flinck In Focus

The Barber Institute, Birmingham, Fri 23 October - Sun 24 January

Seventeenth century portrait artist and history painter Govert Flinck was not only among Rembrandt's most talented pupils but in his day also developed a reputation that was very much on a par with that of his master. The intervening centuries, however, have not been kind to Flinck

so much so, in fact, that today his name is relatively unknown...

This new exhibition marks the four hundredth anniversary of Flinck's birth and offers an ideal opportunity to learn more about one of the Dutch Golden Age's most talented painters.



#### **Punk Rock? So What!!**

Parkside Gallery, Birmingham, until Sat 31 October

A selection of punk graphic and visual material spanning the past forty years is brought together in this engaging new exhibition.

The show seeks to demonstrate connections, stylistic conventions and patterns of engagement, as well as the evolution of punk's visual language and identity across diverse regions and cultures.

#### **Display Show**

Eastside Projects, Birmingham, until Sat 12 December

This thought-provoking and, on a level, mind-boggling exhibition asks whether any object can be separated from the way in which it is shown, repaired, treated, classified, owned and valued. The presentation includes an ongoing survey of radical display practices from the twentieth century, such as those associated with Franco Albini, Lina Bo Bardi and Carlo Scarpa...

Display Show is one of a series of group exhibitions and productions which have been designed 'to effect change upon the existing conditions of Eastside Projects'.





#### **Enchanted Dreams**

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Sat 17 October - Sun 21 February

This is the first ever exhibition to be dedicated to Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Robert Hughes.

Hughes has been largely overlooked since his death one hundred-and-one years ago, a fact which is somewhat surprising given his contribution to British art.

Among many of his hugely familiar and often-reproduced images is his 1908 fairy vision of Midsummer Eve, a painting which he exhibited in London just prior to the First World War.

And it was Hughes who painted Birmingham Museums' most popular watercolour, Night With Her Train Of Stars, produced by the artist just two short years before his death. This fascinating exhibition - accompanied by a programme of talks, special events and workshops - features numerous paintings, drawings and watercolours, many of which have remained unseen in the hundred-plus years since Hughes' death.

#### Making It: Sculpture In Britain: 1977 - 1986

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 8 October - Sun 29 November

A ten-year period during which a new generation of artists introduced a fresh approach to sculpture is explored in this new exhibition.

Featuring sculptures by world-renowned artists including Antony Gormley, Anish Kapoor, Julian Opie, Cornelia Parker, David Nash and Richard Deacon, Making It highlights a

time of great social, political and economic change.

Commenting on the show, Fiona Venables, Deputy Curator at Mead Gallery, said: "The late 1970s and early 1980s was such a pivotal time for sculpture in this country. This is a good time to stop and reflect on the work of a pioneering generation of British artists."



#### VisualArts PREVIEWS | VisualArts LISTINGS

#### **Further exhibitions**

#### **War Games**

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry, Sat 10 October - Sun 17 January

This highly interactive touring exhibition from the V&A Museum of Childhood in London explores the controversy surrounding child-

hood engagement with war, examining the role of armed conflict in the games youngsters play. Children visiting the show are encouraged to dress up and participate in a range of thought-provoking activities, to investigate how games of war have evolved across the ages.



#### **Jet Rotmans:** A Tale Of Two Cities

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, until Sun 13 December

Cementing a connection stretching back to the sixteenth century but most particularly in evidence since the Second World War, the towns of Shrewsbury and Zutphen in the Netherlands were twinned in 1977.

This new exhibition of work by Zutphen artist Jet Romans seeks to compare and contrast the two destinations, with much of the work being exhibited in the form of Jet's favourite medium, the artists' book. The show also features acrylic paintings, poetry and films, as well as a scrapbook of archive material.

#### **Fiona Banner: Scroll Down And Keep Scrolling**

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, Sat 10 October - Sun 17 January

"This show isn't a survey, more of an anti-survey," explains Fiona Banner in talking about her new Ikon exhibition. "It suggests something objective, historical and fixed. This is subjective; nothing else is possible.' The most comprehensive exhibition of Banner's work to date, Scroll Down And Keep Scrolling re-presents some of the artist's key early projects alongside recent and unseen works that span a period of twenty-five years.

Throughout the exhibition, Fiona revisits her work with an engaging intensity and humour. Commenting on the exhibition (but clearly

not taking his cue from Banner's denial that the show is a survey), Ikon Director Jonathan Watkins said: "This is a survey of work by one of the leading lights in the British art scene, at a pivotal moment in her career."



For full listing information on Visual Art exhibitions, including times and dates, visit whatsonlive.co.uk

#NICKLINUNSEEN An outdoor photographic exhibition showing a changing Birmingham in the 50's & 60's, Fri 2nd Oct - Jan 2016, Snow Hill Square, Birmingham

A HISTORY OF US Miniature history of humanity presented across a forty-four-metre display, until Sun 4 Oct, Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HENS Exhibition about hens by artists and 'hen-enthusiasts' Ali McQuail and Lady Jane Gray, until Sat 10 Oct, Harborne Art Gallery,

SIR TERRY FROST RA (1915-2003): A LEAMINGTON LAD This exhibition, in the year which marks the centenary of the artist's birth, includes a large number of works which haven't been displayed before, until Sun 11 Oct, Learnington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

BRICK CITY: THE WORLD'S MOST ICONIC BUILDINGS & LANDMARKS IN LEGO Celebration of some of the world's most famous buildings, Mon until Sun 11 Oct, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

EMMA HART: BIG MOUTH Unique in every way, Emma's sculptures go where other pieces fear to tread, until Sat 31 Oct, Grand Union, Birmingham

**RE-MAKING THE PAST** Six contemporary makers respond to inspiration from pre-history, until Sat 31 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery

STILL WITH US: THE STORY OF YARDLEY PEOPLE IN WORLD WAR ONE until Sun 1 Nov, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

HELEN SNELL: BURNT OUT Digital laser and water jet cutting techniques are here used to explore themes of imperialism, exploration, survival and the quest for knowledge, until Sun 1 Nov, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

BIRMINGHAM PASTEL SOCIETY Exhibition in the showcase gallery, until Sun 1 Nov, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

THE HOSPITAL IN THE OATFIELD Exhibition of ten paintings by French artist Victor Tardieu, recently acquired by the Florence Nightingale Museum, until Sun 1 Nov, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

RBSA PRIZE FOR INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY, WIN-NERS & RUNNERS-UP Awarded each year to graduates from Birmingham City University's School of Jewellery, until Mon 2 Nov, RBSA Gallery,

ICON Solo exhibition of work by Ian McIntyre which responds to the British Ceramics Biennial's theme of The Production Line, until Sat 7 Nov, Airspace Gallery. Stoke-on-Trent

SOCIETY OF STAFFORDSHIRE ARTISTS Exhibition of society members' work, until Sat 7 Nov, The Nicholson Museum & Art Gallery, Leek

FRACTURE: WWI TO 21ST CENTURY HEALING A new digital installation, working in partnership with the world-renowned RJAH Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, until Mon 9 Nov, Qube Gallery, Oswestry, North Shropshire

THE RICHES BENEATH US Objects with a local connection showing how the former collieries and limestone quarries contributed to the assembly of astounding fossils, until Sun 15 Nov, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

HIROSHIGE'S JAPAN: 53 STATIONS OF THE TOKAIDO ROAD Famous series from one of the great masters of Japanese landscape print, until Sat 21 Nov, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

JOHN HOPKINS ARBSA Display of studio and 'plein air' watercolours, until Sat 21 Nov, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**ILLUSTRATION BEATS EXPLANATION** Featuring works by contemporary artists who use comics, storyboards & drawings as a visual way to convey new ideas about the world, until Sat 21 Nov, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

PAUL NEWMAN: STAGE Drawing, painting, performance & installation are here used to explore the idea of an internal landscape with occasional references to historical paintings sourced from artists' postcards, until 22 Nov, mac, Birmingham

STEENBECKETT Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan's installation of 35mm celluloid film which moves

continuously around the gallery, until Sun 29 Nov, mac, Birmingham

OF TIME AND THE RAILWAY BY ROBERT DAVIES A film about the railway line between Birmingham and Aberystwyth, filmed by Robert Davies from the driver's cab of the train, recorded weekly over twelve months, until Sat 5 Dec, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

DISPLAY SHOW One in a series of group exhibitions and productions which have been designed 'to effect change upon the existing condition of Eastside Projects', until Sat 12 Dec, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

FLORE NOVE-JOSSERAND 'CITY GROWTH BLUES' A space created by artist Nove-Josserand, displaying a number of architectural hoardings through draw ing, painting, photographing and constructing, until Sat 12 Dec, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

CHINESE COLLECTION RE-DISPLAY Consisting of over one hundred objects spanning over three thousand years, until Sun 13 Dec, Compton Verney Gallery,

LANDSCAPE WITH MACHINES Artworks by leading contemporary artists, such as Jeremy Deller and Tony Cragg, shown alongside selected pieces from the museum's nationally designated collection of Industrial Art, until Fri 18 Dec, Coalbrookdale Gallery, Ironbridge, Shropshire

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 and twenty-first centuries, until Thurs 31 Dec, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

20TH CENTURY BRITISH STUDIO CERAMICS A display of seventy-eight pieces of studio ceramics made by twenty-nine potters working in England and Wales during the twentieth century, until Thurs 31 Dec, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

THE AGE OF INNOCENCE Works by William Hogarth & John Brett feature in this exhibition, which explores the evolving imagery of children and childhood, until 10 Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

MATT COLLISHAW Works in sculpture, photography, film & installation which ably test the richness and breadth of the artist's practice, until Sun 10 Jan, New Art Gallery, Walsall

MADE AT MAC: PHOTOGRAPHY A showcase of work from two Kate Green-led courses, until Sun 10 Jan, mac Birmingham

LOWRY & BERRY: OBSERVERS OF URBAN LIFE Works by distinguished artist LS Lowry and his local counterpart Arthur Berry are here brought together for the first time, until Sun 10 Jan. The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

A TOUCH OF TEXTURE CRAFT EXHIBITION Featuring jewellery made using alternative materials including leather, felt, cotton, wool, silk and velvet, until Sat 16 Jan, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

THIS IS NOT A JOKE Exhibition that looks at how some contemporary artists use different facets of humour, until 16 Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

INHERITING ROME Exhibition which uses money to explore and question our deep-seated familiarity with the Roman Empire's imagery, until Sun 24 Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

EPSTEIN'S ROCK DRILL I TRANSFORMED BY WAR Rock Drill was destroyed by Epstein at the end of 1915 and reformed into the truncated Torso In Metal from Rock Drill, until Sun 24 Jan, The New Art Gallery,

THE CLIVE BEARDSMORE GIFT The 2015 interventions into the Garman Ryan Collection is a selection from a substantial gift of artworks donated to the gallery by a private collector, Clive Beardsmore, until Sun 24 Jan, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

MINTON ARCHIVE An interactive exhibition of some of the museum's Minton pieces, until Sun 27 Mar, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

MENTAL SPACES An ongoing project containing work produced by local artists affiliated to the Asylum Art Gallery, until Sat 2 Apr, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton

MINER'S TOOLS A range of equipment used by miners over the years to extract coal, until Sun 10 Apr, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

WENDY RAMSHAW'S ROOM OF DREAMS An installation made up of many parts, from small jewels in frames to large, freestanding furniture, until Sun 22 May, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

SOLO EXHIBITION BY COLIN SIMMONDS ARBSA

Retrospective of the artist's paintings over the past twenty-five years, Mon 5 - Sat 17 Oct, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

THREE HEBRIDEAN ARTISTS A selling exhibition of work by David Greenall, Jane Harlington & Gareth Watson, Thurs 1 - Sat 31 Oct, Artifex Gallery, B'ham

**DRAWN TO STITCH** Exhibition of recent works by Stewart Easton & Jo Roberts, Fri 2 - Sat 25 Oct, A3 Project Space, Digbeth, Birmingham

SHREWSBURY COLLEGE 'ART SCHOOL PORTRAITS' EXHIBITION Displaying work from the art school community, including some staff work, Fri 2 - Sat 25 Oct, The Granary, Weston Park, Staffordshire

INKED PALETTE Exhibition featuring work by a selection of UK tattoo artists, Sat 3 - Tues 20 Oct, Deasil Art Gallery, Leamington Spa

INCUNABULA New works by Tammy Woodrow, Sat 3 - Thurs 15 Oct, Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

ABSTRACTION AT THE RBSA Showcasing how abstraction within the RBSA and in Birmingham has evolved since the mid-twentieth century. A touring exhibition from the Arts Council Collection, Thurs 8 Oct - Sun 29 Nov, The Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre

CODE AND CARPENTRY Interactive exhibition by Anna Horton and Sophie Bullock in partnership with Fierce Festival, Thurs 8 Oct - Sat 7 Nov, BOM (Birmingham Open Media)

**DENNIS MINCHIN RBSA** Solo work featuring a series of still lives in oil, Mon 12 Oct - Sat 5 Dec, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

**TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT** Portraits from the University of Birmingham, including works by Jacob Epstein, Tom Phillips, Humphrey Ocean and Jennifer McRae, Fri 16 Oct - Sun 17 Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

SIMON KENNY EXHIBITION A vibrant, expressive, lyrical abstract collection of paintings, Sat 17 - Sun 18 Oct, Whitewall Gallery, Birmingham

COVENTRY ARTS CONSORTIUM Exhibition of work by thirteen artists from four local art societies, Sat 17 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry



STRING OF PEARLS: WOMBOURNE QUILTERS 30TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION Sat 17 Oct - Sat 14 Nov, Bilston Craft Gallery

ANTONIO ROBERTS First solo exhibition, Sat 17 Oct - Sat 23 January, BOM (Birmingham Open Media)

CONFECTED, BORROWED AND BLUE...AN INSTALLATION BY PAUL SCOTT Exhibition organised by the Holburne Museum, Sat 17 Oct - Sun 7 Feb, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

ROBERT PERRY RBSA Rob's work focuses on the phenomenon of intense sunlight and its effects in the context of coastal scenes, rivers, sky, mountains and other landscape features, Mon 19 - Sat 31 Oct, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

MEDICATE 2015 Contemporary collection exploring the physical, societal & psychological effects of disease on people, as well as the values and practices of medical science, Fri 23 Oct - Sun 17 Jan, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

WHOSE GAZE IS IT ANYWAY? Exploring the history of Arab pop culture through posters, notebooks, diaries, book covers, film and video, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 10 Jan, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**WOLVERHAMPTON SOCIETY OF ARTISTS** Biennial exhibition with a diverse range of styles, mediums and subject matter, Sat 24 Oct - Sat 27 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

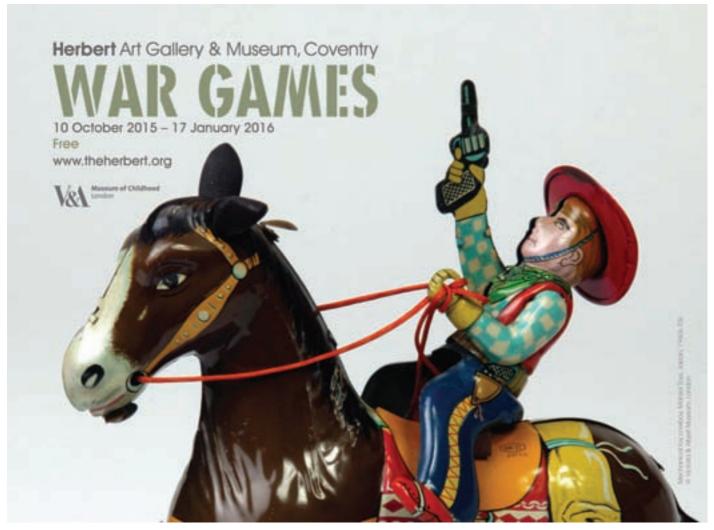
JUNE RIDGWAY ARBSA A collection of new ceramic work identifiable via the artist's distinctive use of soft colour against lines of black, Mon 26 Oct - Sat 19 Dec, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

THE MAGICAL WORLD OF MASKS AND PUPPETS
Featuring masks from Indonesia, Japan, Korea,
Mexico and Italy, Mon 26 Oct - Sun 17 Jan,
Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

ROBERT PERRY: THE FIELDS OF BATTLE 1914-1918
Commemorating the centenary of World War One,
Mon 26 Oct - Fri 18 Dec, Museum Of Cannock
Chase

**OSWESTRY & DISTRICT SOCIETY OF ARTISTS** Over forty members exhibit works of landscape, portrait and abstract art, Sat 31 Oct - Sat 28 Nov, The Willow Gallery, Oswestry, North Shropshire

**THE GREAT WAR** Exhibition featuring dramatic displays which bring to life the period between 1914 and 1918, until Sun 11 Nov 2018 Dudley Museum & Art Gallery





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# Events



Motorhome And Caravan Show 2015 NEC, Birmingham, Tues 13 - Sun 18 October

Attracting huge crowds and filling numerous halls of the NEC, the Motorhome And Caravan Show 2015 features over four hundred UK exhibitors. The event offers visitors the chance to check out - hot off the production line - all the new 2016 caravan, motorhome, holiday home, trailer tent and folding caravan models.

It also provides free help and advice on all aspects of touring - from finance, insurance and security to the best tow cars on the market - and boasts a wide range of accessories at show-only prices.

#### **Birmingham Literature Festival**

Library of Birmingham, Thurs 8 - Sat 17 October

This annual event features appearances by a host of well-known names, this year including Pulitzer Prize-winner and former US Poet Laureate Rita Dove.

The 2015 festival also celebrates the creative connections between words and music, with Sam Lee and Richard O'Neill discussing Romany Song And Story, and jazz soprano Lauren

Kinsella combining music, poetry and theatre.

There's a feast of food and foreign literature on offer at a special Baltic Breakfast get-together, while 'literature in unusual locations' is celebrated via a poetry vintage bus tour through the Black Country.

The festival also hosts a special Writing Of Protest event, which takes a look at the role which storytelling plays in campaigning.





#### **Brick 2015**

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 29 October - Sun 1 November

This haven for LEGO fans boasts numerous interactive features. Attractions include brick pits - enabling visitors to showcase their inner master builder - LEGO video games (including the latest releases), a fan zone, LEGO Minecraft, a museum of LEGO history, the Seven Wonders of the World recreated in LEGO, and race ramps on which to test custom-built cars. And with the event taking place over Halloween, visitors are also promised 'a haunting experience', with plenty of spooky activities programmed. Arrive dressed in your ghastliest ghostly outfit and you might even win yourself a prize...

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Seniors £9.50 in advance, £11.50 on the door

\*Children under 16 FREE if accompanied by parent

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#### **Events** PREVIEWS

#### **The National Wedding Show**

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 2 - Sun 4 October

This month's show features wedding experts aplenty offering advice on everything from flowers and favours to honeymoon hideaways. Bridal boutiques, florists, jewellers, catwalk shows and the always-popular wedding theatre are all present and correct too. as is the vintage area, celebrating the everevolving trend for vintage-style weddings.



#### Fierce Festival

Venues across Birmingham City Centre, Wed 7 - Sun 11 October

No fewer than eight UK premieres from highly rated international artists feature in this year's event, including Simone Aughterlonv's Supernatural. A hotly anticipated dance piece, the work presents a thought-provoking exploration of the subject of gender roles.

Sleep With The Curator, meanwhile, invites festival-goers to pack their sleeping bag and spend the night in the Eastside Projects gallery in Digbeth. They'll be joined there by curator Gavin Wade for a selection of bedtime stories. Gavin will also demonstrate his cooking prowess by rustling up bacon pancakes the following morning!

"This year's Fierce festival will have a celebratory feel to it," says Fierce Director Laura McDermott. "We're making our festival hub at BOM, a really exciting new space for art, science and technology near New Street Station. Across the city there'll be dance on a car park roof, parties in warehouses and a chance to sing karaoke to a video made by a Turner Prize-winning artist."



#### **Dive Show**

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 24 - Sun 25 October

Boasting over three hundred exhibitors including manufacturers and retailers of diving equipment and travel agents offering dive holiday options - the Dive Show also features an unrivalled programme of guest

Popular in-hall features include the Try Dive Pool, the Rebreather Pool, a photo zone and a new-product showcase.

Themed travel and dive training areas are also included



#### **Grand Designs Live**

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 8 - Sun 11 October

The UK's leading contemporary home show makes its annual visit to Birmingham this month, with design guru Kevin McCloud once again presiding over proceedings. Kevin hosts various events in the show's Grand Theatre, where guest speakers offer tips and advice on a variety of homebuilding issues.

This year's show also features: A brand new Green House, boasting plenty of interesting gadgets; tons of inspiring ideas to help visitors create stylish interiors for their homes; state-of-the-art bathroom products; suggestions for making the most of available kitchen space; and 'must have' products for gardens and outdoor spaces.

#### Oktoberfest

The Old Crown, Digbeth, Birmingham, Fri 2 - Sun 4 and Fri 9 - Sat 10 October

Munich is coming to Birmingham this month. Well, sort of. The legendary Munich beer festival of the same name is the inspiration behind this brand new event, which sees popular Digbeth hostelry The Old Crown transforming its garden into a covered German beer hall. Organisers are promising the event will be 'truly unique', with featured attractions including huge steins, Bavarian lager, German games, authentic German food and live entertainment. There's also traditional bench seating for up to two hundredand-fifty patrons. Lederhosen at the ready,

#### **Great Electric Train Show**

Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Sat 10 - Sun 11 October

More than thirty traders are taking part in this show, which also features twenty-five layouts. Building on the success of the 2014 gettogether, the event's organisers are this year expanding the Skills Zone to include more demonstrations and a greater number of displays showcasing a wide range of modelling

#### Something Good

Birmingham Cathedral, Fri 2 - Sat 3 October

Birmingham Cathedral is celebrating three hundred years at the heart of the city with this festival of outdoor arts.

Live events taking place at dawn, solar noon and dusk are presented by a selection of artists from different faith backgrounds, neighbourhoods and communities across Birmingham. Composer Dan Jones creates a new sound landscape for the city, visual and mural artist Mohammed Ali paints Nomadinspired sculptures, poet and writer Mandy

Ross explores faith traditions, and artist Jake Lever invites members of the general public to create and share their own Soul Boat.

#### **Festival Of The Dead**

Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry, Fri 16 October

This special event is advertised as 'a dark night with a Latin twist'.

Visitors are being invited to 'bring along their darkest desires' and get dancing at the 'eerie' masked ball.

Participants can also watch short horror films, try creepy sketching, get 'up close and personal' with a taxidermy collection, take a torchlit tour and discover dark stories and hidden histories.



#### Flame And Thunder

SantaPod Raceway, Northampton, Sat 31 October

A regular on the Santa Pod calendar, Flame And Thunder brings together monster trucks, jet cars and drag cars on the main track. Away from the circuit, entertainment comes courtesy of (among other attractions) dancing superheroes, a wall of death, a funfair, helicopter pleasure flights and a climbing wall. The event is brought to a close with a huge firework display and massive bonfire.





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Family Arts



#### ACTION PACKED FAMILY FUN DAY • SAT 31 ST OCTOBER 2015 • SANTA POD RACEWAY



#### **Events** PREVIEWS

#### **Tudor Terrors**

Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire, Mon 26 - Fri 30 October

There's no shortage of creepy Halloween fun to enjoy in the Midlands at the end of this month. And those ghoulish late-October delights are all the spookier when experienced in a suitably eerie environment. So enter... the ruined grandeur of nine hundred-year-old Kenilworth Castle; the perfect backdrop for some spinetingling autumn frivolity. The castle team have put together 'a feast of frightening fun' for families to enjoy, from terrifying Tudor tales to creepy crafts and 'spectacularly spooky activities'. A hair-raising half-term awaits...





#### **Public Festival Of The Imagination**

University of Warwickshire, Coventry, Fri 16 - Sat 17 October

A celebration to mark the University of Warwick's fiftieth anniversary, the Public Festival Of The Imagination boasts a full programme of themed events focusing on imagining the future. The festival features a family-orientated interactive discovery zone, where visitors can check out innovative research and conduct their own science experiments.

Celebrity input includes a contribution from BBC Saturday Kitchen regular Vivek Singh, who'll explore the benefits to health and wellbeing of Indian spices.

Selecter singer Pauline Black also takes part, reflecting on the social effect of the musical genre, while polar explorer Mark Wood answers questions about what life's like in a freezer.

#### **Events** LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

#### Week commencing THURS 1 OCT

DIESEL ENTHUSIASTS GALA Thurs 1 - Sat 3 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Worcestershire
CROOME'S OUTER EYE-CATCHERS: PANORAMA TOWER Explore inside the outer eye-catchers which are only open at certain times of the year, Thurs 1 - Sun 4 Oct, Croome Park, Worcester

SCULPTURE TRAIL Featuring one hundred sculptures, Thurs 1 - Sun 4 Oct, The Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Worcestershire

GREAT BRITISH WALKS FROM UPTON Enjoy a stunning five mile guided walk from Upton House, Thurs 1 Sat 24 Oct, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire NATURE FORCE Join the dedicated team of volunteers carrying out practical conservation on the nature reserves every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Thurs 1 - Thu 29 Oct, Brandon Marsh

Nature Centre, Coventry SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS Celebrating twentyfive years of the house, Thurs 1 Oct - Mon 30 Nov, Haden Hill House Museum, Crawley Heath **BLACK WIDOW SPIDER** 

Visit the Butterfly Farm's resident black widow spider, alongside hundreds of spectacular butterflies, insects, reptiles & spiders, Thurs 1 Oct - Thurs 31 Dec, Stratford Butterfly Farm, Warwickshire BREWERY & COUNTRY PUB TOUR Go Cotswolds offers scheduled and chartered day trips to the Cotswolds from Stratford-upon-Avon, Thurs 1 Oct 2015 - Sat 30 Jan 2016, Alcester, Warwickshire

GLYNN PURNELL'S FRIDAY NIGHT KITCHEN WITH FRIENDS Charity event which sees chef Glynn Purnell and Michelin-starred chef and Master Chef judge Gregg Wallace join forces to serve up a live culinary experience, Fri 2 Oct, Villa Park,

FIRST STEPS: A CHILD'S SWAN LAKE Birmingham Royal Ballet's introduction to this beautiful love story specially adapted for children from aged three-seven, Fri 2 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome SOMETHING GOOD Cathedral Square is transformed by extraordinary sounds, words and visual art, Fri 2 - Sat 3 Oct, Birmingham Cathedral

INDEPENDENT BREWERS FESTIVAL 2015 Taste around fifty real ales and keg beers sourced from small independent brewers from across the UK, Fri 2 -Sat 3 Oct, National Brewery Centre, Staffordshire NATIONAL FRANCHISE EXHIBITION A fantastic opportunity for anyone considering franchising, from investing in a franchise to franchising an already successful business, Fri 2 - Sat 3 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

THE NATIONAL WEDDING SHOW Fri 2 - Sun 4 Oct, NEC, Birmingham
MCE INSURANCE BRITISH SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP

The penultimate race of the 2015 MCE Insurance British Superbike Championship, with a world class field of riders, Fri 2 - Sun 4 Oct, Silverstone Circuit, Northampton

THE MALVERN CARAVAN SHOW Four nights of camping, two nights of entertainment, an exhibition area & lots to see & do locally, Fri 2 - Sun 4 Oct, Three Counties Showground, Malvern RUN WHAT YA BRUNG

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 3 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK

Heritage walks that will transport you back to the Jewellery Quarter's rich industrial past, Sat 3 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham AUTUMN HOOKING CRAFT WORKSHOP Join a craft specialist for a hooking workshop. Find out about this alternative to rag rugging and create something for yourself or your home, Sat 3 Oct, Birmingham Back

SHAKESPEARE TOUR OF STRATFORD Sat 3 Oct, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-upon-Avon WILDLIFE TASTER SESSION: FUNGI An introductory talk about the fascinating world of fungi, Sat 3 Oct, Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Coventry APPLE WEEKEND A celebration of the apple harvest

at Berrington, with local cider on sale, a range of fresh local produce and live folk music, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Oct, Berrington Hall, Herefordshire APPLE WEEKEND

Apple-themed activities for children & families, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Oct, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

SPORTS & SALOON CAR RACES The 750 Motor Club makes its second visit to Donington Park this season for another weekend of racing from a selection of tin tops and sports cars, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Oct,

Donington Park Racing Circuit, Warwickshire SHAKESPEARE FUN PALACE A free event celebrating Shakespeare's world with a range of hands-on activities in the Shakespeare Centre, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Oct, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Warwickshire MINIATURA - THE INTERNATIONAL DOLLS' HOUSE MODELLING SHOW Highly specialised visitor attraction event established in 1983 and entirely dedicated to the amazing hobby of domestic modelling in 1/12th and related scales, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Oct, NEC,

GTI FESTIVAL RWYB event for watercooled VWs and Show n'Shine, car clubs, auto jumble and more, Sun 4 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northamptonshire FREE OPEN DAY Explore Aston Hall for free, Sun 4 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham

AUTUMN FLOWER FESTIVAL Sun 4 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens
ANCIENT TREES OF ATTINGHAM WALK Sun 4 Oct,

Attingham Park, Shropshire
RAF GUIDED WALK The fascinating story of the peo-

ple and events that took place at Croome during the Second World War, Sun 4 Oct, Croome Park,

MOTORSPORT MARSHALLING TASTER DAY Get closer to the action by becoming a marshall, Sun 4 Oct, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Warwickshire
RAF GAYDON EXPERIENCE DAY Tour of the airfield, a visit to the former RAF Gaydon Control Tower, and a lecture from the 'Vulcan to the Sky' team, Sun 4 Oct, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire AN AFTERNOON WITH THE BACK ROOM BOYS Lecture from the 'Vulcan to the Sky' team, Sun 4 Oct, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire ANTIQUE AND COLLECTORS FAIR Sun 4 Oct, National

Motorcycle Museum, Solihull CAMERA FAIR The UK's largest independent camera fair, regularly featuring over one hundred tables and a wide range of vendors, Sun 4 Oct, Wolverhampton Racecourse

#### Week Commencing MON 5 OCT

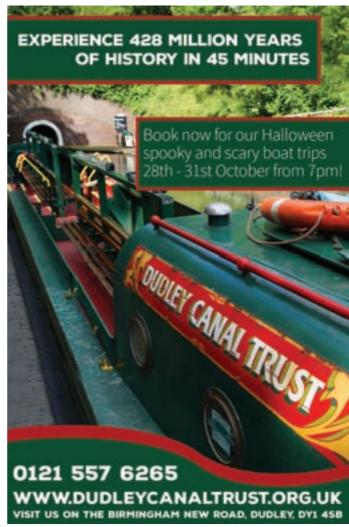
SURVEY FORCE Join the Survey Force, a volunteer group carrying out wildlife surveys on Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves, Mon 5 Oct, Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Coventry

#### NATIONAL BRAILLE WEEK

Celebrate the work of Louis Braille and have your name written using the systems, Mon 5 - Sun 11 Oct, The Pen Museum, Birmingham



Buy Tickets online at www.ironbridge.org.uk or from any of the Ironbridge Gorge Muss Tel 81952 433424. Use Park & Ride (small additional fee).







For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

AN AUTUMN NIGHT AT THE CASTLE An evening guided tour around the picturesque ruins of Weoley Castle, Wed 7 Oct, Weoley Castle Ruins, Birmingham FIERCE FESTIVAL Wed 7 - Sun 11 Oct, Birmingham City Centre

**GRÁND DESIGNS LIVE** Thurs 8 - Sun 11 Oct, NEC, Birmingham **BIRMINGHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL** Thurs 8 - Sat 17

BIRMINGHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL Thurs 8 - Sat 17 Oct, Library Of Birmingham

AN EVENING OF MEDIUMSHIP WITH CRAIG MORRIS Fri 9 Oct, Palace Theatre, Worcestershire 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 10 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton SKETCH COVENTRY An informal day of sketching around Coventry city centre, Sat 10 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry THE WARTBURG & TRABANT IFA AND BREAKFAST CLUB

THE WARTBURG & TRABANT IFA AND BREAKFAST ( Enjoy a selection of up to forty Warties and Trabbies from Eastern Europe, Sat 10 Oct,

Coventry Transport Museum

BREAKFAST CLUB AT COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM
Opportunity for classic car and motorcycle owners
to show off their cars, Sat 10 Oct, Coventry
Transport Museum

CLIMB TO NEW HEIGHTS: TREE CLIMBING AT CROOME
Tree climb with skilled instructors from The Big Tree
Company, Sat 10 Oct, Croome Park, Worcester
YOUNG ARTISTS Learn new drawing, painting and
sculpture skills, Sat 10 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery,
Wolverhampton

EXCALIBUR COMPUTER FAIR Packed with computer goods at trade prices, Sat 10 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull SHAKESPEARE TOUR OF STRATFORD Sat 10 Oct, The Falstaff's Experience, Warwickshire



GHOST HUNT WITH UK GHOST NIGHTS Sat 10 Oct, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-upon-Avon TOY STEAM AND TRADITIONAL HOBBIES DAY

Demonstrations, traditional crafts, children's activities and much more..., Sat 10 Oct, Winterbourne House & Garden, Birmingham

CAPTION 2015 The indie and small press comics convention heads to Coventry, Sat 10 - Sun 11 Oct, Fargo Village, Coventry

COUNT DUCKULA Children's TV classic live on stage for the very first time, Sat 10 - Sun 11 Oct, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE RACES (NO LIMITS RACING)

NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE RACES (NO LIMITS RACING)
Packed grids and adrenaline-fuelled action to close the bike racing season in the East Midlands, Sat 10
- Sun 11 Oct, Donington Park Racing Circuit,
Warwickshire

THE GREAT ELECTRIC TRAIN SHOW Returning for its third year, Sat 10 - Sun 11 Oct, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire TORNADO STEAMS IN...

Take a ride behind an iconic locomotive, Sat 10 -

Sun 11 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Worcestershire JAPSHOW FINALE The final round of Jap and FWD Drag series. Jap only RWYB competition, Jet Car, club displays, Show & Shine, Sun 11 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton APPLE DAY Morris dancing, archery, plant sales,

APPLE DAY Morris dancing, archery, plant sales, hunt the golden apple and juice tasting from the Blakesley orchard, Sun 11 Oct, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

CARRIAGED AWAY AT CROFT See the competitor's horses and vehicles as they ride around Croft, demonstrating the elegance of traditional, twenty-first century driving, Sun 11 Oct, Croft Castle, Worcestershire

ANCIENT TREE AND CARRIAGE-RIDE WALK A guided walk through Croft's ancient parkland, Sun 11 Oct, Croft Castle, Worcestershire

**WEDDING FAYRE** A variety of suppliers exhibiting, supported by bridal fashion shows, Sun 11 Oct, Highbury Hall, Birmingham

**COIN & BANKNOTE FAIR** 

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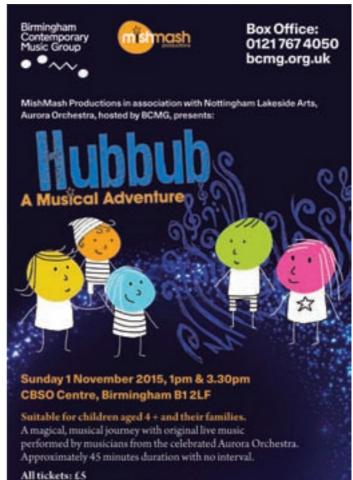
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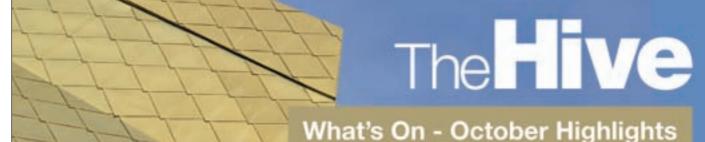
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#### Films & Theatre

#### Man Up (15)

11 October, 6pm, £3.50

#### Grandma Remember Me

Written by Belinda Lazenby Presented by AZ2B Theatre Company 15 October, 7pm. £6

#### The Selfish Giant

Presented by Sea Legs Puppet Theatre Company 29 October, 2pm. £4

#### Workshops & talks

Mental Wellbeing: strategies for maintaining mood and wellbeing

7 October, 6pm. Free

#### UCAS Statement Surgery

17 October, 9.30 - 11.30am 27 October, 11am - 3pm Free

#### Children's activities

No charge for children under 3 years of age.

Buy three tickets and the fourth family member gets in for free!

#### Young at Art – for under 5's

8 October, 10.30am, £3

## Stories on The Island

10, 17 & 24 October, 10.30am & 11.30am, Free

#### Children's Recycle Arts Workshops

27 October, 10am & 1pm. \$2.50

## Rat-a-tat Tales

28 October, 11am & 2.45pm. Free

#### Exhibitions

#### Illustration Exhibition

4 - 31 October

#### Whole Earth?

12 - 30 October

#### **Business Events**

#### Sales Masterclass

20 October, 4pm. Free

Book tickets & sign up to our mailing list www.thehiveworcester.org/whats-on





For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

the UK and Ireland, Sun 11 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull IMAGES OF EDWARD ELGAR Talk by Dr Jerrold Northrop Moore, renowned Elgar scholar and biographer. An Autumn in Malvern Festival event in association with the Elgar Society, Sun 11 Oct, The Elgar Birthplace Museum, Worcestershire AUTUMN WALK IN THE WOODS A tour of Blackwell's Wood, Sun 11 Oct, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

#### Week Commencing MON 12 OCT

THE MOTORHOME AND CARAVAN SHOW Tue 13 - Sun 18 Oct, NEC, Birmingham DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG

Chance to practise drifting in safe and legal conditions on some of the Pod's thirty acres of open tarmac, Wed 14 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

#### MIDLAND'S MODEL ENGINEERING EXHIBITION

Featuring nearly one thousand models, demonstrations, indoor & outdoor displays, Thurs 15 - Sun 18 Oct, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre

HERBERT LATES An evening of art, music, drinks, talks, performances and history, Fri 16 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

TEA WITH OSCAR WILDE Join 'Oscar Wilde' as he interviews leading celebrities of the Victorian era and recounts a story or two... Fri 16 Oct, Highbury Hall, Birmingham MATCHROOM BOXING

Sam Eggington and Frankie Gavin clash in an all-Birmingham Welterweight championship fight, Sat 17 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE REAPER Chance to try a 10k obstacle course, Sat 17 Oct, Heart of England Conference & Events Centre, Warwickshire

DRAWING FROM AUTOMOTIVE HISTORY Spend the day at the museum learning new drawing skills with Richard Cook, an art teacher and accomplished

pen and ink sketcher, Sat 17 Oct, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire WILDLIFE WATCH GROUP - MAMMALS Fun activities and walks for children led by Richard Thorpe, Arboretum's Volunteer Wildlife Officer, Sat 17 Oct, National Memorial Aboretum, Warwickshire SHAKESPEARE TOUR OF STRATFORD Sat 17 Oct, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-upon-Avon EXTREME PERFORMANCE BIKE WEEKEND Straightliners RWYB and race series with a round of the ACU Drag bike championships, Sat 17 - Sun 18 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

TORNADO STEAMS IN Take a ride behind this iconic locomotive, Sat 17 -Sun 18 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Worcestershire BRITISH RACING & SPORTS CAR CLUB Ten different championships go head to head in the British Racing & Sports Car Club Finals, Sat 17 - Sun 18 Oct, Silverstone Circuit, Northamptonshire COUNT DUCKULA Children's TV classic live on stage, Sat 17 - Sun 18 Oct, Cadbury World, Bournville, Rirmingham

SPORTS & SALOON CAR RACES (BRSCC) The British Racing and Sports Car Club (BRSCC) returns to Donington Park for their 'Finals' weekend where points will be at a premium as each championship has its deciding round of the season, Sat 17 - Sun 18 Oct, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Warwickshire

**COVENTRY ARTS CONSORTIUM 2015** The thirteenth exhibition of work by artists from four local art societies, Sat 17 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

FAMILY SCREAM PARK A variety of halloween attractions and activities, Sat 17 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Twinlakes Family Theme Park, Warwickshire SCAREFEST Experience chills and thrills at Alton Towers with brand new scare mazes, scare zones and a horror escape experience alongside all your favourite rides in the dark, Sat 17 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

#### GREAT BIRMINGHAM RUN

Sun 18 Oct, Birmingham City Centre
THE CAMBRIDGE OXFORD OWNERS CLUB Classic cars

on display, Sun 18 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum

APPLE DAY AND COUNTRY FAIR Apple displays and tastings, cultivation and gardening advice, competitions, children's activities, craft stalls and plants and produce for sale, Sun 18 Oct, Hill Close Gardens,

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL RECORD FAIR Sun 18 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull MIDLANDS BEAD FAIR Sun 18 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull SKI SEASON OPEN DAY

Tasters, demos, competitions, giveaways and much more, Sun 18 Oct, The Ackers, Birmingham OCTONAUTS TRAINING ACADEMY Enrol your little ones at the all-new Octonauts Training Academy and they'll learn what it takes to become a member of the crew, Sun 18 Oct - Sat 7 Nov, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

#### Week Commencing MON 19 OCT

MICHAEL PORTILLO - LIFE: A GAME OF TWO HALVES Mon 19 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch
MEETING MARY ANN The last woman to be hanged on Whitley Common in Coventry, in 1831, Tue 20 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry BACK TO THE FUTURE NIGHT An evening to transport you back in time and discover the history of the 50s, the 80s and now... Wed 21 Oct, National

Space Centre, Leicester CROOME'S SPELLBINDING HALLOWEEN TRAIL Follow the trail to find the ingredients to make a witch or wizard's brew, Thurs 22 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Croome Park, Worcestershire

**COVENTRY PEACE LECTURE 2015** Annual event for peace and reconciliation, Fri 23 Oct, St. Mary's Guildhall, Coventry SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL Run What Ya Brung till

late. Track open from 9.30am-8pm, with evening entertainment and camping, Sat 24 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

SHAKESPEARE TOUR OF STRATFORD Sat 24 Oct, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-upon-Avon **2HAUNTEDVENUES GHOST HUNT** Sat 24 Oct, The Falstaff's Experience, Stratford-upon-Avon



fore Saturday 31st October 2015 at midnight and you will automatically be entered into our free prize draw to win a car & £300 givenessy towards car insurance countery of Lan-Full 1s.4 Cs visit seven necrososcenotorshow.com/licket-packages: "Calls cost Oppm plus standard network charges. All bookings are subject to a single transaction fee of £ Tickets include a showguide to the value of £3.50. Entry to the auction requires purchase of a catalogue. See website for all information. All information correct at time of publi





For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

**EXCALIBUR COMPUTER FAIR** Packed with computer goods at trade prices, Sat 24 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Warwickshire GCCF SUPREME CAT SHOW Sat 24 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

DOWN UNDER LIVE Emigration event, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Warwickshire DIVE 2015 The UK's biggest event for divers, covering every aspect of the sport in the most innovative and exciting ways, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

#### **NO TRICKS JUST TREATS**

Halloween themed children's event, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Oct, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge TORNADO STEAMS IN...

Take a ride behind this iconic locomotive, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Oct, Severn Valley Railway. Worcestershire **GYMKHANA GRID FINAL** 

The Gymkhana GRiD Final with appearances, signings and performances from Ken Block and friends, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway,

## Northampton WEDDING FAYRE

Sat 24 - Sun 25 Oct, Twycross Zoo, Warwickshire HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR Ghost stories, face painting, spooky trails, pumpkin carving, broom stick racing and more, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Oct, Croft Castle, Worcestershire

#### PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

Carve a simply wicked pumpkin, take its innards home to make into soup, eat scary treats in the tea-room and arrive dressed in your Halloween best, Sat 24 - Wed 28 Oct, Moseley Old Hall,

THE SKELETON MENAGERIE Help to create a spectacular spooky display as part of Herbert's Festival Of The Dead, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

MEET SHAKESPEARE'S GHOSTS Shakespeare's Birthplace is being haunted by some of the spookiest characters from his plays, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Warwickshire

ALL HALLOWS WEEK Carve your own pumpkin and take it along to hear the tale of Jack o'the Lantern, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Mary Arden's Farm, Warwickshire

MAKE A HALLOWEEN PUPPET Create a spooky puppet to take home, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Warwickshire HAUNTED HALL'S CROFT: GHOST STORIES Gather round the fireplace to hear spooky ghost stories inspired by some of the objects found at Hall's Croft, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Hall's Croft, Stratfordupon-Avon

FAMILY FUN DAYS - HALLOWEEN 2015 Spooky outdoor trail with take-home activities. Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR Arrive in fancy dress for some ghoulish fun across the whole attraction, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Cadbury World, Bournville,

Birmingham
FAMILY FUN DAYS - HALLOWEEN 2015 Spooky outdoor trail with take-home activities, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

HALLOWEEN TRAIL A spooky family trail around the grounds, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov,

Croft Castle, Worcestershire

PUMPKIN WEEK Daily carving competitions, plus a pumpkin hunt and Hatton's Halloween Pumpkin House, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Hatton Adventure World, Warwickshire

CAR STORIES Various family fun workshops where you can tell your own car stories, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

FAMILY FUN DAYS - HALLOWEEN 2015 Spooky outdoor trail with take-home activities, Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Packwood House, Solihull

THE HAUNTED CASTLE Featuring wanton witches scary tales and a brand new fire joust, Sat 24 Oct -Sun 1 Nov, Warwick Castle

HALLOWEEEN MACHIEEENE The museum's famous 'find to win' competition returns, Sat 24 Oct - Mon 2 Nov, The MAD Museum, Stratford-upon-Avon RUN WHAT YA BRUNG The chance to take your car or



motorcycle out on the famous quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sun 25 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

#### RAINWORTH SKODA DUKERIES RALLY

The first competitive rally event at Donington Park since 1998, Sun 25 Oct, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Warwickshire

#### AUTUMN WEDDING FAYRE

Sun 25 Oct, St. Mary's Guildhall, Coventry

AUTUMN WEDDING FAYRE

Sun 25 Oct, Heart of England Conference & Events Centre. Warwickshire

LARGE MODEL AIRCRAFT SHOW This annual indoor show has over one hundred large- scale radio-controlled model aircraft on display, plus demonstrations and aircraft simulators, Sun 25 Oct, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire
ROARING 20S AFTERNOON TEA An afternoon tea of

hedonistic pleasure, complete with decadent and





Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry



# HerbertLATES

Herbert Lates happen monthly and are for strictly over 18s. Book your ticket online now at www.theherbert.org



Some events may have a small charge



For full listing information on Events, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

delectable delights based on 1920s American favourites, Sun 25 Oct, Highbury Hall, Birmingham MIDLAND CLOCK AND WATCH FAIR Sun 25 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

#### Week Commencing MON 26 OCT

60 MINUTE MARVEL - PRICKLY FRIENDS Learn all about hedgehogs' lives, build a home for them and play some nocturnal games, Mon 26 Oct, Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Coventry

HALF TERM HALLOWEEN FUN Fun for all the family with hide-and-seek, trails through the gardens, spooky stories and music, Mon 26 - Fri 30 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

SCARECROWS AND CRAFTS Discover the scarecrows hidden throughout Witley's gardens, before getting creative by making your own, Mon 26 - Fri 30 Oct, Witley Court, Worcestershire

TUDOR TERRORS Terrifying Tudor tales, hands-on creepy crafts and spectacularly spooky activities, Mon 26 - Fri 30 Oct,

Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

WITCHES AND WIZARDS

Make witches hats, creepy cauldron bags and jumping frogs, Mon 26 - Fri 30 Oct, Selly Manor,

Birmingham
PUMPKIN PARLOUR Pumpkin carving for your little monsters, Mon 26 - Sat 31 Oct, Beckett's Farm, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN KITCHEN A spooky session of pumpkin carving followed with a cookery class making delicious pumpkin muffins, Mon 26 - Sat 31 Oct Beckett's Farm, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN BANKING FOR VICTORY COIN TRAIL A children's trail to learn about wartime air raids and gain the next coin in your Banking For Victory trails col-lection, Mon 26 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Upton House &

Gardens. Warwickshire

FAMILY FULL-MOON WALK

An evening walk around the parkland to discover Croome after dark, Tue 27 Oct, Croome Park,

HAUNTED HOUSE: THE WITCHFINDER VISITS BLAKESLEY HALL The year is 1645 and the Witchfinder General has descended upon Blakesley Hall in search of witches, Tue 27 - Fri 30 Oct, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN SHOWS Tue 27 - Fri 30 Oct, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-upon-Avon

WILDLIFE WATCH See what wildlife you can spot and work to achieve your Hedgehog Award, Wed 28 Oct, Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Coventry WILDLIFE WATCH See what wildlife you can spot and work to achieve your Hedgehog Award, Wed 28 Oct, Brueton Park, Solihull

**FAMILY FRIENDLY TOUR** Become an Elizabethan and take a tour around the hall, Wed 28 - Thurs 29 Oct, Harvington Hall, Worcestershire

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY An autumnal exploration of the gardens, with games, wildlife spotting and bug hunting, Thurs 29 Oct, Spetchley Park Gardens, Worcestershire

COLOUR COLLECTORS CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

Discover the colours of Autumn in the Gardens, Thurs 29 Oct, Hill Close Gardens, Warwickshire HALLOWEEN DARK DEEDS SPECIAL All new Dark Deeds tours, not for the faint hearted, Thurs 29 Oct,

Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth

LATE AT THE GATE - YE OLDE TAVERN QUIZ The Jerusalem Tavern will be selling a range of beverages and snacks whilst the quiz master tests your team's general knowledge, Thurs 29 - Fri 30 Oct, Museum of the Order of St John, Warwick HALLOWEEN GHOST TOURS An after-hours journey back to Warwickshire's wicked past, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Oct, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire GHOST TRAINS A thrilling ghost train ride into the countryside, Thurs 29 - Sat 31 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Worcestershire

BRICK 2015 The UK's biggest LEGO show, Thurs 29 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, NEC, Birmingham HALLOWEEN HAUNTED TAVERN TOUR Fri 30 Oct, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-upon-Avon

HAUNTED HALLOWEEN BANQUET Enjoy an evening of haunted fun while feasting on a four- course meal, Fri 30 Oct, Coombe Abbey Hotel, Coventry MEDICINE & WITCHCRAFT IN SEVENTEENTH CENTURY ENGLAND Dr Darren Oldridge explores the lost world of medicine & witchcraft in the age of the English Civil War, Fri 30 Oct, University of Worcester STRATFORD TOWN GHOST WALKS Fri 30 - Sat 31 Oct,

Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon
TORCH LIT PUMPKIN WALK Featuring spooky fun and
games on the lakeside terrace, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Oct,
Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster SPOOKTACULAR 12 Three-course carvery & interactive entertainment, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Oct, Heart of England Conference & Events Centre, Warwickshire GHOST HUNT WITH HAUNTED HAPPENINGS Fri 30 - Sat

31 Oct, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-upon-HALLOWEEN ACTIVITY DAYS Get messy carving your

own pumpkin to take home, Fri 30 Oct - Sun 1 Nov, Croome Park, Worcestershire FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR Fri 30 Oct - Sun 1 Nov,

Drayton Manor Theme Park, Staffordshire **FLAME & THUNDER SHOW** 

Sat 31 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton ARTISAN FOOD & CRAFT MARKET Sat 31 Oct, Fargo Village, Coventry

ELIZABETH LIVING HISTORY EVENT See the hall brought to life by Elizabethan period re-enactors, Sat 31 Oct, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster HALLOWEEN STORY NIGHT Includes a ghost walk, ter-rifying tales and light refreshments, Sat 31 Oct, Martineau Gardens, Birmingham

MUSEUM LIVE A free open day to celebrate the anniversary of the museum opening, Sat 31 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull HALLOWEEN GHOST HUNT

A night of seances and ghost hunting in the west wing, Sat 31 Oct, Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth SHAKESPEARE TOUR OF STRATFORD Sat 31 Oct, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-upon-Avon SPOOKY STORIES

For young and old alike, prepare to be scared, Sat 31 Oct, Winterbourne House & Garden, Birmingham





## Halloween Half Term Fun

#### Monday 26 to Saturday 31 October

We've got a week of activities to give the kids a frighteningly good time. Join us for spine-tingling stories, haunting hide and seek and terrifying trails as the sun goes down.

Visit our website for more information birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk/whatson

Find us on:





Your support keeps the Gardens growing

TBIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS





Friday 30 October 5 - 9 pm

Board the FREE Art Bus and gallery-hop between six of Birmingham's top

art venues

Complimentary refreshments and guided tours are available at selected galleries - see individual websites for details\*:

**Bus timetables** available online and in participating galleries

**BUS STOP** 

www.barber.org.uk www.macarts.co.uk www.lkon-gallery.org www.rbsa.org.uk www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/bmag www.bcu.ac.uk/parkside-gallery















# Eating Out

## **Five stars for Birmingham**

Carters of Moseley, located on St Mary's Row, Wake Green Road, joins four other city restaurants - Purnell's, Simpsons, Turners and Adam's - in the Michelin Great Britain & Ireland Guide 2016. Run by chef Brad Carter and his partner and frontof-house manager Holly Jackson, Carters of Moseley was launched in 2010. The restaurant beat competitors from across the Midlands to become a 2014 Good Food Guide award winner.



### **Restaurant finds permanent home**

Michelin-starred Birmingham city centre restaurant Adam's is expected to move to its permanent home in time for Christmas. Owner and chef Adam Stokes and wife Natasha opened the restaurant currently located on Bennetts Hill - in 2013, attaining the Michelin star six months later. This was followed in 2014 by the eatery being awarded three AA rosettes. The move to the new premises - at New Oxford House on Waterloo Street, just off Colmore Row - will see the restaurant's capacity rise from twenty-five to thirty-eight covers. There will also be a private dining area, offering space for an additional fourteen customers.

#### **Pushkar - hot on the awards front**

Indian fine-dining restaurant Pushkar is celebrating after landing a coveted Diners' Choice Award in the English Curry category. The Birmingham restaurant bagged the Team/Service of the Year award for the West Midlands region. The winners are selected via feedback from diners who booked through OpenTable. Pushkar is also one of four eateries shortlisted to represent Birmingham in the annual Curry Capital of Britain competition during this month's National Curry Week (12 - 18 October). The restaurant will be showcasing its signature dish.





## An eclectic Latino-inspired menu...

#### **REVIEW**

Las Iguanas is one of three new restaurant chains to set up home in Coventry's newly refurbished Cathedral Lanes Shopping Centre this Autumn. The restaurant offers an eclectic menu of Latino-inspired dishes, covering everything from Mexican classics like enchiladas, fajitas and chilli right through to the refreshingly daring Brazilian-inspired curry menu - all washed down by a carefully sourced cocktail selection. Entering the restaurant on a damp and drizzly Autumn evening, I was immediately warmed by the energy and exuberance of my new surroundings. The constant hum of drinkers, diners and waiting staff provided the perfect backdrop for a laidback dining experience. We opted for a traditional starter of three mixed tapas. Both the variety and quality of dishes was apparent from the word go. Our choice of albondigas (Patagonian-style meatballs with apple, mint and parmesan, braised in a rich tomato and chilli sauce) was an instant hit, surpassed only by the lamb, mint and chipolata empanadas - fried in oil,

rich in flavour and oozing

authenticity in every bite. Special mention must go to the gluten-free gambas (butterfly shell prawns cooked in garlic, lemon and chilli) and champinones (mushrooms sautéed in garlic chilli sauce), both classics in their own right. Opting for a main course of braised chunky beef steak, minced beef and black bean with garlic rice, tortilla, sour cream and pink pickled onion accompaniment, the great flavours just kept on coming. My only criticism - if it can be called such - was that there was simply too much in the way of accompaniments. In the case of so rich a dish, less is definitely more. But it was my partner's choice of main course that was the real revelation of the evening: Creamy coconut curry with peppers, garlic and tomato accompanied by sweet plantain and a choice of either sustainable white fish and peeled prawns or squash, palm hearts and spinach. A fiesta on a plate, every element of the dish had been painstakingly chosen for maximum flavour and effect, from the sweet kick of the fried plantain and the coconutinfused crunch of the farofa right through to the quality of the seafood itself.

Keep an eye out also for the venue's equally impressive range of side dishes, including spicedusted corn chips and the fiendishly moreish patatas bravas with smoked chipotle sauce and aioli. Delicious!

Our dessert option of tembleque (coconut pudding with mix berry and mango puree) was the perfect palate-cleanser; light, refreshing and with just the right hint of sharpness. In addition to the evening food and cocktail menu, Las Iguanas also offers a two-course a la carte lunch menu, served until 6.30pm weekdays and priced from a very competitive £6 per main course.

Adding a touch of spice to Coventry's newly revitalised restaurant quarter, Las Iguanas is exactly the type of venue the city's been crying out for and vou have a surefire recipe for success. Katherine Ewing

Food: Service: OVERALL

Ambience: Overall value 

Las Iguanas, **Cathedral Lanes** Shopping Centre, Coventry, CV1 1LL Tel: 02476 239 120

## Restaurant LISTINGS

For full listing information on restaurants, including opening times and type of cuisine, visit: www.whatsonlive.co.uk

#### **Birmingham**

**24 CARAT BISTRO** 27 Warstone Lane, Birmingham, B18 6JQ 0121 236 0519

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, B1 2HP 0121 633 9262 CENTENARY BAR &

BRASSERIE Broad Street, B1 2EP 0121 245 2080 CHI BAR & GRILL 61 Newhall Street, B3 3RB

CHIMICHANGA 41 Mill Lane Arcade, Touchwood,

0121 233 3150

Solihull, B91 3GS 0121 704 0749 CHIING 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

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

Paul's Square, B3 1SD 0121 212 3664 THE LOFT LOUNGE 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

**0PUS** 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

THE RECTORY 50-54 St Paul's Sq, B3 1QS 0121 605 1001

0121 236 1116

**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

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 AUBERGINE 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

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 Stretford-upon-

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

**EG0** 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, Learnington Spa, CV31 3AB 01926 431999 HIGH PAVEMENT BAR & DIN-ING 3 High Street, CV34 4AP 01926 494725

HELP OUT MILL Heather Rd, Shakerstone, Nuneaton, CV13 0BT 01530 260666 INDIA RED 25 Abbey

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, Learnington Spa, CV33 9QB, 01926 330214 MATRICARDIS 97 High St, Henley in Arden, B95 5AT

01564 792735 **MERCHANTS** Swan Street, Warwick, CV34 4BJ 01926 403833

NUMBER SIX Castle Street, Warwick, CV34 4BP 01926 497663

**ONE ELM 1** Guild St, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6QZ 01789 404919 **PREZZO** 1-3 High St,

01926 475867 RESTAURANT 23 34 Hamilton Terrace, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa, CV32 4LY 01926 422422

Warwick, CV34 4AP

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 TREVELYAN** Warwick Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 ONR 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, Stoulton, 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,

01527 578888 MASSALLA LOUNGE 35 Broad St, Worcester, WR1 3NH 01905

Bromsgrove, B61 7AE

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 R0SADOS'S 2 Finstall Rd, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove, B60 2DZ

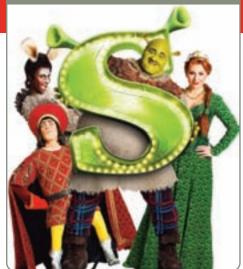
SAFFRON BISTRO 15 New St, Worcester, WR1 2DP 01905 610505

01527 889948



## Great Theatre at the **Grand!**

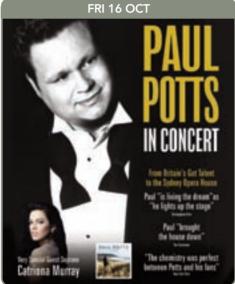
WED 30 SEPT - SUN 11 OCT

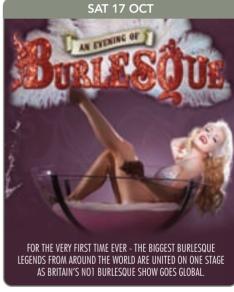


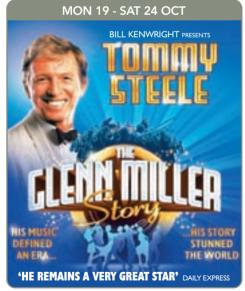


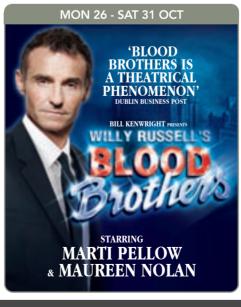


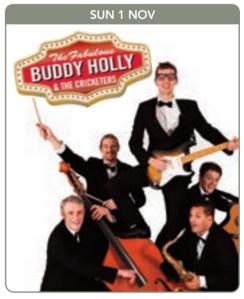












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