

THE MIDLANDS ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

WARWICKSHIRE

What's On

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ISSUE 360 DECEMBER 2015



MADONNA
REBEL HEART ON TOUR
more inside...

A GIANT PANTO

Jack arrives in
Leamington Spa

CLOTHES SHOW LIVE

fashion extravaganza
at the NEC

PADDY MCGUINNESS

DADDY MCGUINNESS on tour...

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December 2015



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Team GB to take on Japan at Barclaycard Arena

Birmingham is to host Great Britain's first-round tennis match in the 2016 Davis Cup. The tie takes place at the Barclaycard Arena from 4 to 6 March and sees the Aegon GB Davis Cup Team take on Japan. Commenting on the fixture, GB team captain Leon Smith said: "Birmingham is a city with a great sporting history that's hosted some incredible Davis Cup ties in the past. Japan will be a tough contest but I'm sure the Birmingham fans will get right behind us and make as much noise as they can."



Steel And Jelly launches at Grand Central

A new menswear store has opened in Grand Central Birmingham. Steel And Jelly is a family business established in the city in 2004. Its collection offers everything from formal tailoring to soft casuals and premium accessories. "The Steel And Jelly philosophy centres on scrupulous attention to detail," explains the company's owner, Nish Thakrar. "We're passionate about embracing innovative British design by creating a hybrid of the contemporary and the traditional. Each item is made with the modern-day gentleman in mind, threading the past through to the present."



One-woman show to make its debut in Birmingham

Birmingham Theatre School graduate Natalie Cutler's interest in feminist theatre has inspired her to write a one-woman show - and she'll be performing a preview of it this month. Not Yet Suffragette takes a look at modern-day feminism and alternative ways of viewing marriage, baby showers, motherhood and men. The show previews at Birmingham's mac on 5 December.



Dance festival launches at the House of Lords

DanceXchange and Birmingham Hippodrome have launched the 2016 International Dance Festival Birmingham (IDFB) at a special reception at the House of Lords. Commenting on next year's festival, Fiona Allan, Birmingham Hippodrome's new chief executive, said: "It's an exciting time to have moved to the city of Birmingham and Birmingham Hippodrome, and I'm thrilled to be involved in my first International Dance Festival. Headlining performances at Birmingham Hippodrome include a mixed bill from Nederlands Dans Theater 2 (pictured above), Carlos Acosta's classical farewell tour, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan and Ballet British Columbia's debut performance as part of IDFB. This stellar line-up, and more across the city, proves once again Birmingham attracts the very best in international dance to the city." International Dance Festival Birmingham 2016 runs at various venues across the city from 1 to 22 May.

Twenty five years of Disney On Ice...

An action-packed adventure celebrating twenty-five years of Disney On Ice is coming to the Midlands next year. Disney On Ice Presents Silver Anniversary Celebration invites audiences to enjoy 'the ultimate sightseeing holiday'. It features Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Goofy, and Donald and Daisy Duck as they visit the magical worlds of The Lion King, The Little Mermaid and Peter Pan. Disney On Ice Presents Silver Anniversary Celebration visits Birmingham's Genting Arena from 6 to 10 April.

Additions to Strictly's star-studded line-up

Georgia May Foote, Ainsley Harriott and Anita Rani are to join Strictly Come Dancing's Live Tour next year. Launching at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham from 22 to 24 January, the show is hosted by Great British Bake Off's Mel Giedroyc. Len Goodman, Craig Revel Horwood and Bruno Tonioli are the judges. The Saturdays' Frankie Bridge will also join the line-up after being unable to make last year's tour. Of her involvement following the

birth of her second child in August, Frankie said: "I'm thrilled to have been asked to join the 2016 tour. It will be great to get my dancing shoes back on and be part of the Strictly family again. Roll on January!"

Celebrating fifty years of Asian programming

Fifty years of Asian programming on the BBC is being celebrated at The Drum in Birmingham this month. A special comedy night at the Aston venue on Friday 11 December is hosted by BBC Asian Network's Breakfast Show presenter, Tommy Sandhu. Guz Khan, Shaista Aziz, Aditi Mittal and newcomer Tez Ilyas are the mirth-makers charged with the challenge of providing a memorably side-splitting evening.



Cocktails for kids at the RST

The Royal Shakespeare Company has launched three new children's mocktails inspired by its festive family show, Wendy & Peter Pan.

The 'Tinkertini' is based on Peter Pan's mischievous fairy sidekick, Tink. The pink drink, a mix of raspberry sherbet and apple juice, comes complete with edible glitter stars. There's also a pirate-style 'Dastardly Daiquiri', containing edible buried treasure in the bottom of the glass. The third mocktail is the 'Neverland Sunrise', a layered fruit juice drink.

Commenting on the new range, Sara Aspley, RSC Head of Commercial Services, said: "We hope our brand new mocktails will offer children an exciting flavour of Neverland."



Regional showcase for regional artists

Forty-three artists from five regional art schools are set to exhibit new work at four leading galleries as part of New Art West Midlands 2016.

A launch vehicle for emerging artists, New Art West Midlands is a Turning Point West Midlands initiative. It will next year use Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, mac, Wolverhampton Art Gallery and Coventry's Herbert Gallery & Museum to display the new work, which includes paintings, photographs, sculptures, videos and conceptual pieces.

The artists selected to display their work - five of whom will win cash prizes of £1,000 - have all graduated from one of the West Midlands' art schools in the last five years. Wendy Law, Director of Turning Point West Midlands, commented: "There's a diverse range of talent and work coming out of art schools and universities in the West Midlands. New Art West Midlands provides an important opportunity at a crucial point in the careers of these artists, enabling them to have their work displayed in highly respected galleries and to be seen and enjoyed by a wide public."



Image credit Jakki Carey



Belgrade Theatre announces new season

EastEnders favourites Kat and Alfie Moon are heading for the Coventry Belgrade Theatre next year.

Jessie Wallace and Shane Richie, who play the popular pair in the hit BBC TV soap, will be appearing on stage together for the very first time when they star at the venue in Peter James' hit thriller, The Perfect Murder.

Jessie and Shane headline a truly eclectic spring season at the Belgrade. Other highlights include Strictly Come Dancing stars Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace in Latin dance spectacular The Last Tango, a celebration of South Asian arts in Bring On The Bollywood, the political thriller The Dishonoured and Ishy Din's World War One epic, Wipers.

There's plenty of theatrical fun lined up for families to enjoy too, with Gangsta Granny, The Giant's Loo Roll and Pongo's Party - featuring the voice of CBeebies' Justin Fletcher - all taking their turn on the Belgrade stage.

For more information and to book tickets, visit belgrade.co.uk

Prestigious award for Midlands theme park

Drayton Manor Theme Park has enjoyed a major success at the prestigious Enjoy Staffordshire Tourism Awards.

The much-loved visitor attraction scooped half a dozen gongs at a special lunch ceremony in its Tower Suite last month. The theme park won in the categories of Best Tourism Event of the Year (for the launch of its £2.5million Thomas Land expansion) and Access For All. It also picked up a silver award and was commended in two further categories.

Colin Bryan, the theme park's CEO, accepted a special Outstanding Contribution Award on behalf of himself and his parents. The award was in recognition of all that the Bryan family has done for Staffordshire during the sixty-five years since Drayton Manor first opened its doors.

IN BRIEF

A touch of France at Kitchen Garden Café

A quartet with strong Midlands connections and a Parisian vocalist are performing at Birmingham's Kitchen Garden Café on 13 December. Montparnasse features Worcester-based double bass player Paul Smith and Warwickshire's Robin Payne on drums. Céline Domart provides the French influence, with acoustic guitarist Cris Tolley completing the foursome.

Choir offers a triple dose of festive cheer...

Birmingham Bach Choir is marking Christmas with three festive appearances, all of which are in aid of charity.

The popular choir is performing at St Peter's Church in Harborne, Birmingham, on 5 December as part of Singing For Syrians, a nationwide initiative helping to support people whose lives have been torn apart by the ongoing conflict in their country.

Christmas Carols At QEHB, meanwhile (Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, 15 December), finds choir members joined by the Midlands' Military Choir. Proceeds from the event will go to the QEHB Charity fund to support injured service personnel.

The choir is also performing Nine Lessons And Carols at St Paul's in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter on 20 December. Monies raised from the service will be donated to doctors working in Aleppo, Syria.

"Our Christmas appearances are always firm favourites with audiences, especially Nine Lessons And Carols, which is always well attended," says Birmingham Bach Choir's Chair, Sarah Platt. "At a time of horrific conflict in the wider world, we're also proud to offer our support to both the QEHB Charity's military patients' fund and the Singing For Syrians initiative. We hope our appearances result in much-needed donations for both causes."

A portrait of Fiona Allan, a woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a black jacket with a large, dark feathered collar. She is standing with her arms crossed, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a library or office.

Fiona Allan

What's On in conversation with
Birmingham Hippodrome's new Chief Executive...

Held in high regard for her work at two of the UK's top producing houses - Cardiff's Wales Millennium Centre and Curve in Leicester - Australian-born Fiona Allan recently became Birmingham Hippodrome's first female Chief Executive. Fiona recently took time out from her busy schedule to talk to What's On about her career in the arts, the role of women in theatre and her passion for dance. Oh, and she even revealed her guilty pleasure...

There's been a significant rise in the number of women taking top positions in theatre, although not as many as might be hoped for. Why do you think this is?

We're playing catch up with other countries in terms of the balance in top roles in the arts. You'll find there are a lot more top roles in producing theatres - but as far as presenting theatres go, I think I'm still the only female chief executive of a major theatre, and it really is about time that changed. I don't know why it's the case, but I do believe that, to some extent, there's an 'old boys club' mentality. It's hard to penetrate that network and find a way through it.

How does the situation compare to Australia?

I've been here eleven years now, but my recollection of Australia was that there was more parity at the top in the culture sector. I remember attending my first meeting here in the UK, where the only other woman in the room was the person taking the minutes. I remember thinking it really odd - but what was even more troubling was that it was only when I pointed it out to them that they realised. To them, at that time, it was the norm. In my early years in the UK, I was continually surprised that having parity between the sexes wasn't seen as an issue. Even two years ago, I was interviewed by an all-male interview committee to go on to a board in Leicester. They asked what I would bring to the board. I said diversity, as you clearly don't have much female representation. The Australia I remember was a bit more progressive than that. There would never have been an interview panel of all men.

What do you think should be done to bring about a much-needed change?

I hope that as women get more of these jobs it's seen as a realistic aspiration for young women, so that they can see it's actually possible. And that, in its own right, shows younger women that they should stick at it and work themselves up the food chain. I really believe in mentoring and supporting people on the way up. I've done that for a number of people who've worked alongside me, but that was regardless of their sex. We're in a city like Birmingham and we should also be talking about youth and cultural diversity. I'd like to see more of both of those in cultural bodies. I don't think that the everyday face of Birmingham that I see on the streets is reflected in the Hippodrome staff and audience, so there's plenty of room for improvement there.

Why choose a career in the arts?

I was a musician in my initial trainings. I left high school and did a degree in music. I was a clarinetist, played with some contemporary ensembles and orchestras and taught music. Then I had this revelatory moment that it was no longer what I wanted to do. What I'd wanted to do for a very long time was work in arts management, but there was no such thing in Australia at the time. It was when I was about twenty-five that the very first course started in Australia. I got into the first intake and that changed my life.

Was it your profession that brought you to the UK?

I was working at the time as the chief executive of the Sydney Film Festival, which is the biggest event of its kind in Australia and a major tourism moment for Sydney. I'd been in the role for a couple of years but was really missing working in the performing arts. I'd previously been with the Sydney Opera House, and I missed the tension of live performance and the experience of dealing with performers. I love dance, I missed it and thought, 'It's time for an adventure'. So I put my CV out there in the UK and I was appointed Artistic Director of the Wales Millennium Centre, where I spent seven years.

Your passion for dance is well documented. How do you foresee that tying in with your role at the Hippodrome?

It was one of the things that really drew me to the role. Not only the theatre's connections to resident companies BRB and DanceXchange, but also the Hippodrome's own commitment to programming dance and co-producing the International Dance Festival. It just seemed like a really good fit for me.

How do you see the theatre's relationship with dance moving forward?

I'm interested to explore the Hippodrome's role in the creation of new dance and working with other companies in and around Birmingham, supporting younger artists and people coming through. I'd also like to look at how we programme and build audience for international dance. It's still a challenge, but, believe me, the Hippodrome do it much better than most venues across the country. The theatre has consistently higher audiences, but there are still seats that can be filled - and I'm evangelistic about dance. I think that if people are exposed to it, they'll find it's not so foreign and scary - it's just a great and entertaining thing to go and watch, with beautiful people dancing along to beautiful music. People get a bit tongue-tied trying to attach meaning to everything they're seeing when it should really be about enjoying the moment. I can walk through a contemporary art gallery and enjoy it without having to understand what it all is. It's about just enjoying the experience.

I'm interested in looking at how the Hippodrome can work with other major venues that present dance - places like Sadlers Wells, The Lowry, Wales Millennium Centre or Edinburgh Festival Theatre who, like us, are doing well in bringing in audiences for dance. I'd look at how we could collaborate and create new dance that's very audience accessible and that appeals to a much broader audience.

The Curve is very well established as a producing venue, for which you should take a good amount of credit. How do you intend to transfer your skills to the Hippodrome?

I'm interested to explore how the theatre could have more of a role for new work or creating revivals of old musicals. There are good models out there with the Music and Lyrics Consortium, but there are also some producing partners who we work with quite

regularly here at the Hippodrome who I know will be open to conversations about us having co-producing relationships. I think we're a big enough player in this market to actually make some of the artistic decisions and not just sit back and wait for work to come to us.

Is that how you see your role?

I certainly see my role as exploring those options, testing our own attitude to risk and finding circumstances where that makes sense.

The Curve was very brave - they took those risks and it paid off...

Yes, but the Curve was always subsidised to do it. The Curve's *raison d'être* is as a producing theatre and that's why the Arts Council gives it money - in order to create new productions. The Hippodrome is in a unique position by not receiving subsidy from public bodies. The theatre doesn't receive money from Birmingham City Council or the Arts Council of England (although we work closely with them on projects). That puts the pressure on us to make our own books balance. There's a wonderful freedom that comes with that, but it does mean less ability to take risks sometimes.

Do you worry about the impact of those demands on your own creativity?

No, I actually think it means you have to be more creative. I'm really committed to audience development. I think there are still avenues along which we can explore the balance of the programming that the Hippodrome does - especially looking at how to connect to audiences we're currently not reaching. That will open up an opportunity for more creativity.

Do you like most genres of theatre?

Yeah, pretty much anything. I'll give almost anything a go.

I'm a bit of a traditionalist when it comes to musicals - I like older musicals. I think *West Side Story* is my favourite musical of all time.

So is there any kind of show you'd never go to?

Heavy metal music and tribute bands. They really aren't my cup of tea. I also struggle with stand-up comedy. I know that probably makes me sound like I'm lacking a sense of humour, but, for me, it's the expectation that kills it. You walk into somewhere expecting someone to be really, really funny and that you'll have the best night ever. It's very difficult for someone to live up to that. Comedy is never my first choice, let's put it that way.

Finally, what's your guilty pleasure?

Watching *The Apprentice* - and I do like to watch *Coronation Street*. I'm a member of what we define as *Corrie Club*, which consists of a group of my friends who're all over the place. We tweet as we watch. We tweet each others comments, live editorial of *Coronation Street*. That's a bit sad, isn't it?...

Read our full interview with Fiona Allan online at whatsonlive.co.uk

From Benidorm

Best known for playing their respective roles of Kenneth and Liam in popular ITV1 sitcom *Benidorm*, Tony Maudsley and Adam Gillen this month arrive in the Midlands to star in two of the region's biggest festive productions. Tony dons high heels and even higher hair as Edna Turnblad in a new touring production of *Hairspray The Musical* at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre, while Adam heads for Neverland in Ella Hickson's adaptation of *Wendy And Peter Pan* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. What's On recently met up with the boys from *Benidorm* to find out more...

Down in Baltimore...

Edna is a larger-than-life character. What excites you most about playing her, Tony?
What I didn't want to do was create a 'tribute Edna'. I wanted to take her as far away from a panto dame as I possibly could, so I took the character back to the bare bones and thought, 'Why is she like that? Why hasn't she left her house in so many years?' I thought it'd be quite sad to be like that, but I needed to understand the journey of her getting to love herself again. Getting it right was a challenge, as I didn't want to be a cheap laugh. I wanted people to love her, feel sorry for her and understand where she's going.

Did you have any initial reservations?
Touring at my age isn't the same as touring when you're twenty, and this is a lengthy tour. I'm sort of taking a lot of responsibility as the head of the company. On my other tour I was a chorus boy and had a brilliant time. Now there's a certain amount of responsibility that comes with the role. I'm leading a young company who I'm sure will tempt me to stray at some point. I said to Claire Sweeney that I feel like we're their nan and granddad. For a lot of the company this is their first gig, so on the first night, when we heard the roar from the audience, it was their first time. When they're moved, I'm moved - you get flashbacks to your first show, which can be overwhelming.

How are you managing your heels?

The heels aren't as bad as I thought they'd be. They're about three inches, so it could've been worse. That said, with the big wig and me being six foot four even before heels, I could end up being just under seven foot. My favourite pair of shoes that Edna wears are her flat slippers - but if I had my way, she'd be wearing trainers!

And the makeup?

I just sit back and think of England while some woman comes in and does it for me. I wouldn't have a clue. I'd look a mess, like a prostitute. So I'm lucky that somebody comes in and does all that for me.

Which elements of your personality are you going to bring to the show?

To Edna? Loyalty, I think. She's very loyal to her family, and I am to mine. She's caring, she stands up for what's right, and I think we're quite similar like that. She doesn't like people being singled out and nor do I. I can't bear that.

Did it ever feel daunting to be following in the footsteps of Brian Conley and Michael Ball?

Absolutely. They've both done it to great acclaim, haven't they? I didn't want to be crap and get slagged off for being the worst Edna ever, so there was a pressure. *Hairspray* has its own fans who follow the show around, so you really do want to get it right for them as well as for yourself.

Your repertoire features some very serious roles, do you have a preference?

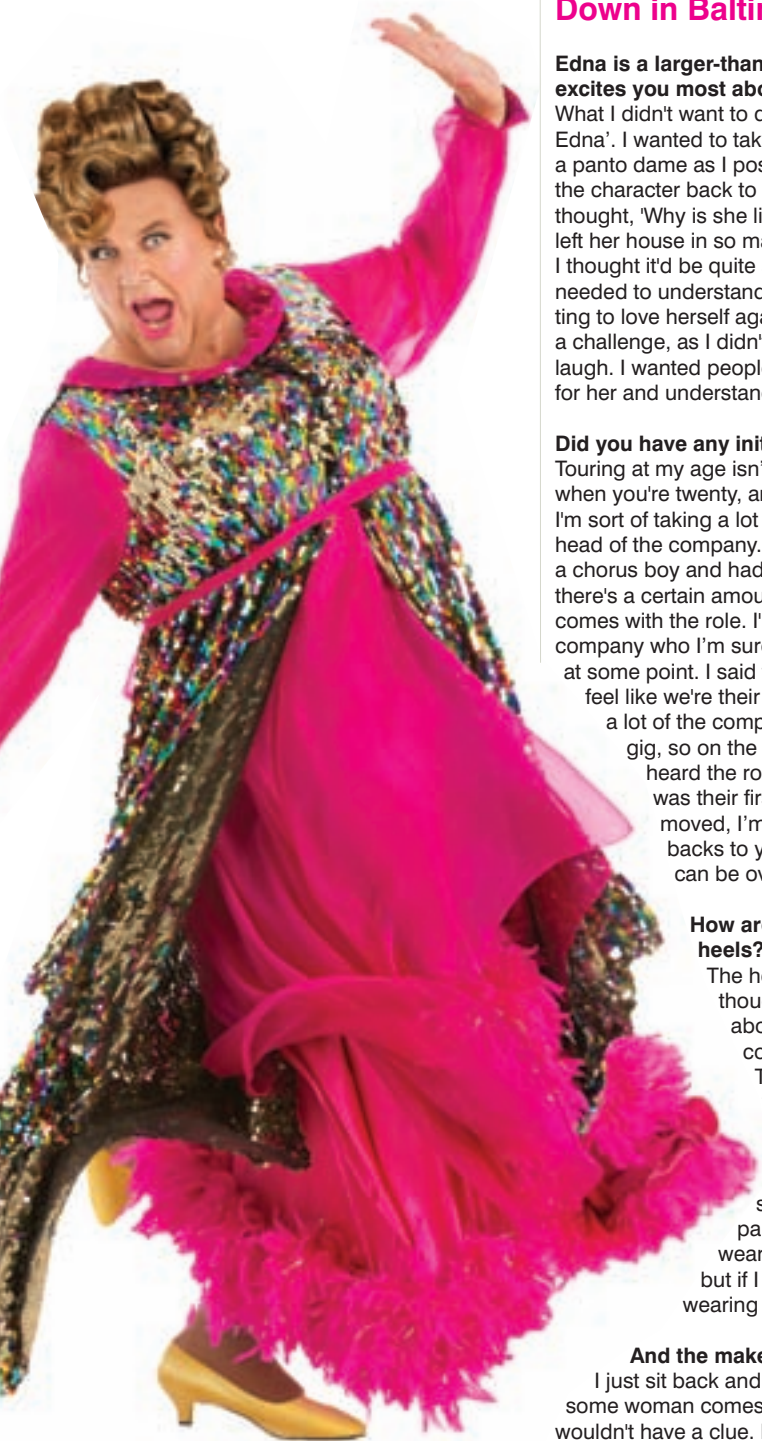
It was my dad who said, 'Why don't you do some comedy?'. I told him I didn't really get to pick; things just came along. I was doing some really serious, heavy French plays in London, and my agent said there was an audition for *Benidorm*. I dashed across London in my lunch hour and rushed in for my *Benidorm* audition. I literally had ten minutes to do it, and when I ran in, I was out of breath and feeling hot. The people who auditioned me said the reason I got it was because I was complaining about the heat. I think we all get seen because of what box we're in. At the minute I'm definitely in a comedy box. I don't get to do much serious stuff - although I did get to do *Ordinary Lives* last year, which was quite a heavy programme; a hard drama. I'm happy, though - I'm working and I'm enjoying it.

What's in the pipeline post-*Hairspray*?

Hopefully more *Benidorm*, and then there's the possibility of a transfer of *Hairspray*. Taking it into London would be lovely, and that's what we're all hoping for. It's been a while - it finished in 2006, so there's a whole new generation waiting.

Hairspray The Musical shows at **New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham**, from Mon 14 December to Sat 2 January

Wendy & Peter Pan shows at **Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon** until Sun 31 January



With Love...

Meanwhile in Neverland...

What attracted you to Wendy And Peter Pan, Adam?

I suppose the prospect of flying, but I don't get to do that unfortunately. I've always loved Peter Pan's story. It's always been my favourite Disney production and is something that I remember from my childhood. I really love Jonathan's version of it. He's got a really brilliant imagination and a wonderful flair for the magical, which is really exciting.

It's said that the show is closely based on the 2013 production of the same name. What's changed?

It's bigger - everything is just more wondrous and elaborate. It just seems more epic. I'm not saying the first one wasn't, but it's always good to build on a very solid platform, and that's what Jonathan's doing.

Tell us about Martin, the character you play...

He's the cabin boy on the pirate ship, but he's out of place in every way possible. He suffers from allergies. He has terrible hayfever and doesn't really fit into pirate life. He's struggling to find his way through it, which is quite fun for me as an actor. I guess he's more of a lost boy than a pirate, but he's ended up being a working boy for Hook, Smee and the gang. He's not having a great time with it.

Is there a little bit of a love interest there?

Later on. I don't want to ruin it for audiences, but someone magical comes into view. It's a nice character journey. It's also good that I get the privilege of being on the pirate ship but not being all piratey.

Is that love interest a little flying character?

Yes, it's Tinkerbell, which is wonderful. It's an unlikely pairing but seems to work.

Wendy And Peter Pan sees you making your RSC debut. How does it feel to be stepping out on such a prestigious stage?

It's a real privilege, and it's something I've wanted to be involved with. Such great work and all the best people in the industry work there. On every level, it's a brilliant, creative, powerful machine, which it's really exciting to be a part of.

If you were presented with the opportunity to return to Stratford and perform again with the RSC in any of Shakespeare's works, which play or character would you choose?

There are so many great, weird and wonderful creations in the repertoire that I'd love to have a go at. One day, when I'm a little bit older, I'd like to play Richard III.

You're very well known for playing Liam in Benidorm. Has it been difficult to shake out that rather wet character and be taken seriously?

I haven't had too much trouble, but Benidorm's been my first experience of something being watched in a major way. I think maybe it's a bit too early to say that, but it's always a bit of a thing when actors play a character in a TV show that people watch. It's bound to have people forming a view of you, but I've had lots of variety in my career so far. I've been lucky to do things like Soliders At War and Prisoners' Wives.

Has Liam affected your personal life in any way?

Now and again, but thankfully it's never abuse. People are very friendly, and it doesn't happen all the time. It happens more in Benidorm when I'm doing the show. Everyone goes a bit crazy because, to them, you're just the person on the telly and not a human being with another life. It's quite hard to shake off, and people act like you're in The Beatles out there, which is ridiculous. Luckily, because I appear quite soft in the show, people tend to be very gentle with me, which I do appreciate.

Your career spans TV and stage. Do you have a preference?

I like both of them because they're both acting, pretending and creating a world, which is exciting. I like the challenge of being more expansive on the stage, really stretching your legs and spreading your wings. Then again, I like being tiny and intimate on telly. I like them both for different reasons.

Of the characters you've portrayed, which has required you to dig deepest into yourself?

Prisoners' Wives was quite tough. I'm not an unpleasant person, but the character was awful to his mother and that wasn't very nice. I found that particularly difficult because, at the time, I was splitting my time between filming in Sheffield and living in Manchester with my mum. I would have to snap out of the role when I got home to my mum. I had to remember I wasn't in prison and she wasn't smuggling drugs for me. Everything was alright and Corrie would be on in a minute, so let's just relax.

Did you always aspire to be an actor?

Yeah, I think I discovered what I wanted to do when I was fourteen or fifteen. I knew it was where I felt happiest because I could control the attention coming my way, and that was quite a satisfying thing to do. Since then, I just got the bug. Some of my very good friends went off to RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) at eighteen, and I knew I wanted to do that too. Luckily I got in. Going on all of these adventures with these fictional people is a real privilege. It's a really exciting adventure to have.

Is this the first time you've performed in theatre through the festive period?

I can't think of a play I've done that's run over Christmas, so this will be a new experience. I think it'll be really fun. We're performing on Christmas Eve, so that will be a pretty special one - very magical - and then again on Boxing Day. You've got to work off your Christmas dinner!

Your Benidorm sidekick Tony Maudsley is performing in Hairspray in Birmingham over Christmas. Will you have a chance to get together?

I really hope so, but we'll both be on stage at the same time, I'd imagine.

Have you seen Tony in a dress and heels before?

Of course, many, many times. He's never out of them - it's ridiculous! You can't get him out of those sequins, he's just obsessed...



Thu 26 Nov 2015 –
Sun 3 Jan 2016

Age 3+



THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD

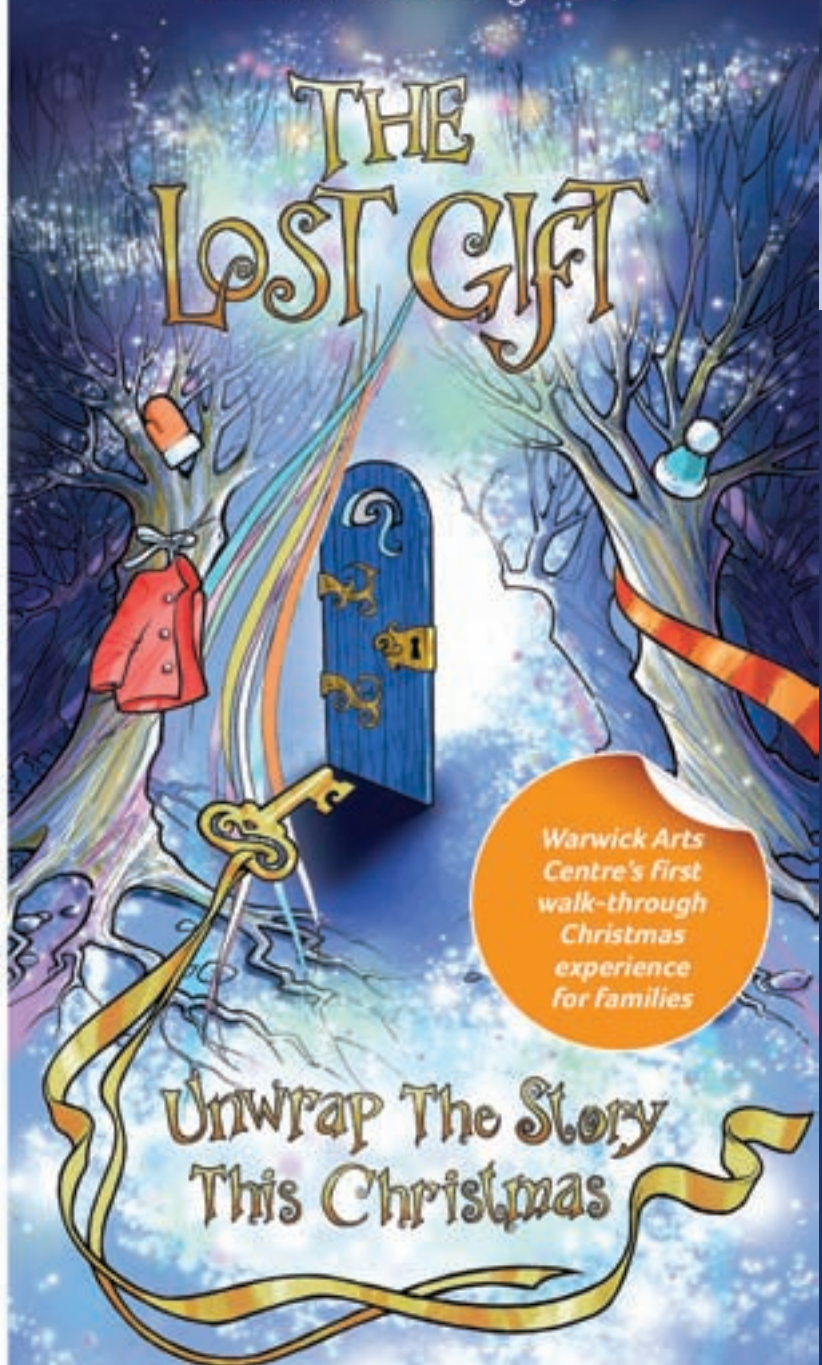


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THE LOST GIFT



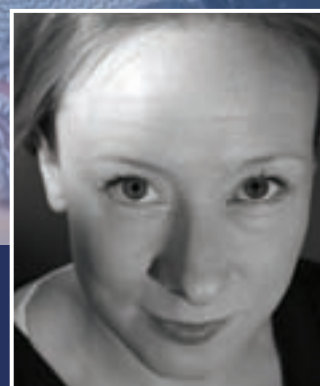
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Winter magic



Dawn breaks in the enchanted forest the day before the Winter Festival, and everyone is excited for the big day ahead. But all is not well in this wintry woodland - a gift has gone missing, and it's up to you, the audience, to find it! That's the premise of *The Lost Gift*, Highly Sprung Theatre Company's new, interactive production, showing this month at Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre. Heather Kincaid recently met up with Highly Sprung's Sarah Worth (pictured above) to find out more...

This Christmas, Warwick Arts Centre presents a festive family show with a difference, inviting audiences to journey through a world of wonder and intrigue in *The Lost Gift*, an immersive production created by Coventry-based company Highly Sprung.

"This isn't your typical kind of performance," says Sarah Worth, Director of Highly Sprung. "We really wanted to style this as an alternative to the traditional Christmas experience, so we're shying away from things like meeting Father Christmas and his elves."

A primarily physical theatre company, Highly Sprung specialises in developing innovative and exciting new work for children and young people. Running alongside *The Gruffalo's Child* this winter, *The Lost Gift* will cater for a slightly older audience - though Worth hopes that kids of all ages will find something to enjoy.

"Because *The Gruffalo's Child* is for younger kids, what we had in mind mainly was children aged four-plus, but I do genuinely think that this is a show that can be enjoyed by people of any age. Younger children will enjoy the sense of magic and being transported into different environments, and there should be enough in it for adults to appreciate, too - especially some of the jokes."

The adventure begins with an encounter with a winter spirit called Squall, tasked with creating and wrapping presents for people to exchange, so that everyone can get involved in all-important sharing. Trouble is, there's one present missing from his list. He's sure he wrapped it, but he's got no idea where it

might be. Luckily, he'll have a team of audience members on hand to help!

As they embark on their quest to recover the lost gift, audiences will pass through six separate rooms inside the venue's Mead Gallery, each transformed into a fantastic setting with the help of costume and design group Vortex Creates.

"Vortex have played a really influential part in how the narrative has developed," says Worth. "We've tried to design something that's not completely realistic, because we want our audience to use their imaginations rather than doing all the work for them. It's very suggestive - a lot of it's done through lighting effects. One of the rooms is in the sky, and it's full of these big, fluffy clouds and birds' nests, all done in a very stylised way. It's quite cartoon-like, with a bit of a quality of children's drawings."

Adding to this otherworldly feel are sound effects and music composed especially for the show by Tom Haines.

"Each room has its own unique sound, but we know that they aren't completely sound-proof, so you might get a sense of anticipation because you hear what's coming in the next room. We've tried to develop an overall soundscape, with the cracking of ice and the blowing of the wind creating a very wintry feel. There's also a bit of a traditional Christmas touch with the ringing of the bells and a clarinet that keeps popping up, so it all fits together nicely."

Also present throughout the show is the sound of ticking clocks, lending a "sense of

urgency" to the story. There's a lot to be done before the Festival bells start chiming - and, as participants soon discover, Squall isn't the only one with a problem to resolve. Along the way, there'll be opportunities to meet three more characters: an explorer who's got himself into a sticky situation, a spirit in charge of the decorating, and the Social Network Operator, who's feeling overwhelmed by the tide of communication flooding in at this time of year.

In total, the journey should take around fifty minutes to complete, culminating in the Winter Festival celebrations themselves. Highly Sprung hopes that the uniqueness of this production will entertain and inspire curiosity in big kids and little ones alike - but just like their characters, they've still got lots left to do before the main event.

"We haven't presented the show to any children yet, but we've been testing out the story on our own children. There was one point where we'd done part of the narrative and didn't really know where it was going to go from there, but the kids were dying to know what happened next, which is always encouraging! I think it will continue to evolve until the end of the run, because a lot will come out of the audience reactions as we go along."

Don't miss your chance to be part of the magic in a story that can't start without you.

The *Lost Gift* shows at **Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry** from Saturday 12 to Friday 31 December.

RG

RAYMOND
GUBBAY
presents

CHRISTMAS

Saturday 12 December at 7.30pm

SINATRA CENTENARY

Celebrate the 100th birthday of the late, great Frank Sinatra with a concert of songs and music made famous by the world's most-loved singer.

Packed with hit songs including

Come Fly with Me The Lady is a Tramp Luck be a Lady Tonight

Night and Day I've got you under my skin My Way

Plus a host of festive classics

Let it Snow White Christmas Marshmallow World

Jingle Bells Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Santa Claus is comin' to town Winter Wonderland

With special guest singers Iain Mackenzie & Georgina Jackson

Plus the JazzCoTech Dancers

Richard Balcombe conductor Manchester Concert Orchestra

Saturday 19 December at 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS WITH ALED JONES

Aled Jones joins a packed stage of superb artists for a wonderful concert of music and carols.

Goodall The Lord is My Shepherd Gruber Silent Night

Bach / Gounod Ave Maria Blake Walking in the Air

Tchaikovsky Waltz of the Flowers

& Trepak from The Nutcracker and CAROLS FOR ALL

God rest you merry, gentlemen The First Nowell

O come, all ye faithful Hark! the Herald angels sing

Jonathan Antoine special guest

Lucas Pinto treble Adrian Lucas conductor

City of Birmingham Choir London Concert Orchestra

Monday 21 December at 2.30pm

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGALONG

Sing your heart out as Jonathan Cohen leads you through another fun-filled jamboree of his most-loved carols and all-time Christmas hits.

RAISE THE ROOF OF SYMPHONY HALL

Winter Wonderland Let it Go Sleigh Ride O Holy Night

I Wish it Could Be Christmas Everyday

O come, all ye faithful

Santa Claus is coming to town

Merry Christmas Everyone

With very special guest Louise Dearman

London Concert Chorus

London Concert Orchestra

Tuesday 22 December at 7.30pm

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Carols and seasonal classics staged in full 18th Century costume in an evocative candle-lit style setting.

Handel Zadok the Priest, Christmas Sequence from Messiah

Mozart Alleluia from Exultate Jubilate

Pearsall Gabriel's Message and CAROLS FOR ALL including

Hark! the Herald angels sing O come all ye faithful

MOZART FESTIVAL CHORUS

MOZART FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA in full period costume

Keri Fuge soprano Steven Devine conductor Christopher Timothy reader

Wednesday 23 December at 7.30pm

WHITE CHRISTMAS

May your celebrations be magical, merry and bright with this nostalgic show of all-time favourite Christmas songs and carols.

Sleigh Ride Winter Wonderland White Christmas

Frosty The Snowman Merry Christmas Everyone

Jingle Bell Rock Santa Claus is coming to town

and CAROLS FOR ALL including The First Nowell

O come, all ye faithful Hark! the Herald angels sing

Guest Singers Jacinta Whyte & Tim Howar

John Rigby conductor Capital Voices choir

London Concert Orchestra

Thursday 24 December at 2.30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE CLASSICS

This concert of joyous seasonal and traditional music perfectly captures the true spirit of Christmas.

Willcocks Masters in this Hall Pearsall In dulci jubilo

Berlioz The Shepherd's Farewell Adams The Holy City

Bach / Gounod Ave Maria and CAROLS FOR ALL including

The First Nowell Hark! the Herald angels sing

Crispian Steele-Perkins trumpet

James Edwards tenor Julian Wilkins organ

John Pryce-Jones conductor Birmingham Choral Union

Four Oaks Children's Choir London Concert Orchestra

Sunday 27 December at 7.30pm

TCHAIKOVSKY SPECTACULAR

Celebrate the music of Russia's most loved composer with this all Tchaikovsky extravaganza of his greatest works.

Romeo & Juliet Fantasy Overture

Piano Concerto No 1 Swan Lake Suite

1812 OVERTURE

complete with a thundering indoor firework finale!

Noriko Ogawa piano Toby Purser conductor

London Concert Orchestra



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Monday 28 December at 2.30pm

THE FOUR SEASONS BY CANDLELIGHT

Vivaldi's masterpiece crowns a new programme of popular 18th Century classics performed in full period costume in an evocative candle-lit style setting.

Charpentier Prelude from the Te Deum Mozart Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Clarke Trumpet Suite Handel Lascia ch'io pianga from Rinaldo

Pachelbel Canon Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 3

Handel Eternal Source of Light Divine

Let the Bright Seraphim from Messiah

Vivaldi The Four Seasons

MOZART FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA in full 18th Century costume

David Juritz director/violin Mary Bevan soprano

Crispian Steele-Perkins trumpet

Monday 28 December at 7.30pm

LAST NIGHT OF THE CHRISTMAS PROMS

An exciting concert of rousing classics with a grand flag waving British finale!

Humperdinck Hansel and Gretel Overture Ravel Bolero

Sousa Liberty Bell March Tchaikovsky Sleeping Beauty Waltz

Puccini Che gelida manina from La bohème

Denza Funiculi, funicula Bizet Toreador Song

Mascagni Intermezzo from Cavalleria rusticana

And all your Proms favourites

Hornpipe Rule, Britannia! The Dam Busters March

Nessun Dorma Land of Hope and Glory

Mario Sforoniu Menor James Cleverton baritone

John Pryce-Jones conductor London Concert Orchestra

Tuesday 29 December at 7.30pm

THE SOUND OF MUSICALS

Back by popular demand!

Enjoy a new programme of show-stopping music and songs from the greatest Broadway and West End musicals.

Anything Goes Kiss Me Kate My Fair Lady Miss Saigon

South Pacific Hairspray Guys and Dolls

Les Misérables Grease Cats The Phantom of the Opera

with an all-star line up from London's glittering West End

Kerry Ellis Summer Strallen

Tim Howar Graham Bickley

Richard Balcombe conductor London Concert Orchestra

Wednesday 30 December at 7.30pm

THE VERY BEST OF JAMES BOND

Presented by Bond Girl Fiona Fullerton

Celebrate the UK's most famous secret service agent, with all the iconic music and songs including:

From Russia with Love Goldfinger Casino Royale

Diamonds are Forever Live and Let Die Skyfall

The Man with the Golden Gun The Spy Who Loved Me

Plus a tribute to other spies and detectives from around the world

Louise Dearman and Ricardo Afonso guest singers

Clive Dunstall conductor London Concert Orchestra

Friday 1 January at 2.30pm

JOHANN STRAUSS GALA

A brand new show for 2016 with irrepressible showman Rainer Hersch.

The Blue Danube Waltz Radetzky March Bandits' Galopp

Cinderella Waltz Emperor Waltz Polka Furiosa Carmen Quadrille

Plus many more of your favourite waltzes and polkas.

JOHANN STRAUSS DANCERS in glorious costumes of the period

and the JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA

featuring sparkling soprano Samantha Hay

Saturday 2 January at 2.30pm

GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA

War-time chart-toppers & hits from the forties.

Moonlight Serenade Strike Up the Band Tuxedo Junction

New York, New York Chattanooga Choo Choo Rhapsody in Blue

Plus a tribute to the music of the Big Bands

Ted Heath Benny Goodman Louis Armstrong

Catherine Sykes Colin Anthony Ray Wordsworth

The Uptown Hall Gang The Moonlight Serenaders

With special guests The Jiving Lindy Hoppers

Jumpin' at the Woodside Jersey Bounce Running Wild

Saturday 30 January at 2.30pm & 7.30pm

ANTON & ERIN ... just gotta dance

Featuring sensational new choreography, sparkling costumes

and a show band performing timeless music.

Lullaby of Broadway New York, New York

Bye bye Blackbird Night and Day

Fever Jealousy Downtown

Too Damn Hot

Anton du Beke & Erin Boag

Richard Balcombe conductor

Lance Ellington star vocalist

Six world class Ensemble Dancers

Plus the full 25 piece

London Concert Orchestra



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The Sound of Musicals

Tuesday 29 December
7.30pm
Symphony Hall
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Jason Donovan Ten Good Reasons & Greatest Hits

**Friday 18 March &
Wednesday 11 May**
8pm
Symphony Hall
£28.50 – £32.50 plus transaction fee*



Anton & Erin ...just gotta dance

Saturday 30 January
2.30pm & 7.30pm
Symphony Hall
£19.50 – £45 plus transaction fee*



Brendan Cole A Night to Remember

Sunday 20 March
7.30pm
Symphony Hall
£19.50 – £39.50 plus transaction fee*



Leona Lewis

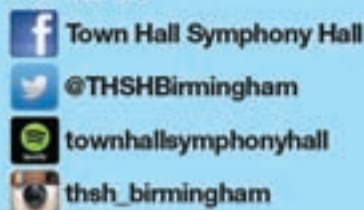
Sunday 28 February
7pm
Symphony Hall
£29.50 – VIP £99 plus transaction fee*



Beverley Knight

Thursday 2 June
7pm
Symphony Hall
£19.50 – £35 plus transaction fee*

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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Music

Faithless

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Wed 2 December

Faithless' work defies easy classification. Internationally acclaimed and consistently popular in clubland, they produce a kind of music that ranges from insidious dance to swirling chill-out with a heart of darkness.

The legendary dance act are playing this special Barclaycard Arena show - one of only four UK dates - to tie in with the release of their twentieth anniversary remix compilation, Faithless 2.0.



The Jack Tars

The Robin, Bilston, Wed 2 December

Captain Sensible (The Damned), Slim Jim Phantom (Stray Cats), Chris Cheney (The Living End) and Mike Peters (The Alarm) are in no doubt about what they're aiming to achieve as The Jack Tars. The talented rock'n'rollers describe themselves as 'a band of brothers reincarnated from the souls of dead men' who're 'destined to plunder the treasures of their collective past to create a new synergy of rock and roll forged from the bones of punk, rockabilly and modern alternative rock.' It's always good to have an ambition in life...

Caro Emerald

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
Mon 7 - Tues 8 December

Since the release of her 2010 multi-platinum debut album, Deleted Scenes From The Cutting Room Floor, Caro Emerald has fashioned her own niche - a polished fusion of pop, jazz and swing. Her second album, The Shocking Miss Emerald (2013), entered the Official UK Albums Chart at number one and sold over two-and-a-half million records. Emerald is currently working on her third album, set to be released this winter. The first single - Quicksand - was released in April.



Madonna

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Wed 16 December

Not surprisingly named by Time as one of the most powerful women of the past century, Madonna Louise Ciccone has been recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the best-selling female recording artist of all time, having sold in excess of a staggering three hundred million records worldwide. What's more, in 2008, Billboard ranked her second only to The Beatles when it came to record sales. Her hits are plentiful, from Like A Virgin and Papa Don't Preach to Hung Up and 4 Minutes. And given her penchant for courting controversy as well as making chart-topping music, it's fair to assume there's plenty of life in the old dog yet.



Guy Garvey

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Thurs 3 December

Guy Garvey, after twenty-plus years with his 'brothers' in Elbow, is setting out alone for the first time. Or, to quote him directly, he's been "graciously afforded some time to pursue something I've wanted to do for ages".

"It's the first time I've done something on my own," says Guy, "and there's a double-edged sword thing to it, but you can't be frightened if you want to create. That's why the album is called Courting The Squall - it's that violent wind before the storm. It could be a disaster, but you have to go at it and see what comes out. I wanted to embrace it totally. The title track is very personal lyrically and I'm putting myself on the cover for exactly the same reasons."

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Friday 19th February

Rick's

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CAROLS THAT COUNT

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James Llewelyn Jones Musical Director With Jody Smith Violin

Join the **Doddershill School Choir** for the matinee or evening performance, as singers spread some Christmas cheer with popular music and carols (old and new), accompanied by **Gemini Brass**.

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Music PREVIEW

José González

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Mon 14 December

José Gabriel González is a Swedish indie folk singer-songwriter and guitarist from Gothenburg who's best known for his 2003 single, Heartbeats. Famously remixed by The Knife, the song came from Gonzalez's first solo album, Veneer, which reached number seven in the UK charts and sold over four hundred-and-thirty thousand copies.

His current tour is in support of third album Vestiges & Claws, which was released earlier this year.

As José sees it, the record is his personal "zoomed-out eye on humanity". It's an attempt, he says, "at encouraging us to understand ourselves and to make the best of the one life we know we have - after birth and before death."



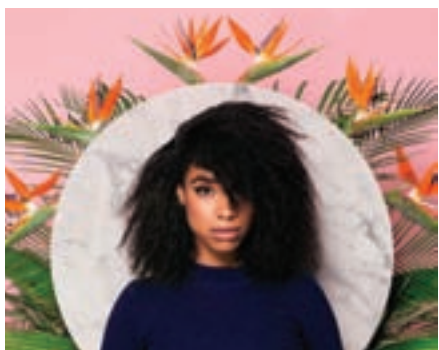
Lianne Las Havas

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Fri 4 December

Lianne Las Havas made a huge breakthrough back in 2012 with the release of debut album Is Your Love Big Enough?, which peaked at number four in the UK Albums Chart. It went on to win album of the year at iTunes and also picked up Barclaycard Mercury Prize and Ivor Novello Best Album nominations.

In 2014 Prince played a gig in her living room in London and also chose her to perform with him as featured vocalist on an episode of Saturday Night Live. Need we say more?

This current UK tour comes in support of new album Blood, which was released in July this year.



Hazel O'Connor

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 6 December

Coventry-born Hazel O'Connor was catapulted to fame in hit Brit movie Breaking Glass, for which she also sang the soundtrack. Her performance kickstarted a career which has subsequently seen her enjoy plenty more chart and screen success. O'Connor's current tour comes in celebration of Breaking Glass' thirty-fifth anniversary.



BBC Music Awards

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Thurs 10 December

BBC One, Radio One and Radio Two here come together with some of the biggest UK and international artists to celebrate the best in popular music from the last twelve months.

The event includes performances from Ellie Goulding, Rod Stewart, Hozier, Jess Glynne (pictured), Little Mix, Mumford & Sons, Jack Garratt, OMI and One Direction, with further acts still to be announced.

Awards on the night include British Artist of the Year, International Artist of the Year and Song of the Year, plus a special award for a BBC Introducing artist. A brand new award - Live Performance of the Year - will be given to the band or artist that's delivered the stand-out live moment of 2015. Chris Evans and Fearne Cotton host.

Bad Manners

The Assembly, Leamington Spa, Thurs 17 December

Long in the tooth they may be, but English 2 Tone ska wizards Bad Manners still command a significant following around the globe.

Very much a novelty act - courtesy of the on-stage antics of bald-headed frontman Buster Bloodvessel - they spent the early 1980s vying for chart positions with fellow ska revival bands Madness, The Specials and The Selecter.

Hit albums include Gosh It's... Bad Manners, Loonee Tunes! and Ska'n'B.



The Spook School

The Tin, Coventry, Fri 4 December

Comprising Nye Todd and Adam Todd on guitar, Anna Cory on bass and Niall McCamley on drums, The Spook School take their inspiration from post-punk-pop band Buzzcocks, Lou Reed's Transformer and the films of Buster Keaton. Expect a '60s pop sound from this talented four-piece.



The Courteeners

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Thurs 3 December

The last eighteen months has unquestionably been indie rock band The Courteeners most successful period since their inception in 2006. Not only have they bagged themselves a top-three album position with fourth studio offering Concrete Love (in August 2014), they've also enjoyed headline slots at Reading and Leeds and primetime appearances at Glastonbury, Isle Of Wight, T In The Park and V Festival.

This Midlands show has been given a venue upgrade due to the high demand for tickets. Expect a lively performance from the boys.



Jamie Knight & The Manuka Band

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Sat 19 December; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 21 December

Jamie Knight & The Manuka Band return to the Midlands this year by popular demand to perform 'another evening of Christmas hits, the best swing, a groove of soul, classic pop and lively rock'n'roll'.

This tight band know how to make music really come alive, so expect a truly memorable night.

Music LISTINGS

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

TUE 1 DEC

RONNIE SPECTOR Birmingham Town Hall
TROUBLEMAKER - OLLY MURS TRIBUTE The Robin, Bilston
AUTUMN RUIN, LOST AT HOME, PORTWAY & NEVER HILL O2 Institute, Birmingham
MOTIONLESS IN WHITE The Asylum, B'ham
TAX THE HEAT, LEOGUN & COLD FIELDS The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
JACK GARRATT O2 Institute, Birmingham
FAULKNER The Jam House, Birmingham
DIVIDED HEAVEN The Marr's Bar, Worcester
MARRY WATERSON & DAVID A JAYCOCK Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
SHE MAKES WAR The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
FOZZY, NONPOINT & SUMO CYCO The Rainbow Venues, B'ham

WED 2 DEC

ELECTRIC SIX O2 Academy, Birmingham
FAITHLESS Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
SONIC GUN PRESENT CHASTITY Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
KODALINE O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE ROVING CROWS The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
BUGZY MALONE O2 Institute, Birmingham
FOOD FEATURING IAIN BALLAMY & THOMAS STRONEN mac, B'ham
THE JACK TARS The Robin, Bilston
THE AMAZONS The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham
SHURA The Oobleck, Birmingham
SUPERFOOD O2 Institute, Birmingham
BIG BRAVE The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
CHRISTMAS CROONERS The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
SILENT SCREAMS, THE BROWNING, CAPTURE THE CROWN & WALKING WITH STRANGERS The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
EZIO Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

THU 3 DEC

ORANGE GOBLIN The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
WE CAME AS ROMANS O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE PRODIGY & PUBLIC ENEMY Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
NAZARETH The Robin, Bilston
GUY GARVEY O2 Academy, Birmingham

KAGOLE The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
ZOE RAHMAN TRIO Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
JOHN OTWAY Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
STUART MCCALLUM Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
FAULKNER The Jam House, Birmingham
ANDY ALLO The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
THE MOUSE OUTFIT The Oobleck, Birmingham
FAULKNER The Jam House, Birmingham
THE ZOE GREEN BAND The Roadhouse, B'ham

FRI 4 DEC

DURAN DURAN Genting Arena, Birmingham
NORTHERN SOUL FRIDAY WITH MATT BLACKMORE, SOUL TIME STEVE & LLOYD DAVIS Night Owl, Birmingham
LEVELLERS Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
THE CARNIVAL BAND Artrix, Bromsgrove
THE ZOMBIES O2 Institute, Birmingham
LIANNE LA HAVAS O2 Institute, Birmingham
ROCKET The Jam House, Birmingham
RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC Malvern Theatres, Worcester-shire
THE SEARCHERS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE REMI HARRIS PROJECT mac, Birmingham
FROM THE JAM The Robin, Bilston
NEW BLUES FOR PIANO The Barber Institute, Birmingham
MAMMA MIA PARTY WITH BOOTLEG ABBA Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
ADDISON GROOVE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
SSEX PISTOLSS, CODE 46 & THE DREGS Route 44, Birmingham
THE IAN SILK DUO FEATURING SAM ROGERS Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham
CRITICAL SOUNDS FEATURING MEJUS, ENEL, KASRA & MANTMAST The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
SPACEMAN & BASKET O2 Academy, Birmingham
TOPLoader The Assembly, Leamington Spa
THE BONNEVILLES The Assembly, Leamington Spa
THE SURRENDERS, DIRTY JANE, THE PELOTONS & THE EXHAILERS The Flapper, Birmingham
KEITH THOMPSON BAND The Marr's Bar, Worcester
THE SPOOK SCHOOL The Tin Music And Arts,

Coventry
JEAN GENIE The Roadhouse, Birmingham
JOSEPH CAPRIATI The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
URBAN SOUL FAMILY Symphony Hall, B'ham
BLUE NOTES, THE SHERBET, WILDE & STATE The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
STAHLARSARG, SHADOW FLAG & CACODAEMONIC Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

SAT 5 DEC

KILL THE ROMANTIC O2 Academy, Birmingham
ROCKET The Jam House, Birmingham
FALLS, ENQUIRY, BEAR-FOOT BEWARE, CAL BANDA, RIGHT HAND LEFT HAND, ORCHARDS, PILES OF CLOTHES & GEORGE GADD The Flapper, Birmingham
MOSTLY MOTOWN SATURDAY WITH BEN DRUMMOND, TOM MASON & MAZZY Night Owl, Birmingham
WATERLOO Artrix, Bromsgrove
THE DEAD DAISIES The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
STATUS QUO Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
THE SPIRITRES The Assembly, Leamington Spa
PEARL JAM U.K. O2 Academy, Birmingham
SCOUTING FOR GIRLS O2 Academy, Birmingham
UNIVERSITY CHOIR AND SYMPHONIC BRASS Bramall Music Building, Birmingham
NOTHING MORE O2 Institute, Birmingham
TYRANNOSAURUS NEBULOUS, CHEMICAL MOJO, ALMOST EASY, HOUND & INCLOSURE The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
SUPREME QUEEN The Robin, Bilston
RANG A TANG Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
MOTOWN PARTY WITH THE BROTHERS OF SOUL Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
THROUGH THE DECADES Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
REBEL REBEL (DAVID BOWIE) & JULIE GUNN Route 44, Birmingham
THE TERRAPINS The Roadhouse, B'ham
CARNIFEX, WITHIN THE RUINS, FALLUJAH & BORIS THE BLADE The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
HOT SINCE 82, HEIDI & ANJA SCHNEIDER The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
TQD TOUR FEATURING ROYAL T, DJ Q, FLAVA D AND MORE The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
T.REXTASY Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE FATHER TEDS Irish Centre, Birmingham
THE MEHARIS Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
MASSIVE HEAD TRAUMA,

STRANGER IN DEATH & ELECTRIC CAKE SALAD The Marr's Bar, Worcester
SIMON FOWLER No1 Shakespeare Street, Stratford-upon-Avon
LOGAN D, MAJISTRATE, SUB ZERO, NICKY BLACK-MARKET, GUV, PLEASURE, ALPHA AND MORE O2 Institute, Birmingham
ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN AND BUZZCOCKS Ricoh Arena, Coventry
THE FACE OF RUIN, THE MIGHTY WRAITH, RUSTLUNG & SIGNS OF FIRE Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

SUN 6 DEC

GARETH MALONE Symphony Hall, B'ham
HAZEL O'CONNOR The Glee Club, Birmingham
MATT BERRY & THE MAY-POLES O2 Institute, Birmingham
ROY WOOD ROCKMAS 2015 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
ROY AYERS The Robin, Bilston
WRECKLESS ERIC The Marr's Bar, Worcester
ALABAMA 3 The Oobleck, Birmingham
MARTYN JOSEPH Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
OUR WORLD BELOW, ERADIKATOR, SWAMP MONKEY, MOLOTOV SOULS, KONSEPT AND MORE The Roadhouse, Birmingham
DECLAN NERNEY Irish Centre, Birmingham
CANARD DU JOUR Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
THE PEOPLE'S ORCHESTRA: SOMETHING MAGICAL Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire
ST. AGNES FOUNTAIN The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
ANDREW SOUTER, THE FLOWERS OF DESPAIR & DAVID LEACH Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MON 7 DEC

DJANGO DJANGO O2 Institute, Birmingham
CARO EMERALD Symphony Hall, B'ham
THE STORY SO FAR The Asylum, Birmingham
THE SUBTERRANEANS The Jam House, Birmingham
THE YORKE WAITS CHRISTMAS CONCERT Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
THE ALBION CHRISTMAS BAND mac, Birmingham
THE RUTLES The Robin, Bilston
THE YORKE WAITS St

TUE 8 DEC

CARO EMERALD Symphony Hall, B'ham
THE STORY SO FAR The Asylum, Birmingham
THE SUBTERRANEANS The Jam House, Birmingham
THE YORKE WAITS CHRISTMAS CONCERT Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
THE ALBION CHRISTMAS BAND mac, Birmingham
THE RUTLES The Robin, Bilston
THE YORKE WAITS St

Mary's Church, Warwick
DEMOB HAPPY Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
JAMES BAY RADIO X ROAD TRIP WITH CHRIS MOYLES O2 Academy, Birmingham
JAMES YORKSTON Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
ANDY WILLIAMS CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR STARRING THE OSMONDS Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire

WED 9 DEC

THE SUBTERRANEANS The Jam House, B'ham
FISH Birmingham Town Hall
GNARWOLVES The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
MIKE SANCHEZ The Robin, Bilston
ASH Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
THE TWILIGHT SAD O2 Academy, Birmingham
MARTIN CARTHAY The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
BELPHEGOR The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
BLACK TONGUE The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
MAXI JAZZ & THE E-TYPE BOYS O2 Institute, Birmingham
MITCH PERRIN' ATLANTIC QUARTET No1 Shakespeare Street, Stratford

THU 10 DEC

THE SUBTERRANEANS The Jam House, Birmingham
UK SUBS The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
HALF MAN HALF BISCUIT The Robin, Bilston
BBC MUSIC AWARDS FEATURING ELLIE GOULDING, HOZIER, JESS GLYNNE, LITTLE MIX, MUMFORD & SONS, OMI, ONE DIRECTION & JACK GARRATT Genting Arena, B'ham
KINDRED THE FAMILY SOUL Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
SPITTING FEATHERS, MOTH HONEY, THE SCRUBS & LUCY SHAW The Roadhouse, Birmingham
BURNING NATION & ELST PIZARRO O2 Academy, Birmingham
CJ RAMONE O2 Academy, Birmingham
MIKE SANCHEZ Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
FRED SKIDMORE TRIO Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
JOHN KIRKPATRICK Wern Town Hall, Shropshire

FRI 11 DEC

THE DOORS ALIVE O2 Academy, Birmingham
STEREOPHONICS Genting Arena, Birmingham
THE BOOTLEG BEATLES Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
THE DARKNESS O2 Academy, Birmingham
CLUTCH Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
SIXTH O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE BACKBEAT BEATLES Albany Theatre, Coventry
SOLID SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham
SPACE The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
ANNE REID Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire
GO WEST FEATURING PETER COX & RICHARD DRUMMIE The Robin, Bilston
CAROLS THAT COUNT Birmingham Town Hall
TREMONTI, MAN THE MIGHTY, THE RAVEN AGE & WEARING SCARS O2 Institute, Birmingham
THE OVERTONES Symphony Hall, B'ham
GORDON HENDRICKS AS ELVIS Artrix, Bromsgrove
MARIANNE FAITHFULL Ricoh Arena, Coventry
THAT'S LIFE Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
80'S EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS PARTY Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
FRED ZEPPELIN Route 44, Birmingham
FLEETWOOD BAC The Roadhouse, B'ham
EUREKA JAZZ QUARTET Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham
CHRIS BEAHN Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham
ETON MESSY The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
KICK UP THE 80'S The River Rooms, Stourbridge
QUILL Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
SPACEHOPPERS Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
SAM COOMBS TRIO Symphony Hall, B'ham
NORTHERN SOUL FRIDAY WITH NEIL RUSHTON, JOSH PYE & SHAUN PARKER Night Owl, Birmingham
KODE9 & QUARTZ BURIAL SET Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
ANY TROUBLE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
ROY ORBISON & FRIENDS The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
80S EXPERIENCE Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire

SAT 12 DEC

SOLID SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham
TIM BURGESS Night Owl, Birmingham
KICK UP THE 80'S The River Rooms, Stourbridge
LOWER THAN ATLANTIS O2 Institute, B'ham
THE SMYTHS O2 Academy, Birmingham
DEF LEPPARD & WHITESNAKE Genting Arena, Birmingham
THE BEAT The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THE SINATRA 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION SHOW The Assembly, Leamington Spa
TEWKESBURY TOWN BAND The Roses The-

atre, Tewkesbury
DON BROCO Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
NETSKY O2 Institute, Birmingham
METROPOLITAN BRASS QUINTET Symphony Hall, Birmingham
SINATRA CENTENARY Symphony Hall, B'ham
TALON - THE BEST OF EAGLES The Robin, Bilston
THE SOUL SURVIVORS Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
GILLES PETERSON Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
FULLY LOADED Route 44, Birmingham
MENTALICA The Roadhouse, Birmingham
WARWOUND, INDECENT ASSAULT & SICKPIG The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
NINA KRAVIZ, BODDIKA & ADAM SHELTON The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
DEFECTED IN THE HOUSE FEATURING NOIR, RIVA STARR & SAM DIVINE The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
DRUM GOT SOUL The Drum, Birmingham
GROAN, GENERAL, TEN FOOT WIZARD & THORUN Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham
PAT BRESLIN Irish Centre, Birmingham
TREVOR BURTON Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
TEXAN PEACOCKS No1 Shakespeare Street, Stratford-upon-Avon
THAT'LL BE THE DAY - THE CHRISTMAS PARTY Birmingham Town Hall
VAULT OF EAGLES, SOEUR, DOWNWARD & THEO The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
THE CHARLATANS O2 Academy, Birmingham
NINE DART FINISH, SUPERFICIALS & REASIDE The Flapper, B'ham
ELIZA AND THE BEAR Kasbah, Coventry

SUN 13 DEC

TWESKESBURY TOWN BAND The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
SIMPLY RED Genting Arena, Birmingham
SAM'S TOWN The Marr's Bar, Worcester
MOSTLY AUTUMN The Assembly, Leamington Spa
THE SELECTER O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE BURNING HELL The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
JOHN COOPER CLARKE Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
BRETFORTON SILVER BAND Evesham Arts Centre, Worcestershire
LUNA ROSSA The Robin, Bilston
RAE SREMMURD O2 Institute, Birmingham
IAN MCNABB Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
LIVE BURLESQUE - CABARAMA The Glee Club, Birmingham
T R DALLAS Irish Centre, Birmingham
CHANSO & GYPSY JAZZ

Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
CHRISTMAS WITH THE NEALES Birmingham Town Hall
MAHALIA, UNDERGROUND EMPIRE, LOOSE LIPS, ROBYN GORDON & LUCY SHAW The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
PHIL CAMPBELL O2 Academy, Birmingham

MON 14 DEC

JOSE GONZALEZ O2 Institute, Birmingham
ONLY MEN ALOUD Birmingham Town Hall
THE BEAT BROTHERS The Jam House, B'ham
JAMIE CONNOLLY Crescent Theatre, B'ham
GILBY CLARKE The Robin, Bilston
THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN Symphony Hall, Birmingham
CHIC BONBONS PRESENT AN EVENING OF BURLESQUE & CABARET The Glee Club, Birmingham
A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION BOURNVILLE GRADUATES CHOIR Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
DOE PAORO O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE SHIMMER BAND Kasbah, Coventry

TUE 15 DEC

THE BEAT BROTHERS The Jam House, B'ham
SIMPLY RED Genting Arena, Birmingham
BLITZ 31 The Roadhouse, Birmingham
THE MELLSTOCK BAND Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
GHOST O2 Institute, Birmingham
THE BOOTLEG BEATLES Symphony Hall, B'ham
FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS The Robin, Bilston

WED 16 DEC

MADONNA Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
THE ARISTOCRATS O2 Institute, Birmingham
THE RED LEMONS The Jam House, B'ham
THE URBAN VOODOO MACHINE The Robin, Bilston
JOHN HARE & HOUNDS, Birmingham
SLAVES O2 Institute, Birmingham
GERRY COLVIN BAND No1 Shakespeare Street, Stratford-upon-Avon
NELLY O2 Academy, Birmingham
SO THIS IS CHRISTMAS Birmingham Town Hall
THE MAD JOCKS & ENGLISHMEN Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
THE MELLSTOCK BAND Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

THU 17 DEC

THE RED LEMONS The Jam House, B'ham
JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHESTRA Symphony Hall, Birmingham
SLADE UK The Road-

house, Birmingham
CHASING DEER O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE ANDY WILLIAMS CHRISTMAS Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
SETH LAKEMAN Malvern Theatres, Worcester
SLADE FEATURING DAVE HILL AND DON POWELL The Robin, Bilston
THE WONDER STUFF O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE BIRMINGHAM MALE CHOIR, SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS Birmingham Town Hall
HEART & SOUL PARTY WITH HARRY CAMBRIDGE Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
BAD MANNERS The Assembly, Leamington Spa
PIANO MAN - THE MUSIC OF BILLY JOEL Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
BIG JIM & BLACK CAT BONE Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
LOUISE JAMES No1 Shakespeare St, Stratford
THE DYLAN PROJECT Hare & Hounds, B'ham
JEFFREY LEWIS & LOS BOLTS The Flapper, Birmingham
BUDDY HOLLY & THE CRICKETERS The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
BLACK STAR RIDERS Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

FRI 18 DEC

SHED SEVEN O2 Academy, Birmingham
PRIEST UNLEASHED, MS-FITZ & ABSOLUTION The Asylum, Birmingham
MAXIMO PARK O2 Institute, Birmingham
DETROIT SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham
THE COUNTERFEIT EAGLES Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull
KICK UP THE 80'S The Robin, Bilston
THE KRYSTALETES Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
THE BOOZE BROTHERS Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
STOP STOP & WILDSIDE RIOT Route 44, B'ham
HELLS BELLS The Roadhouse, Birmingham
THE ROY FORBES Trio Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham
THE BIG CHRIS BARBER BAND Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
GEKO O2 Institute, Birmingham
UNDER THE COVERS Irish Centre, Birmingham
FIRES THAT DIVIDE Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
BEYOND THE BARRICADE Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire
THE OFFICIAL RECEIVERS BAND The Marr's Bar, Worcester
ONE STOP BOOGIE The River Rooms, Stourbridge
NOTEBENDERS Symphony Hall, Birmingham
NORTHERN SOUL FRIDAY WITH CHRIS GEDDS (BELLE & SEBASTIAN DJ

SET), DAVE HUTCHINSON & JOSH PYE Night Owl, Birmingham
STONE BROKEN The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
DIRTY OLD FOLKERS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
RHINO & THE RANTERS Hare & Hounds, B'ham

SAT 19 DEC

DETROIT SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham
KYTV FESTIVAL WITH NEDS ATOMIC DUSTBIN, THE WEDDING PRESENT, THE PRIMITIVES & EAT The Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
THE SUPERSKAS The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
ALEXANDER O'NEAL - 30 YEARS OF SOUL Birmingham Town Hall
KATE RUSBY Malvern Theatres, Worcester
ELO AGAIN The Robin, Bilston
THE TWANG O2 Academy, Birmingham
CHRISTMAS WITH ALED JONES Symphony Hall, Birmingham
THE BENIDORM STYLISTICS The Drum, B'ham
SPACE Kasbah, Coventry
JARZINO Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
MARKS BROTHERS Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
BBC BIG BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
THE STONES The Roadhouse, Birmingham
HYENA, HIDDEN SKIES AND WOOD & NAILS The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
A SOULFUL CHRISTMAS Albany Theatre, Coventry
JAMIE KNIGHT & THE MANUKA BAND Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE FULL SHA BANG Irish Centre, Birmingham
STARVIN RASCALS Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
THE WEEKEND ANTHEMS The River Rooms, Stourbridge
COCOON FEATURING SVEN VATH, SUBB-AN & MORE The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
ADAM ADAM, VIC MUL-LAN, DAVE MOLLOY & JASON BANNER Night Owl, Birmingham
SCREAMING QUAYS, SPITTING FEATHERS, RAVENS & ELISON The Flapper, Birmingham

SUN 20 DEC

ROY WOOD ROCK & ROLL BAND The Robin, Bilston
HANS RAJ HANS Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
CLOUDBUSTING The Roadhouse, B'ham
DIRTY OLD FOLKERS Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
GWYN ASHTON The Marr's Bar, Worcester
DURAN (DURAN DURAN) The River Rooms, Stourbridge

BLACK WIDOWS, COLORADO LOUNGE, SUPERNAUT, THE NEW SUBTERRANEANS & INDECENT ASSULT The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST The Fleece Inn, nr. Evesham, Worcestershire

MON 21 DEC

UB40 AND STEEL PULSE O2 Academy, B'ham
CHRIS BEVINGTON & FRIENDS AND REBECCA DOWNES & HER BAND The Robin, Bilston
CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGALONG Symphony Hall, Birmingham
ROD STEWART TRIBUTE WITH GARRY PEASE Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
JAMIE KNIGHT & THE MANUKA BAND Artrix, Bromsgrove
ROD STEWART TRIBUTE NIGHT Irish Centre, Birmingham
THE ULTIMATE ROCK PARTY: GIN ANNIE BAND The River Rooms, Stourbridge
GOSPEL CENTRAL The Jam House, B'ham

TUE 22 DEC

URBAN INTRO The Jam House, Birmingham
OLLY MURS & BRUNO MARS PARTY WITH ROBBIE GLENN Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
FURY The Marr's Bar, Worcester
MICHAEL BUBLE - KAI MCKENZIE The River Rooms, Stourbridge

WED 23 DEC

URBAN INTRO The Jam House, Birmingham
SGT. PEPPER'S ONLY DART BOARD BAND CHRISTMAS SHOW Artrix, Bromsgrove
FRED ZEPP The Robin, Bilston
MOTOWN LEGENDS PARTY WITH SOUL LEGEND Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
NATHAN JONES, JESS SILK, IAN MARREY & EMPTY CAN Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
DIRTY OLD FOLKERS Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
WHITE CHRISTMAS Symphony Hall, Birmingham
YOUNG CULTURE SOUND & MAZZY Night Owl, Birmingham
SUNSHINE FRISBEE LASERBEAM Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE PODS The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THU 24 DEC

THE UPBEAT BEATLES The Robin, Bilston
MICHELLE FRENCH Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
STRAIGHT ACES Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
MISTY'S BIG ADVENTURE

Hare & Hounds, B'ham

SAT 26 DEC

LIMEHOUSE LIZZY The Robin, Bilston
THAT'S LIFE Nailcote Hall, Berkswell
CAPTIAL GROOVE The Jam House, B'ham
IVOR & LYNN'S CLASSIC ROCK DISCO Route 44, Birmingham
STEVE LAWLER, SKREAM, DETLEF, ADAM SHELTON AND MORE The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
THE FULL SHA BANG Irish Centre, Birmingham
THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE The River Rooms, Stourbridge
SOUNDS OF THE SIXTIES The Roadhouse, B'ham
ROB PERRENS, CHRIS WISE AND MAZZY Night Owl, Birmingham

SUN 27 DEC

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY CASH - KEEP IT CASH The Robin, Bilston
WEST COAST EAGLES The Roadhouse, B'ham
GORDON HENDRICKS IS ELVIS The River Rooms, Stourbridge
DORCH The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
LITTLE JIMMY Irish Centre, Birmingham

MON 28 DEC

DIRTY DC - TRIBUTE TO AC / DC The Robin, Bilston
SUPREME QUEEN The River Rooms, Stourbridge

TUE 29 DEC

DEFINITELY MIGHTBE, ADORED & HAPPY MONDAZE The Robin, Bilston
THE SOUND OF MUSICALS Symphony Hall, B'ham
TREVOR BURTON CHRISTMAS SHOW WITH RICKY COOL AND THE IN CROWD The Roadhouse, B'ham

WED 30 DEC

THE FRANK AND ELLA SHOW Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
THE SOUL SURVIVORS The Robin, Bilston
THE VERY BEST OF JAMES BOND Symphony Hall, Birmingham
DIRTBOX DISCO, THE BRANDONS & THE OBNOXIOUS The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
SKABUCKS The Roadhouse, Birmingham
DEL CAMINO The Jam House, Birmingham

THU 31 DEC

TREXTASY The Robin, Bilston
THE SUBTERRANEANS The Jam House, B'ham
MOTOWN PARTY WITH THE BROTHERS OF SOUL Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
JOHN BEAR'S ROCK DISCO PARTY Route 44, B'ham
THE HAIR ROCK EXPERIENCE The Roadhouse, Birmingham



**City of Birmingham
Symphony Orchestra**



Birmingham Contemporary Music Group
Box Office: 0121 767 4050
bcmg.org.uk



The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

**Friday 4 December 2015, 8pm,
CBSO Centre, Birmingham**

Conductor: **Dominic Muldowney** #
Baritone: **Roderick Williams**

Dominic Muldowney: Five cabaret songs; Two Shakespeare settings;
Smooth between sea and land (World premiere / BCMG commission)
Howard Skempton: *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
(World premiere / Maurice and Sheila Millward commission)

BCMG premiere Skempton's setting of Coleridge's masterpiece *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* in a programme also featuring a series of songs by Dominic Muldowney, former Music Director of the National Theatre.

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FAVOURITES**
with **Alan Titchmarsh**

Friday 18 December, 7.30pm
Sunday 20 December, 3pm & 7.30pm
Monday 21 December, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham



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Howard Skempton

World premiere in Birmingham



A composer, pianist and accordionist, Howard Skempton teaches composition at the Birmingham Conservatoire. He also writes for the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. Howard's latest work, which is being performed by BCMG this month, is a setting of Coleridge's epic poem, *The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner*. Heather Kincaid caught up with him to find out more...

Among the Midlands' most prolific composers, Howard Skempton is best known for his stripped-back, melodic and often short works. Yet his latest commission - a setting of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poetic masterpiece, *The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner* - has taken Skempton in a rather different direction, requiring him to find a new way of working, "beyond the comfort zone of a well-established technique".

"I can resist anything but a challenge," Skempton laughs, speaking of his composition, which premieres at the CBSO Centre this month. "I think some composers are very clear on what they do and don't do, but I see it as an adventure. You're exploring, and you're properly equipped, but the territory is unknown and you're discovering new things." Like the Mariner's troubled voyage, Skempton's journey from concept to finished piece has been a long one, with twists and turns and difficulties along the way. The commission came about following a concert that Skempton and his friend, Maurice Millward, had both attended. So impressed was Millward with the baritone singer, Roderick Williams, that he immediately contacted Skempton to request a new piece for him to perform.

"The biggest challenge with setting the *Rime* is the scale of it, the way it just rolls on in this irresistible, inexorable way," Skempton explains. "Another problem is that it's already very musical, and everybody knows it so well as a spoken text that it's hard for a composer to add anything new. I saw it as my first responsibility to make it dramatic, to grip the audience in the same way that a spoken performance would, so I've had to work very hard on the rhythm and pace of the piece to capture something of that energy."

Having settled on such a lengthy poem, the first task was to decide how much of it to set. Millward selected some favourite verses and presented Skempton with a cut-down version at about a third of the full length.

"My plan for a long time was to set the whole poem, but although it's a shame to have to cut it, it would've been too long. I think Maurice was quite alarmed at the thought that I

might use the full text! What I eventually opted for was something in the middle. It's about two thirds of the poem, and probably won't be much more than thirty-five minutes." The *Rime* will be performed by Williams and members of the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group alongside an assortment of new and established works by a very different composer, Dominic Muldowney.

"Dominic is a composer I admire enormously," says Skempton, "and one I think is not properly appreciated in this country. He was Director of Music at the National Theatre, and he has a very accessible, cabaret style which is essentially theatrical, but also very intelligent and original. The *Rime* is a more theatrical piece, but my music has always been very different. I write these little pieces that tend to be lyrical and understated. I like to think they draw the listener in, but there's a reticence and a quietness as well as a brevity which I think is quite distinctive."

Tying together the composers' contrasting styles is a common inspiration: all the pieces in this concert are settings of poetry described as "evocative" and "quintessentially English". Joining the *Rime* on the programme are Muldowney's settings of Shakespeare, Edward Thomas, Auden and Betjeman, as well as a new setting of AE Housman's *Smooth Between Sea And Land*.

"There's a sort of flexibility and subtlety to poems in the English language, a bit like the weather and the landscape. Roderick Williams is a wonderful actor as well as a great singer, so I have no doubt that the different styles will complement each other and the evening as a whole will make sense."

As well as wanting to provide a "worthy vehicle" for Williams, Skempton also had specific musicians in mind when writing the piece.

The small ensemble performing the *Rime* will include two violins, a viola, cello, piano, horn and double bass, the last of which was added by Skempton to bring "weight" to the sound, suggesting the impenetrable depths of the sea.

"I've been writing for BCMG for almost twenty years now, and the musicians are like a band - they all know each other very well. When I

write for them, I can imagine the players and their personalities as well as the instruments." Skempton's long-term relationship with BCMG and the Birmingham Conservatoire makes him well-placed to offer a view of creative arts in the city. His is an optimistic perspective, observing the "sense that we can do anything" which emerges from Birmingham's unique combination of practicality and free experimentation.

"I have very interesting colleagues and students at the conservatoire with a wide range of styles and outlooks - probably wider than you would find in London. Birmingham is right in the heart of England, and there's a sense that it can look everywhere for inspiration. But it's also small enough not to take anything for granted. What is encouraged at the Conservatoire and what you find in Birmingham generally is independence and an entrepreneurial approach. There's a feeling that even if the funds aren't there and times are difficult, we'll still find a way to make things work, like with BCMG's sound investment scheme, which is a very early example of crowd-sourcing that goes back to the early '90s. It's that sort of ingenuity which I think is one of Birmingham's great strengths."



Photo Credit: Clive Barda

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG) presents *The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner* at the **CBSO Centre, Birmingham**, on Friday 4 December, alongside settings of English poetry by Dominic Muldowney, who is also the concert's conductor.



Birmingham Symphony Hall Christmas Festival

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 12 December - Sat 2 January

Even if Birmingham's Symphony Hall isn't literally decked with boughs of holly this festive season, the popular venue is certainly offering its patrons plenty by way of yuletide cheer in the run-up to Christmas.

Aled Jones stops by on the 19th to host 'a wonderful concert of music and carols', there's a Christmas Carol Singalong to warm up the vocal chords on the 21st, and the opportunity to experience all the magic of Carols By Candlelight on the 22nd. White Christmas, 'a nostalgic show of all-time favourite festive songs and carols', takes place on the 23rd, while Christmas Eve Classics features an impressive contribution from the majestic Symphony Hall organ.



Midlands Hospital Choir: Carols That Count

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 11 December

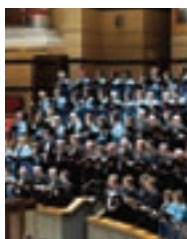
This annual presentation of popular music and carols offers a perfect opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit.

The choir has a new Musical Director this year - James Llewelyn Jones of CanolDir fame - and here presents a concert featuring contributions from organist Julian Wilkins, soprano Menna Cazel Davies and the Gemini Brass ensemble.

City Of Birmingham Choir: Handel's Messiah

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 12 December

The City of Birmingham Choir's December performance of Handel's magnificent choral masterpiece is a well-established element of the Midlands' festive music scene. In a Christmas nutshell - and as the choir itself describes it - the work 'compresses the Old Testament prophecies of Jesus' life into two-and-a-half hours and sets it to timeless and sublime music'. As re-tellings of the Christmas story go, this is definitely one worth hearing.



CBSO Festival Favourites With Alan Titchmarsh

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 18, Sun 20 & Mon 21 December

Alan Titchmarsh hosts this always-popular concert, which sees the City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) presenting an evening of classic carols and seasonal stories. Members of the audience are invited to get into the festive spirit by joining the CBSO's famous choruses in a Christmas singalong. Simon Halsey conducts.



Ex Cathedra

St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, Tues 1 December; St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, Wed 2 December; Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 6 December; Birmingham Cathedral, Mon 7 December; St John's Church, Hagley, Birmingham, Tues 8 December; Hereford Cathedral, Wed 16 December; St Paul's Church, Birmingham, Fri 18, Sat 19, Mon 21 & Tues 22 December

What better way to get into the Christmas spirit than by enjoying an evening with one of the country's finest choral music ensembles?

Under the directorship of its founder, Jeffrey Skidmore, Ex Cathedra is this month making a significant contribution to Midlands-based classical music lovers' sense of festive cheer...

The choir's atmospheric Christmas Music By Candlelight evenings blend seasonal favourites from around the globe and across the ages with a variety of readings...

The ensemble also performs Bach's Christmas Oratorio, a work widely considered to be the most confident and optimistic statement of Christian belief in the choral repertoire...

And Ex Cathedra is also taking part in Santa Lucia, a traditional Swedish service of carols and readings organised by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce.



Armonico Consort

Malvern Theatre, Great Malvern, Sat 5 December; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 20 December

Sir Willard White this month joins the Midlands-based, period instrument-playing Armonico Consort to present Bach's Christmas Oratorio.

And the Jamaican-born opera star is certainly looking forward to the experience: "Singing with period instruments feels softer and fragile," says Sir Willard. "Paradoxically, there is a profound invitation to listen differently. And more care needs to be taken with the vocal presentation which I, as a singer, need to make."

Read our interview with Sir Willard online at: whatsonlive.co.uk

Orchestra Of The Swan

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Sat 12 December

The Stratford-based Orchestra Of The Swan may well be held in high regard for championing new music - they received great acclaim for their collaborations with Indie band James and Steve Harley & Cockney Rebel - but they're just as comfortable presenting a traditional programme, as they prove with this yuletide offering. The concert includes: Once In Royal David's City, Poulenc's Organ Concerto, Huw Watkins' Christmas Carol and Come All Ye Faithful/Hark The Herald. Suzzie Vango and David Curtis (pictured) conduct.



Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

Bramall Music Building, Birmingham,
Sun 13 December

Founded in 1941, Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra typically perform between twelve and fifteen concerts each year in the city and surrounding area.

This latest presentation features Vaughan Williams' A London Symphony. The work was described by the composer's friend, George Butterworth, as "an idyll of grey skies and secluded byways - an aspect of London quite as familiar as any other: the feeling of the music is remote, mystical". The programme also features Nielsen's Clarinet Concerto and Rossini's Semiramide Overture.

Andre Rieu

Genting Arena, Birmingham,
Wed 16 December

Often referred to as the King of Waltz, Dutch violinist Andre Rieu is the highest-charting classical instrumentalist of all time. He's also the creator of the waltz-playing Johann Strauss Orchestra, for whom he conducts using his violin bow, mimicking the famous characteristics of Strauss himself.

Rieu won the hearts of the British public in 2009 with the release of his album, Forever Vienna, which reached number one in the classical charts and number two in the pop charts.

His concerts are well known for inspiring audience members to leave their seats and dance in the aisles, an activity which counts as something of a phenomenon at a classical music gig!



Classical LISTINGS

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

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: A SCANDINAVIAN SERENADE Programme includes works by Grieg, Sibelius & Dvorak, Tues 1 Dec, Stratford ArtsHouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

CBSO - BEETHOVEN'S EROICA Programme includes works by Rimsky-Korsakov, Scriabin & Beethoven, Wed 2 - Thurs 3 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS CLASSICS WITH BLAKE Thurs 3 Dec, Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire

AMICI CANTANTES Fri 4 Dec, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CHOIR - HANDEL'S MESSIAH Fri 4 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CHAMBER CHOIRS AND UNIVERSITY CAMERATA Programme includes works by Tallis, Harvey, Bennet, Mendelssohn, Rheinberger & Faure, Fri 4 Dec, Bramall Music Building, B'ham

BCMG: THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER Featuring works by two outstanding British composers (see feature on page 21), Fri 4 Dec, CBSO Centre, B'ham

ROYAL NORTHERN SINFONIA Programme includes works by Prokofiev, Barber, Mozart & Rodrigo, Fri 4 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

CBSO NOTELETS: CHRISTMAS Featuring CBSO Wind Ensemble & Catherine Arlidge (presenter), Fri 4 & Sat 5 Dec, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

BPSO PROMS NIGHT SPECTACULAR Sat 5 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ACADEMIA MUSICA ORCHESTRA: 19TH CENTURY MUSIC Sat 5 Dec, Great Malvern Priory, Worcestershire

ARMONICO CONSORT; CHRISTMAS ORATORIO Featuring William Towers (Countertenor), Nathan Vale (Tenor) & Sir Willard White (Bass), Sat 5 Dec, Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire

UNIVERSITY CHORUS & SYMPHONIC BRASS Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Rutter & Purcell, Sat 5 Dec, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR: SINGING FOR SYRIANS Seasonal music & readings as part of a UK-wide initiative, Sat 5 Dec, St Peter's Church, Harborne, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA: BACH

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Katie Tretheway & Amy Wood (soprano), Sun 6 Dec, Birmingham Town Hall

GARETH MALONE Join the nation's favourite choirmaster and his choir Voices for an all new show, Sun 6 Dec, Symphony Hall, B'ham

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORUS: BRITISH POPULAR CLASSICS Programme includes works by Britten, Holst & Elgar, Sun 6 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE PEOPLE'S ORCHESTRA: SOMETHING MAGICAL Family festival fun with clips from all-time animated favourites, accompanied by live music, Sun 6 Dec, Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire (4.30pm)

UNIVERSITY MUSIC SOCIETY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Brahms, Haydn & Sibelius. Daniele Rosina conducts. Sun 6 Dec, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

SING CAROLS WITH THE CITY ORGANIST Featuring Thomas Trotter & Metropolitan Brass. Jeremy Nicholas presents, Mon 7 Dec, Birmingham Town Hall

THE YORK WAITS: THE HIGH FEAST OF YULE Ancient music for the festive season, Tues 8 Dec, St Mary's Church, Warwick

EX CATHEDRA - CHRISTMAS MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT Tues 8 Dec, St John's Church, Hagley, Birmingham

PASCAL AND AMI ROGÉ Programme includes works by Fauré, Debussy, Schubert, Mozart & Dvorák, Wed 9 Dec, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

HELSENKI PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Programme comprises various works by Sibelius, Thurs 10 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ARMONICA CONSORT DOES CHRISTMAS Thurs 10 Dec, Holy Trinity Church, Coventry

AMY HARMAN AND TOM POSTER Programme includes works by JS Bach, Elgar, Saint-Saens, Reynaldo Hahn & Dutilleux, Fri 11 Dec, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

MIDLANDS HOSPITALS' CHOIR Conducted by James Llewelyn Jones, & raising funds for CLIC Sargent, Fri 11 Dec,

Birmingham Town Hall

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: A CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH ORCHESTRA AND CHAMBER CHOIR Featuring the music of Fauré, Rutter, Corelli, Huw Watkins and many other seasonal favourites, Sat 12 Dec, Stratford ArtsHouse

CHRISTMAS WITH THE SALVATION ARMY Sun 13 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: LONDON SYMPHONY Programme includes works by Rossini, Nielsen & Vaughan Williams, Sun 13 Dec, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

LUNCHTIME CHRISTMAS MUSIC with the choir of St John's College, Cambridge, Mon 14 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR: CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT QEH Carols & festive favourites in aid of injured service personnel, Tues 15 Dec, The Atrium, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, B'ham

THE MELLSTOCK BAND Christmas music in English tradition, from carols to revels, Tues 15 - Wed 16 Dec, Lord Leicester Hospital, Warwick

ANDRE RIEU Wed 16 Dec, Genting Arena, Birmingham

CBSO FEAT. BAIBE SKRIDE (VIOLIN) Programme includes works by Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky & Sibelius, Wed 16 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE BIRMINGHAM CANOLDIR MALE CHOIR: SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS Thurs 17 Dec, Birmingham Town Hall

EX CATHEDRA - CHRISTMAS MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring Alexander Mason (organ), Fri 18 - Sat 19 Dec, St Paul's Church, B'ham

EX CATHEDRA - ANGELS STARS & KINGS Special selection of seasonal readings and choral music, Sat 19 Dec, St Paul's Church, Birmingham (4pm)

CHRISTMAS WITH ALED JONES Featuring a host of festive favourites, Sat 19 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ARMONICO CONSORT; CHRISTMAS ORATORIO Featuring William Towers (Countertenor), Nathan Vale (Tenor) & Sir Willard White (Bass), Sun 20 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR: NINE LESSONS & CAROLS Traditional Christmas service, Sun 20 Dec, St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

CENTRE STAGE: A PALM COURT CHRISTMAS PARTY Featuring the Berkley Salon Ensemble, Mon 21 Dec, CBSO Centre,

Birmingham

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGALONG Featuring the London Concert Orchestra & London Concert Chorus, Mon 21 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA - CHRISTMAS MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT Mon 21 - Tues 22 Dec, St Paul's Church, Birmingham

MOZART FESTIVAL CHORUS: CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT Also featuring the Mozart Festival Chorus in full period costume, Tues 22 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ARMONICO CONSORT: CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT Tues 22 Dec, Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick

WHITE CHRISTMAS Featuring the London Concert Orchestra, Capital Voices Choir, Jacinta Whyte & Tim Hower, Wed 23 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS EVE CLASSICS WITH THE LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA Also featuring Birmingham Choral Union, Four Oaks Cluster Choir, James Edwards (tenor) & Julian Wilkins (organ), Thurs 24 Dec, Symphony Hall, B'ham

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA: TCHAIKOVSKY SPECTACULAR Featuring Noriko Ogawa (piano) & Toby Purser (conductor), Sun 27 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MOZART FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA: THE FOUR SEASONS BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring David Juritz (director/violin) & Mary Bevan (soprano), Mon 28 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA: LAST NIGHT OF THE CHRISTMAS PROMS Programme includes works by Humperdinck, Ravel, Sousa, Tchaikovsky, Puccini, Denza, Bizet & Mascagni, Mon 28 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA: THE SOUND OF MUSICALS Featuring Summer Strallen, Kerry Ellis, Tim Hower & Graham Bickley. Richard Balcombe conducts, Tues 29 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA: THE VERY BEST OF JAMES BOND Featuring Louise Dearman & Ricardo Afonso (guest singers). Clive Dunstall conducts, Wed 30 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA: NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA Featuring Ilona Domnich (soprano), James Edwards (tenor) & Alexander Sitkovetsky (violin). Anthony Inglis conducts, Thurs 31 Dec, Symphony Hall, B'ham

Comedy

Upfront Comedy

The Drum, Birmingham, Friday 4 December

Laughter lovers attending this yuletide offering will be hoping that a Christmas crackerful of comedy capers awaits them - and with slick-and-smooth Real McCoy stars Jefferson & Whitfield headlining, their wish may well come true. Double acts are relatively rare on the comedy circuit nowadays, so the boys are offering something intriguing even before they pump out a punchline. They're not to everyone's taste, mind, in the past being accused of peddling material that's tired, worn-out and lazy. But then suffering the slings and arrows of outrageous reviewers is pretty much par for the course in the rough, tough world of stand-up comedy.

Annette Fagon and Jason Patterson also feature on the evening's comedy bill.



Lee Nelson

The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury,
Thursday 10 December

Lee Nelson is the hugely popular creation of former medical doctor Simon Brodtkin. After years of wearing cheap bling and drinking Stella like it's going out of fashion, Nelson is now moving up in the world, with Brodtkin deciding to 'suit and boot' the character for this latest tour.

Lee is joined in the show by various other Brodtkin alter-egos, including pitch-invading Premier League footballer Jason Bent, bigoted pastor Daniel Doolay and unhinged club rep Chris Young from Kicking Off In Kavos.

Andy Parsons

Stratford Artshouse, Saturday 5 December;
Birmingham Town Hall, Thursday 10 December

With complimentary reviews (sort of) including such observations as 'what he lacks in hair, Parsons more than makes up for in originality', Andy Parsons is a sharp and topical comedian who's well-known from TV shows such as BBC's Mock The Week and Live At The Apollo.



Paddy McGuinness

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thursday 10 Dec;
Civic Hall, Wolverhampton Sat 12 December

Best known as Peter Kay's sidekick in hugely popular TV shows Phoenix Nights and Max And Paddy's Road To Nowhere, Paddy McGuinness is widely considered to be one of the UK's brightest comedy talents.

This latest tour sees him reflecting on his role as the father of two-year-old twins.

"I'll be sharing several stories about becoming a first-time dad," Paddy recently told Northern Life Magazine. "If you're a parent, a lot of the things I'll be talking about you'll be able to relate to. If not, then I'll probably scare you off!"

Barbara Nice's Countdown To Christmas

mac, Birmingham,
Friday 18 & Sunday 20 December

Everybody's favourite Kings Heath housewife here makes a welcome return, lighting up the festive season like a great big flashing Christmas tree. As well as containing more jokes than you'd find in an oversized yuletide gag-bag (does such a thing actually exist?), Barbara's festive shows usually feature a Christmas tombola and raffle, no shortage of mince pies, and even the odd special guest or two. And we have no reason whatsoever to imagine that this year's offering will be any different!



Comedy Box Office

BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL
0844 338 5000

BLUE ORANGE THEATRE,
BIRMINGHAM
0121 212 2643

BRAMALL MUSIC
BUILDING, BIRMINGHAM
0121 342 0495

CIVIC HALL,
WOLVERHAMPTON
0870 320 7000

THE COURTYARD,
HEREFORD 01432 340555

COVENTRY SHOWCASE,
0871 220 1000

THE DRUM, BIRMINGHAM
0121 333 2444

THE GLEE CLUB,
BIRMINGHAM
0871 472 0400

JONGLEURS COMEDY
CLUB, BIRMINGHAM
0870 011 1960

KATIE FITZGERALD'S,
STOURBRIDGE
01384 374410

KITCHEN GARDEN CAFE,
BIRMINGHAM
0121 443 4725

MAC, BIRMINGHAM
0121 446 3232

PALACE THEATRE,
REDDITCH
01527 65203

ROSES THEATRE,
TEWKESBURY
01684 295074

STATION PUB,
SUTTON COLDFIELD
0121 362 4961

STRATFORD ARTSHOUSE
01789 207 100

STOURBRIDGE TOWN HALL
01384 812960

SYMPHONY HALL,
BIRMINGHAM
0121 345 0600

WARWICKS ARTS CENTRE,
COVENTRY
024 7652 4524

WULFRUN HALL,
WOLVERHAMPTON
0870 320 7000

Comedy LISTINGS

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

DANIEL SLOSS Wed 2 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
JOHN FOTHERGILL, VERY SPECIAL GUEST & COMIC TBC Wed 2 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JOE LYCETT, PATRICK MONAHAN & ADAM ROWE Thurs 3 Dec, Bramall Music Building, B'ham
STAND UP COMEDY SHOWCASE Thurs 3 Dec, mac, Birmingham
STEWART FRANCIS Thurs 3 Dec, Symphony Hall, B'ham
KUM-N-AVALOFF COMEDY NIGHT Thurs 3 Dec, Stourbridge Town Hall
MICKEY SHARMA, NICK PAGE, CRAIG MURRAY & BARRY CASTAGNOLA Thurs 3 - Sat 5 Dec, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham
JEN BRISTER, PETE FIRMAN, JOHN FOTHERGILL & VERY SPECIAL GUEST Thurs 3 - Sat 5 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
ADAM HESS Fri 4 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
JAMES ACASTER Fri 4 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
ANNETTE FAGON, JEFFERSON AND WHITFIELD & JASON PATTERSON Fri 4 Dec, The Drum, Birmingham
JO ENRIGHT, JON WAGSTAFFE & ROB COLEMAN Fri 4 Dec, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
NOEL FIELDING Sat 5 Dec, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
STAND UP COMEDY SHOWCASE Sat 5 Dec, mac, Birmingham
STUDIO ROOM - LATE SHOW WITH PETE FIRMAN, JOHN FOTHERGILL & COMICS TBC Sat 5 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JOSH WIDDICOMBE Sat 5 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
ANDY PARSONS Sat 5 Dec, Stratford Artshouse

EDITOR'S CHOICE

COMEDIANS AND CAROLS Festive comedy featuring Tony Vino, Ava Vidal, Duncan Oakley, Craig Deeley & Noel James. Presented by Laughing sole, the unique setting of Birmingham Cathedral offers an alternative way to get your laughs in the build up to Christmas, Sun 6 Dec, Birmingham Cathedral

QUINCY, SY THOMAS, SEAN PERCIVAL & RYAN MCDONNELL Sat 5 Dec, Coventry Showcase
ROUGH WORKS Sun 6 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JOE LYCETT Sun 6 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
TIFF STEVENSON & GARETH RICHARDS Wed 9 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
SUZI RUFFELL, PAUL MCCAFFREY & COMIC TBC Wed 9 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
ANNETTE FAGON, MANDY MUDEN & MAUREEN YOUNGER Wed 9 Dec, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
PADDY MCGUINNESS Thurs 10 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
ANDY PARSONS Thurs 10 Dec, Birmingham Town Hall
RICHARD NORTON, MANDY KNIGHT, QUINCY & DAVID LONGLEY Thurs 10 Dec, Jongleurs Comedy Club, B'ham
LEE NELSON Thurs 10 Dec, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
SUZI RUFFELL, PAUL MCCAFFREY, ANDY ASKINS & JARLATH REGAN Thurs 10 - Sat 12 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
SUZI RUFFELL, PAUL MCCAFFREY, ANDY ASKINS & COMIC TBC Fri 11 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
KEVIN BRIDGES Fri 11 - Sat 12 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
STUDIO ROOM - LATE SHOW WITH JARLATH REGAN, SEAN PERCIVAL, PAUL MCCAFFREY & ANDY ASKINS Fri 11 - Sat 12 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
RICHARD NORTON, MANDY KNIGHT, PETE JOHANSSON & NICK PAGE Fri 11 - Sat 12 Dec, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham
PADDY MCGUINNESS Sat 12 Dec, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
CHRISTMAS COMEDY AT MANFORD'S COMICS TBC Sat 12 Dec, Players Bar, Birmingham
STUDIO ROOM - EARLY SHOW COMIC TBC Sat 12 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
SHIP OF FOOLS WITH MC ALAN SEAMAN Sat 12 Dec, Palace Theatre, Redditch
MARCEL LUCONT, NICK PAGE & BEN VAN DER VALDE & RUSSELL HICKS Sat 12 Dec, Coventry Showcase
STUDIO ROOM - SUNDAY FUN WITH SUZI RUFFELL & COMIC TBC Sun 13 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KEN DODD Sun 13 Dec, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
ADAM HESS Mon 14 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
LOUDEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT Mon 14 Dec, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham
NICK PAGE, RICHARD MORTON, CURTIS WALKER & WAYNE DEAKIN Tues 15 - Wed 16 Dec, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham
TOM STADE Wed 16 Dec, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
ANDY ROBINSON, MIKE WILMOT, SOL BERNSTIEIN & COMIC TBC Wed 16 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
MR B: THE GENTLEMAN RHYMER Wed 16 Dec, mac, Birmingham
NICK PAGE, RICHARD MORTON, BARRY DODDS & TOBY HADOKE Thurs 17 Dec, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham
GEOFF NORCOTT, ANDY ROBINSON, MIKE WILMOT & SOL BERNSTEIN Thurs 17 - Fri 18 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
ROY CHUBBY BROWN Fri 18 Dec, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
JOSH WIDDICOMBE Fri 18 Dec, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
BARBARA NICE'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER Fri 18 Dec, mac, B'ham
STUDIO ROOM - LATE SHOW WITH GEOFF NORCOTT, ANDY ROBINSON, MIKE WILMOT, SOL BERNSTEIN & DAVE TWENTYMAN Fri 18 Dec, The Glee Club, B'ham
PETE JOHANSSON, RICHARD MORTON, BARRY DODDS & TOBY HADOKE Fri 18 - Sat 19 Dec, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham
MARK COOPER-JONES, STEVE BUGEJA, KIERAN BOYD Fri 18 - Sat 19 Dec, The Courtyard, Hereford
GEOFF NORCOTT, ANDY ROBINSON, MIKE WILMOT, SOL BERNSTEIN & COMIC TBC Sat 19 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
STUDIO ROOM - LATE SHOW COMIC TBC Sat 19 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JAMES REDMOND, SIMON BLYTH, NOEL JAMES & LUKE GRAVES Sat 19 Dec, Coventry Showcase
DOREEN'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER Sat 19 Dec, mac, Birmingham
THE LATE NIGHT WITH BOABBY ROASTER Sat 19 Dec, mac, Birmingham
STUDIO ROOM - EARLY SHOW COMIC TBC Sat 19 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
BARBARA NICE'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER Sun 20 Dec, mac, Birmingham
TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Mon 21 Dec, The Blue Orange Theatre,



Suzi Ruffell

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Wednesday 9 - Sunday 13 December

The delightfully self-deprecating Suzi Ruffell is making good progress in the challenging world of stand-up comedy. Presenting an unquestionably likeable persona, she imbues her act with an impressive dynamism - although critics point out that she'd probably benefit from developing a 'unique selling point'. Away from comedy, she lists her 'likes' as 'cooking' and 'those cats with no hair'. Suzi's joined for these special Glee Club Christmas party shows by fellow purveyors of mirth Paul McCaffrey, Andy Askins and Jarlath Regan.

Birmingham
DARREN HARRIOT & COMIC TBC Sun 27 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham
TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, MASAI GRAHAM &

COMICS TBC Sun 27 Dec, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield
COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, IAN COPPINGER & COMIC TBC Wed 30 Dec, The Glee

Club, Birmingham
PAUL MCCAFFREY, ANDY ROBINSON, MICKEY D & COMIC TBC Thurs 31 Dec, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Players Bar, Broad St

THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS PARTY
 AT THE UK'S PREMIER COMEDY CLUBS!

HoHoHo!

Friday 12th December

Thousands of people enjoyed a Manford's Christmas last year, and we are going bigger and better for 2015!

We have a variety of packages available, whether it's an intimate evening with friends or your works Christmas 'do, visit manfordcomedyclub.com

Prices from £15 per ticket.

Tickets available from manfordcomedyclub.com
 For more information, please call the office on 0161 222 0462
 Players Bar, Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2ND

MANFORD'S COMEDY CLUB BIRMINGHAM



BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME

Winter/Spring A new look for a New Year

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET
The Nutcracker
Fri 27 Nov - Sun 13 Dec
From £19

MARTI PELLOW JULIAN CLARY LEE MEAD MATT SLACK
Ataddin
The Magical 3D Pantomime Adventure!
Sat 19 Dec - Sun 31 Jan
From £14

SLEEPING BEAUTY
A GUTTER ROMANCE
Tue 9 - Sat 13 Feb
From £18.50

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET
Wed 17 - Sat 20 Feb
Ashton Double Bill
Wed 24 - Sat 27 Feb
Romeo & Juliet
Wed 17 - Sat 27 Feb
From £10

MARY POPPINS
Wed 9 Mar - Sat 23 Apr
From £25

LET IT BE
A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC OF THE BEATLES
Mon 25 - Sat 30 Apr
From £13.50

International Dance Festival Birmingham

<p>Nederlands Dans Theater 2 Tue 3 & Wed 4 May From £15</p>	<p>Carlos Acosta Fri 6 & Sat 7 May From £15</p>	<p>Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan Tue 10 & Wed 11 May From £15</p>
<p>Ballet British Columbia Fri 20 & Sat 21 May From £15</p>		

IDFB is an award winning biennial festival produced by DanceXchange in partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome, funded by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.

Theatre



Aladdin

Birmingham Hippodrome, Sat 19 December - Sun 31 January

Marti Pellow here makes his pantomime debut - and will no doubt be helped to settle right in by the guiding hand of panto veteran Julian Clary.

Former Joseph star Lee Mead, meanwhile, takes on the role of Aladdin, while Matt Slack and Andrew Ryan play Wishee Washee and Widow Twankey respectively.

Stunning 3D effects and a Santa's sackworth of quality comedy - both mainstay ingredients in the Hippodrome's winning recipe for pantomime fun - are also present and correct in 2015's blockbuster offering.

Wet Wet Wet frontman Marti is certainly looking forward to his first experience of starring in pantomime: "Panto is a rite of passage. I think the British embrace it because we see it for what it is and understand it for what it is. We get it. Everything's amped up, everything's larger than life, there's nothing subtle about it. It's very family-orientated but it also spans generations."

And on this particular occasion, it also comes complete with Julian Clary. "Now *there's* a man who'll put a smile on your face!" says Marti, who's also responsible for the show's score.

Read the full interview with Marti online at whatsonlive.co.uk



The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe

The REP, Birmingham, until Sat 16 January

This much-loved tale from the pen of CS Lewis is rightly regarded as an all-time classic of children's literature. It sees the lion-god Aslan coming to the aid of three youngsters who've accidentally stumbled into his mystical world of Narnia.

Commenting on the show, The Rep's Artistic Director, Roxana Silbert, says: "The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe is a classic story that touches young and old, and this vivid stage adaptation will bring a little bit of magic to the winter season."

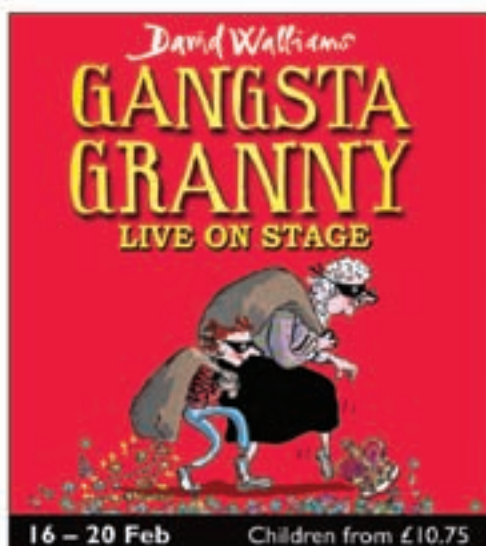
Wendy And Peter Pan

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sun 31 January

JM Barrie's timeless tale of daring heroics, everlasting childhood, dastardly pirates and lost children is here reimagined by director Ella Hickson, who takes her characters on a transformative journey beyond the sheltered landscapes of the Edwardian nursery. In a swashbuckling family adventure, she hurls them headlong into a Neverland of their own imagining, where shadows lurk around every corner, battles are fought and won, happy thoughts are rediscovered, and heroines (as well as heroes) are made.

Read our interview with Adam Gillen, who stars as 'Lost Boy' Martin, on page 8.





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.

Beauty And The Beast

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
until Sat 9 January

Ian Lauchlan makes a welcome return to the Belgrade pantomime, this time to take on the role of Dame Clarabelle Crumble.

This year's offering is being described by the theatre as 'an enchanting tale of heroic adventure, true love, messy mayhem and festive frivolity which promises to be the most beautiful and beastly yet'.

Sounds like the sort of experience it's well worth sending yourself to Coventry for - if you don't already live there, of course...



Peter Pan

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham,
until Sat 2 January

Second star to the right and straight on till morning - that's the way to Neverland. Fly away with the boy who wouldn't grow up to a magical island filled with adventure. Meet a real fairy, mermaids, Wendy and the lost boys. Oh, and beware the ever-so-wicked Captain Hook. And don't forget to listen out for the 'tick tock tick' of a very hungry crocodile. Instructions, instructions!



Dick Whittington

Artrix, Bromsgrove,
Sun 13 - Sun 20 December

The story of a young man who heads for London in search of fame and fortune is one of the most popular of all pantomimes, not least because of the top adventures with which the happy-go-lucky Dick finds himself involved.

With the dastardly King Rat putting in an appearance, and heady romance with the delightful Alice also on the cards for our eponymous hero, this is a show that looks set to be packed to its festive rafters with action, comedy and lashings of fun. Presented by All & Sundry.



Hairspray

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 14 December - Sat 2 January

This new production of the smash-hit musical comedy stars Freya Sutton, Tony Maudsley, Peter Duncan and Claire Sweeney.

Set in 1962 and boasting a jukebox-worth of '60s-style dance music and 'downtown' rhythm and blues, Hairspray tells the story of a chubby teenager who enjoys an overnight rise to stardom when she earns the chance to appear on a local TV dance show...

The London production of Hairspray has been nominated for a record-setting eleven Laurence Olivier Awards, winning in three categories, including Best New Musical.

Jack And The Beanstalk

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa,
Sat 5 December - Sat 2 January; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Mon 7 December - Sun 3 January

Jack and his mom are hard-up and have no choice but to take their cow to market to raise some much-needed cash. However, Jack being Jack, he decides to trade her in (the cow, that is, not his mom!) for a handful of magic beans, which then grow into a real ogre of a beanstalk...

Jack And The Beanstalk is one of the UK's best-loved pantos - so it's appropriate indeed that our hero is tossing his magic beans in the direction of not one but two Midlands venues this Christmas. The fine young fellow gets climbing, then chopping, his beanstalk at both the Royal Spa Centre in Leamington and the Palace Theatre in Redditch.

Fingers crossed the vanquished ogre doesn't land on you...

Cinderella

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, until Sat 2 January; Stratford Artshouse, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 19 - Sun 27 December; Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, Wed 16 - Sun 20 December; Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Sun 20 - Thurs 24 December

As pantomimes go, the Barclaycard Arena production of Cinderella is a whopper. As is its castle - standing at an impressive height of fifty feet.

And the show boasts a mighty fine cast of panto favourites too. Bradley Walsh stars as the ever-loveable Buttons, Paul O'Grady promises all kinds of mystical magic as the Fairy Godfather, and children's TV favourites Dick and Dom ensure the laughter count's as high as a beanstalk (oops, wrong panto!). Throw in aerial acrobatics, gospel choirs,

'amazing' 3D effects, Bollywood and street dancers and it's easy to see why producer Jon Conway reckons he's offering a truly unique festive experience.

"Forget the traditional pantomime," Jon urges, "this year, we're mixing things up. It's fantastic to be able to create a show without the restrictions of the conventional theatres. Not only have we introduced the largest ever pantomime staging and set, our cast of performers rival even some of the largest West End shows. I can guarantee no one will have seen a pantomime like this ever before!"... With its comical Ugly Sisters, metamorphosing pumpkin, matchmaking fairy godmother, drop-dead-gorgeous Prince Charming, super-cute mice and fits-one-foot-only glass slipper, Cinderella can justifiably lay claim to being the most popular of all pantomimes. And the Barclaycard Arena production isn't the only incarnation of this legendary fairytale delighting Midlands audiences this Christmas...

The Roses Theatre Tewkesbury's version is directed by Ben Crocker, who also helmed the venue's previous two panto offerings - Beauty And the Beast last year and Jack And The Beanstalk in 2013. So if you enjoyed either or both of those productions, book your tickets for this year's festive offering asap.

Cinderella is this year also putting some elbow grease into scrubbing the stage at both Stratford Artshouse and Sutton Coldfield Town Hall.



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The Nativity

St Paul's Church, The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, Wed 9 - Fri 11 December

"The Nativity 2015 is a brand new nativity play in the centuries-established tradition of Mystery Plays," explains Frank Bramwell of The People's Theatre Of The Quarter, the company behind this festive offering. "We will be bringing a contemporary feel to this traditional story, whilst staying true to its traditional values."

Chief among The People's Theatre Of The Quarter's numerous ambitions is to make Birmingham's St Paul's Church 'a place where there's a presentation of plays and spoken word which is both accessible and engaging'.

"For us," says Frank, "this is particularly exciting. Our style of performance has long been about focusing just on words and performers, and this is something that finds a deep accord with the 'simple' beauty within St Paul's Church."



We're Going On A Bear Hunt

Birmingham Town Hall, Tues 22 December - Wed 13 January

This delightful adaptation of Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury's popular picture book follows a family as they head out on an intrepid quest to find a bear.

Catchy songs, interactive scenes and plenty of hands-on adventure are combined with swishy swashy grass and oozy, squelchy mud in a show that seems certain to keep youngsters well and truly entertained.



The Nutcracker

Birmingham Hippodrome, until Sun 13 December

Sir Peter Wright's enchanting version of this firm festive favourite returns to the Hippodrome this month, courtesy of Birmingham Royal Ballet.

Created in 1990 as a thank you to Birmingham for its support of the company following its move to the Midlands from London's Sadler Wells, Wright's production is seen by many as the finest interpretation of Tchaikovsky's magnificent and mesmerising score. In true Christmas spirit, the story fol-



Cinderella: A Fairytale

mac, Birmingham, Thurs 3 - Sat 9 January

Tobacco Factory Theatres and Travelling Light Theatre Company's brilliantly quirky take on this best-loved of fairytales visits the Midlands on the back of hugely successful runs at two London venues. A 2013 Olivier Award nominee and a 2014 Off West End Award winner, the show is suitable for children aged six and older.

lows the young Clara as she's swept up in a fantasy of soldiers, giant rats, snow fairies, magic and mystery, before finally being transformed into a beautiful ballerina.

A magical, must-see show for little princesses everywhere.



Doreen's Christmas Cracker

mac, Birmingham, Sat 19 December; Roses Theatre, Kidderminster, Mon 21 - Tues 22 December

In February 2012, Doreen's Story - a five-minute mockumentary written by playwright David Tristram - went viral on the internet.

The video, which satirised benefit scroungers, starred actress Gill Jordan as Black Country-born Doreen.

This new production sees Tristram's now-infamous character taking a look back over 'an eventful year', and offers audiences yet another opportunity to enjoy an evening in the company of a truly remarkable comic creation.



Treasure Island

Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, until Sun 3 January

Scott Ritchie & BOA present an original adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale.

When salty old seadog Billy Bones brings his papers to the Admiral Benbow Inn, he draws young Jim Hawkins into the adventure of a lifetime - one which will see him not only setting sail in search of buried treasure, but also spending time in the company of a one-legged pirate with murder in mind...



A Christmas Carol

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Tues 15 - Wed 23 December

For anybody tired of the commercialism of Christmas in the twenty-first century, delving into the delightful world of Charles Dickens should offer the perfect antidote.

Of all his festive stories, A Christmas Carol reigns supreme. The covetous sinning of the miserly Scrooge, the eternal hope offered by Tiny Tim, and the ghostly visions of redemption all combine to give the tale an old-world charm that offers a welcome festive haven from the stresses and strains of the technological age.

The show is presented by local pub-theatre company Maverick, which is this year celebrating its twenty-first anniversary.

Blue Orange Arts present

Peter Pan

By J.M. Barrie



Saturday 19th December - Saturday 2nd January

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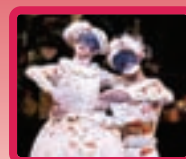
Sun 13th - Tues 15th &
Thurs 17th - Sun 20th
December

DICK WHITTINGTON
TRADITIONAL PANTO FROM
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Weds 16th & Sun 27th
December

THE NUTCRACKER
ROYAL BALLET SCREENINGS



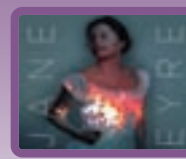
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FORTHCOMING SCREENINGS:

The Mikado (ENO Live) // The Nutcracker (Royal Ballet) // Of Mice And Men (NT Live) // La Traviata (ROH Live)
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Xtraordinary Xmas

Alternative Christmas Shows in Birmingham and Beyond

Think Christmas is all cringey pop anthems, family obligations, stressful shopping trips and happy little elves? Oh no it isn't! For those more likely to be gnashing their teeth than wiping a tear at this season's sentimental TV ads, our round-up of alternative festive fare in and around Birmingham offers plenty of choice to cater for tastes ranging from the 'Bah Humbug' to the XXXmas, proving that Christmas isn't just for the kids.

WINTER FUNK

Santa goes to Bollywood for a dance extravaganza, presented by students of Shiamak Davar's Indo-Jazz style. This unique fusion genre combines elements of modern and contemporary dance with a strong ballet grounding, performance-based visuals and jazz technique, taught to the latest Bollywood songs. Performers of all ages will demonstrate their skills in this 'spiritually uplifting' showcase, guaranteed to bring a new energy to the season. Fancy taking part one day? Classes run in Birmingham and Coventry, so it's easy to get involved.

Birmingham Town Hall,
Sun 29 November

BARBARA NICE: COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Created by Janice Connolly of Phoenix Nights fame, Mrs Barbara Nice is Stockport's favourite housewife and mother of five. Her 'selection box of fun and frolics' at the Old Joint Stock promises to be life-affirming yet original, with no two Barbara Nice performances ever the same. Visit mrsbarbaranice.co.uk to find out more about her or to hear tunes from her '70s punk band days.

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Fri 4 - Sat 5 December

VAMPOMIME

Finding a Christmas night out that doesn't suck can be a real pain in the neck, but Talking Birds' Nick Walker may just have nailed it. Vampomime follows an undead theatre company's best efforts to put on a panto - Beauty And The Beast, to be precise. But the life of a thesp isn't easy for a vampire: unable to tour, enduring the stage lighting's painful glare and trying to rein in 'upstart, tear-away' vampires barely over the

age of one thousand (viewers are advised to watch their necks for Vlad's attempts at 'audience participation'). By introducing a human cast member, the vampires hope to put an end to their frustrations by enacting a transformation that will mirror the unhappy Beast's - but will they pull it off?

Conceived by Walker as a "darker counterpoint to the Belgrade's main house show" (a more traditional take on Beauty And The Beast), Vampomime is perfect for office parties or anyone looking for a night away from the kids. Plus, at only an hour long, it leaves plenty of time for post-show drinks - just make sure you're not one of them...

Read our interview with Nick Walker at whatsonlive.co.uk

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Sat 5 December - Sat 2 January

ERIC'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Eric's been invited to a special Christmas Party at Hanley's top 60s nightspot, The Place. He's never heard of it but, when he finds out that the guest list includes Pete Townsend of The Who, Brian Poole of The Tremeloes, Sandie Shaw, Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones, and other 60s pop icons he can't wait to go.

Join Eric and his multi-talented band of actors and musicians for a night of non-stop comedy, inspired mayhem, and some of the greatest music of the 1960s.

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Mon 30 November - Sat 12 December

TARANTARA! TARANTARA!

Telling the tale of the tempestuous partnership between Victorian stage legends Gilbert and Sullivan, Tarantara! Tarantara! is an original play by Ian Taylor, performed by a small company 'in the spirit of pantomime'. Featuring songs and excerpts from iconic G&S operettas as well as other famous figures from the era, the play documents the highs and lows of their careers and private lives, nodding to Mike Leigh's hit film Topsy Turvy, which featured an appearance from Criterion patron Ron Cooke as Savoy Theatre owner Richard D'Oyly Carte.

Criterion Theatre, Coventry,
Sat 5 - Sat 12 December

THE FESTIVE FOOTSIE CLUB

Set against the backdrop of the Old Joint Stock's Grade II listed grandeur, The Footsie Club returns for a seasonal special this December, adding a dose of seductive decadence to the Christmas festivities. Femmes fatales, offbeat humour and 'extraordinary performances' come up close and personal in the theatre's inti-

mate setting, each specially selected by your host, Stage Door Johnny, to 'set pulses racing and tongues wagging'. Prepare for delights and surprises by the Santa's sleigh-load.

Old Joint Stock, Birmingham,
Wed 9 December

CHRISTMAS CABARET

Going all-out with its grown-up shows this Christmas, the Birmingham REP presents two evenings of glorious indulgence, with a sumptuous festive feast in the Marmalade restaurant followed by a brilliant cabaret show. Decorate your own tabletop Christmas tree before tucking in to a tasty three-course meal and enjoying the performance, then spend the evening sipping cocktails or mulled cider and strutting your stuff on the dance floor, where the REP's own DJ will keep the party alive till 1am.

The REP, Birmingham,
Thurs 10 & Fri 18 December

DIRTY GROTTO (18+)

A festive launch for the REP's new monthly Cabaret XXL nights, Dirty Grotto aims to please with an 'unruly antidote to the season of enforced merriment and indulgence'. Each night boasts 'a unique and fabulously funny line-up' as well as its own optional dress code, from Ancient Roman-inspired festivities in the Brumalia special, to naff jumpers for The Christmas Unusset, and black tie and ball gowns for The Unholy And The Ivy: Shut Your Dirty Grotto.

Willing participants can win prizes for their costumes, bid for gifts in nightly auctions, or take a seat on Mother Christmas' grubby knee to tell her what they really want for Christmas. So come along, grab a drink from the Sweet Pussy Bar and prepare for an evening of tinsel titillation! Find out more about what to expect from each Dirty Grotto night on the REP's website.

The REP, Birmingham,
Thurs 10 - Sat 19
December



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ROCK OUT WITH
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CONVENTION**
WED 3 FEB



THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!
**THAT'LL BE
THE DAY**
SUN 13 DEC



NIGHTS ON BROADWAY
**THE BEE GEES
STORY**
SUN 7 FEB



PREPARE TO BE TICKLED
KEN DODD
FRI 18 DEC



THE ICONIC COMEDY DUO IN
**25 YEARS OF
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MORTIMER**
THU 11 FEB



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Theatre LISTINGS

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

Commencing **TUES 1 DEC**

GUYS AND DOLLS The award-winning Sophie Thompson and David Haig here headline a high-energy cast alongside Jamie Parker, until Sat 5 Dec, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE WIZARD OF OZ Popular musical telling how a young girl from Kansas has to make her way home from the magical land of Oz, until Sat 5 Dec, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

ERIC'S CHRISTMAS PARTY Join Eric and his multi-talented band of actors & musicians for an evening of non-stop comedy, inspired mayhem and great music from the 1960s, until Sat 12 Dec, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

THE NUTCRACKER - BRB A wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit, until Sun 13 Dec, Birmingham Hippodrome

CINDERELLA Ben Crocker directs the much-loved rags-to-riches story, until Sat 2 Jan, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

TREASURE ISLAND Scott Ritchie & BOA present an original adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale, until Sun 3 Jan, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

DICK WHITTINGTON Presented by the Worcester Repertory Company, until Sun 3 Jan, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD Tall Stories Theatre Company present Julia Donaldson & Alex Scheffler's award-winning sequel, until Sun 3 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST An enchanting tale of heroic adventure, true love, messy mayhem and festive frivolity which promises to be the most beautiful and beastly yet!, until Sat 9 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry



The Gruffalo's Child - Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE CS Lewis' timeless classic - a perfect festive treat, until Sat 16 Jan, The REP, 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, until Fri 22 Jan, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

QUEEN ANNE Helen Edmundson's gripping new play exploring the little-known story of a monarch caught between friendship and duty. Natalie Abrahami directs, until Sat 23 Jan, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

WENDY AND PETER PAN Join Wendy, Peter, Tink and Captain Hook in Ella Hickson's acclaimed re-telling of JM Barrie's classic children's story, until Sun 31 Jan, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

ROBIN HOOD & MARIAN Theresa Heskins' staging of the well-known Sherwood Forest adventure, featuring on-stage magic and original music, until Sun 31 Jan, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS Brand new family musical brought to the stage by the producers of We're Going On A Bear Hunt & The Tiger Who Came For Tea, Tues 1 Dec, Malvern Theatres

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Box Clever Theatre present a brand new adaptation of Charles Dickens' festive tale, Tues 1 Dec, Brewhouse Theatre, Burton-upon-Trent

THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS A ghoulish showcase of work from The Roses Youth Theatre & Youth Dance performers, Tues 1 Dec, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

WHITE CHRISTMAS South Staffs Musical Theatre Company present an amateur staging of Irving

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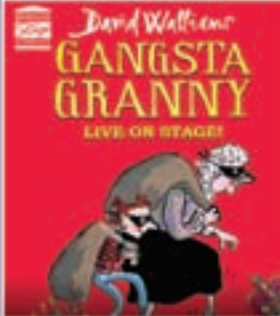
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ROCKY HORROR Show

MON 25 - SAT 30 JAN



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BY NOEL COWARD

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IMPOSSIBLE

TUE 16 - SAT 20 FEB



THRILLER Live
MICHAEL JACKSON

MON 7 - SAT 12 MAR




GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM


TUE 15 - SAT 19 MAR

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THU 28 - SAT 30 JANUARY
THE GREAT GATSBY
Immersing you in the decadence of America's Jazz Age. Brought to life in Blackeyed Theatre's sizzling stage adaptation, this is F. Scott Fitzgerald's story of doomed love and a decadent decade and their ultimate tragic end.



WED 03 - SAT 06 FEBRUARY
HORRIBLE HISTORIES
We all want to meet people from history; the trouble is everyone's dead! Horrible Histories return with two brand new shows "GROOVY GREEKS" & "INCREDIBLE INVADERS". History comes alive on stage, with special 3D effects.




MON 15 FEBRUARY
COUNT DUCKULA
The Children's TV Classic live on the stage for the very first time. Perfect for all the family, join Duckula, Nanny and Igor, as they race against time to solve the clues and find the long lost treasure 'The Jewels of Duckula'.



TUE 16 - SAT 20 FEBRUARY
AVENUE Q
Hilarious, cheeky, and with a terrific batch of songs performed by talented performers and puppets, Avenue Q is a musical like no other and definitely NOT for kids! A charming, sometimes rude, story of everyday folk and monsters.



TUE 01 MARCH
RAY MEARS: TALES OF ENDURANCE
Be prepared to be shocked, amazed and inspired to succeed as Ray Mears shares stories of our fellow human beings and some of the incredible circumstances they have overcome.



THU 26 - FRI 27 MAY
TELL ME ON A SUNDAY
Jodie Prenger steps into Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's classic musical. Charting the romantic adventures of an English girl in New York, featuring a wonderful original score including 'Take That Look Off Your Face'.

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

Berlin's romantic comedy, Tues 1 - Sat 5 Dec, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

CONFIRMATION This Fringe First award winner uses 'an honourable dialogue with political extremism' to highlight the way in which people tend only to see the evidence that proves them right, Tues 1 - Sat 5 Dec, The REP, Birmingham

YVETTE Presented by Dogpole Drama Company, Wed 2 Dec, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

THE CONSTANT WIFE Birmingham School of Acting presents its version of Somerset Maugham's captivating comedy of marriage & manners, Wed 2 - Sat 5 Dec, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

DICK WHITTINGTON Evolution Pantomimes return with this all-time festive favourite, Wed 2 Dec - Sun 10 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

YVETTE Presented by Dogpole Drama Company, Thurs 3 Dec, SpArC, Bishops Castle, South Shropshire

CINDERELLA: A FAIRYTALE Live storytelling and quirky visual styling come together in this unique re-telling of the classic fairytale of reversed fortunes, Thurs 3 Dec - Sat 9 Jan, mac, Birmingham

THE SINGING RINGING TREE Crazy Kat Theatre present a fast and funny family show featuring visual storytelling, puppetry and plenty of humour, Fri 4 - Sat 5 Dec, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

BARBARA NICE COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS Join local housewife Mrs Barbara Nice for a 'seasonal selection box' of fun & frolics, Fri 4 - Sat 5 Dec, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BRIEF ENCOUNTER Emma Rice's adaptation of Noel Coward's haunting love story, Fri 4 - Sat 12 Dec, The Bear Pit Theatre - The United Reformed Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

CINDERELLA Ballet Cymru present a choreographed production of the much-loved fairytale, Sat 5 Dec,

Stourbridge Town Hall

MARGE & JULES Spiritual enlightenment meets the darker stories of life as two women confess all, talking faith, life, after-life, semantics, erotics, and the men they love, Sat 5 Dec, The Dream Factory, Warwick

THE UNBUILT ROOM Performance-game exploring how places create memories... and how memories create places, Sat 5 Dec, mac, Birmingham

WE THIS WAY New interactive performance commissioned by and developed at Battersea Arts Centre, Sat 5 Dec, mac, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH NOEL FIELDING Expect a magical mix of Noel's unique brand of stand-up comedy, live animation and music. Some of Fielding's best-known TV characters (such as The Moon and Fantasy Man) also feature, Sat 5 Dec, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

GRIMM TALES The Crescent Theatre Company present a brand new and immersive storytelling experience by Carol Ann Duffy, adapted from the Brothers Grimm, Sat 5 - Sat 19 Dec, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ALADDIN Action-packed family pantomime, Sat 5 - Sat 19 Dec, Sutton Arts Theatre, Birmingham

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Brand new version of this ogre of a panto, Sat 5 - Sun 27 Dec, Bedworth Civic Hall

VAMPOMIME Nick Walker's fangtastic yuletide treat - with added bite, Sat 5 Dec - Sat 2 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Ian Adams returns as Lichfield's favourite panto dame, Sat 5 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, Lichfield Garrick

PETER PAN First Family Entertainment returns for another sparkling panto adventure. Jonathan Wilkes & Christian Patterson star, Sat 5 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

CINDERELLA Classic festive family entertainment, Sun 6 Dec, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

Week Commencing MON 7 DEC

CHRISTMAS CONCERT Cannock Chase High School presents an evening of music, drama and dance,



The Singular Exploits Of Sherlock Holmes - Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

Mon 7 Dec, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

GANGSTA GRANNY Birmingham Stage Company bring a production of David Walliams' best-selling book to the stage, Mon 7 - Sat 12 Dec, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE Mon 7 - Sat 12 Dec, Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Per-shore

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Christmas pantomime starring Vernie Bennett and Lloyd Daniels, Mon 7 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, Palace Theatre, Redditch

ACT COLLECTION Collection of highlights from Arena's Collaborative Theatremakers development project, a local initiative aimed at engaging local theatremakers across a wide range of disciplines, Tue 8 Dec, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

THE LEGEND OF KING ARTHUR Presented by the ever-young Oddsocks, Tues 8 Dec, Ludlow Assembly

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SHEN YUN HAS only been around for a decade, but these days, wherever it goes theatres are packed. Some people fly from other countries or drive hundreds of miles to see it. Others see the same show five times. Why? Many say there are no words to describe it – you have to see it with your own eyes.

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"Shen Yun demonstrates the highest realm in art and inspires the performing arts world... Their passion is really touching. The show was excellent, the content rich, the stage effects were amazing."

- Chi Cao, Lead role in Mao's Last Dancer, principal dancer for Birmingham Royal Ballet

"The orchestra is phenomenal. They are very, very on top."

- Roger Tallman, Seven-time Emmy Award-winning composer/producer

"This show demonstrates the deep, deep, deep artistic soul of China... I am very touched by what I have seen today."

- Anthony Daniels, actor, played C3PO in Star Wars



0208 133 7986 ShenYun.com/uk

Theatre LISTINGS

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

Rooms, South Shropshire

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS Find out who's the fairest one of all in this fun festive offering, Tue 8 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

THE FOOTSIE CLUB Evening of burlesque, variety & cabaret, Wed 9 Dec, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

(JACOB) MARLEY & ME Heart of Worcestershire College Performing Arts Students present a re-telling of Charles Dickens' classic festive tale, Wed 9 - Thurs 10 Dec, Artrix, Bromsgrove

NOISES OFF Michael Frayn's award-winning 'play within a play' is brought to life by the Tower Players, Thurs 10 - Fri 11 Dec, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

DIRTY GROTTTO Ten nights of alternative festive entertainment featuring explicit content, with strong language, nudity and scenes of a sexual nature. Strictly over-eighteens only, Thurs 10 - Sat 19 Dec, The REP, Birmingham

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Magical panto featuring catchy songs, funky dancing, groan-worthy jokes & plenty of audience participation, Thurs 10 - Sun 20 Dec, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

SANTA'S RUSTY ROBOT Iain Lauchlan's festive show for younger audiences, packed with songs, fun and plenty of festive cheer, Thurs 10 - Thurs 24 Dec, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

PETER PAN A magical show for all the family featuring Coronation Street's Mark Moraghan as Captain Hook, CBBC's Hannah-Jane Fox as Mrs Darling & Jessica Punch as Peter Pan, Thurs 10 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, Malvern Theatres

ANNE REID: I LOVE TO SING The star of Last Tango In Halifax presents an evening of songs and stories, music and memories... Fri 11 Dec, Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire



Figs In Wigs, Dirty Grotto - The REP, Birmingham

OH, YES IT IS! Improvised Christmas panto featuring games and dames, all made up from audience suggestions on the night, Fri 11 - Sat 12 Dec, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD Fun-packed traditional pantomime for all the family, directed by Dean Taylor and Roy Palmer, Fri 11 - Sat 19 Dec, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

ALADDIN Traditional family pantomime, written by and starring Malcolm Stent, Fri 11 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, Solihull Arts Complex

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK THE ROCK'N'ROLL PANTO Unique festive experience featuring a 'storming line-up of classic rock'n'roll hits played live on stage', Fri 11 Dec - Sun 10 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

SANTA'S NEW SLEIGH Festive fun for young children as Sprocket and Dibs attempt to solve the mystery surrounding Santa's missing sleigh, Sat 12 - Thurs 24 Dec, Lichfield Garrick

PETER PAN Starring the Chuckle Brothers and John Altman, Sat 12 Dec - Sun 24 Jan, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Fame Factory return with their family-friendly production of a classic tale, Sun 13 Dec, Gregynog Hall, Nr Welshpool, Powys

SANTA'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER Join Doty the Elf and Pompon the Penguin for a song-filled and interactive visit to Santa's home, Sun 13 - Mon 14 Dec, Palace Theatre, Redditch

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT Festive entertainment hosted by the OJS's resident Musical Theatre Company. Free event raising money for Macmillan Cancer Research, Sun 13 - Sun 20 Dec, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

DICK WHITTINGTON A traditional family pantomime presented by All & Sundry, Sun 13 - Sun 20 Dec, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Week Commencing MON 14 DEC

HAIRSPRAY THE MUSICAL New production of the smash-hit musical comedy. Starring Freya Sutton, Tony Maudsley, Peter Duncan and Claire Sweeney, Mon 14 Dec - Sat 2 Jan, New Alexandra Theatre,

BARBARA NICE'S COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS
4TH & 5TH DECEMBER

Join local housewife superstar Mrs Barbara Nice in a seasonal selection box of fun and frolic!

THE FESTIVE FOOTSIE CLUB
9TH DECEMBER

The cream of the UK's Cabaret, Burlesque & Variety scene has been personally selected by host Stage Door Johnny

OH, YES IT IS!
11TH & 12TH DECEMBER
(FAMILY FRIENDLY MATINEE ON 12TH)
An Improvised Pantomime!

With Heroes, Dames and Baddies, lots of boo and a bit of hiss. Will it be 'Dick & The Beanstalk' or 'Puss In The Woods'? You decide!!

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
15TH - 23RD DECEMBER

Ebenezer Scrooge is mean. A skinflint. All he cares about is money. And he certainly doesn't care about Christmas. Then, one night, on Christmas Eve in Birmingham, strange things start to happen!

The Old Joint Stock Theatre
Box Office 0121 200 0946
www.oldjointstock.co.uk

Cinderella

Town Hall Sutton Coldfield
16-20 December 2015
cinderella2015.com
Box Office 0121 240 0218

RWP

The People's Theatre Of The Quarter presents

The New Birmingham Mystery Plays

THE NATIVITY 2015

A boy is born 2000 years ago... and the world is changed. Forever.

December 9th - 11th @ 7.30pm

St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter, B3 1QZ

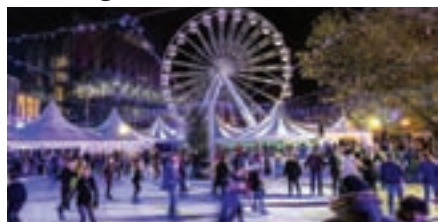
Tickets £8 (£6) Box Office 07720 839612 or theatreofthequarter@gmail.com or www.theatreofthequarter.co.uk

All proceeds go towards St Paul's Church development, to help ensure that this beautiful building is kept alive for the people of Birmingham.

Win!

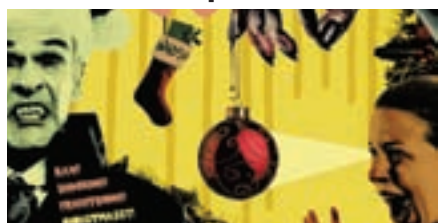
To enter all competitions go to www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Family ticket to Ice Skate Birmingham



Closes Friday 4 December

Tickets to Vampomime



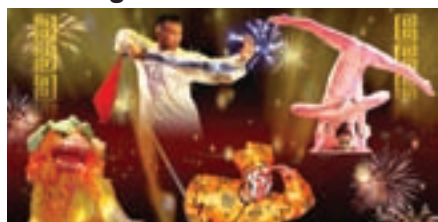
Closes Monday 30 November

Tickets to Canadian Circus



Closes Thursday 10 December

Tickets to Chinese New Year Extravaganza



Closes Friday 22 January

Family Ticket to Aladdin



Closes Thursday 7 January

Family tickets to We're Going On A Bear Hunt



Closes Friday 11 December

Family ticket to Cinderella



Closes Friday 11 December

Tickets to Shen Yun



Closes Friday 26 February

Tickets to The Rocky Horror Show



Closes Monday 18 January

Tickets to The Sound Of Music



Closes Tuesday 12 January

Tickets to Ex Cathedra - Christmas Music By Candlelight



Closes Friday 11 December

Tickets to Macbeth



Closes Tuesday 19 January

Tickets to Tattoo Freeze



Closes Friday 22 January

Tickets to The Monster Energy Arenacross Tour



Closes Friday 15 January

Tickets to Insomnia 56



Closes Friday 4 December

To enter all competitions go to www.whatsonlive.co.uk
also follow us on Twitter for more great competitions

Theatre LISTINGS

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

Birmingham

THE TWITS Malvern Theatre Players present an amateur production of Roald Dahl's revolting tale, Mon 14 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, The Coach House, Malvern Theatre

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT Tue 15 - Fri 18 Dec The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Maverick Theatre present Charles Dickens' classic Christmas story, Tues 15 - Wed 23 Dec, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

WHAT THE DICKENS?! Foghorn Improv take audiences on a journey to find love and fortune, Thurs 17 Dec, Bramall Hall, Birmingham University

THE SINGULAR EXPLOITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES Don't Go Into The Cellar present a one-man homage to the world's greatest detective, Thurs 17 Dec, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE THREE MUSKETEERS Playbox Theatre present a swashbuckling seventeenth-century adventure fusing romance, treachery, cunning plots and deceit, Thurs 17 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, The Dream Factory, Warwick

DID WE MENTION THE FREE MINCE PIES? Join The Bear Pit for festive fun at their annual comedic concert, Fri 18 Dec, The Bear Pit Theatre - The United Reformed Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

SANTA IN LOVE The People's Theatre present a fun-filled family musical complete with games, giggles and favourite festive songs, Fri 18 Dec, The Brew-house Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

ED DOOLAN: CHRISTMAS SHOW Join BBC WM's Ed Doolan for an evening of music, comedy, guests and plenty of surprises, Fri 18 Dec, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FIND ME Young Drum Drama Academy present Olwen Wymark's play, which seeks to investigate the personality of a troubled young girl, Sat 19 Dec,

The Drum, Birmingham

DOREEN'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER David Tristram's comic creation, Doreen, reflects on the past year, Sat 19 Dec, mac, Birmingham

I'VE SEEN SANTA Magical new show especially for three-to-seven-year-olds, Sat 19 - Thurs 24 Dec, Solihull Arts Complex

CINDERELLA Magical festive fairytale presented by Polka Dot Pantomimes, Sat 19 - Sun 27 Dec, Stratford ArtsHouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

CINDERELLA A popular classic pantomime presented by PMA Productions, Sat 19 - Tue 29 Dec, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

PETER PAN Take a magical trip to Neverland with the Darling children, Sat 19 Dec - Sat 2 Jan, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

ALADDIN Starring Marti Pellow, Julian Clary, Lee Mead, Matt Slack and Andrew Ryan, Sat 19 Dec - Sun 31 Jan, Birmingham Hippodrome

MISTLETOE & MUSICALS Theatre1 and friends promises a feast of songs from contemporary musicals, washed down with Christmas favourites, Sun 20 Dec, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Clive Francis recreates the first ever public reading of Dickens' most famous work, which made its debut at Town Hall in December 1853, Sun 20 Dec, Birmingham Town Hall

A CHRISTMAS WASSAIL A festive feast of carols and songs, comedy and spoken word, Sun 20 - Tue 22 Dec, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

CINDERELLA Featuring a star-studded cast, including Bradley Walsh and Paul O'Grady, Sun 20 - Thurs 24 Dec, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

DEAR SANTA Stage version of Rod Campbell's classic children's book, filled with music, laughter and plenty of audience participation, Sun 20 - Sat 26 Dec, (except Christmas day), Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Week Commencing MON 21 DEC

DOREEN'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER David Tristram's comic creation, Doreen, reflects on the past year, Mon 21 - Tues 22 Dec, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

SING-A-LONG-A FROZEN Join Elsa & Anna in an inter-



White Christmas - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

active screening of the much-loved film, Tues 22 Dec, Stourbridge Town Hall

SANTA IN LOVE The People's Theatre present a fun-filled family musical complete with games, giggles and favourite festive songs, Tues 22 - Thurs 24 Dec, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT Sally Cookson's fun-filled staging of Michael Rosen's award-winning book, Tue 22 Dec - Wed 13 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall

TRES TRES CABARET CHRISTMAS Sun 27 Dec, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

CINDERELLA Sun 27 Dec - Sun 3 Jan, Albany Theatre, Coventry

Week Commencing MON 28 DEC

THE GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD Join Sinbad the Sailor and his twin of a brother, Binbag, as they set sail on a dangerous and thrilling journey, Tues 29 Dec, Artrix, Bromsgrove

★★★★
"...it's a blast...
Take popcorn.
The Guardian

Motionhouse
BROKEN
EARTH-SHATTERING PERFORMANCE IN A SHIFTING WORLD

Motionhouse's adrenaline-filled spectacle *Broken* erupts onto the stage: athletic dance, spectacular acrobatics and a gripping narrative combine with revolutionary set design and digital imagery. Fast-paced, moving and exhilarating. *Broken* takes audiences on a journey into the earth as they have never seen it before...

Don't miss your chance to see *Broken* on it's fourth UK tour!

Date / Time	Venue	Tickets
Thu 4-Fri 5 Feb 7.30pm	Warwick Arts Centre Coventry	024 7652 4524 warwickartscentre.co.uk
Tue 9-Wed 10 Feb 8.00pm	mac birmingham Birmingham	0121 446 3232 macbirmingham.co.uk
Fri 19 Feb 8.00pm	Landmark Theatre Ilfracombe	01271 324242 northdevontheatres.org.uk
Thu 25 Feb 7.30pm	The Castle Wellingborough	01933 270 007 thecastle.org.uk
Thu 3-Fri 4 Mar 7.30pm	Gulbenkian Canterbury	01227 769075 thegulbenkian.co.uk
Thu 10 Mar 7.45pm	Lighthouse Poole	01202 28 00 00 lighthousepoole.co.uk
Thu 24 March 7.30pm	Octagon Yeovil	01935 422884 octagon-theatre.co.uk
Wed 6-Sat 9 Apr 7.30pm + Sat matinee 2.30pm	The Peacock London	020 7863 8222 peacocktheatre.com

Photo: Chris Nash

the drum

2016 SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

Fri 5 Feb

Kane Brown
hosted by Aurie Stylz



Fun and laughter guaranteed

Sun 7 Feb

An Intimate Affair
with Millie Jackson



Exclusive live gig with the
Queen of raunchy R&B

Thu 11 Feb

Dear White People



Satire of life on a college campus

Thu 25 & Fri 26 Feb

**i know all the
secrets in my world**



Bereaved father and son come
to terms with their loss

Thu 10 Mar

Amsterdam



Change moves to Amsterdam
after falling in love

Sat 23 April

**Patrick Monahan -
The Disco Years**



New stand up show from our
favourite funny man

For a full list of what's on this Spring visit

www.the-drum.org.uk

0121 333 2444



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at The Albany Theatre**

Book online: www.albanytheatre.co.uk
Box Office: 024 7699 8964
53 The Butts, Coventry CV1 3BH

Christmas with Karl Loxley



**Friday
27
November
7.45pm**

Karl Loxley returns to the Albany Theatre by popular demand
for his second solo concert since his brilliant appearances on
this year's series of BBC TV's The Voice UK.

The Backbeat Beatles



**Friday
11
December
7.30pm**

"The Backbeat Beatles are probably the nearest you will get to
the real thing" The Daily Mail

A Soulful Christmas!



**Saturday
19
December
7.30pm**

Coventry's very own Soul Diva & MOBO nominee, Sandra
Godley presents a magical evening of soulful sounds to
celebrate the Christmas season.

**SOLIHULL
ARTS COMPLEX**

**SPRING '16
HIGHLIGHTS**



TICKETS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

22/1	Lee Hurst Live	£16.50
27/1	The Syd Lawrence Orchestra	£21
29/1	Let's Twist Again	£20
4/2	The ELO Experience	£21
11/2	Rick Wakeman	£28
20/2	Count Duckula & The Jewels of Duckula	£10
26/2	An Evening Without Jake Thackray	£12(£10)
27/2	Talon Acoustic show in Studio	£16
3/3	Lady Connie & The Suffragettes drama	£10
4/3	MYJO & Guest Elaine Delmar	£17
5/3	Dr Feelgood and Eddie & The Hot Rods	£20
16/3	The Searchers	£20
19/3	An Evening of Dirty Dancing live tribute	£20
24/3	Quill	£18
31/3	The Manfreds	£20
4-5/4	All Our Yesterdays Nostalgia show	£14/£13
6/4	The Simon & Garfunkel Story & full band	£18
20/4	Martin Stephenson singer of The Dainties	£12
24/5	Strictly's Pasha Kovalev Dance show also 25/5	£27
4/6	The Chris & Pui Show (Beebies fun	£12/£10/£40 fam.

Box Office: 0121 704 6962
www.solihullartscomplex.co.uk

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

A Murder Is Announced

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

We're in the drawing room of Little Paddocks, in the charming village of Chipping Cleghorn, in the autumn of 1950. The house guests are studying a notice at the bottom of the personal column which states that, 'A murder will take place on Friday October 29, at Little Paddocks, at 6.30pm'.

"We'll laugh about this in the morning," the house guests conclude - but Miss Marple is more interested in posing the question, "Who's going to be the victim?"

The tweedy sleuth is played in this Middle Ground Theatre Company production by Judy Cornwell; broad of beam, with matching tan hat, shoes and gloves. Christie has given her a watching role in this story, and Cornwell plays her in a quiet, retiring, listening manner - at least until the final showdown. The star of the show is Diane Fletcher, who plays weekend hostess Letitia Blacklock. It is she who gives pace and purpose to proceedings in a performance so pivotal that you rather hope it's not her who ends up getting the bullet.

Christie also treats us to a string of tricky clues to which we must pay attention - a freshly oiled door, a vase of wilted violets and a faulty table lamp.

But audiences love the familiar security of it all, and the opportunity to pit their wits against such a clever author. And, as theatre managers love full houses, no one goes away disappointed.

But I never did work out why the murder was announced in advance... *Chris Eldon Lee* ■■■■

A Murder Is Announced returns to the region to play Lichfield Garrick from 23 - 27 February

The Glass Menagerie

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Determined for it not to be seen as too autobiographical, Tennessee Williams described *The Glass Menagerie* as a "memory play" lacking authenticity that could be "presented with unusual freedom of convention".

Director Ellen McDougall takes the playwright at his word for this new production. A joint affair between rising theatre company Headlong, West Yorkshire Playhouse and Liverpool Everyman, there's no indication of its time period, and the action takes place on a bare stage that's little more than a black box. The sparse surroundings mean there's even greater focus on the dialogue and performances. The four-strong cast truly shine in the spotlight, wonderfully capturing the tragic-comic dynamic of a family in crisis.

And while the story might be bleak, the performances are anything but.

Greta Scacchi is wonderfully manic as histrionic mother Amanda. Tom Mothersdale is even better as the laconic son and narrator. Erin Doherty as crippled (emotionally more than physically) daughter Laura and Eric Kofi Abrefa as the long-awaited 'gentleman caller' provide convincing support, adding even more heart to the heartbreak.

For all the playwright's arguments to the contrary, *The Glass Menagerie* is an emotionally 'authentic' play - and while it might have aged a little, it remains a powerful reflection on the human condition.

Appropriately for a play based on memory, Headlong's production is definitely one that will linger.

Steve Adams ■■■■



Love For Love

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

Bawdy, bonkers and brilliant, Selina Cadell's take on William Congreve's Restoration classic *Love For Love* offers a fresh, dynamic glimpse into a lamentably neglected era of British stage history.

Opting for a stylised vision of the late seventeenth century, Cadell emphasises contemporary resonances, highlighting how the period's irreverent humour helped shape our tastes today. We're promised satire in the prologue, and it's delivered by the bucket-load, with mockery of London manners and astrology, as well as jokes about Westminster that might have been written yesterday.

Unlike earlier Renaissance comedies, originally performed by all-male companies, *Love For Love* makes the presence of its female cast members felt, reflecting a time of increased permissiveness when women on stage were still an exciting novelty. To an extent, the women steal this story: Angelica obviously dupes her male admirers, but perhaps more surprising than this is the refreshing frankness about female sexuality, and the gleeful celebration of women's mischief-making.

Rosalind Ebbutt's costumes draw parallels with our own time, dispensing with some of the more elaborate period elements to emphasise colour and silhouettes.

Though twisted into a very twenty-first century side plait, Miss Prue's eye-catching pink hair suggests a flavour of the periwigs of the day, while the breeches and stockings are replaced by plainer trousers and vivid tights and socks.

Also strikingly modern is the play's self-consciousness. Cadell exaggerates the inherent theatricality and breaking of the fourth wall with framing scenes that see cast and crew rushing to get ready, messing things up and larking about with the audience before the play begins.

The cast carry it off with aplomb: it's hard to single out stars among so much comic talent, but the interplay between character double acts like Scandal and Tattle, Sir Sampson and Foresight, Mrs Frail and Mrs Foresight and, of course, the languid Valentine and no-nonsense Angelica, is an utter delight.

Outrageously funny and uproarious good fun, this is laugh-out-loud English comedy at its finest. *Heather Kincaid* ■■■■

Love For Love continues to show at The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Fri 22 January.

Dara O'Briain

Birmingham Hippodrome

As host of the hugely successful *Mock The Week*, *The Apprentice You're Fired* and *Star Gazing Live*, Dara O'Briain is one of the most recognisable faces on British TV. Last month saw the charismatic, fast-talking and very, very funny comic bring new live show *Crowd Tickler* to Birmingham for three consecutive evenings.

Although being a huge fan of Dara on television, I was yet to see him perform a stand-up routine - either on TV or in the flesh - so I wasn't entirely sure what to expect.

That said, you don't become the biggest-selling comedian at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival without having a well-polished act and some equally impressive material, so I had a strong inkling I was in for a real treat.

The show's first half leaned heavily on his badinage with the audience. He cleverly used his fans' suggestions to create a murder scene for a box-set drama. This resulted in a ridiculous storyline - death by dildo attack - which he then proceeded to act out.

Dara's topics for discussion included Birmingham's notorious 'pissy stairs' and the refurbished New Street Station. He suggested that pop group Daft Punk came up with the design for the latter, and compared the advertising board to Sauron's eye. This was a brilliant touch that had the crowd in stitches.

The second half was every bit as side-splitting as the first. His routines were really classy, showcasing both his wit and intelligence.

Dara held his extremely welcoming and hugely enthusiastic Birmingham audience in the palm of his hand for a full two hours.

I wholeheartedly recommend going to see him the next time he's in town. No matter what your age, background or gender, I can guarantee you won't leave disappointed.

Lauren Foster ■■■■

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& NEW YEAR
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3
JANUARY

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			17 Dec 7.45pm	18 Dec 8pm & 7.45pm	19 Dec 8pm & 8pm	20 Dec 8pm & 8pm
21 Dec 8pm & 7.45pm	22 Dec 8pm & 7.45pm	23 Dec 8pm & 7.45pm	24 Dec 8pm Only	25 Dec NO SHOWS	26 Dec 8pm & 8pm	27 Dec 8pm & 8pm
28 Dec 8pm & 7.45pm	29 Dec 8pm & 7.45pm	30 Dec 8pm & 7.45pm	31 Dec 8pm Only	1 Jan 8pm & 8pm	2 Jan 8pm & 8pm	3 Jan 8pm & 8pm

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EDITOR'S
CHOICE

Star Wars: The Force Awakens

CERT tbc

Starring Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, Adam Driver, Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Lupita Nyong'o, Andy Serkis, Domhnall Gleeson, Anthony Daniels, Peter Mayhew, Max Von Sydow Directed by J.J. Abrams (USA)

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..." Are we excited yet? In a year chock-a-block with blockbusters, this could be the mother of them all. Flaunting a budget of \$200million, the seventh Star Wars epic takes up where Return Of The Jedi left off, albeit with a thirty-year gap. Our new protagonist is Finn (John Boyega), a First Order stormtrooper who has redeemed himself and takes up the lightsabre from Luke Skywalker. The good news is that JJ Abrams is at the helm, a techno-savvy geek who is also a fan and who successfully re-booted the Star Trek franchise with Star Trek (2009). But first he must overcome the poor press that greeted the last three SW films (1999-2005). Will he pull it off? John Williams, now eighty-three, returns to write the score. In 3D and IMAX. **Released Thurs 17 December**



EDITOR'S
CHOICE

Victor Frankenstein

CERT 12a (110 mins)

Starring Daniel Radcliffe, James McAvoy, Jessica Brown Findlay, Andrew Scott, Charles Dance, Mark Gatiss Directed by Paul McGuigan (USA)

Last year's I, Frankenstein seems so long ago... This version goes back to the beginnings of the legend first envisioned by Mary Shelley in her 1818 novel. Here, the tale is told from the perspective of lab assistant Igor (Radcliffe), who teams up with the ambitious medical student of the title (McAvoy) in a quest to create artificial life. Of course, Ms Shelley never wrote about a lab flunky or a character called Igor. The hunchbacked lab assistant was established by Universal Pictures in 1944 with their horror film House Of Frankenstein - but he was, interestingly, called Daniel.

Released Thurs 3 December

Released from Tues 1 Dec

Christmas With The Coopers

CERT 12a (107 mins)

Starring Alan Arkin, John Goodman, Ed Helms, Diane Keaton, Anthony Mackie, Amanda Seyfried, Marisa Tomei, Olivia Wilde
Directed by Jessie Nelson (USA)

This sentimental comedy is unlikely to replace It's A Wonderful Life in our festive hearts but it's got a jolly good cast. The director Jessie Nelson was previously responsible for the tear-jerking Corrina, Corrina and I Am Sam and here points her camera at a typical American Christmas in which a lot can - and does - go wrong.



Christmas With The Coopers

Sunset Song

CERT 15 (133 mins)

Starring Agyness Deyn, Peter Mullan, Kevin Guthrie, Hugh Ross, Jack Greenlees
Directed by Terence Davies (UK/Luxembourg)

Many consider Terence Davies to be one of our finest directors, so a new film of his is always something of an event. Here he's taken Lewis Grassie Gibbon's classic 1932 novel and shot it in Scotland, New Zealand and Luxembourg. The supermodel Agyness Deyn plays Chris Guthrie, a farmer's daughter who comes of age in the years immediately prior to the First World War.



Sunset Song

The Honourable Rebel

CERT PG (97 mins)

Starring Dorothea Myer-Bennett, Daniel Donskoy, Laurence Kennedy Directed by Mike Fraser (UK)

Set during the Second World War, The Honourable Rebel follows the real-life adventures of one Elizabeth Montagu (Myer-Bennett). An actress, writer and musician - and 'film dialogue director' - Montagu turned her hand to espionage following a narrow escape from the Gestapo. Narrated by Diana Rigg.

Krampus CERT 15 (98 mins)

Starring **Adam Scott, Toni Collette, David Koechner, Allison Tolman, Conchata Ferrell**
Directed by **Michael Dougherty (USA)**

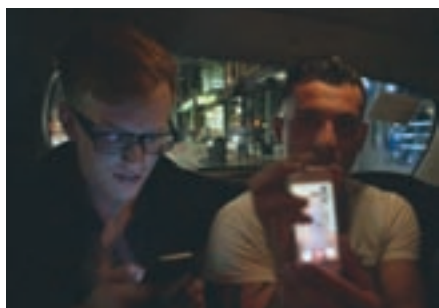
The director of this festive horror film describes his eponymous boogie man as the shadow of Santa Claus, a mischievous being whose role is to terrorise naughty children. The director also explains that the tone of his film is both scary and sentimental. Like our least favourite aunt.



ChemSex CERT 18 (81 mins)

Directed by **William Fairman**
and **Max Gogarty (UK)**

We're not just talking Viagra here. Chemsex is the term used to describe the use of drugs in a sexual context. It's a phenomenon that has particularly blighted the gay community, as young men become increasingly dependent on chemically fuelled group sex sessions which, apparently, can go on for days. This British documentary uncovers some of the secrets.



The Night Before CERT 15 (101 mins)

Starring **Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen, Anthony Mackie, Lizzy Caplan, Jillian Bell, Michael Shannon**
Directed by **Jonathan Levine (USA)**

...Christmas, of course. Here, a trio of old friends continue their raunchy tradition of raising hell on Christmas Eve – as it might be their last chance. Isaac (Seth Rogen) is about to become a father and Chris (Anthony Mackie) is now famous, so things ain't what they used to be. Expect some gross-out comedy.



FROM
FRI 11
DEC

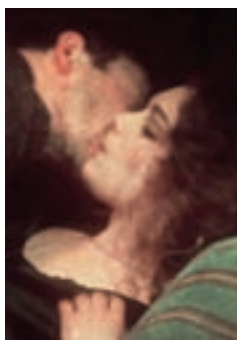
Released Fri 11 Dec

The Forbidden Room

CERT 12a (119 mins)

Starring **Roy Dupuis, Clara Furey, Louis Negin, Udo Kier, Mathieu Amalric, Geraldine Chaplin**
Directed by **Guy Maddin and Evan Johnson (Canada)**

Let's put it like this: the crew of a submarine trapped under water for months discovers a mysterious woodsman in their midst. It transpires that he is in search of someone called Margot, a forest dweller kidnapped by wolf-men. Having said that, the actual narrative of Guy Maddin and Evan Johnson's experimental film is the least important thing. It has been described as "deceptively anthropological" and is a jumble of episodes that, in their manufacture, represent the advances of cinema, but unfolded backwards to the silent era. For art house aficionados only.



Hector CERT 15 (87 mins)

Starring **Peter Mullan, Keith Allen, Gina McKee, Stephen Tompkinson, Sarah Solemani, Ewan Stewart**
Directed by **Jake Gavin (UK)**

Hector has made the motorway rest stops of Britain his home. These homogeneous palaces serve his anonymity well, where he can eat, wash and think in peace. But his once-comfortable past is catching up with him... If one is to spend time at a Moto or Welcome Break, Peter Mullan is as good a companion as any.



By The Sea CERT 15 tbc

Starring **Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Mélanie Laurent, Niels Arestrup, Melvil Poupaud, Richard Bohringer**
Directed by **Angelina Jolie (USA)**

Written and directed by Angelina Jolie Pitt (as she is billed on the poster), this romantic drama was filmed in Malta. Set in the 1970s, it follows a husband and wife as they reconsider their romantic options, only to be drawn into the colourful lives of the inhabitants of a seaside town. While this has been tipped to be Angelina's last screen appearance, rumours are circulating that she is actually in line to star in Salt 2 and Maleficent 2.

Swung CERT 18 (85 mins)

Starring **Elena Anaya, Owen McDonnell, Elizabeth McGovern**
Directed by **Colin Kennedy (UK)**

A romantic drama set in the 'swinging scene,' Colin Kennedy's Swung explores the repercussions of casual carnality. Owen McDonnell plays an unemployed man suffering from penile dysfunction whose girlfriend (Anaya), a journalist, embarks on a story about underground Bacchanalian activities. Their relationship quickly shifts into another gear... Expect some pretty strong sex scenes.

Ice And The Sky CERT U (89 mins)

Directed by **Luc Jacquet (France)**

Luc Jacquet won a deserved Oscar for his documentary March of the Penguins (2005). Selected to close this year's Cannes festival, his Ice and the Sky follows the work of the French glaciologist Claude Lorius who was the first to draw attention to the threat of global warming.



Grandma

CERT 15 (79 mins)

Starring **Lily Tomlin, Julia Garner, Marcia Gay Harden, Judy Greer, Laverne Cox, Sam Elliott**
Directed by **Paul Weitz** (USA)

Lily Tomlin's first starring role in a film for twenty-seven years, *Grandma* is drumming up some serious Oscar buzz (but first Tomlin will have to outshine both Jennifer Lawrence and Saoirse Ronan). She plays Elle Reid, a broke and grieving lesbian poet who receives an unexpected visit from her eighteen-year-old pregnant granddaughter (Garner). With neither of them able to cough up the money for an abortion, they head off on the road together looking for the dosh...



Released from Fri 18 Dec

Sisters

CERT 15 tbc

Starring **Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Maya Rudolph, John Leguizamo, Ike Barinholtz, James Brolin, Dianne Wiest**
Directed by **Jason Moore** (USA)

Not to be confused with the Irving Berlin song ("There were never such devoted sisters..."), this is a comedy from the director of the original *Pitch Perfect*. Here, two sisters, as diverse as chalk and cheddar, decide to throw one last party at their childhood home, which their parents are about to sell. And you know what parties are like in American movies... The film was written especially for Fey and Poehler (who look nothing alike), who are best friends in real life.

Snoopy And Charlie Brown: The Peanuts Movie

CERT U (93 mins)

Featuring the voices of **Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Maya Rudolph, John Leguizamo, Ike Barinholtz, James Brolin, Dianne Wiest**
Directed by **Steve Martino** (USA)

Charles M Schulz's beloved characters are back on screen for the first time in thirty-five years – and for the first time with the benefit of computer animation. This time Charlie Brown has a crush on a new girl in town – 'the Little Red-Haired Girl' – but must delve for new reserves of self-confidence to approach her. Meanwhile, Snoopy embarks on a novel about his alter-ego, the Flying Ace. This is the fifth full-length *Peanuts* film. In 3D.



FROM
SAT 26
DEC

In The Heart Of The Sea

CERT 12a (122 mins)

Starring **Chris Hemsworth, Benjamin Walker, Cillian Murphy, Tom Holland, Ben Whishaw, Brendan Gleeson, Frank Dillane** Directed by **Ron Howard** (USA)

Based on the eponymous non-fiction work by Nathaniel Philbrick, which won the 2000 National Book Award, this promises to do for whales what *Jaws* did for sharks. In the winter of 1820, the New England whaling ship, *Essex*, was targeted by a mammoth sperm whale with vengeance on its mind. It's a gruelling ordeal for the whalers, who are stranded thousands of miles from home. If you're thinking 'Moby Dick,' you'd be right – Herman Melville based his legendary novel on the incident.



FROM
SAT 26
DEC

Daddy's Home

CERT 12a (96 mins)

Starring **Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg, Linda Cardellini, Hannibal Buress, Paul Scheer, Thomas Haden Church** Directed by **Sean Anders** (USA)

The last time Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg teamed up was in *The Other Guys* (2010), which clocked up almost \$120million in the US (although it did less well in 'foreign' territories). Here, the guys are pitted against each other as Dad and Step-Dad, with Ferrell as Brad Taggart, the well-meaning, mild-mannered and straight-laced stepfather struggling to win the affections of his wife's two kids. Then the biological father turns up (Wahlberg), the polar opposite of Brad... Sean Anders previously directed the Adam Sandler vehicle *That's My Boy*, as well as *Horrible Bosses 2*.

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 Courtenay won best acting gongs at this year's Berlin Film Festival. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 1 - Wed 2 & Fri 4 Dec; Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 7 Dec; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 7 - Thurs 10 Dec*

A Christmas Star u

Noelle O'Hanlon and her friends live in a quiet and peaceful village in Ireland. However, their tranquil country life is threatened when Pat McKerrod sets his eyes on their home for his new planned development. What Pat doesn't know is that Noelle is no ordinary little girl. Born under a Christmas Star, she has a unique and special gift that means she can perform big miracles. Stars Rob James-Collier & Suranne Jones. *Showing at Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, Mon 21 - Tues 22 Dec*

Alive u

In this documentary, five HIV-positive gay men spend a week preparing for their first solo parachute jump. The camaraderie inspired by the rigorous training and team-building exercises encourages the men to share their feelings about being seropositive: their reactions to finding out, their thoughts about ongoing treatments, and the ways they negotiate relationships with men who are not positive. *Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Tues 1 Dec*

Brave PG

Set in Scotland in a rugged and mythical time,

Brave features Merida, an aspiring archer and impetuous daughter of royalty. Merida makes a reckless choice that unleashes unintended peril and forces her to spring into action to set things right. With the voices of Kelly Macdonald & Billy Connolly. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 30 Dec*

Bridge Of Spies 12a

This is the story of the 1960 U2 incident, when an American spy plane was shot down by the Russians. Stars Tom Hanks & Mark Rylance. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 18 - Thurs 24 Dec; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Fri 18 - Thurs 31 Dec; mac, Birmingham, Sat 26 - Thurs 31 Dec*

Burnt 12a

Top chef Adam Jones (Bradley Cooper) burnt his bridges behind him when he let his arrogance and irresponsible lifestyle get in the way of his culinary genius. Now he's fighting to win a third Michelin star for a Paris restaurant. But first he must rediscover his inner mojo in London. What's not to like? Food. Bradley Cooper. Sienna Miller... *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 19 & Mon 21 - Wed 23 Dec*

Brooklyn 12a

Saoirse Ronan plays Ellis Lacey, a girl from County Wexford, who emigrates to Brooklyn in the 1950s, where she finds what it means to be Irish. Ms Ronan got rave reviews at the Toronto Film Festival and looks like a new frontrunner for an Oscar nomination. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Tues 1 Dec; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 Dec; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 21 & Wed 23 Dec*

Carol 15

Carol Aird (Cate Blanchett) is a 1950s' New York socialite with an adoring husband and a young daughter, but who nonetheless catches the romantic attention of Therese Belivet (Rooney Mara), a department store clerk. Expect Oscar nominations (at least). Based on Patricia Highsmith's 1952 semi-autobiographical novel *The Price Of Salt*. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 11 - Wed 23 Dec*



Carol

Crimson Peak 15

It sounds like something a Brontë might have written but is actually the product of Guillermo del Toro, the Mexican master of fantasy. Here, Mia Wasikowska (who once played Jane Eyre on film) marries Sir Thomas Sharpe (Tom Hiddleston), and moves to his crumbling mansion in the north of nineteenth century England (Cumbria). There, she discovers that her new sister-in-law (Jessica Chastain) is bent on protecting the ominous secrets of the house... *Showing at mac, Birmingham, until Thurs 3 Dec; The Courtyard, Hereford, Sun 20 - Wed 23*

The Dressmaker 12a

One thing's for sure, Kate Winslet's latest starring vehicle won't be for everyone. Adapted from Rosalie Ham's 2000 Gothic novel, it's a madcap affair about rival dressmakers in the Australian Outback of 1951. Judy Davis & Liam Hemsworth also star. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 11 - Thurs 17 & Mon 28 - Wed 30 Dec; The Courtyard, Hereford, Sun 13 - Tues 15 & Thurs 17 Dec*

Effie Gray 12a

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

John Everett Millais. The resultant affaire de cœur has been the subject of much speculation, several films, a few plays and an opera. This one is scripted by none other than Emma Thompson. Dakota Fanning & Emma Thompson also star. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Thurs 17 Dec*

Focus 15

Will Smith plays Nicky Spurgeon, a conman who adopts a young woman to do his bidding, but then gets flutters in his heart... The woman in question is played by Margot Robbie, she who got Leonardo DiCaprio all hot and bothered in *The Wolf Of Wall Street*. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Fri 4 Dec*

The Good Dinosaur u

Not all dinosaurs are human-chewing velociraptors. This one is a young Apatosaurus who, having lost his father, then loses his way after knocking himself out on a rock. He then befriends a human cave boy, whom he calls 'Spot'. *Showing at Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Fri 18 - Thurs 31 Dec; mac, Birmingham, Mon 28 - Wed 30 Dec*

Hotel Transylvania 2 PG

You can't escape Adam Sandler these days - or cartoons. Here, Count Dracula (Sandler) attempts to fine-tune the blood-sucking skills of his half-human grandson, Dennis. Featuring the voices of Sandler & Andy Samberg. *Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, Sun 20 Dec - Wed 23 Dec; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 29 - Wed 30 Dec*

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2 12a

It's all-out war as Katniss Everdeen rallies her loyal supporters to take down the despotic Capitol. The fourth - and final - instalment in the phenomenal adaptation of Suzanne Collins' best-selling trilogy. Jennifer Lawrence stars. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 19 & Tues 22 Dec*

Inna Vision Film School Night

A series of shorts made by filmmakers with lived experiences of mental health. This mix of documentaries, animations and narratives addresses the stigma and triumphs of Africans and Caribbeans with mental health problems. *Showing at The Drum, Birmingham, Thurs 3 Dec*

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! Featuring the voices of Amy Poehler & Phyllis Smith. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 21 - Tues 22 Dec*

Irrational Man 12a

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 world view. Stars Jamie Blackley & Joaquin Phoenix. *Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, Tues 1 - Thurs 3 Dec*

The Lady In The Van 12a

Film version of Alan Bennett's acclaimed play which was inspired by the true story of a homeless woman who moved into a Bedford van in the drive of Bennett's Camden home. The film looks destined for BAFTA glory with Dame Maggie Smith in the lead role. Alex Jennings co-stars. *Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, Tues 1 - Thurs 3 Dec; mac, Birmingham, Fri 4 - Thurs 17 Dec; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 & Sat 26 - Thurs 31 Dec; Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Fri 11, Tues 15 - Wed 16 Dec; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 11 - Thurs 17 Dec; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 27 & Tues 29 Dec*

La Famille Belier 12a

For the Béliers, their sixteen-year-old daughter Paula is a vital member of their eccentric clan. As the only non-deaf member of the family, she acts as their ears and mouth. Family life is thrown into disarray, however, when Paula discovers an untapped gift for singing. *Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, Mon 14 - Tues 15 & Thurs 17 Dec*

The Life Of Riley 12a

French comedy drama about a group of friends in an amateur dramatic production who discover that one of their friends is terminally ill. *Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Wed 9 Dec*

Macbeth 15

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. Stars Michael Fassbender & Marion Cotillard. Words by William Shakespeare. *Showing at Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 1 - Wed 2 Dec; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 10 - Sun 13 Dec; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 27 Dec*



Macbeth

Man from U.N.C.L.E. 12a

See DVD section opposite for more information. Stars Henry Cavill, Armie Hammer & Alicia Vikander. *Showing at Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Tues 15 Dec*

The Martian 15

During a manned mission to Mars, Astronaut Mark Watney (Matt Damon) is presumed dead after a fierce storm and left behind by his crew. But Watney has survived and finds himself stranded and alone on the hostile planet. With only meagre supplies, he must draw

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MALVERN THEATRE
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VUE, WORCESTER
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THE ROSE'S THEATRE, TEWKESBURY
01684 295 074

upon his ingenuity, wit and spirit to subsist and find a way to signal to Earth that he's alive. Jessica Chastain & Kristen Wiig star. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 1 - Wed 2 Dec*

Minions PG

The irritating little yellow helpmates of the Despicable Gru now have a movie to themselves. Having destroyed all the masters they'd previously served (including Genghis Khan, Napoleon and Dracula), the minions set off to find someone equally evil to assist. So they attend a villain's convention and latch on to Scarlet Overkill (Sandra Bullock), who's planning to take over the world. *Showing at Stourbridge Town Hall, Tues 22 Dec*

Miss You Already 12a

Toni Collette and Drew Barrymore play lifelong mates whose friendship is tested when one gets pregnant and the other gets cancer. Filmed in London and West Yorkshire. *Showing at The Courtyard, Hereford, Sat 5 - Wed 9 Dec*

Mr Holmes PG

Just when you think they've tried every angle on Sherlock Holmes, along comes a new inter-

pretation. 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. Ian McKellen & Laura Linney star. *Showing at Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 21 Dec*



The Muppets Christmas Carol PG

The Muppet characters tell their version of the classic tale. *Showing at The Hive, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Fri 4 Dec; Royal Spa centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 17 Dec*

Pan PG

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*. Stars Hugh Jackman &

Garrett Hedlund. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 21 - Thurs 24 & Mon 28 - Wed 30 Dec; Wern Town Hall, North Shropshire, Mon 21 - Wed 23 Dec; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Wed 23 & Mon 28 Dec; The Courtyard, Hereford, Sat 26 - Wed 30 Dec*

Polar Express u

The film adaptation of the well-loved children's book about a young boy's journey to the North Pole on a magical steam train, where he meets Father Christmas. With the voices of Tom Hanks & Josh Eli. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 21 Dec*

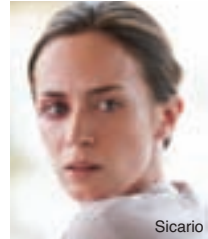
The Program 15

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. Armstrong not only contracted stage three metastatic testicular cancer, he also beat it - and then went on to win the 'Tour' seven consecutive times. Stars Ben Foster and Chris O'Dowd. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, until Tues 1 Dec; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 9 Dec; Old Market Hall,*

Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Fri 11 - Thurs 17 Dec

Sicario 15

An idealistic FBI agent (Emily Blunt) is enlisted to track down a nameless drug lord operating on the US-Mexican border. Benicio del Toro & Josh Brolin also star. *Showing at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Thurs 3 Dec; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Fri 18 Dec*



Spectre 12a

Whilst the newly appointed 'M' continues his ongoing battle with political forces to keep the secret service above water, a cryptic message reveals ghosts from James Bond's past. It becomes clear that a menacing organisation named SPECTRE is at the bottom of the threat, and 007 is soon embroiled in a globe-trotting mission to solve its mystery. Daniel Craig & Léa Seydoux star. *Showing at Old Market*

Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, until Thurs 3 Dec; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 11 - Thurs 17 Dec; mac, Birmingham, Fri 18 - Thurs 24 Dec; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 19, Tues 22 & Sat 26 Dec; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sun 27 - Wed 30 Dec

Steve Jobs 15

Danny Boyle's biopic of the volatile and brilliant co-founder of Apple Inc, starring Michael Fassbender and Kate Winslet. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Sun 6 Dec; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 28 & Wed 30 Dec; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 30 Dec*

Suffragette 12a

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 (Carey Mulligan), and charts her involvement with key figures in the movement. Also starring Helena Bonham Carter & Brendan Gleeson. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 1 & Thurs 3 Dec;*

Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sun 6 - Mon 7 & Wed 9 - Thurs 10 Dec; The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 14, Wed 18 & Fri 18 Dec



Taxi Tehran 15

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. Stars Jafar Panahi and Hana Saeidi. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 2 - Thurs 3 Dec; mac, Birmingham, until Thurs 3 Dec*

DVD NEW RELEASES

The Gift 15

Simon and Robyn are a happily married couple whose lives are turned around with the arrival of a friend from Simon's past. The unwanted visitor insists on bringing the couple gifts, but their meaning is not entirely welcome... Stars Jason Bateman and Rebecca Hall. **Released 7 Dec**



Paper Towns 12a

The story of the search for lead character Quentin's next-door neighbour and first love, Margot, who loved mysteries so much that she became one. The London-born supermodel Cara Delevingne plays her. Also stars Nat Wolff. **Released 7 Dec**



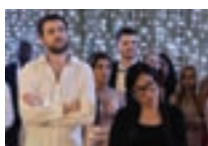
Pixels 12a

You're not going to believe this, but the world is under attack. This time, aliens have taken exception to a time capsule sent into outer space - and in particular to video-feeds of classic arcade games, which they interpret as a declaration of war. So, in keeping with the games, the aliens launch models - based on Pac-Man and it's ilk - for their various assaults. Stars Adam Sandler and Kevin James. **Released 7 Dec**



The Bad Education Movie 15

Alfie Wickers, the worst teacher ever to grace the British educational establishment, decides to take his class on a school trip to Cornwall after they've finished their GCSEs. Inevitably, mayhem ensues. **Released 14 Dec**



The Man from U.N.C.L.E. 12a

Most cinemagoers will be too young to remember Robert Vaughn and David McCallum as Napoleon Solo and Illya Kuryakin, but they were jolly cool secret agents back in the 1960s. Guy Ritchie's large-screen adaptation returns to the Cold War of the Swinging '60s and has attracted a very sexy cast. Here, Solo and Kuryakin team up to stop a criminal organisation from swamping the globe with nuclear weapons. It may be a Hollywood movie, but the subject is as English as James Bond. And, incidentally, U.N.C.L.E. stands for the United Network Command for Law and Enforcement. We knew you'd want to know. Stars Henry Cavill, Armie Hammer and Alicia Vikander. **Released 7 December**

'Tis the Season

The festive season at What's On Magazine is always a busy time of year, with the team working tirelessly to provide readers with information about what's happening where in the run-up to, and during, the Christmas holiday. Despite our busy schedule, we've taken a couple of minutes to find the latest and greatest gifts available this year...



Something to treasure
Betsy Benn Favourite Place
Map Framed Print, £130.00,
www.johnlewis.com



For the collectors
Corgi Originals Chitty Chitty
Bang Bang model,
www.rewind-vintage-toys.com



For fun around the dinner table
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Somewhere to keep the booze
Reindeer Wine Rack by Array
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To keep the children occupied
Addictaball, from £7.99,
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Be part of the story
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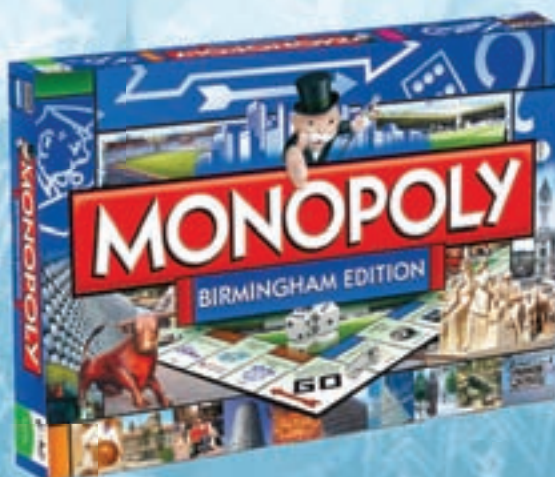


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Fitbit Charge HR + Activity
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www.very.co.uk

A well deserved break
Purva Karma Four Hand
Massage at the Belfry Club
& Spa, £259 per person for
a total of 120 mins,
www.thebelfry.com



The ultimate classic
Monopoly Birmingham Edi-
tion, £24.99,
www.toysrus.co.uk



For the foodies
Cheese Baker with Cabernet
Wine Jelly Chutney, £14.00,
Next



To capture the memories
Fujifilm Instax Mini 8 Bundle
(available in pink, white, blue
and yellow), £69.99, Argos



A BIG BANG

Part 2

Andy Warhol - Eduardo Paolozzi - Patrick Caulfield - Peter Blake

Clive Barker - Roy Lichtenstein - Richard Hamilton - David Hockney

The origins of the Pop Art collection

5 December 2015 – 13 August 2016

Wolverhampton Art Gallery



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www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk

Visual Arts

The Age Of Innocence

The Barber Institute, Birmingham,
until Sun 10 January

Works by notable artists such as Castiglione, Adriaen van Ostade, William Hogarth and John Brett are featured in this exploration of the evolving imagery of children and childhood. The display has been curated to complement the gallery's current Flinck In Focus exhibition and includes stylistically diverse prints and drawings selected from the Barber's collection.



A Big Bang: The Origins Of The Pop Art Collection, Part 2

Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
Sat 5 Dec - August 2016

Andy Warhol's legendary 1968 Campbells Soup Can and the iconic maquette of a statue of King Kong - originally commissioned in 1972 for display in Birmingham's Bull Ring - take pride of place in this sure-to-be-popular exhibition of Pop Art.

Attracting musicians, celebrities and leading figures of the day, the Pop Art movement of the 1960s and '70s was inspired by mass consumerism and popular culture. It continues to exert an influence even in today's art world. Commenting on the exhibition, councillor John Reynolds, cabinet member for Economy, said: "A Big Bang explains why Wolverhampton Art Gallery is home to one of the largest and most significant collections of Pop Art outside London. These works are in regular demand by other galleries and travel as far afield as Europe and America. We're fortunate that back in the 1960s, '70s and up to the early 1980s, curators had the foresight to acquire these artworks at a time when they were still considered to be new and controversial. Thankfully, they found a home in Wolverhampton Art Gallery. Over more recent decades, the gallery has been able to build on this core collection and acquire other Pop works which further add to its significance."



Salon

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, until Wed 23 December

All works on display in this new contemporary art exhibition are available for purchase. The show provides visitors with the chance to invest in recently produced work by contemporary artists from the West Midlands and beyond. Prices start at £60.

The exhibition features an impressive selection of paintings, prints, sculptures, books, photographs and drawings.



Indelible Marks: The Dresden Project

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Sun 7 February

The twinned cities of Coventry and Dresden are honoured in this series of prints, presented to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Coventry Blitz and the seventieth anniversary of the Dresden bombings.

The exhibition features historical archive materials alongside a presentation of the artist Monica Petzal's own wartime experiences. These included moving from Dresden with her family following the rise of National Socialism and its anti-Jewish policies.

The Herbert's hosting of the exhibition coincides with the presentation at Coventry Cathedral of a site-specific artwork created by Petzal.

Further exhibitions

START

RBSA Gallery, Birmingham,
Wed 30 December - Sat 6 February

This always greatly anticipated event in the RBSA calendar provides an opportunity for art enthusiasts to purchase original, high-quality pieces for £200 or less. Featuring contemporary art by members and associates, the exhibition ably demonstrates the society's commitment to the mission of providing 'art for everyone'.



Periodic Tales: The Art Of The Elements

Compton Verney, Warwickshire,
until Sun 13 December

Historic and contemporary works by Eduardo Paolozzi, Antony Gormley, Cornelia Parker and David Nash all feature in this fascinating exhibition, which takes a look at the way in which artists have explored the rich cultural symbolism of the elements featured in the periodic table.

Jacques Nimki: Seen/Unseen

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,
until Sun 17 January

This is the culmination of a year-long project which has seen Jacques Nimki in residence at Ikon.

During his time at the gallery, Nimki has used weeds and wild flowers to examine how 'the unseen' affects what people expect to find within any environment at any given time.

His exploration has included studying the quality of light appearing and disappearing on a variety of surfaces. He's also contemplated the boundaries which exist between public and private space, especially with respect to the gallery environment itself. Nimki's research has included a series of workshops and tours with Ikon visitors, staff, patrons and local office workers.



For full listing information on Visual Art exhibitions, including times and dates, visit whatsonlive.co.uk

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

DENNIS MINCHIN RBSA Solo work featuring a series of still lives in oil, until Sat 5 Dec, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

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 drawing, 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, Warwickshire

KERN BABY BY FAYE CLARIDGE An enigmatic new exhibition by artist Faye Claridge which takes on the form of an exaggerated sculptural emblem of folklore, until Sun 13 Dec, Compton Verney Gallery, Warwickshire

JUNE RIDGWAY ARBSA A collection of new ceramic work, identifiable via the artist's distinctive use of soft colour against lines of black, until Sat 19 Dec, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

MISSING POST OFFICE UK Birmingham branch of Missing Post Office UK by Japanese artist Saya Kubota, until Wed 23 Dec, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM URBAN SKETCHERS GROUP A selection of sketches showing the wide diversity of interpretations that artists put on the same subject. All subjects are taken from views in and around Birmingham, until Thurs 24 Dec, Harborne Art Gallery, Birmingham

MADE BY MAKERS DOZEN An eclectic mix of original arts and contemporary crafts by thirteen professional local artists and designer-makers, until Fri 25 Dec, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

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

NICKLIN UNSEEN An outdoor photographic exhibition showing a changing Birmingham in the 1950s & '60s, until Thurs 31 Dec, Snow Hill Square, Birmingham

MADE @ THE CONE CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE until Sat 2 Jan, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

LYNNE SAWYER & KATHERINE WATSON: CONTEMPORARY ART/NATURAL LANDSCAPES until Sun 3 Jan, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CRAFTED FOR YOU Annual exhibition of some of the best craftmakers in the Midlands, until Sat 9 Jan, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

MADE AT MAC: PHOTOGRAPHY A showcase of work from two Kate Green-led courses, until Sun 10 Jan, mac Birmingham

A TOUCH OF TEXTURE CRAFT EXHIBITION Exhibition of 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 contemporary artists use different facets of humour in their work, until Sat 16 Jan, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

FIONA BANNER - SCROLL DOWN AND KEEP SCROLLING Comprising a wide variety of text pieces, drawings, sculptures and films, until Sun 17 Jan, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham



Terms Of Engagement - The Barber Institute, Birmingham

MEDICATE 2015 Contemporary collection exploring the physical, societal and psychological effects of disease on people, as well as the values and practices of medical science, until Sun 17 Jan, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT Portraits from the University of Birmingham, including works by Jacob Epstein, Tom Phillips, Humphrey Ocean and Jennifer McRae, until Sun 17 Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

WAR GAMES An interactive exhibition that examines the role of war in childhood play and strategic games from the 1800s to the present day, until Sun 17 Jan, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

MATHÉ SHEPHEARD ARBSA A semi-abstract approach that explores a variety of landscapes, including skies, mountains, water, contours and textures, until Sat 23 Jan, RBSA Gallery, B'ham

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 until Sun 24 Jan, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

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, Walsall

ALEX DROZD: SMETHWICK GALTON BRIDGE/PORTRAIT OF A STATION Photographic exhibition of the landscape surrounding Smethwick Galton Bridge railway station, until Sun 24 Jan, mac, Birmingham

FLINCK IN FOCUS Marking the four hundredth anniversary of Govert Flinck's birth, this exhibition explores the under-appreciated artist, until Sun 24



Nicklin Unseen - Snow Hill Square, Birmingham

Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

CASTING A FORTUNE: FROM CABINETS TO COFFINS EXHIBITION Exploring the history of Newman Brothers, from its Victorian beginnings making cabinet fittings to its rebirth in the 1960s as a company connected to the royal household, until Fri 29 Jan, Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham

ANTONIO ROBERTS First solo exhibition, until Fri 29 Jan, BOM (Birmingham Open Media)

SOCIETY OF ARTISTS The sixty-eighth annual exhibition of the Worcester Society of Artists, until Sat 30 Jan, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

SOUND MATTERS; EXPLORING CRAFT AND SOUND A Craft Council touring exhibition - seven contemporary works from a range of creative disciplines, until Sat 6 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

75 YEARS: JOHN PIPER AND GUSTAV MEZGER John Piper's iconic paintings of the ruins of Coventry Cathedral on the morning after the Blitz and a newly commissioned work from Gustav Metzger which explores the bombing of Coventry and the German city of Munster in the Second World War, until Sun 7 Feb, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

OLD WIVES' TALES: MIGRATION JOURNEYS OF BANGLADESHI WOMEN TO THE UK Photographic exhibition which gives a unique insight into the lives of young Bangladeshi women who came to Birmingham between the 1960s and 1980s, until Sun 7 Feb, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

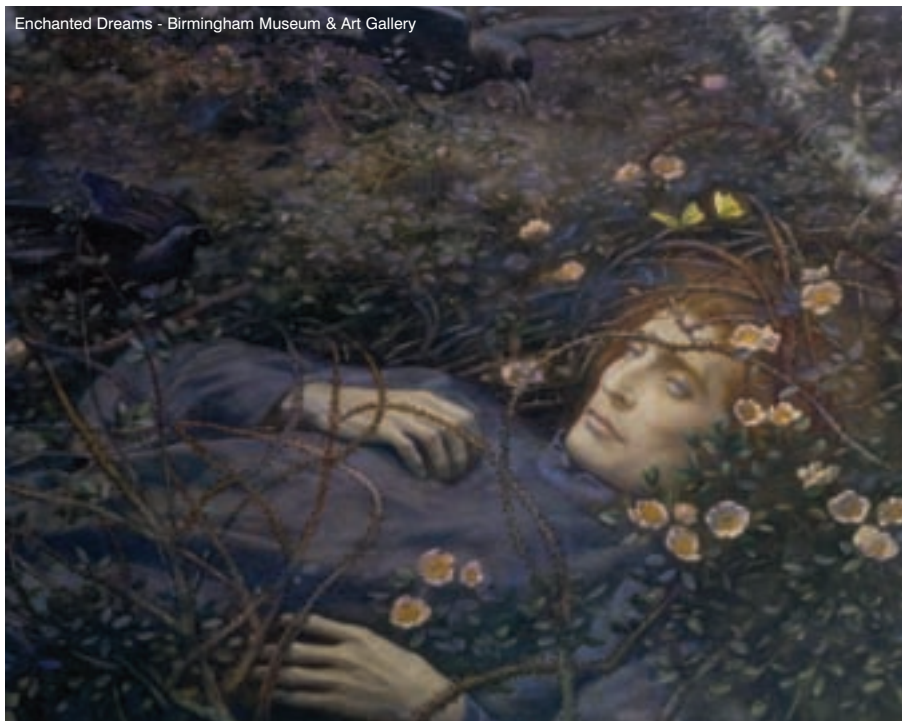
ENCHANTED DREAMS The first ever exhibition to be dedicated to Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Robert Hughes, until Sun 21 Feb, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

WOLVERHAMPTON SOCIETY OF ARTISTS Biennial exhibition with a diverse range of styles, mediums and subject matter, until Sat 27 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

INHERITING ROME Exhibition which uses money to explore and question our deep-seated familiarity with the Roman Empire's imagery, until Sun 24 Apr, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

WENDY RAMSHAW'S ROOM OF DREAMS An installation

Enchanted Dreams - Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery



made up of many parts, from small jewels in frames to large, freestanding furniture, until Sun 22 May, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

MADE AT MAC AT HEART OF ENGLAND TRUST HOSPITALS Touring exhibition by various mac students, until Fri 29 July, Heartlands Hospital, Good Hope and Solihull Hospitals

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY IN 130 YEARS The story of the Museum & Art Gallery, told via a special anniversary exhibition, until Thurs 1 Sept 2016, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES EXHIBITION Work by

RBSA members and associates, most of which are for sale, Thurs 3 - Thurs 24 Dec, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

ANDREW KINMONT ARBSA Andrew's experiences of working in the landscape are reflected in his body of work, Mon 7 Dec - Sun 7 Feb, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

JOAN SHARMA ARBSA A celebration of mothers, babies and mothers-to-be. Sculptures in stone and wood, Mon 21 Dec - Sat 20 Feb, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

Winter Exhibitions

WAR GAMES

10 October 2015 – 17 January 2016

Free



www.theherbert.org

INDELIBLE MARKS: THE DRESDEN PROJECT BY MONICA PETZAL

13 November 2015 – 7 February 2016

Free



11th
FANTASTIC
YEAR!
Working with Santa
Since 2005

SANTA'S

Winter Wonderland

THE REAL SNOW ADVENTURE FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

**Play in
Real Snow**

**Meet Santa's
Real Reindeer**

**All New Santa
Show for 2015**



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Events



Clothes Show Live NEC, Birmingham, Fri 4 - Tues 8 December

A hot ticket for fashionistas everywhere, Clothes Show Live regularly attracts a plethora of well-known celebrities from the worlds of music and TV - and this year is no exception.

Radio One presenters Gemma Cairney and Alice Levine both contribute, as does Made In Chelsea star Jamie Laing. British singer-songwriter Rae Morris, pop sensation Charli XCX and exciting young music talent Ella Eyre will all be performing.

In addition to showcasing wares from hundreds of leading fashion and beauty brands, the five-day event features non-stop catwalk shows in the AlcatelOnetouch Fashion Theatre. New for 2015 are exclusive trend presentations, hosted by a celebrity stylist and giving visitors insights into which fashions are the must-haves for the autumn-winter season.

Insomnia 56

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 11 - Mon 14 December

The UK's biggest gaming festival has this year relocated to Birmingham's NEC, having outgrown its previous home at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry.

Insomnia Gaming Festival is a twenty-four-hour event 'combining all the best bits of video-gaming'.

The show offers visitors the chance to play an impressive selection of both new and vintage games, and to watch their favourite online YouTube and Twitch stars as they participate in live Q&A sessions and interactive activities.

Special guests include the Diamond Minecart, Kwebbelkop, Jelly, the Gaming Lemon and Master OV.



Edwardian Christmas

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham,
Every weekend between Sat 5 - Sun 20 December

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is offering visitors the chance to sample all things Edwardian this Christmas. The city-centre venue is decking its rooms with turn-of-the-century-inspired decorations, providing traditional festive fare in its Edwardian tearoom and hosting an exhibition showcasing the Pre-Raphaelite art of ER Hughes.

'Tis the Season: Traditional Christmas at Avoncroft Museum



From Tues 1st until Sun 20th December, Avoncroft will be celebrating Christmas the good, old-fashioned way.

- ✿ Buildings traditionally decorated for Christmas
- ✿ Costumed characters
- ✿ An audience with Father Christmas (Thurs - Sun)
- ✿ Late night opening until 8pm on Thursdays
- ✿ Closed Mondays

Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, Bromsgrove, Worcs, B60 4JR
www.avoncroft.org.uk



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SMALL BUSINESS
SATURDAY
 5TH DECEMBER



Celebrate Christmas with a Santa Sleepover including a visit to Santa's secret grotto just for you and your family, plus a day at the Theme Park and a day at the Waterpark to enjoy! New for 2015 is the most magical pantomime of all, Cinderella!

Or why not visit just for the day? New for 2015, the Theme Park will be open on selected dates for Christmas! You and your family can enjoy a selection of family rides and meet Santa at the Elves' Emporium! But hurry, Santa is very busy so places are limited!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON A SANTA SLEEPOVER short break please call 0871 702 7013*

To book your tickets to celebrate Christmas at the Theme Park for a day, please call 0871 222 3330*

FOR INFORMATION ON CHRISTMAS at the Alton Towers Resort visit
altontowers.com/Christmas

*Calls cost 14p per minute from a BT landline plus network extras

Asian Bride Live

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 12 - Sun 13 December

Asian Bride Live here returns for a second Birmingham show in 2015 - and not only has it expanded to a two-day event, it's also taking place in a bigger location.

"The NEC is a great venue that offers us the flexibility to grow," says Asian Bride Live's Event Director, Waleed Jahangir. "Whilst we continue to have a fantastic relationship with the ICC, we have reached our capacity there, so the next natural step is to move to a bigger venue." Waleed is expecting visitor numbers to exceed the three thousand, five hundred mark for a show that's promising to be 'the ultimate wedding shopping experience'. Highlight of the event is sure to be a three-times-a-day show presenting the latest designs from leading Asian fashion boutiques. Commenting on the event, Jenny Wright, NEC Business Development Executive for Exhibitions, said. "We're very much looking forward to welcoming Asian Bride Live to the NEC. Visitors should expect a truly exciting and engaging event."



Christmas in Space

Thinktank Museum, Birmingham, every weekend between
For further details visit <http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank>

Birmingham's popular science museum is taking its Christmas inspiration from British astronaut Tim Peake this month.

Each weekend in the run-up to Christmas, Thinktank will be exploring what the festive season will be like for Tim, who'll be taking a rocket up to the International Space Station, to start six months in orbit, on 15 December (Tim's actual blast off will be shown live on a large screen).

Meanwhile, in the Planetarium, a special show explores the real astronomy behind the Christmas star and investigates what other cosmological events might have been happening in the night skies two thousand years ago. And speaking of heavenly bodies seen in the night skies, Father Christmas himself will be flying into the venue from 21 to 23 December, offering youngsters the chance to make any last-minute gift requests and giving them a present to take away too.

Blists Hill Victorian Christmas

Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Fri 5 - Sat 6 December and Fri 12 - Sat 13 December

Plenty of Victorian festive cheer is on offer at Shropshire's Blists Hill museum this month, as residents busy themselves with preparations for Christmas.

Visitors to the award-winning site can enjoy seasonal music from bands and choirs, ride



Ice Skate Birmingham

Centenary Square, Birmingham, until Sun 10 January

Ice Skate Birmingham makes a welcome return to the city centre this festive season. As usual located in front of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, the popular visitor attraction can hold up to three hundred people in one session. Younger or inexperienced skating enthusiasts can keep upright by using special Penguin Skating aids, which can be booked online and in advance.

The rink is once again overlooked by the Observation Wheel, offering passengers superb views of surrounding Birmingham landmarks.

on a horse-drawn cart, experience some festive-style entertainment - including a mini-pantomime and a singalong with carol singers - and partake in a spot of Christmas shopping in the museum's retail outlet. And just in case all that's not enough to ensure your youngsters are happily entertained, Father Christmas himself - together with his reindeer - will be on hand to hear some last-minute gift requests.

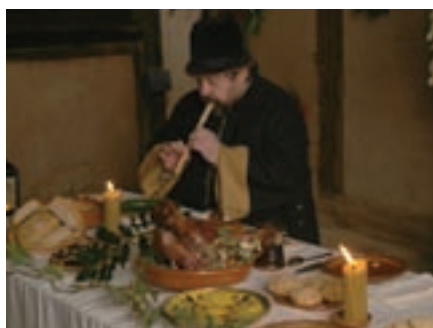
Christmas at Avoncroft

Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Tues 1 - Sun 20 December

Avoncroft is this month offering visitors the chance to 'savour the atmosphere of Christmases past', courtesy of its fascinating exhibition of beautifully decorated historic buildings.

The popular Worcestershire visitor attraction is also presenting numerous re-created scenes illustrating how people from all walks of life might have spent their festive season - from a well-to-do family in a medieval town house to a character in a cell block 'who's indulged in rather too much of the Christmas spirit'.

The presence (from Thursday to Sunday) of a decidedly jocular fellow dressed all in red and sporting a big white beard is sure to make the experience all the more magical for younger members of the family...



Festive fun at Alton Towers

Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire, Sat 12 - Sun 13 and Fri 18 - Wed 23 December

Alton Towers Resort isn't just for Christmas, y'know - although if you *do* happen to fancy a yuletide getaway, it may well be the place to head for this festive season.

A Santa's Sleepover in one of the popular visitor attraction's Christmas-themed hotels comes complete with a pantomime version of Cinderella, a visit to Santa's hideaway grotto and entrance to the theme park, not to mention breakfast and a traditional Christmas lunch.

Visitors popping along just for a day out are well catered for too. Alongside the venue's combination of rides in CBeebies Land, Mutiny Bay and Cloud Cuckoo Land, there's also the chance to check out the Elves Emporium, where Santa's little helpers are busily assisting the man himself and his good lady wife with preparations for Christmas.

Illuminating Shakespeare

Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 19 December

This brand new, interactive light show, beamed on to the walls of Shakespeare's Birthplace, offers spectators the chance to catch a 'glimpse' of the legendary Stratford playwright during his childhood.

"We were really interested in the idea of Shakespeare as a child and the incredible imagination he must've had in order to paint such magical pictures with words," says Rob Vale, creative director at Illuminos, the digital projection artists responsible for the presentation. "It's as if all those plays and sonnets were in the mind of this boy, waiting to pour out in later life. We also wanted to link that directly to an audience, and to the idea of a childlike wonder we hopefully all still have".

Santa's Grotto



Come and meet Santa in Birmingham Botanical Gardens' grotto.

12.00 - 3.00 pm

Every Saturday and Sunday in December until Christmas Day.

Book your tickets at

birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk/events/santas-grotto/

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Blists Hill **VICTORIAN TOWN**

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5 & 6 and 12 & 13 Dec 2015
10am - 4pm

- Meet Father Christmas and his Reindeer
- See the Victorian townsfolk prepare for Christmas in the shops & cottages
- Carol Singers, Brass Bands & mini-pantomime

BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE
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Annual Passport Tickets cannot be used for admission to the Christmas Weekends

Ironbridge
BIRTHPLACE OF INDUSTRY

Father Christmas at Croome Park, Worcester



Santa comes to the Midlands...

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose - and a cherubic-faced Santa Claus taking Christmas gift orders from wide-eyed youngsters in his magical grotto. Yep, it's that very special time of year again, when your children's list of hoped-for presents leaves you stunned, staggered, stymied and reaching for the sherry. Our advice is to let Santa take the strain. Here's a list of dates and places where the big red fellow can be found ho-ho-ho-ing in his fabulous festive grotto...

SANTA'S MAGICAL GROTTO All proceeds from the grotto go to Harry Moseley's charity, Help Harry Help Others, until Thurs 24 Dec, House of Fraser, Birmingham

IGLOO Santa lands in Bullring with an immersive 360 digital experience, until Thurs 24 Dec, The Bullring Shopping Centre, Birmingham

SANTA'S GROTTO AND ELF SCHOOL Become a fully fledged elf to help Santa prepare for his busiest time of year, until Thurs 24 Dec, INTU Merry Hill, Dudley

FATHER CHRISTMAS AT AVONCROFT MUSEUM Thurs 3 - Sun 20 Dec, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

FATHER CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT Take a tour of the traditionally decorated houses, Fri 4 & Sat 5 Dec, Birmingham Back To

Backs

SANTA'S GROTTO Fri 4 - Thu 24 Dec, Heart of England Conference & Events Centre, Coventry

SANTA'S GROTTO Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec & Sat 19 - Sun 20 Dec, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

FATHER CHRISTMAS AT COURT 15 Take a tour of the traditionally decorated houses, then meet the man himself, Sat 5 & 12 Dec, Birmingham Back to Backs

SANTA AT THE MUSEUM Open in the mini museum between 10.30am & 12.30pm; 1.30pm & 4.30pm, Sat 5 Dec - Sun 20 Dec, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

VISIT FATHER CHRISTMAS Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec; Sat 12 - Sun 13 Dec & Sat 19 - Sun 20 Dec, Croome Park, Worcester

Events LISTINGS

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

From **TUES 1 DEC**

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS Make a rag wreath, felt tree decoration or a traditional wreath, or maybe try all three, Tue 1, Wed 2 & Fri 4 Dec, Croome Park, Worcester

MOTORCYCLE LIVE The best products, bikes & services from leading companies across the globe, Tue 1 - Sun 6 Dec, NEC, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS AT COUGHTON Tue 1 - Sun 6 Dec, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

FESTIVE FEASTS A Christmas feast in the Great Hall, Tue 1 - Fri 18 Dec, St. Mary's Guildhall, Coventry

ILLUMINATING SHAKESPEARE An immersive glimpse into Shakespeare's early life through a magical, interactive illumination, until Sat 19 Dec, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon

GEORGIAN CHRISTMAS WEEKENDS until Sun 20 Dec, Berrington Hall, Herefordshire

'TIS THE SEASON... Walk around the beautifully lit grounds and visit traditionally decorated buildings, each with its own Christmas story, Tues 1 - Sun 20 Dec, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

CHRISTMAS TRAIL until 3 Jan, Croome Park, Worcester

BIRMINGHAM FRANKFURT CHRISTMAS MARKET until Tue 22 Dec, Birmingham City Centre

CHRISTMAS AT WARWICK CASTLE Meet Santa Claus and enjoy a range of festive events at the castle, until Wed 23 Dec, Warwick Castle

FESTIVE FUN AT BRANDON MARSH A Christmas-themed wildlife and sensory walk, with a glittery art and craft session, Tue 1 - Tues 22 Dec, Brandon Marsh Nature Centre,

Coventry

THE MAGICAL CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE

Tue 1 - Thurs 24 Dec, Beckett's Farm, Wythall

WINTER WONDERLAND See the theme park magically transformed into a Winter Wonderland, Tues 1 - Thurs 24 Dec, Twinlakes Family Theme Park, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire

SANTA SAFARI A themed Discovery Trail area with Santa's Grotto in addition to access to the four-mile drive through safari and African Village. New for this year is Land Of The Living Dinosaurs, until Thurs 24 Dec, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley

ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS KINGDOM A real-life nativity and a Festive Friends puppet show, until Thurs 24 Dec, Hatton Adventure World, Warwick

CAR RALLIES AT COSFORD until Thurs 31 Dec, RAF Cosford, Shropshire

BLACK WIDOW SPIDER Visit the Butterfly Farm's resident black widow spider, hundreds of spectacular butterflies, insects & reptiles, Tues 1 - Thurs 31 Dec, Stratford Butterfly Farm

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS Experience a Georgian-inspired Christmas, Tue 1 Dec 2015 - Sun 3 Jan 2016, Croome Park, Worcester

DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG Chance to practise drifting in safe and legal conditions on some of the Pod's thirty acres of open tarmac, where there are beginners, intermediate and advanced tracks open at the same time each DWYB day, Wed 2 Dec, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOURS Followed by a three-course festive supper, Wed 2 - Fri 11 Dec, Baddesley Clinton, Warwick

DONKEY SANCTUARY Meet the wonderful team of donkeys and discover their unique characters, Thurs 3 Dec, The Fort Shopping Park, Fort Dunlop

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER AND CHRISTMAS PARTY DISCO Fri 4 Dec, Highbury Hall, Birmingham

GRAND UNION CHRISTMAS PARTY An evening of DJs, tipples and dances, Fri 4 Dec, Grand Union, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING Fri 4 Dec, Kenilworth Castle

CHRISTMAS BLACKOUT ON THE UPTON FRONT Enter into the spirit of a 1940s Christmas, Fri 4 Dec, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING Fri 4 Dec, Witley Court, Worcestershire

TEA WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS Fri 4 - Sun 6 Dec, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

THE CLOTHES SHOW 2015 The UK's biggest fashion and beauty event, Fri 4 - Tue 8 Dec, NEC, Birmingham

BREWERY & COUNTRY PUB TOUR Go Cotswolds offers scheduled and chartered day trips to the Cotswolds from Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 5 Dec 2015 - Sat 30 Jan 2016, Alcester, Warwickshire

JACOBAN CHRISTMAS Sat 5 Dec, Aston Hall, Birmingham

CCA CLASSIC CAR SALE Sat 5 Dec, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre

NEEDLECRAFT FAIR Sat 5 Dec, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

PAPER-CRAFT FAIR Sat 5 Dec, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

CHRISTMAS AT WINTERBOURNE With traditional decorations, carol singers, magic lantern shows and an expanded craft stalls area, Sat 5 Dec, Winterbourne House & Garden, Birmingham



thinktank
Birmingham science museum

Christmas at
Birmingham
Museums

Christmas IN SPACE

at Thinktank
Birmingham Science Museum

- Destination Space Live Launch
- Christmas Science Shows
- Christmas Workshops

PLUS Brunch
with Santa

LAUNCHES
5 DEC



For full details visit
birminghammuseums.org.uk/whats-on

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Santa

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Experience the true magic of Christmas
with a wonderful ride on the Co-op Sleigh,
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19th November - 23rd December

Children £5 –
Accompanying adult £1
Opens at 10.00am. Please arrive
early to avoid disappointment.



For full details please go to www.transport-museum.com

We reserve the right to close the ride early.

Events LISTINGS

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

MISCHIEVOUS ELF Watch out for the cheeky elf doing the rounds at The Fort, Sat 5 Dec, The Fort Shopping Park, Fort Dunlop

EXCALIBUR COMPUTER FAIR Packed with computer goods at trade prices, Sat 5 Dec, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS NIGHT Sat 5 Dec, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER EXPERIENCES Fri 4 - Sat 5 Dec, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Warwickshire

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR Sat 5 Dec, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

UK DRONE SHOW Featuring the latest aerial and terrestrial drone technology, Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec, NEC, Birmingham

BRUNCH WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS & HOUSE VISIT Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

STAR WARS PADAWAN TRAINING AT SELFRIDGES Aspiring Padawans train with a Jedi Master, Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec, The Bullring Shopping Centre

CHRISTMAS AT TWYXCROSS Lights and decorations, a festive adventure trail, Christmas music and choirs, Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec, Twycross Zoo, Warwickshire

WARTIME CHRISTMAS FAYRE Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WEEKENDS Featuring Cadbury World's Christmas pantomime The Sleeping Beauty, Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec, Cadbury World, Bournville

UPTON HOUSE CHRISTMAS MARKET Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

PREPARING FOR A MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS WITH THE SIR JOHN SAVILE HOUSEHOLD Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec, Brockhampton Estate, Herefordshire

ORCHARD ELVES TRAIL Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec, Brockhampton Estate, Herefordshire

CHRISTMAS MARKET Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec, Croome Park, Worcester

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFTS Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec, Croome Park, Worcester

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS WEEKEND Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS Celebrating Charles Dickens' love of Shakespeare, Sat 5 Dec 2015 - Wed 6 Jan 2016, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon

WWI, CHRISTMAS AND THE TRUCE A display showing the contrast between Christmas spent at home or on the battlefield during the Great War, Sat 5 Dec 2015 - Wed 6 Jan 2016, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon

17TH CENTURY CHRISTMAS Act out your own mummings' play and create a ghost story as you follow the Christmas trail around Harvard House, Sat 5 Dec 2015 - Wed 6 Jan 2016, Harvard House & The Museum of British Pewter, Stratford-upon-Avon

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS A great family event, Sun 6 Dec, Hill Close Gardens, Warwick

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FEST A day of local music, choirs, school activities and festive treats, Sun 6 Dec, Fargo Village, Coventry

Week Commencing **MON 7 DEC**

STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD & CONSERVATION TOUR Behind-the-scenes tour of the Conservation Studio, Tue 8 Dec, Birmingham Museum And



Victorian Christmas at Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

Art Gallery

ASTON HALL'S BRACEBRIDGE CHRISTMAS TOURS

Visit the house that inspired Washington Irving's famous novel, Bracebridge Hall, Tue 8 - Thurs 10 Dec, Aston Hall, Birmingham

GROW AND EXPLORE OUTDOORS A session for children under five, exploring the gardens through different activities, Wed 9 Dec, Highbury Hall, Birmingham

FLORAL WORKSHOP AND FESTIVE CREAM TEA

Thurs 10 Dec, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon

URBAN PRESENTS: ASTRAL GYPSY'S COMIC

MOVIE NIGHT Film night for comic fans, Thurs 10 Dec, Fargo Village, Coventry

AGA CHRISTMAS COOKING FOR VICTORY

Demonstration of festive recipes based on wartime AGA recipes, Thurs 10 Dec, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

THE EVENTMASTERS CHRISTMAS RACEDAY

An afternoon of racing and festive celebrations, Thurs 10 Dec, Warwick Racecourse

HERITAGE SKILLS COURSE - CHRISTMAS KNITS

Jennifer Taylor, from the Great British Sewing Bee, leads a Christmas knits workshop inspired by the good, old-fashioned 'make do and mend' spirit, Thurs 10 Dec, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

DIGBETH CHRISTMAS HAMPER The Old Crown does Christmas!, Thurs 10 Dec, The Old Crown, Digbeth, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS BLACKOUT ON THE UPTON FRONT

Enter into the spirit of a 1940s Christmas, Fri 11 Dec, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

CHRISTMAS ROLLER BOOGIE Enjoy an evening roller skating, cheesy disco and Christmas tunes, Fri 11 Dec, Fargo Village, Coventry

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER AND CHRISTMAS PARTY DISCO

Fri 11 Dec, Highbury Hall, Birmingham

TEA WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS Fri 11 - Sun 13 Dec, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

INSOMNIA 56 The UK's biggest gaming festival, Fri 11 - Mon 14 Dec, NEC, Birmingham

FATHER CHRISTMAS AT COURT 15 Take a tour of the traditionally decorated houses, then meet the man himself, Sat 12 Dec, Birmingham

Back to Backs

ASIAN BRIDE LIVE Two day bridal extravaganza, Sat 12 - Sun 13 Dec, NEC, Birmingham

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS WEEKEND Sat 12 - Sun 13 Dec, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

CHRISTMAS WASSAIL Christmas stories and carols from Birmingham Crescent Theatre, Sat 12 - Sun 13 Dec, Coughton Court,

Warwickshire

BRUNCH WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS & HOUSE VISIT

Meet Father Christmas and visit the Wartime Christmas experience in the house, Sat 12 - Sun 13 Dec, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

CHRISTMAS AT TWYXCROSS Featuring a festive adventure trail, Christmas music and choirs, Sat 12 - Sun 13 Dec, Twycross Zoo, Warwickshire

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFTS Sat 12 - Sun 13 Dec, Croome Park, Worcester

LADIES KENNEL ASSOCIATION Championship Dog Show, Sat 12 - Sun 13 Dec, NEC, Birmingham

A WARWICKSHIRE CHRISTMAS FAIR 2015

Sat 12 - Sun 13 Dec, Packwood House, Solihull

CHRISTMAS AT THE CASTLE Festive fun for all the family, Sat 12 - Sun 13 Dec, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

SANTA STEAM SPECIALS A train journey to Arley to meet Father Christmas in his grotto, Sat 12 - Sun 13 Dec, Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster

TUDOR CHRISTMAS Sat 12 - Sun 13 Dec, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WEEKENDS Featuring Cadbury World's Christmas pantomime The Sleeping Beauty, Sat 12 - Sun 13 Dec, Cadbury World, Bournville

A WINTER LESS ORDINARY Showcasing a wide range of independent art, music, fashion, crafts, performance and food, Sat 12 - Mon 14 Dec, Digbeth, Birmingham

MERRY FISHMAS AND MERLIN'S MAGIC WAND

WINTER PARTY! Underwater Christmas trees and a chance to meet the man himself in an Antarctic grotto, Sat 12 - Wed 23 Dec, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

THE LOST GIFT Coventry-based physical theatre company Highly Sprung present a new interactive adventure for children aged four-plus, Sat 12 - Thurs 31 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OPENING WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS Sun 13 Dec, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

TRADITIONAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARVERY WITH A VISIT FROM SANTA Sun 13 Dec, Highbury Hall, Birmingham

Week Commencing **MON 14 DEC**

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS Mon 14 Dec, Chedhams Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon

Events LISTINGS

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

CHRISTMAS TOURS AND MAGIC LANTERN SHOW

See how the Victorians celebrated Christmas with a festive magic lantern show, Mon 14 - Tue 15 Dec, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham
HOME FOR CHRISTMAS What do we mean by home? A powerful word, evoking strong images and emotions, particularly at this time of year, Tue 15 Dec, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

DR HALL - THE PHYSICIAN Discover how Dr Hall treated his patients with his successful herbal cures for digestive problems, scurvy and hiccups, Tue 15 Dec, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon

DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG Chance to practise drifting in safe and legal conditions on some of the Pod's thirty acres of open tarmac, where there are beginners, intermediate and advanced tracks open at the same time each DWYB day, Wed 16 Dec, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

CHRISTMAS TOURS AND POMANDER MAKING

Wed 16 Dec, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CAROL SERVICE

Wed 16 Dec, Highbury Hall, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS BLACKOUT ON THE UPTON FRONT

Enter into the spirit of a 1940s Christmas, Fri 18 Dec, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

TEA WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS Fri 18 - Mon 21 Dec, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

ARTISAN FOOD & CRAFT MARKET Sat 19 Dec,

Fargo Village, Coventry

CAROLS AT NIGHT Sat 19 Dec, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

EXCALIBUR COMPUTER FAIR Sat 19 Dec,

National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

CAROLS AT WARWICK CASTLE Led by the choir of St Mary's and Royal Spa Brass, Sat 19 Dec, Warwick Castle

CHRISTMAS IN THE HOME Sat 19 - Sun 20 Dec, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFTS Sat 19 - Sun 20 Dec, Croome Park, Worcester

CHRISTMAS STORYTELLING IN THE HOUSE Sat 19 - Sun 20 Dec, Croome Park, Worcester

CAROL CONCERT Sat 19 Dec, Croome Park, Worcester

17TH CENTURY CHRISTMAS Sat 19 - Sun 20 Dec, Moseley Old Hall, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WEEKENDS Featuring Cadbury World's Christmas pantomime The Sleeping Beauty, Sat 19 - Sun 20 Dec, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

BROCKHAMPTON BY CANDLELIGHT Sat 19 - Sun 20 Dec, Brockhampton Estate, Herefordshire

SANTA STEAM SPECIALS A train journey to Arley to meet Father Christmas in his grotto, Sat 19 - Sun 20 Dec, Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster

BRUNCH WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS & HOUSE

VISIT Sat 19 - Mon 21 Dec, Upton House & Gardens, Warwickshire

SANTA HUNTS A fun-filled search for Santa alongside the museum's costumed guides, Sat 19 - Thu 24 Dec, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

VICTORIAN GHOST STORIES AT CHRISTMAS Sun 20 Dec, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

CAROLS AT THE MOATED MANOR HOUSE Sun 20 Dec, Brockhampton Estate, Herefordshire

Week Commencing MON 21 DEC

FESTIVE CRAFT Glittery make-and-take craft activities suitable for children aged between four and eleven, Mon 21 Dec, Artrix, Bromsgrove

TERRIFIC TISSUE PRINTS Create beautiful and professional artworks on mini canvases, Mon 21 - Wed 23 Dec, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

A TUDOR CHRISTMAS Thurs 24 Dec, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon

SANTA STEAM SPECIALS A train journey to Arley to meet Father Christmas in his grotto, Thurs 24 Dec, Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster

FESTIVE SEASON SERVICE Sat 26 Dec 2015 - Sun 3 Jan 2016, Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster

TOY COLLECTORS' FAIR Sun 27 Dec, NEC, Birmingham

MAGICAL CHRISTMAS Including a screening of The Polar Express in 4D and a chance to meet Santa's reindeers, Sun 27 - Thurs 31 Dec, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

Week Commencing MON 28 DEC

COLOUR & CRAFT Get creative this Christmas and explore the self-guided activity space, Tue 29 - Thurs 31 Dec, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

NEW YEAR'S EVE RACEDAY Thurs 31 Dec, Warwick Racecourse

TWISTED BARREL PRESENT: NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION Thurs 31 Dec 2015 - Fri 1 Jan 2016, Fargo Village, Coventry

MARKET CHRISTMAS East Staffordshire Borough Council

AT BURTON MARKET HALL

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON **FARMERS MARKET**

SUN 22ND NOV - SWITCH ON 5.30PM
MARKET HALL OPEN 2PM-8PM

THU 10TH DEC FROM 9AM-4PM

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SAT 5TH DEC 9AM-4PM

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Eating Out

Pop-up Loves...

You just can't keep a good restaurant down... The award-winning Loves, which closed its doors in Birmingham earlier this year, is expected to relocate to Warwickshire in late Autumn 2016. Unable to wait for the re-opening, husband-and-wife owners Steve and Claire Love have organised an exclusive pop-up restaurant event on 11 and 12 December.

For one weekend, Loves will take over Hall's Croft, one of the iconic Shakespeare houses in Stratford-upon-Avon. Guests will be treated to a private tour of the house and a glass of sparkling wine before settling down to a five-course dinner with wines. The fine-dining event offers different menus on each of the two nights - so you may find it difficult to choose which evening to attend!

Tickets for the event are priced at £100 - and as they're limited to thirty guests per evening, you'd better book your seat at the table asap!

To book, call 07870 650195 or email claireloveswine@gmail.com.



Photo credit: Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Midlands restaurant of the Year

Popular Birmingham steakhouse Anderson's Bar & Grill has been named Midlands Restaurant of the Year by Food Awards England following a public vote. Anderson's prides itself on serving locally sourced, rare-breed beef. The eatery can be found on Mary Ann Street in the Jewellery Quarter.



Bill's comes to Birmingham

One of the nation's favourite chain restaurants, Bill's, is all set to open new doors in Birmingham's Bullring. Expected to launch on 7 December, Bill's serves an eclectic menu of snacks, main courses and desserts. The restaurant is open from 8am to 11pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 10.30pm at the weekend, so there's plenty of opportunity to try it out for yourself.



Bill's Manchester



Perfect, grown-up dining...

REVIEW

Ganesha is a new boutique restaurant located in Sutton Coldfield. Its decor is warm and inviting, with subtle hues of gold and brown.

The North Indian menu has been carefully selected to include traditional fare such as Rogan Josh (£12.95) alongside lesser known dishes. The vegetarian selection was also good.

On arrival, I ordered a Pornstar Martini (£8.95), expertly made by a bowtie-wearing mixologist who set alight a sugar cube atop a passion fruit raft. My dining companion ordered a Mojito (£7.95). Later, we had a bottle of Montepulciano (£16.00). The international wine selection was impressively displayed in a floor-to-ceiling cabinet. For those wanting pure luxury, Moët was readily available. Manager Mukesh Driver was eager to recommend the signature dishes. One of these was Golgape

Shots (£3.95), Indian street food which we ordered with the Grey Goose accompaniment (an extra £3.50). We were presented with six crisp, flying saucer-like puffed treats filled with spiced potato cubes and chick-peas. Spooning on the aromatic green sauce, we ate each piece in one gulp - hence the name Shots. They were light and flavoursome.

In contrast, my partner had Kasondi Ka Jhinga (£14.95), jumbo prawns marinated in honey and mustard. Although meaty, they were slightly dry. Our final starter was the Haryali Tikka (£7.95) - amazingly tender pieces of chicken in mint, spinach and chilli marinade. For mains, I had the Raarah Gosht (£13.95), tender lamb pieces in a wonderful keema curry. It was the best curry I've ever had. My partner had the tasty Jhinga Khada Masala (£14.95), prawns cooked in onion and tomato gravy. The show stopper, however, was the

Nizami Dum Biryani (£14.95), which blew us away. The rice was perfectly cooked, the blend of spices - along with mint and rose water - was divine.

To finish, we shared the Ganesha Dessert Selection (£14.95). This consisted of the Dark'n'Deadly Gateau, Tiramisu, Sticky Toffee Pudding and - the best of the lot - Gajar Ka Halwa, a classic Indian dessert of grated carrots, milk and pistachios. Ganesha is perfect for an intimate romantic evening or a grown-up outing with friends. We will definitely go again. *Tina Freeth*

Food: ■■■■■
Service: ■■■■■
Ambience: ■■■■■
Overall value ■■■■■
OVERALL ■■■■■

Ganesha,
52 Thornhill Road,
Birmingham,
B74 3EH
Tel: 0121 572 2516

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 0121 233 3150
CHIMICHANGA 41 Mill Lane Arcade, Touchwood,

Solihull, B91 3GS 0121 704 0749
CHUNG YING 16-18 Wrottersley Street, B5 4RT 0121 622 5669
CHUNG YING CENTRAL 126 Colmore Row, B3 3AP 0121 400 0888
CHUNG YING GARDEN 17 Thorpe St, B5 4AT 0121 666 6622
CIELO 6 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2JB 0121 632 6882
COAST TO COAST 9 Brindleyplace, Broad Street, B1 2HJ
COTE The Mailbox, B1 1RX 0121 631 1587
CUCINA RUSTICA 24 Ludgate Hill, B3 1DX 0121 233 2277
EASTZEAT 167 Broad Street, Birmingham, B15 1AY, 0121 643 4808
EDMUNDS 6 Brindley place, B1 2JB 0121 633 4944
FIESTA DEL ASADO 229 Hagley Road, Birmingham, B16 9RP 0121 445 9331
FLEET STREET KITCHEN Fleet Street, Islington Gates, B3 1JH 0121 236 0100
ITIHAAS 18 Fleet St, B3 1JL 0121 212 3383
JAMIE'S ITALIAN Middle Mall, Bullring Shopping Centre, B5 4BE 0121 270 3610
JIMMY SPICES Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 643 2111
LAS IGUANAS Arcadian Centre, Hurst St, B5 4TD 0121 622 4466
LASAN 3-4 Dakota Buildings, James St, St Paul's Square, B3 1SD 0121 212 3664
THE 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
OPUS 54 Cornwall St, B3 2DE 0121 200 2323
THE ORIENTAL The Mailbox, 128-130 Wharfside St, B1 1RQ 0121 633 9988
PEACHY KEENS 1741 Coventry Road, B26 1DS 0121 764 5519
PENNY BLACKS The Mailbox, 132-134 Wharfside St, B1 1XL 0121 632 1460
PICCOLINO 9 Brindleyplace, B1 2HS 0121 634 3055
PITCHER & PIANO Brindleyplace, B1 2HP 0121 643 0214
POPPY RED Arcadian Centre, Birmingham, B5 4TD 0121 687 1200
PURNELL'S 55 Cornwall St, B3 2DH 0121 212 9799
PURNELL'S BISTO 11 Newhall Street, B3 3NY, 0121 2000 1588
RAJDOOT TANDOORI 78 - 79 George St, B31 1PY 0121 236 1116
THE RECTORY 50-54 St Paul's Sq, B3 1QS 0121 605 1001
RED PEPPERS 117 Wharfside St, B1 1RF 0121 643 4202
SAN CARLO 4 Temple St, B2 5BN 0121 633 0251
SHIMLA PINKS 215 Broad St, B15 1AY 0121 633 0366
SIMPSON'S 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



Tapas Revolution, Grand Central, Birmingham

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 7622 9274
CARLUCCIOS 13 Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BA 01789 267424
CATALAN 6 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EW 01926 498 930
THE CHURCH STREET TOWNHOUSE 16 Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HB 01789 262222
COOMBE ABBEY Brinklow Road, Coventry, CV3 2AB 024 7645 0450
CROSSED KHUKRIS GURKHA 115 Abbey Street, Nuneaton, CV11 5BX 024 7634 4488
EDWARD MOON 9 Chapel Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6EP 01789 267069
EGO 29 The Square, Kenilworth, CV8 1EF 01926 864463
THE ENCORE Bridge Street, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6AB 01789 269462
FINEST CATCH B'ham Rd, Henley in Arden, B95 5QR 01564 793783
FIVE RIVERS 20-22 Victoria Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV31 3AB 01926 431999
HIGH PAVEMENT BAR & DINING 3 High Street, CV34 4AP 01926 494725
HELP OUT MILL Heather Rd, Shakerstone, Nuneaton, CV13 0BT 01530 260666
INDIA RED 25 Abbey Street, Nuneaton, CV11 5BX 024 7634 2090

LE BISTRO PIERRE Swans Nest, Bridgford, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 7LT 01789 264804
MALLORY COURT Harbury Lane, Leamington Spa, CV33 9QB, 01926 330214
MATRICARDIS 97 High St, Henley in Arden, B95 5AT 01564 792735
MERCHANTS Swan Street, Warwick, CV34 4BJ 01926 403833
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, Warwick, CV34 4AP 01926 475867
RESTAURANT 23 34 Hamilton Terrace, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa, CV32 4LY 01926 422422
RISTORANTE DA VINCI 50 Earlsdon Street, Coventry, CV5 6EJ 024 7671 3554
ROBBIE'S RESTAURANT 74 Smith Street, CV34 4HU 01926 400470
ROOFTOP RESTAURANT @ The RST, Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BB 01789 403449
SAFFRON GOLD Market St, Westgate House, Warwick, CV34 4DE 01926 402061
THE SAXON MILL Coventry Rd, Guys Cliffe, Warwick, CV34 5YN 01926 492 255
TAILORS 22 Market Place, Warwick, CV34 4SL 01926 410590
THE TREVELYAN Warwick Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0NR 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

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
EWEL 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, Bromsgrove, B61 7AE 01527 578888
MASSALLA LOUNGE 35 Broad St, Worcester, WR1 3NH 01905 729955
MUG HOUSE Claines Lane, Worcester, WR3 7RN 01905 456649
ON THE ROCKS 44 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7AE 01527 882412
PARADISE BALTI 7 Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster, DY11 6UU 01562 60479
PORTWAY ITALIAN, Alcester Rd, Redditch, B48 7HT 01564 824794
ROSADOS'S 2 Finstall Rd, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove, B60 2DZ 01527 889948
SAFFRON BISTRO 15 New St, Worcester, WR1 2DP 01905 610505

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

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Menu

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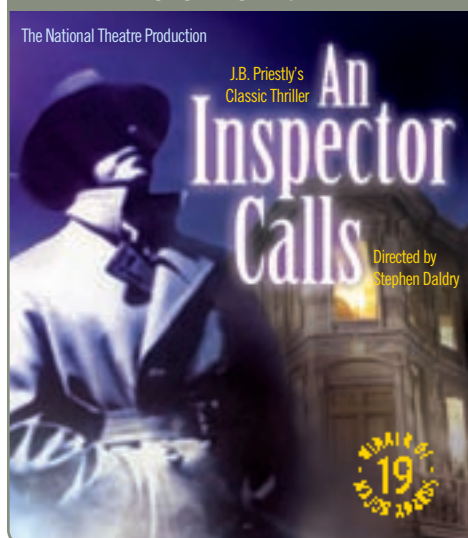
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SUN 31 JAN



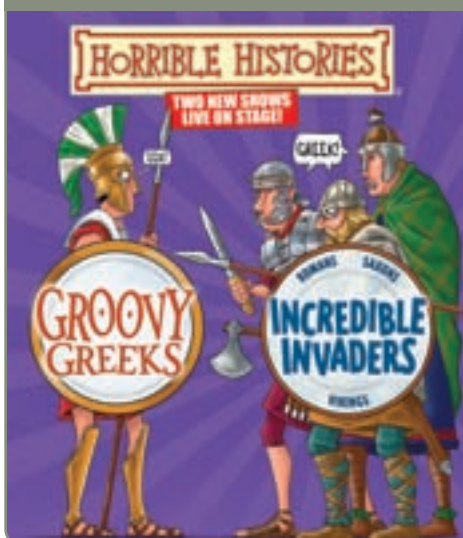
TUES 2 - SAT 6 FEB



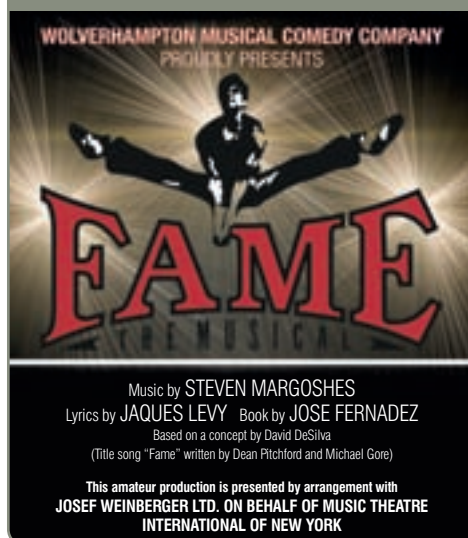
SUN 21 FEB



WED 2 - SAT 5 MARCH



TUE 15 - SAT 19 MARCH



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