THE REGION'S LEADING ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

WOLVERHAMPTON & BLACK COUNTRY

What's On

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LADY GAGA

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TOP HAT

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DAME JANET SUZMAN
brings Lara Foot's drama to the Midlands
interview inside...



DINOSAUR ZOO
prehistoric creatures on stage in Wolverhampton



HORRIBLE HISTORIES
scary spiders at Black Country Living Museum




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HavanaRepublic1
HavanaRepublic
JOINING THE FAMILY...
C:21
The Peach Tree
SPIRIT
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October 2014

Editor:
Davina Evans
davina@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281708

Editorial Assistants:
Brian O'Faolain
brian@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281701

Lauren Foster
lauren@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281707

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

Sales & Marketing:
Chris Horton
chris@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281704

Subscriptions:
Adrian Parker
adrian.parker@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281714

Managing Director:
Paul Oliver
paul@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281711

Publisher and CEO:
Martin Monahan
martin@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281710

Graphic Designers:
Lisa Wassell
Chris Atherton

Accounts Administrator
Julia Perry
julia@whatsonlive.co.uk
01743 281717

Website Development:
Jim Pallett

Contributors:
Graham Bostock: Theatre
James Cameron-Wilson: Film; Alev Dervish: Music
Eva Easthope, Kate Evans, Jessica Aston, Patsy Moss, Jack Rolfe, Jan Watts, Reggie White, Simon Carter, Anita Champaneri

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

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News

A ROUND-UP OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Anything Goes in the Midlands

A brand new production of Cole Porter's multi-award-winning musical Anything Goes is to stop off in the Midlands next year as part of a UK and Ireland tour. An energetic masterpiece of song and dance, the show first stormed Broadway eighty years ago and features hit numbers such as I Get A Kick Out Of You, You're The Top and It's De-Lovely. The feelgood musical transports audiences to the magical age of tap dancing and high society, with sassy heroines, mischievous mob bosses, comedy capers and tap-dancing sailors all featuring. Anything Goes shows at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from 16 to 21 February, the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, from 13 to 18 July, and Birmingham Hippodrome, 14 to 19 September. Casting is yet to be confirmed.

Tunes from the Trenches relived in Ironbridge

A specially written fifty-minute musical designed to help Key Stage Two children and their families gain a greater understanding of World War One shows in Ironbridge this month. The Stringcredibles, a quartet of CBSO musicians dedicated to working in schools and community settings, perform Tunes For The Trenches at Enginuity on 25 October. Projected images from the Imperial War Museum, excerpts from Michael Morpurgo's acclaimed novel, War Horse, and Marcia Williams' award-winning book, Archie's War, feature alongside a brand new song by composer Rebecca Lawrence and traditional tunes arranged by Timothy Jackson.



Theatre company returns home

Former Bewdley High School and Kidderminster College student Cate Hibbert is this month bringing her groundbreaking company Voices Of The Holocaust to Stourport Civic Theatre, a venue in which she performed as a child (16 October). Presenting Under The Apple Tree: The Irena Sendler Story and The Ruby Tree, featuring internationally acclaimed storyteller Shonaleigh, Voices Of The Holocaust has enjoyed a whirlwind year. The company has been nominated for two national awards, presented a performance in front of world leaders at the European Parliament, and taken part in a meeting at 10 Downing Street. For further information and to purchase tickets, call Leona Day on 07432 100544.



Sam Ferriday

From Shropshire Lad to Jersey Boy

The hit West End musical Jersey Boys opens in the Midlands this month and that's great news for one member of the show's cast in particular.
Sam Ferriday, who stars as keyboardist Bob Gaudio in the blockbuster homage to Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons, hails from Wellington in Shropshire, and is delighted that he'll be able to spend some time at home in the Midlands.
"Jersey Boys is special to me because I grew up with the music," explains Sam. "We would head out on family outings - usually long walks somewhere random in the Midlands - and on the way, my nan would put on a tape. I can still remember hearing Sherry for the first time and being completely hooked. Everything about The Four Seasons was cool - their look, their sound - and the show recreates that perfectly. I saw it first on Broadway. I was with my family and couldn't get over the atmosphere in the theatre and the buzz I got inside from hearing so many timeless classics. Jersey Boys isn't a show with known songs fitted into a false story. It works so well because you're watching a story that actually happened, so I think it's just as much a play as it is a musical."

Shrewsbury Mayor behind dwarf found in wardrobe

A new audio strip cartoon produced by the Mayor of Shrewsbury, councillor Beverley Baker, is set to go viral when it launches at midday on Sunday 5 October. Aimed at 'anyone aged between nine and ninety-one', Eric The Dwarf is the brainchild of Beverley's husband, Tim Baker, and stars a dozen local actors and an extremely overworked sound-effects man! The story follows the antics of thirteen-year-old John Jessop, who first encounters the minute Eric - a strange creature in pointy hat and green wellington boots - trying to steal socks from his wardrobe. 'Abject danger, foolhardy heroism, a general craving for peanut butter sandwiches and a stab at revealing the meaning of life' all feature in a tale that's expected to gain a cult following, so set your clock for the first installment...

Chance to explore the BBC

This month sees the launch of new daytime tours of the BBC in Birmingham.
Visitors will be able to get a sneaky peak behind the scenes at the corporation's regional HQ in The Mailbox, where an insightful BBC Tour Guide will explain the inner workings of some of the programmes produced there, including Midlands Today, Home Front and The Archers.
Tours last approximately ninety minutes and include the chance to take part in a special recording of a radio drama or have a go at presenting the weather.
Further information can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/tours.

Midlands film set for release

A feature-length horror thriller filmed in Staffordshire and Shropshire receives its premiere at a Stafford theatre next month. The Singing Bird Will Come is the work of Shropshire-based producer Amanda Owen Roberts, and features a cast of actors from around the UK, several of whom are local to the Midlands. The film tells the story of Lauren, a girl who comes back to the Midlands after her mother dies.Taking a job as a night cleaner in a restaurant she is troubled by the appearance of the ghost of a girl who disappeared years ago. A mystery unfolds around her, putting her in danger of meeting the same fate. The Singing Bird Will Come shows at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre for one night only, on 9 November, ahead of its national release.

Exploring art in the Potteries

An exhibition exploring the notion of Stoke-on-Trent as an art city opens this month. A collaboration between Airspace Gallery and The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery (PMAG), The Artist And The City celebrates Stoke's status as a creative hub. Curated by Jean Milton and Anna Francis, the exhibition is a precursor to a five-year, artist-led programme which aims 'to create a new story for the city - modelling new ideas on the city's future'. The exhibition shows at PMAG from 4 October to 22 February, and at AirSpace Gallery from 31 October to 13 December.



Pentabus presents new work in intimate spaces

A Shropshire-based theatre company committed to producing new work about the contemporary rural world is touring its latest production across the country this autumn. Pentabus Theatre Company's Each Slow Dusk focuses on people from rural communities, their experiences of the Great War and its legacy. The company commissioned the Harold Pinter Prize-winning Rory Mullarkey to write the play, which charts the experiences of three young men serving on the Western Front, linking their stories to a modern-day woman just home to her village after a tour of the battlefields. Featuring RSC and National Theatre actress Joanna Bacon and actor Lee Rufford (Tyrannosaur), Each Slow Dusk shows at twenty-five venues across the country between 14 October and 23 November. Check out where at www.pentabus.co.uk.



Pilots Of The Caribbean opens at museum

A new exhibition celebrating the achievements of black men and women throughout history opens at Cosford's Royal Air Force Museum this month. Curated in partnership with the Black Cultural Archives, Pilots Of The Caribbean: Volunteers Of African Heritage In The RAF focuses on the thousands of volunteers from across the empire who fought in World War One, both out of a sense of patriotism and a desire for adventure. Featuring video footage and artefacts, the exhibition is being mounted to coincide with Black History Month and opens on 6 October.





Going for Gold in Wolverhampton

Next time you visit the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre's auditorium, make sure you look upwards to appreciate the extensive work that's been carried out on its one hundred-and-twenty-year-old ceiling. The ceiling regularly gets a lick of paint and a deep clean, but this is the first time in its history that major work has been undertaken. Following a seven-week project, which saw giant scaffolding erected in the auditorium, the ceiling is now emblazoned with twenty-three-and-half-carat gold. We're told that its resulting 'gleam' nicely complements the centrepiece chandelier.

IN BRIEF

Welsh composer celebrates in Brum

Declared 'the most-performed living composer in the world', Welsh musician Karl Jenkins is marking his seventieth birthday with a series of celebratory concerts. Arriving in the Midlands to play Birmingham's Symphony Hall on 1 November, Karl will lead the Manchester Camerata Orchestra, the City of Birmingham Choir, soprano Kathryn Rudge and euphonium David Childs in a programme of works from his extensive repertoire, including The Mass Suite from The Armed Man and excerpts from Adiemus, Requiem, Stabat Mater, The Peacemakers and Euphonium Concerto.



World premiere launches BCMG season

The newly refurbished CBSO Centre gets its first airing this month when Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG) launches its new season with the world premiere of Raga Fields on 4 October. Performed by British sarod maestro Soumik Datta and featuring Delhi-born composer Param Vir, the piece interlocks contemporary music with that of the classical Indian tradition. Commissioned by BCMG, with support of individuals through its pioneering Sound Investment Scheme, Raga Fields will tour to the US, Germany and Austria after premiering in Birmingham. This month also sees BCMG hitting the road to perform Field Notes: Textile Art And New Music at smaller venues across the Midlands. Described as 'an evening of creative magic', the piece is a collaboration between composer Howard Skempton and artist Matthew Harris. Field Notes is performed at Hereford's Folly Arts Centre (8 Oct), Warwickshire's Pailton Village Hall (9 Oct), the CBSO Centre (19 Oct), Shrewsbury Museum (24 Oct) and Ledbury's Market Theatre (25 Oct). For full details of BCMG's autumn programme, visit www.bcmg.org.uk



Star casting announced for Oklahoma...

School For Scandal actress Belinda Lang and musical veteran Gary Wilmot are to lead a large cast and chorus in a new touring production of Oklahoma next year.

Rogers & Hammerstein's Pulitzer Prize-winning musical was originally produced on Broadway in 1943. Telling the story of two sets of star-crossed lovers, the show boasts some of the best known tunes in musical theatre history.

Directed by Rachel Kavanaugh (former Artistic Director of the Birmingham REP) and choreographed by Drew McOnie, Oklahoma stops off at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from 3 to 7 March and at the Birmingham Hippodrome from 30 June to 4 July.

Additional casting includes Ashley Day (Book Of Mormon, High School Musical), Charlotte Wakes (Mamma Mia!, The Sound Of Music) and Nic Greenshields (Billy Elliot, The Phantom Of The Opera).



“I’m what’s known as a letter-box actor. I tend to do any script that comes through the front door”

Nigel Havers

talks about returning to The Importance Of Being Earnest...







Nowadays best known to a generation of telly watchers as the dashing but unscrupulous Lewis Archer in Coronation Street, Nigel Havers first came to prominence in the Oscar-winning British movie Chariots Of Fire in 1981. Six series of the BBC sitcom Don't Wait Up followed, as did the six-part drama The Charmer, in which he played conman and murderer Ralph Ernest Gorse. This month sees Nigel visit the Midlands to star in a role he first played over thirty years ago - Algy, in Oscar Wilde's The Importance Of Being Earnest. What's On finds out more...

During their professional lives, it's not uncommon for actors to return to roles that have especially stretched or excited them. To be offered a second chance at their Hamlet, Lear or Hedda Gabler is often a proposition which few actors can resist - provided the part remains within their age range. However, it still comes as something of a surprise to find Nigel Havers and Martin Jarvis, two much-respected senior members of the acting fraternity, reprising the roles in The Importance Of Being Earnest which they first played together in a National Theatre production thirty-two years ago.

The intervening passage of time seems to have left only the faintest of impressions on Nigel, to judge from his perpetually youthful appearance. It may help to explain his readiness to return to the part of Algy in Oscar Wilde's classic high comedy.

"Martin and I have always wanted to do The Importance again and we've talked about it for years," explains Nigel. "Time went by and eventually I woke up one morning and said to myself that we should do it before we all died. Martin's reaction was a key factor. Had he said that it was absolutely crazy and that we were too old, I'd have dropped it. But he felt that it was a fantastically good idea and that we should think about how to do it. In his opinion, being thirty years too old wouldn't prove to be much of a barrier. Take the 1950s film version of The Importance Of Being Earnest. Edith Evans as Lady Bracknell appears to be about eighty-five and Michael Redgrave and Michael Denison as Jack and Algy look as if they're both over fifty. Men did in those days. Ronald Harwood reminded us that The Importance is the funniest comedy in the English language, and so we couldn't hope to top it. However, we decided to ask somebody to give it a framing device, so Simon Brett has written the witty prologue. I can't give too much away, but what I can say is that audiences will certainly get this play performed by actors of a certain age with extras thrown in!"

Nigel has very happy memories of Sir Peter Hall's 1982 production, in which he and Jarvis were joined by a stellar cast including Dame Judi Dench as Lady Bracknell, Zoe Wanamaker as Gwendolyn and the late Anna Massey as Miss Prism.

"We had a ball doing it," recalls Nigel. "I think it was the finest stage work I've ever done. We hope to have an equally good experience this time around but with a different spin. Peter Hall was extraordinary, brilliant. I loved the atmosphere which he created in the rehearsal room, and he had a really good handle on the play. He gave us a very good note. The more the audience laughs, he said, the more seriously we should play it."

Adding to the celebratory atmosphere generated by this 2014 production is the unexpected connection between this year's revival and the National Theatre staging.

"We asked Lucy Bailey to direct the production, without knowing that she'd sat in on our rehearsals back in 1982," explains Nigel. "Apparently she'd written to Peter, asking to meet him. So he invited her into the rehearsal room to watch and see how it worked. Lucy sat in a corner and observed. We had no idea about any of this, so it makes the most wonderful coincidence."

The success of the National Theatre's Importance played a vital part in cementing Nigel's status as a leading man, coming, as it did, a year after he'd starred in the Oscar-winning movie, Chariots Of Fire. Post-The Importance, he was the hottest of hot properties.

"Looking back, it was indeed all happening for me. That was all down to my agent, Michael Whitehall. I did whatever he told me to do and just got on with it.

"I've always tended to go with the flow. I'm what's known as a letter-box actor. I tend to do any script that comes through the front door. My wife can't understand it. She thinks that acting is faintly stupid. It's not a proper job, she says. I grew up at a very good time to cut your teeth, and I've also been very lucky in that I've worked with the best in the business. On A Passage To India, for example, I had dinner every night for a year with David Lean, who directed the film. He was amazed at how accurately I could hit my marks when we were filming. I told him that it was the BBC who'd trained me."

Chariots Of Fire seems to have been a pivotal moment for Nigel, who thinks the film's recent stage incarnation was 'a tremendous show'.

"I think I must have seen it a dozen times during the run, including one night when Vangelis was in. I'm still friends with everyone on Chariots. We'd made this film for no money, and even when it was nominated for Academy Awards, we didn't have high hopes. David Puttnam, the producer, simply said we weren't going to win but that we should have a beer and enjoy ourselves. And when it was announced that we'd won the first Oscar, all David could say was bloody hell!"

Given his background as the younger son of Michael Havers, Margaret Thatcher's Lord Chancellor, it's perhaps surprising that Nigel didn't feel honour-bound to follow the traditional family career path.

"There was no family pressure on me to go into the law," he says. "I had an elder brother who was doing that for me. He's eighteen months older than me and is now a top silk. When we were both starting our respective careers, he was extremely envious when I earned enough from acting to be able to buy an old car, which he couldn't afford. My dad was very chuffed that I'd made a success of acting. It was only after he'd died that we discovered he'd recorded every single piece of my television work."

Like many actors, Nigel prefers to look ahead.

"I just don't dwell in the past - it's always the future which interests me. As a co-producer of The Importance, I've worked bloody hard. I don't differentiate between film and theatre: I treat them both in the same way. Of course, there are separate techniques. If you have a camera stuck up your nose, you underplay, you speak quietly. But if you have an audience twenty feet away from you, you project. In fact, my wife always complains that I project too much, particularly in restaurants."

Nigel puts his youthful physical appearance down to the Havers genes and reports that his memory is still as sharp as ever.

"I've learned Algy again," he reveals. "During the run at the National, I remember that Peter challenged us to be DLP - Dead Letter Perfect - and the prize was a case of wine. So during one performance, I made sure that I was word perfect. I then went to the stage management to claim my reward, but they refused to hand it over. Apparently, I'd made one mistake. I'd said 'on' instead of 'in' - the only word I got wrong."

Nigel recently concluded a lengthy run in Coronation Street, thoroughly relishing his role as the caddish Lewis Archer, a character with overtones of one of his earlier television triumphs.

"The Coronation Street cast and crew were the most delightful people, and made me very welcome," he says. "In a way, Lewis was a reincarnation of The Charmer. I thought that playing The Charmer would have ended my career, but it was so successful that LWT wanted to revive it. 'But I'm dead!' I pointed out. 'We can get round that,' they assured me. Perhaps one of the reasons The Charmer worked so well was my turning to the camera. As we saw in House Of Cards, if you talk directly to an audience, they feel as if they're colluding with you and they love it."



Nigel Havers stars alongside Rosalind Ayres, Niall Buggy, Patrick Godfrey, Martin Jarvis, Christine Kavanagh, Cheri Lunghi and Sian Phillips in The Importance Of Being Earnest at **New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,** from Tuesday 21 to Saturday 25 October.



“The essential thing that makes us all laugh and be human is the performing arts”

Dame Janet Suzman

brings Lara Foot’s powerful play, Solomon And Marion, to The REP...

One of the most respected actors of her time, Dame Janet Suzman honed her craft as a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, playing some of the most powerful women in history. Her 1973 portrayal of Cleopatra won her a wealth of plaudits, as did her first film, in which she played Alexandra, the last Empress of Russia. This month sees Dame Janet making a welcome return to the Midlands to perform in Lara Foot's Solomon And Marion, a powerful two-hander set in post-apartheid South Africa. What's On recently caught up with her to find out more about the play - and to talk about equality in the theatre and why the performing arts are so important to us all...

You've lived in the UK since 1959. Do you still consider South Africa to be your spiritual home?
That's too easy a description. I think where you grew up, the landscapes of your youth, always stay with you, wherever you are.

How did your upbringing in South Africa inform your decision to pursue a career on the stage?
It didn't. I didn't know what the hell I wanted to do. I just wanted to get out of South Africa. I went to university, and the fashion was to get out. I don't know anybody of my generation who didn't do their utmost to get the hell out of South Africa. The cheapest trip I could find was with the Fine Arts department. We flew to Greece in December and it was all rather thrilling. Hitting Athens straight from hot old Johannesburg on a beautiful Greek winter's day was unforgettable. I think where your most vivid childhood and early adulthood experience happens never leaves you. I always liken the country of your birth to your parents. There's nothing you can do about it. That's it; it's part of your DNA - whereas the country of your adoption, or wherever you end up, is like your spouse. You chose it and it's a definite choice.

So what happened next?
I didn't know what to do. I came to London and it was all terribly exciting. Some friends suggested I looked at the drama schools, so I did. It was all really quite by accident. I took a look at the drama schools and thought, 'hey, this looks interesting'. I'd done some acting in South Africa at university, and it'd crossed my mind that there must be more to acting than I knew about. Then, when I came to London, I discovered theatre. We didn't have much theatre in Joburg.

Does the relationship between Solomon and Marion reflect on any personal experiences?
Very much so - for many, many reasons. It's a play about a tragedy, but it's a comedy as well, which makes it an original piece of writing. It all developed in the mind of the writer, this marvellous young woman named Lara Foot. Lara's the artistic director of the Baxter Theatre in Cape Town, and in 2006 I was there producing a production of Hamlet. We'd been invited to open the RSC's Complete Works Festival, where they were going to perform every single piece that Shakespeare ever wrote, including the sonnets. Our production had been invited to open at The Swan in Stratford, and it was terribly exciting for everybody. On the Easter weekend, just before we were due to fly, Brett Goldin, my boy playing Rosencrantz, was abducted and murdered. These things tend to happen in South Africa, and it was traumatic beyond words. Death is death, and it's very traumatic. But the show has to go on, because life goes on - the king is dead, long live the king. So we found a young man who was brave enough to step into those shoes in twenty-four hours and we came to England and played at Stratford. Out of the meaningless death, because it was meaningless - Brett was in the wrong place at the wrong time - a play seemed to have started to form in Lara's mind about inconsequential death, which is never inconsequential for those who suffer it. It's a bit like Isis, really; they're people who just don't give a damn. These are always mysteries to normal human beings; how people can get rid of a life because they feel like it that day. They were high. The drug of choice in Cape Town is methamphetamines, commonly known by those who take them as Tik. These guys who murdered Brett were very high on this drug; it removes every last vestage of conscience you might have. To them, he was just a whitey who was unimportant.
Anyway, the play sort of developed out of that and other things in Lara's mind. It's about two people, very disparate, and features a young man from the townships. I have a wonderful young actor called Khayalethu Anthony. This is his first big role, and he has a kind of heavenly freshness on stage which is just gorgeous. Anyway, it's about unfinished business. He's a young man who enters the house with something nagging at him, and then suspicion turns to a kind of sweet friendship; a sort of mother/son relationship seems to develop. It's about crossing barriers - black and white, old lady and young man, different backgrounds, different languages, different cultures, different everything - and how you can become friends. It's South Africa's story in a way, and there are lots of layers to it.

You've written about the frail position of women in drama. How do you foresee this being reversed?
I don't think it will be reversed. I think it's a very slow, incremental process of women becoming more interesting to writers. Even in Shakespeare's time, and he's written the best parts that were ever written for women, they don't have that autonomy that male roles have. They're always belonging to somebody. They're either a mother, a queen, a wife or a daughter. They don't have autonomy, whereas Hamlet has autonomy. He doesn't belong to anyone, he's his own man. I think women's thoughts have not been considered worth listening to in an extended way - ever. Slowly, women as thinking beings are beginning to enter the conciousness.

What are your thoughts on the recent announcement that Sheffield Theatres has made a Gender Equality Pledge, which it's hoping to achieve within twelve months...
That's interesting, but it's also a bit sad when you think about it, because it means there are so few great roles for women in theatre that girls have to play men's parts in order to even it out. So in a way it's rather sad, but one understands their political motivation. There are lots of really wonderful actresses, but you don't get Look Back In Anger, with Jimmy Porter holding forth for pages on end while Helena, poor girl, is just ironing shirts. You don't get Richard II's 'For God's sake let us sit upon the ground and tell sad stories...' and on and on he goes. These are all interior thoughts which we listen to avidly, but there are no women's parts like that.

You wrote Not Hamlet about women's roles in theatre. Have you ever considered writing a stage play with a strong female role at its core?
No, I'm not really a writer. I'm a blusterer. I say things that annoy me. I enjoyed writing Not Hamlet because I could analyse things. The one that really interests me, not only because I've done it but because it stands head and shoulders above the rest, is Cleopatra. I think there's a general concensus that boys played all the women's roles in the great days of Shakespeare. That's clearly rubbish, because however talented the boy is, he really can't encompass the form of Cleopatra. What's not written about is that English men are brilliant at playing women. They absolutely love dressing up. I don't know why it is, but it's all ended up as pantomime - and then there's the comical burlesque side of it. Drop a skirt or a tiara when there's an English actor about, he'll pick it up and dance. It's quite weird. On the other side of the coin, women on the whole are rubbish at playing men's parts for several reasons. For one, you can add but you can't take away. A woman's shape is very difficult to change into a man's, whereas a man's shape is very easy to change into a woman's - you just add bits here and there. Also, men's voices are a lot more flexible up top. They've got a much wider vocal range than women, who can only go so low and then that's it, they can't go any lower.
Maxine Peake has probably had a very brave stab at Hamlet. I haven't seen it and I'm sure it'll get a mixed-bag reception, but good for her; she had a go. In the past, Sarah Bernhardt had a go, and Frankie de la Tour had a go. People have had a go at Hamlet and it must be marvellous to play, but I'm way past that.

Would you have liked to play it?
Just the experience of a part as rich and extended as that must be fabulous. Men have this incredible gift of the parts going on and on and on until you pop your clogs. They get to grow into all the older guys. Us women don't have the growth-spurts that male actors do.

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You mentioned Cleopatra. Your portrayal of the Egyptian Queen will always be considered one of your finest performances. How did it feel directing Kim Cattrall in a role that you owned?
It was fun. She's such a good actress, and I was very clear about the juice that I wanted to suck out of the part for her.

What did you want Kim's Cleopatra to be?
I wanted her to be more on the political spectrum than she's usually put. Men love casting women as sex objects, so Cleopatra is always Elizabeth Taylor - with a wonderful cleavage and lilac-blue eyes and so on. But she's much more interesting than that. You have to find in there the woman who really concentrated on Egypt, its survival and her children's inheritance; not just her love affair with Antony. So Kim and I had those conversations about getting some hard edges and political stuff into Cleopatra. Kim is a natural beauty, so she didn't need to try for the beautiful side, she just had to be herself. What we needed to do was find the edges that make women in power interesting.

Talking about power, you once said that 'you can't be born in South Africa and not be political'. Have you ever considered following in the footsteps of your Aunt Helen - who was an anti-apartheid campaigner - by taking on a more permanent role in politics?
I think one Helen is enough. She was terrific. I was here, I wasn't there, so in a way I missed out on that opportunity, but I feel it would've been foolish to follow in her footsteps. She was a mighty creature.

Which female figure in power has made a big impression on you?
Christine Lagarde interests me. That wonderful elegant French woman who heads the IMF. I think she's a good role model for women. She's found it all, kept it and used it. I do think role models for women are cropping up. Not so much here, because this government is absurdly women-shy. Often, Englishmen are scared of women in power. I don't know why.

Twenty years after the end of apartheid, how would you describe the state of theatre in South Africa?
It's very interesting. It's in a state of flux. What's interesting is, when the enemy is gone, who are you shooting at? For all those years during apartheid, the aim was clear; we wanted to shoot the government. Now, again, lots of people want to shoot the government, because they're totally inept, but we're all strangled by political correctness. Like in the Rotherham case; everyone's frightened about bringing up colour because it makes you merge into this savage who's dripping racism - which is crap, of course. True equality is being able to discuss people whatever their colour. Anyway, I think South Africa has got a huge amount of talent, which is slowly being unleashed. The problem is always language. The fact remains that if you want to reach the maximum number of people - writing a novel, doing a play - it has to be in English, and for a lot of performers in South Africa, that's a second, or even a third, language.

Of all the characters you've played, who's been the most complex, or challenging?
The great classical roles always are, quite frankly. That's why they're classics. They go on being freshly minted for each generation because there's such a lot to them. For me, there are three playwrights who're head and shoulders above the rest - maybe I'll count Tom Stoppard as well. There's Ibsen, Chekhov and Shakespeare. They've all produced work that stands out, but there are other exceptional playwrights too, so there's plenty of choice there.

Classic, quite heavy roles make up the majority of your repertoire. Is there a lighter role that you'd particularly like to perform?
I don't see them as heavy or light. Comedy is always the dream, isn't it? I sort of wish I'd done The Importance Of Being Earnest, an exquisite comedy, but I never have. You don't plan your career, it just sort of unfolds in an incidental way. Things just happen. Like life, most of it is accidental.

You did make a foray into comedy in the film Nuns On The Run. What drew you to that particular role?
It was very funny and was enormous fun to do.

Could you be tempted to accept similar roles in the future?
Oh yes. There comes a time, unless you're Helen Mirren and have preserved yourself exquisitely, that film is not a great idea for oldies. The camera isn't kind. We're still in an age where women are judged on their looks, which is really appalling.

Do you think that's less the case here than, say, in America?
I think more so here. I think it's irritating that how a woman looks is the first thing that jumps up.

What single piece of advice would you give to a young actress starting out in the profession?
Do something really fresh, otherwise you're going to be doomed - either to look wonderful all of the time, which must be a bit of a bore, or to keep on thinking about yourself and how you look.

But you've had a fantastic career, haven't you?
Yes, I have, and I'm not intending to knock it. I was choosy about what I did. I think I was so in love with the language. I was so in love with English. I was so over-excited about the quality of the literature here in England. Nowadays, everything has to happen so quickly. In the world that I grew up in, it was quite different. It was all about 'you learn, you apprentice yourself, you get better, you try and mature your work like a decent wine in a cellar'. That, I think, needs resuscitating - the idea that a really good foundation to a career comes through doing it more slowly and thoroughly.

Looking back over your life as an actor, is there anything you would've done differently?
Oh yes, I think so. There are a few things that I would've changed. I can't think of them off hand, but I know that they're there. I've never sat down and done a great review of my life, but I don't understand anybody who doesn't have any regrets. There are things I regret not having done, but I'm not going to innumerate them, as I think it would probably take all morning.

And if you could change one thing in British theatre, what would it be?
I would bring back rep. That's the place for people to be, and for actors to practise their trade. Repertory theatre provided a wonderful experience for young actors. Nowadays, they tumble in via sitcoms and stuff like that. I think their talent, which is very good, would be better if they made their apprenticeship in plays. It would be best for writers too. They need to air their works in the provinces and improve them slowly before they hit the big time.

Finally, what's the most important message you've given in a performance?
I don't feel that I have. I always wonder if theatre really does make a difference. It might make a momentary one, and it does live in people's minds sometimes. Years later, someone might bump into you and say: "I remember seeing you in blah, blah, blah however many years ago", and you think, 'My God, I provided that person with a memorable evening or afternoon thirty or so years ago'. That's the only dividend that I can think of. Whether theatre can make a difference in the same sense that a doctor can, I don't think so. That said, if you imagine Birmingham tonight without a single theatre open nor a concert to be heard, what dull streets they'd be. The essential thing that makes us all laugh and be human is the performing arts.

Dame Janet Suzman stars alongside Khayalethu Anthony in Lara Foot's Solomon And Marion at **The REP, Birmingham,** from Thursday 16 October to Saturday 1 November.







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Symphony Hall
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Music

Wille And The Bandits

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Wed 22 October

Counting blues, rock, Latin and folk among the styles of music they play, the Cornwall-based Wille And The Bandits have toured their huge and eclectic sound with the likes of Deep Purple, Joe Bonamassa, The John Butler Trio and Status Quo. They've also reached number two in the UK blues charts, performed at the London Olympics and played countless sets at major music festivals, including Glastonbury and BoomTown Fair. "Describing our music is always hard," says frontman Wille Edwards. "We get compared to all sorts of artists, so it's maybe best if people make up their own minds."



Lady Gaga

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Wed 15 October

With an eccentric personality and her flamboyant and diverse contributions to the music industry, Lady Gaga is a bonafide pop superstar. Rising to prominence in 2008 with debut album The Fame - a critical and commercial success which produced global chart-topping singles such as Just Dance and Poker Face - she's since released four additional albums: The Fame Monster, Born This Way, Artpop and Cheek To Cheek, the latter being a collaborative effort with good friend Tony Bennett. She visits Birmingham this month with her artRAVE show, which her management says has been uniquely designed to bring Gaga even closer to her fans, no matter where they're seated.





Example **Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 18 October**

Bringing together alternative hip-hop, electro house, Eurodance, British hip-hop, dubstep, EDM, trance and electronica, singer-songwriter and rapper Example burst into the charts for the first time in 2009, scoring a hit with Watch The Sun Come Up, from his album Won't Go Quietly. In the years which have followed he's worked hard to achieve a stranglehold on the world of electronica, with arena tours, gigs in Ibiza and plenty of summertime festival appearances ensuring he's never been far from the limelight. His Midlands appearance comes in support of his new album, Live Life Living.

Kylie **National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Tues 7 October**

When a fresh-faced Kylie Minogue released her first single, 1988's annoyingly catchy I Should Be So Lucky, how many people would've predicted she'd go on to become one of the hottest properties in the music business? The secret with Kylie has been her willingness to adapt both her look and her sound - and as the years have rolled by, she's successfully broadened her appeal and earned increasing respect from the music critics. Her stint on BBC One's hit talent contest The Voice has ensured she's remained centre-stage in recent times, with her current Kiss Me Once tour looking set to re-establish her as a sensational live performer. This is Kylie's first Birmingham concert in nine years.




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Music PREVIEWS

Johnny Marr

The Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Fri 17 October

This Smiths legend hits the UK with a thirteen-date tour in support of his second solo album, Playland, released on 6 October. The venerable musician, singer and songwriter is still going strong some thirty years on from his days as guitarist and co-songwriter in The Smiths, releasing debut album The Messenger last year. Now a session musician as well as a solo artist, he even worked on The Amazing Spider-Man 2 score with Pharrell. He credits his creativity to his love of running, so expect an energetic performance.



Kiki Dee & Carmelo Luggeri

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury, Mon 13 October

Kiki and Carmelo are old hands when it comes to touring together, having racked up nearly two decades of performing their acoustic live show across the UK and Europe. The pair describe their collaboration as 'an ongoing musical experiment' - and one that's proved successful enough to result in the release of a handful of albums. The live show features Kiki's best-known hits, including Don't Go Breaking My Heart, I've Got The Music In Me and Star, as well as covers of, among others, Kate Bush and Peter Gabriel. "The show is a real mix and very intimate," says Kiki. "Although I do like my home comforts, I still really enjoy the experience of touring and being out on the road."



Erja Lyytinen

The Robin, Bilston, Wed 8 October

"Musicians are the doctors of the human mind," states Erja Lyytinen. "It doesn't matter if we're sick, tired or poor, we get up on the stage every night hoping to send home every single person a little bit happier than when they arrived." And Finnish-born Erja - one of an exciting new generation of Europeans who're carrying American blues music into the future - certainly looks to have a gift for spreading that aforementioned happiness to her ever-growing fanbase. "Blues is a state of mind," observes Erja. "Even though I'm basically a happy person, I can still occasionally get the blues; but when I do, I channel the experience into making great music. And when I make great music, I feel extremely happy!"



Ed Sheeran

The National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Sat 18 December
LG Arena, Birmingham, Sun 19 - Mon 20 October

When Ed Sheeran's A Team, the lead single from debut album +, became a much-loved anthem at student balls everywhere, the flame-haired singer finally achieved the mainstream attention he deserved. Ed began recording in 2005 and then hit the gig trail hard - in 2009 alone, he played over three hundred sets. Despite this significant commitment to touring, Ed's also found time to release a second album, x, which includes the single I See Fire, a song familiar not only to his own legion of fans but also to Tolkien buffs, courtesy of Peter Jackson's 2013 blockbuster Hobbit movie. Support at this gig comes from Nottingham's Saint Raymond.

Leo & Anto

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 25 October; The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Sun 26 October

Waterboy Anthony Thistlethwaite first encountered Leo Moran over a quarter of a century ago, taking a break from album-recording duties to join Leo's Saw Doctors in a charity fundraising gig in Galway. The pair have been firm friends ever since. With the Saw Doctors currently on sabbatical, Leo and Anthony have taken the opportunity to head out on the road together, presenting a show which they say includes "different takes on well-known Saw Doctors' songs, versions of lesser-known and less-played songs, a few from Anthony's solo albums, and other songs written recently with Padraig Stevens".

Luke Jackson

Stafford Gatehouse, Mon 6 October

A rising star on the British folk scene, Canterbury-based Luke Jackson has been compared to a young Tim Buckley, and hailed for possessing the kind of voice you could get lost in. He also won the BBC Radio Two Young Folk Award in 2013. Not bad for a fella who's only recently left his teenage years behind him. Luke's debut album, More Than Boys, was launched here in the Midlands at the Shrewsbury Folk Festival. Its success led to a follow-up offering, Fumes And Faith, a slower-burn album released in early 2014. "These days I'm pretty rootsy blues," says Luke, "but folk's such a broad genre, I guess a lot of my music does slip into the folk world."



The Sunshine Underground

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Wed 1 October; The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 11 October; Kasbah, Coventry, Sat 18 October

Leeds-based indie dance band The Sunshine Underground's low boredom threshold works wonders for their creativity, ensuring every track offers something different from the last. Originating here in the Midlands (they formed while studying at New College Telford), the Underground were one of the original acts dubbed 'nu-rave' by NME magazine, and have built up a solid following after years of touring. They visit the Midlands as part of a tour to support their third album, a self-titled collection of '80s-inspired tracks which sees the band dabbling with a new sound.



The Illegal Eagles

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Thurs 23 October

Nobody's claiming a tribute's as good as the real thing, but if you never caught the likes of Elvis or Jimmi Hendrix live, then this kind of act at least gives you the chance to get a 'feel' of what it must've been like to be in the presence of greatness. The Illegal Eagles are well established, extremely talented, and offer an evening of great music that features all the hits, including: Hotel California; The Last Resort; Life In The Fast Lane; Tequila Sunrise; One Of These Nights; Lyin' Eyes; New Kid In Town; Take It To The Limit; Rocky Mountain Way; Witchy Woman; and Heartache Tonight.

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FRI 10 OCT
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SAT 11 OCT
THE SOUTH
PLUS SPECIAL GUEST DAVID FORD

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BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST

TUE 14 OCT
STEVE HARLEY
ACOUSTIC

THU 16 OCT · BROKEN CHORDS · REDLINE
GUITAR LEGEND
BERNIE TORME

FRI 17 OCT
ROBERT ALEXANDER GILES AS
MICHAEL JACKSON
WITH HIS BAND ANOTHER PART OF ME

SAT 18 OCT
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SOUL & MOTOWN PARTY

MON 20 OCT
ULI JON ROTH
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
NATHAN JAMES

TUE 21 OCT + SUPPORT LAWLESS
THE PAT McMANUS BAND

WED 22 OCT
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THU 23 OCT + STONE FOUNDATION
STAX LEGEND
STEVE CROPPER + ANIMALS & FRIENDS

FRI 24 OCT ONE NIGHT OF
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SAT 25 OCT 3 DIVAS LIVE SHOW
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SUN 26 OCT
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THE LAMB LIES DOWN ON BROADWAY

MON 27 OCT
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WED 29 OCT
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THU 30 OCT PUNK LEGENDS
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WED 1 OCT

TWO MAN TING The Yardbird Jazz Club, B'ham
THE DRIFTERS New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
THE SUNSHINE UNDERGROUND The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THE ROVING CROWS The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
SYLVAN ESSO Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
NELL BRYDEN The Robin, Bilston
THE BESNARD LAKES The Institute, Birmingham
MARY GAUTHIER The Glee Club, Birmingham
JUNGLE BROTHERS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE STARS FROM THE COMMITMENTS The Jam House, Birmingham
ELLA EYRE The Institute, Birmingham
4SQUARE Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
TINLIN: NOTES FROM THE ROAD Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THU 2 OCT

THE PLATINUM ROGUES The Jam House, B'ham
THE ILLEGAL EAGLES New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
RUFUS The Institute, Birmingham
LUCY WARD Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
JOHN ILLSLEY & HIS BAND The Robin, Bilston
MK, MS DYNAMITE & MAJESTIC O2 Academy, Birmingham
BLACK MOTH The Asylum, Birmingham
THE NAKED BEATLES Moochers, Stourbridge
MUSED The River Rooms, Stourbridge
HAMEREX Route 44, Birmingham
DEMOB HAPPY, THE HEIST & HEAVY WAVES The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
ENEMO-J, EXILES OF ELYSIUM, REVERBED, TIDES APART & ARAMANTUS The Roadhouse, B'ham
BREEZE & WILSON Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek

FRI 3 OCT

LET'S HANG ON The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire
DETROIT SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham
ELO AGAIN The Robin, Bilston
BROOKS WILLIAMS Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
LEWIS WATSON The Institute, Birmingham
THINK FLOYD Crewe Lyceum
ELIZA AND THE BEAR The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
ALOHA FROM HAWAII New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
ALLAH-LAS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
INTO THE SHADOWS Lichfield Garrick
HELLRAZOR The Roadhouse, Birmingham
FKA TWIGS The Institute, Birmingham
MIKE SANCHEZ Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek
TRACEY HANNA Irish Centre, Birmingham
COLIN PAUL AND THE PERSUADERS Irish Centre, Birmingham
THE TOM WALKER TRIO Moochers, Stourbridge
THE SMYTHS The River Rooms, Stourbridge
SHE WILL ROCK YOU & THE DARKMESS Route 44, Birmingham
HANSU-TORI Symphony Hall, Birmingham
INTO THE SHADOWS Lichfield Garrick
JERRY DAMMERS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE PIGEON DETECTIVES O2 Academy, B'ham
SUPERFICIALS, HOPE FOR RETURN, FALLEN CLOUDS, THE VECTORS & SEEKING DAYLIGHT O2 Academy, Birmingham
MORGUE ORGY, BLACK MASS & HORDES The Asylum, Birmingham
VALLEYERS, CHRIS TYE & STYLUSBOY Ort Cafe, Birmingham

SAT 4 OCT

DETROIT SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham
BEE GEES FEVER Tamworth Assembly Rooms
ADRIAN BYRON BURNS Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek
INTO THE SHADOWS Lichfield Garrick
WHALEBONE The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire
THE OASIS EXPERIENCE The Roadhouse, B'ham
BOOT-LED-ZEPPELIN The Robin, Bilston
ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent
BLACK DYKE BAND Crewe Lyceum
SKELETAL FAMILY & SALVATION O2 Academy, Birmingham
VIC GODARD & THE SUBWAY SECT The Flapper, Birmingham
WHOLE LOTTA LED The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire
MODERN MINDS, PSYENCE, ESKERS, OCEANIA & REGALE The Institute, Birmingham
THE ZZ TOPS The Marr's Bar, Worcester
RUFUS WAINWRIGHT Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
THE HURLING BOYS Irish Centre, Birmingham
ELO AGAIN Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
KAT HEALY Ort Cafe, Birmingham
ULTRA 90S The River Rooms, Stourbridge
NIGHTMARES ON WAX Hare & Hounds, B'ham
HARDRIDE Route 44, Birmingham
BLUES WITH MICHAEL MESSER & ED GENIS Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
SUMMER HEAT The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham
NIGHT SHIFT, DRIFTWOOD STORE, THE BANK ACCOUNTS & BETHANY JEAN CONROY The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham
SULU BABYLON, CHASING TRAITS, NINA BAKER, ONLY SHADOWS, DANNI G, SCREAMING QUAYS & THE TWO PERCENT O2 Academy, Birmingham
CEREBRAL FIX, SELFLESS REANIMATOR, D.A.M, VIRUS, LINE OF FIRE & SUICIDE WATCH The Asylum, Birmingham
GHOSTPOET, BRASSICA & PINK VIOLENCE The Oobleck, Birmingham

SUN 5 OCT

HOPSIN The Institute, Birmingham
THE VAMPS National Indoor Arena, B'ham
THE ADMIRAL SIR CLOUDESLEY SHOVELL, WITCH CHARMER, UNDERSMILE & XII BOAR The Asylum, Birmingham
ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW AND THE LOW RIDERS The Robin, Bilston
TURIN BRAKES The Oobleck, Birmingham
KOBRA AND THE LOTUS O2 Academy, B'ham
CLOUD BOAT Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
SHILLELAGH Irish Centre, Birmingham
THE HUT PEOPLE KITCHEN Garden Cafe, B'ham
THIS WILD LIFE The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
HEYROCCO The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham
THE FREE LOVE CLUB The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham
NAKED BLUES The Green Room Cafe, B'ham

MON 6 OCT

THE DUNNETT/BAXTER BIG BAND The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham
LUKE JACKSON Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
CURTIS STIGERS Birmingham Town Hall
JAKE BUGG Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
ATMOSPHERE The Institute, Birmingham
BILL LAURANCE PROJECT The Glee Club, B'ham
MAZ O CONNOR Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
DECADE The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
RAT & CO HOODLEM Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
BLACKJACK, SYREN CITY & TIGERPUNCH The Flapper, Birmingham


Nightmares On Wax, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TUE 7 OCT

LEVEL 42 PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS Symphony Hall, Birmingham
LETHAL BIZZLE The Institute, Birmingham
KYLIE MINOGUE National Indoor Arena, B'ham
JAKE BUGG Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
THE MAINE O2 Academy, Birmingham
BLACK VEIL BRIDES O2 Academy, Birmingham
BEDNAREK The Institute, Birmingham
VASHTI BUNYAN mac, Birmingham
FUTURE OF THE LEFT Hare & Hounds, B'ham
JOSH HEWITSON, WAYNE BLAKE & ALUMNI BAND The Jam House, B'ham
JIMMY LIVINGSTONE Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
FINI BEARMAN QUARTET The Spotted Dog, Bham
WOODWARD Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
MAX RAPTOR, FREEZE THE ATLANTIC & SPEAKING IN ITALICS The Flapper, Birmingham
THE MAINE, LYDIA & NICK SANTINO O2 Academy, Birmingham

WED 8 OCT

GOSPEL CENTRAL The Jam House, B'ham
THREE STEP MANOEUVRE FUNKY ORGAN TRIO The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham
JIM CAUSLEY & LUKAS DRINKWATER The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham
BANNER THEATRE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
BIPOLAR SUNSHINE The Institute, Birmingham
PACO PENA Birmingham Town Hall
SUPERSUCKERS O2 Academy, Birmingham
ERJA LYYTINEN & HER BAND The Robin, Bilston
THE TREATMENT The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
FATIMA Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE SHRINE, DIRTY FENCES & DEATH ALLEY The Oobleck, B'ham
THE TEA STREET BAND The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
KERRY ELLIS Birmingham Town Hall
THAT'LL BE THE DAY AUTUMN 2014 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THU 9 OCT

THAT'LL BE THE DAY AUTUMN 2014 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
JOAN ARMATRADING Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
FLAGSHIP The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trentr
CAFFEINE KILL, THIS ELEGANT CHAOS & GIRLS THAT SCREAM The Roadhouse, Birmingham
FAULKNER The Jam House, Birmingham
BUZZCOCKS The Institute, Birmingham
ALESTORM O2 Academy, Birmingham
GHOULS The Flapper, Birmingham
CHILDHOOD & KID WAVE Hare & Hounds, B'ham
SAMSARA O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE BRETT DOMINO TRIO Hare & Hounds, B'ham
THE COMMANDMENTS The River Rooms, Stourbridge
REEVES GABRELS AND HIS IMAGINARY FRIENDS The Oobleck, B'ham
HALF MAN HALF BISCUIT The Robin, Bilston
KERRY ELLIS Birmingham Town Hall

FRI 10 OCT

THE RED LEMONS The Jam House, B'ham
HI-ON MAIDEN, SACK SABBATH & THIN LIZZY EXPERIENCE The Robin, Bilston
FAUSTUS mac, B'ham
TONY HADLEY Symphony Hall, B'ham
THE SENSATIONAL 60'S EXPERIENCE Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
CHILDREN OF THE GRAVY The Roadhouse, B'ham
EDDI READER Birmingham Town Hall
BLITZ KIDS The Asylum, Birmingham
INTRIGUE IN TANGIERS The Glee Club, Birmingham
DRY THE RIVER The Institute, Birmingham
HI-ON MAIDEN The Robin, Bilston
MAMAS GUN O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE LAWRENCE ARMS O2 Academy, Birmingham
IAN PROWSE & AMSTERDAM The Flapper, B'ham
CROCODILES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
FRAN THE MAN Irish Centre, Birmingham
LISA KNAPP BAND Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
LOUISE JORDAN Ort Cafe, Birmingham
ABBA - SWEDE DREAMZ The River Rooms, Stourbridge
VICIOUS NATURE Route 44, Birmingham
GOD DAMN The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
SOUL II SOUL FEATURING JAZZIE B Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
THE TOP TEN BEATLES Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
JAMES ALLSOPP QUARTET Symphony Hall, B'ham
CARL BARAT (DJ SET) O2 Academy, Birmingham
A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC OF GLENN HUGHES Moochers, Stourbridge
THAT'LL BE THE DAY Stafford Gatehouse

SAT 11 OCT

CARO EMERALD National Indoor Arena, B'ham
MERCURY - THE ULTIMATE QUEEN TRIBUTE Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent
METROPOLIS MEETS PINK FLOYD mac, B'ham
THE RED LEMONS The Jam House, B'ham
TONY GOLD - TOM JONES TRIBUTE Stoke Advocate, Staffordshire

Music LISTINGS

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

THE ROBBIE WILLIAMS & OLLY MURS SHOW Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
THE SUNSHINE UNDERGROUND The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
THE UPBEAT BEATLES The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire
ZOE GILBY TRIO The Hive, Shrewsbury
BONNIE DOBSON Lichfield Guildhall
THE SOUTH The Robin, Bilston
CLANNAD Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
THE FULL SHA BANG Irish Centre, Birmingham
TORN SAIL & JOE WOOLLEY Ort Cafe, B'ham
BEE GEES FEVER The River Rooms, Stourbridge
HOT RED CHILLI PEPPERS The Roadhouse, B'ham
GOLDIE REED & DEVENPORT Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
QUERCUS Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
NEW STREET ADVENTURE The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
KRAFTY KUTS Alfie Birds, Birmingham
MC TRIGGA'S BIRTHDAY BASH O2 Academy, Birmingham

SUN 12 OCT

JOHN LEGEND National Indoor Arena, B'ham
JACKSON - LIVE IN CONCERT Crewe Lyceum
ROD PICOTT Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
JOHN LEE'S BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST The Robin, Bilston
THE MONOBLOGGERS The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
SEAN WILSON Irish Centre, Birmingham
KATE YOUNG Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
MELLOW PEACHES The Green Room Cafe Bar, Birmingham
THE FREE LOVE Club The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham

MON 13 OCT

KIKI DEE & CARMELO LUGGERI Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury
QUATUOR ARDEO Birmingham Town Hall
THE HOLD STEADY O2 Academy, Birmingham
SKILLET Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
THE AMAZING SNAKEHEADS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE SADDEST LANDSCAPE & FIREWORKS The Oobleck, Birmingham
CALLAGHAN Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
DAN WILSON Glee Club, Birmingham
FLAGSHIP O2 Academy, Birmingham
ALED JONES Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

TUE 14 OCT

ALISON BALSOM Birmingham Town Hall
THE HOUGHTON WEAVERS Solihull Arts Complex
BILLY MITCHELL AND RAY LAIDLAW: THE LINDISFARNE STORY Crewe Lyceum
ELIZA AND THE BEAR O2 Academy, Birmingham
STEVE HARLEY The Robin, Bilston
CLIMATES The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
MATT EAVES The Jam House, Birmingham
POSITIVELY FOURTH STREET Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
BRIAN MOLLEY QUARTET The Spotted Dog, Birmingham
NEIL COWLEY TRIO CBSO Centre, B'ham
THEY LIVE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

WED 15 OCT

LADY GAGA National Indoor Arena, B'ham
SPEAR OF DESTINY The Institute, Birmingham
KID INK O2 Academy, Birmingham
NORMAN WATT-ROY Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
NIC & JOE JONES The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
HAPPYNESS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
JON ALLEN Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury
MARTIN SMITH The Robin, Bilston
MARMOZETS O2 Academy, Birmingham
HANSU-TORI The Spotted Dog, Birmingham
DONA OXFORD The Jam House, Birmingham

THU 16 OCT

BERNIE TORME The Robin, Bilston
JASPER CARROT'S STAND UP AND ROCK Dudley Town Hall, Shropshire
IAN MCNABB Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
OPETH The Institute, Birmingham
JON ALLEN The Glee Club, Birmingham
ADAM ISAAC BAND The Jam House, B'ham
THE AMAZING SNAKEHEADS The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
JUSTIN FURSTENFELD O2 Academy, Birmingham
REAGAN BROWNE The Roadhouse, B'ham
ANN BREEN Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
REGALE, APRIL & SCRIBERS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
M.A.D The Institute, Birmingham
THE TWIST Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury


John Legend - NIA, Birmingham

FRI 17 OCT

MR BEN The Jam House, Birmingham
REDLINE The Asylum, Birmingham
ELAINE PAIGE Symphony Hall, Birmingham
SETH LAKEMAN Birmingham Town Hall
THE MODFATHERS - TRIBUTE TO PAUL WELLER O2 Academy, Birmingham
U2UK The Roadhouse, Birmingham
JOE BROWN Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
JOHNNY MARR Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
MONEY FOR NOTHING (DIRE STRAITS TRIBUTE) The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire
PATENT PENDING The Institute, Birmingham
HACKNEY COLLIERY BAND Hare & Hounds, B'ham
ROBERT ALEXANDER GILES AS MICHAEL JACKSON The Robin, Bilston
THE DIRTY YOUTH The Institute, Birmingham
THE NEIGHBOURHOOD O2 Academy, Birmingham
SANCHEZ - REGGAE SUPERSTAR The New Bingley Hall, Birmingham
THAT F*CKING TANK The Flapper, Birmingham
TRAMPOLENE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
PAT BRESLIN Irish Centre, Birmingham
THE STRAIGHT ACES Moochers, Stourbridge
THE ELO EXPERIENCE Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
THE 80'S PROJECT The River Rooms, Stourbridge
GUNNERS LAW Route 44, Birmingham
DAVE MCPHERSON The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
HEYROCCO The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
ANTHONY MARSDEN QUARTET Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SAT 18 OCT

MR BEN The Jam House, Birmingham
RED SHOES Birchmeadow, Broseley
SOUL'D OUT The Robin, Bilston
IL DIVO LG Arena, Bham
LTJ BUKEM Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
KATY B O2 Academy, Birmingham
DANNY & THE CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD O2 Academy, Birmingham
TOYAH The Institute, Birmingham
ENDORPHINMACHINE: PRINCE TRIBUTE The Roadhouse, B'ham
ED SHEERAN The National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
WE ARE THE OCEAN O2 Academy, Birmingham
LULO REINHARDT Wem Town Hall, Shropshire
THE BOOMTOWN RATS Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
BURY TOMORROW The Institute, Birmingham
THE SHEE Lichfield Guildhall
EXAMPLE Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent
PAUL EDWARDS Artrix, Bromsgrove
UNDER THE COVERS Irish Centre, Birmingham
DIBEL CISSOKHO & RAMON GOOSE Ort Cafe, Birmingham
ONE STOP BOOGIE - 70S V 80S The River Rooms, Stourbridge
BOGUS BLOOZE Route 44, Birmingham
THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire
ALREADY GONE The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
NIA LYNN Symphony Hall, Birmingham
LAZY J Moochers, Stourbridge

SUN 19 OCT

ED SHEERAN LG Arena, Birmingham
BEVERLEY CRAVEN Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury
HE IS LEGEND The Oobleck, Birmingham
RAF IN CONCERT Symphony Hall, Birmingham
BLAKE Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
THE FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS Birmingham Town Hall
BE HOPEFUL - ALL DAYER The Roadhouse, B'ham
COLT 45 The Asylum, Birmingham
KNOTSLIP O2 Academy, Birmingham
HOLLY JOHNSON The Institute, Birmingham
BOLLYWOOD THERAPY mac, Birmingham
FEED THE RHINO The Asylum, Birmingham
RINGO'S DESPAIR O2 Academy, Birmingham
WELCOME TO NIGHT VALE The Glee Club, Birmingham
LITTLE JIMMY Irish Centre, Birmingham
JOSIENNE CLARKE & BEN WALKER Kitchen Gardeb Cafe, Birmingham
THE BOYAN ENSEMBLE OF KIEV Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
HUNDRED WATERS The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
THE FREE LOVE CLUB The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham
GODSIZE The River Rooms, Stourbridge

MON 20 OCT

ED SHEERAN LG Arena, Birmingham
ANNIE EVE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
KIDS IN GLASS HOUSES The Institute, B'ham
KISHI BASHI Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE SOIL mac, B'ham
ULI JON ROTH The Robin, Bilston
JESS GLYNNE The Institute, Birmingham
NIGEL STONIER Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
CHUCK PROPHET AND THE MISSION EXPRESS The Oobleck, Birmingham
VALLENFYRE The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

TUE 21 OCT

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Crewe Lyceum
THE BIG REUNION - Boy Band Tour Featuring; Five, Blue, 911, A1, Damage, 5th Story and 3T LG Arena, Birmingham
SOLID GOLD COUNTRY LEGENDS The Place, Oakengates, Shropshire
JASPER CARROT'S STAND UP AND ROCK Birmingham Town Hall
LITTLE COMETS The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THOUGHT FORMS The Flapper, Birmingham
RED MOLLY Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
TELEMAN Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE PAT MCMANUS BAND The Robin, Bilston
CARL HERRING Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
MAVERICK SABRE The Institute, Birmingham
THE DAN BAYLISS QUARTET The Jam House, Birmingham
WHEATUS The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

WED 22 OCT

NURVRAX JAM The Yardbird Jazz Club, B'ham
BLACKBERRY SMOKE The Institute, Birmingham
SIXTIES GOLD Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent
THE SHEE The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
CLEAN BANDIT O2 Academy, Birmingham
WILLE AND THE BANDITS Hare & Hounds, B'ham
BIG COUNTRY The Robin, Bilston
PRIDES The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
HONEY RYDER Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
LUCAS D & THE GROOVE GHETTO The Jam House, Birmingham
HAFDIS HULD Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire
TONY WRIGHT The Oobleck, Birmingham

THU 23 OCT

STEVE CROPPER WITH THE ANIMALS & FRIENDS The Robin, Bilston
THE CADBURY SISTERS Glee Club, Birmingham
THE MENTULLS The Roadhouse, B'ham
KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS The Jam House, Birmingham
JOHN COOPER CLARKE Birmingham Town Hall
JASPER CARROT'S STAND UP AND ROCK Palace Theatre, Redditch
PARTISANS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE OLD DANCE SCHOOL Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
CHIMAIRA The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
NICK MULVEY The Institute, Birmingham
THE ILLEGAL EAGLES The

Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire
THE ANTLERS The Oobleck, Birmingham
SKID ROW The River Rooms, Stourbridge
RIXTON O2 Academy, Birmingham
GHETTS O2 Academy, Birmingham

FRI 24 OCT

LIVE & PICKING Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton
UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE The Jam House, B'ham
CLASSIC CLAPTON Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
RAYMOND FROGGATT Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
MENTALLICA The Roadhouse, Birmingham
ALOHA FROM HAWAII Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent
ST. VINCENT The Institute, Birmingham
MENTALLICA The Roadhouse, Birmingham
DAVE GILES O2 Academy, Birmingham
REAL ESTATE The Institute, Birmingham
EAGULLS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
RALEIGH RITCHIE The Institute, Birmingham
THE CLONE ROSES The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
SHADOW FLAG The Flapper, Birmingham
SEVEN DAVIS JR & KUTMAH Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
TAKE TWO Irish Centre, Birmingham
NORTH ATLANTIC OSCILLATION The Oobleck, Birmingham
DEAD BELGIAN Ort Cafe, Birmingham
FRED ZEPPELIN The River Rooms, Stourbridge
ONE NIGHT OF ELVIS The Robin, Bilston
PATSY CLINE - 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR Lichfield Garrick
ANDY KERSHAW'S GLOBAL DANCE NIGHT Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
HIGHER ON MAIDEN Route 44, Birmingham
CHRIS GUMBLEY QUINTET Symphony Hall, B'ham
KNOTSLIP Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
COMA O2 Academy, Birmingham
OKASIS Moochers, Stourbridge

SAT 25 OCT

EVENTUAL FATE The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE The Jam House, B'ham
PETER ANDRE Symphony Hall, Birmingham
MADONNA, CHER & TINA TRIBUTES The Robin, Bilston
SOULED OUT 2 FUNK The Roadhouse, B'ham
TRISTAN DREW Stoke Advocate, Staffordshire
A VISION OF ELVIS Lichfield Garrick
LEO & ANTO Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
BOBBY'S NIGHT OF BURLESQUE AND SWING The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
CUD & THE LEAKING MACHINE The Flapper, Birmingham
HOOKWORMS, TRAAMS, THE VOYEURS, VICTORIES AT SEA, ECHO LAKE, THEO VERNEY & TABLE SCRAPS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
GEORGE EZRA The Institute, Birmingham
BLACK JACK DAVEY Irish Centre, Birmingham
CHARITY NORTHERN SOUL NIGHT Irish Centre, Birmingham
BARRY DOUGLAS Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Shropshire
MARIT AND RONA & JAMIE EVANS Ort Cafe, Birmingham
INTERNATIONAL STAFF BAND Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE The River Rooms, Stourbridge
IVOR & LYNN'S CLASSIC ROCK NIGHT Route 44, Birmingham
TOO MANY T'S The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham
FLYTE Alfie Birds, Birmingham
OCTANE OK The Institute, Birmingham

SUN 26 OCT

JOAN ARMATRADING Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
THE WATCH PLAYS GENESIS WHITE SHOW - THE LAMB LIES DOWN ON BROADWAY The Robin, Bilston
THE STAVES The Institute, Birmingham
AMITY FEST The Institute, Birmingham
JASPER CARROT'S STAND UP AND ROCK Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
LEO & ANTO The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
TAKUYA KURODA Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
DEAN FRIEDMAN Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury
FRAN THE MAN Irish Centre, Birmingham
CADDY COOPER Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
BLACK LIPS The Oobleck, Birmingham
HYPEFEST The Roadhouse, Birmingham
WES FINCH The Green Room Cafe Bar, B'ham
DEAD PREZ O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE FREE LOVE CLUB The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham

MON 27 OCT

SAM SMITH O2 Academy, Birmingham
JUNGLE The Institute, Birmingham
CIRCLE ON THE ROAD Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
CHEVELLE O2 Academy, Birmingham
ESCAPE THE FATE The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
TARRAS MINOR Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
HAKEN The Robin, Bilston
BRIBRY The Institute, Birmingham

TUE 28 OCT

HEATHER PEACE Birmingham Town Hall
THE BOOMTOWN RATS The Assembly, Leamington Spa
SARA BETH, GLEN MITCHELL & JESS ROBERTS The Robin, Bilston
TOM BAXTER The Glee Club, Birmingham
ANDY BURROWS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
BASKERY Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
BLUE EYED HAWK The Spotted Dog, B'ham
FUSE ODG The Institute, Birmingham

WED 29 OCT

JOHN NEWMAN Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
NERINA PALLOT The Glee Club, Birmingham
THE OLD DANCE SCHOOL The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
SPACE RITUAL FEATURING EX MEMBERS OF HAWKWIND The Robin, Bilston
PATSY CLINE IN CONCERT Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
LITTLE COMETS The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
THE SENSATIONAL FRANCIS DUNNERY BAND The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THE BARR BROTHERS Hare & Hounds, B'ham
GABBIDON The Jam House, Birmingham
ALASDAIR ROBERTS Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
BILLY MITCHELL AND RAY LAIDLAW: THE LINDISFARNE STORY Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
SCREAM BABY SCREAM, THE DEAD XIII & GHOULS STONE VALLEY The Roadhouse, B'ham
LOUISE JORDAN The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham
THE STRUTS The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham
O DUO Symphony Hall, Birmingham
FRANCIS DUNNERY The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

THU 30 OCT

DEL CAMINO The Jam House, Birmingham
ANTI-NOWHERE LEAGUE The Robin, Bilston
BLACK STONE CHERRY LG Arena, Birmingham
LAMB & RAMONA FLOWERS The Institute, Bham
SOIL The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
MARTYN JOSEPH Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
RHODES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
RAMBLING HOUSE Irish Centre, Birmingham
VINCENT FLATTS FINAL DRIVE Route 44, B'ham
HOLLYWOOD ENDING The Institute, Birmingham
PHILLIP DYSON Lichfield Garrick
THE ZOE GREEN BAND The Roadhouse, B'ham


John Newman, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

FRI 31 OCT

OUTBREAK FESTIVAL Ricoh Arena, Coventry
ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
ROLLERMANIA Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
THE DRIFTERS Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
URBAN TRIO The Jam House, Birmingham
FRAMING HANLEY O2 Academy, Birmingham
WAKEY!WAKEY! The Institute, Birmingham
KATHRYN ROBERTS & SEAN LAKEMAN The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire
LIZANNE KNOT Lichfield Guildhall
THE SUPERSKAS Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton
GINGER WILDHEART AND FRIENDS The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
MIKEY B Irish Centre, Birmingham
THE RAIN BROTHERS Ort Cafe, Birmingham
MAETLOAF The River Rooms, Stourbridge
T'PAU FEATURING CAROL DECKER The Robin, Bilston
THE BARRON KNIGHTS Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
HALLOW'EEN ROCK DISCO Route 44, Birmingham
BILLY LOCKETT The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
SUPERFOOD The Oobleck, Birmingham
JAZZLINES ENSEMBLE BIG FUN SPECIAL Symphony Hall, Birmingham

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01939 232299

Staffordshire

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TAMWORTH ASSEMBLY ROOMS
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For additional information and to find out What's On at these venues.
Visit: **www.whatsonlive.co.uk**

Classical Music PREVIEWS



Il Divo

LG Arena, Birmingham, Sat 18 October

Since their formation in 2004, classical crossover quartet Il Divo have scored some major successes - an Artist Of The Decade award at the renowned Classic Brit Awards, a multi-platinum self-titled debut album, one hundred-and-fifty gold and platinum discs, and more than two million concert ticket sales worldwide.
Comprising Swiss tenor Urs Buhler, Spanish baritone Carlos Marin, French pop artist Sebastien Izambard and American tenor David Miller, the group last year 'stepped outside the box' by releasing A Musical Affair, a compilation of numbers inspired by Broadway shows and featuring duet partnerships with Barbra Streisand, Nicola Scherzinger, Heather Headley and Michael Ball. The talented quartet this month return to the Midlands to present their stage version of the album, and are joined by Olivier Award-winning artist Lea Salonga, best known for her role as Kim in Miss Saigon.

Halle Orchestra

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 31 October

Ranking as one of the UK's top symphonic ensembles, the Halle Orchestra continues to deliver ambitious and wide-ranging work, both here in the UK and abroad. A regular at the Victoria Hall, the orchestra this month introduces clarinettist Lynsey Marsh, who takes centre-stage for Mozart's Clarinet Concerto - a sublime piece widely considered to be one of the composer's most intimate creations.
The concert also sees conductor Ryan Wigglesworth make his Stoke debut, performing Schumann's Overture, Scherzo and Finale. Sibelius' Symphony No.2 - a musical expression of Finnish resistance to Russian oppression - brings the performance to a close.





Carmen

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 15 October

What better way for Mid Wales Opera to celebrate their twenty-fifth season than with an exciting new production of Bizet's masterpiece? A seductive tale of love, loss, betrayal and jealousy, concluding in tragedy, this much-anticipated production features a new orchestration commissioned especially for the Mid Wales Opera Chamber Orchestra by opera and theatre composer Stephen Naff.
Carmen is performed in English, using impressionist and comedian Rory Bremner's incredibly successful 2001 translation of the libretto.

Ex Cathedra: The Sun King At Versailles

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 12 October

Under the direction of Jeffrey Skidmore, the Birmingham-based Ex Cathedra Choir and Baroque Orchestra this month transport audiences to the court of Louis XIV, presenting a programme of sumptuous French Baroque music created by one of the most important composers of grands motets. Michel-Richard de Lalande was composer and organist in the service of King Louis, his sacred works foreshadowing the cantatas of Bach and the water music and oratorios of Handel. His Te Deum 33', La grande pièce royale 9', De profundis 23' and Cantate Domino 24' form the programme for this concert, which kicks off yet another highly anticipated Ex Cathedra season.



Jeffrey Skidmore

City Of London Sinfonia

Holy Trinity Church, Oswestry, North Shropshire, Fri 17 October

With its mission being to 'create dynamic, engaging and outstanding musical experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds', the City Of London Sinfonia this month touches down in Oswestry to perform as part of Shropshire Music Trust's autumn season. Principal Conductor and soloist Michael Collins is the man with the baton as the orchestra showcases a 'Best of British' selection of string music.
The programme comprises: Elgar's Serenade For Strings; Finzi's Clarinet Concerto; Gwilym Simcock's On A Piece Of Tapestry; Britten's Simple Symphony and Holst's St Paul's Suite.



Classical LISTINGS

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

DANIIL TRIFONOV PLAYS LISZT AND BEETHOVEN Programme includes works by J S Bach, Beethoven & Liszt, Wed 1 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall
ROMANTIC JOURNEYS Programme includes works by Sibelius, Mozart, Wigglesworth & Debussy, Thurs 2 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham
BRILLIANT CORNERS Featuring Andy Panayi (saxophones), Hans Koller (valve trombone), Percy Pursglove (bass), and Jim Bashford (drums) who together approach the brilliant corners of Thelonious Monk's repertoire, Thurs 2 Oct, Bramall Music Building, B'ham
INCUS ENSEMBLE Programme includes works by Schumann, Kurtag & Bruch, Fri 3 Oct, The Barber Institute, B'ham
DESERT ISLAND DISCS - CLASSICAL FAVOURITES Programme includes works by Coates, Holst, Pachelbel, Strauss, Mozart, Beethoven, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky, Elgar, Barber & Gershwin, Sat 4 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham
BCMG: HIDDEN VARIABLES Featuring Nicholas Collon (conductor), Soumik Datta (sarod) & Tom Poster (piano), Sat 4 Oct, CBSO Centre, B'ham
SARABANDE PIANO TRIO Programme includes Beethoven's Piano Trio No.3 & Debussy's Piano Trio, Sat 4 Oct, Unitarian Chapel, Shrewsbury
AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND STEVEN OSBORNE Sun 5 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham
CBSO BRUCH'S VIOLIN CONCERTO Programme to include works by Smetana, Bruch & Dvorak, Wed 8 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham
ENGLISH STRING ORCHESTRA - A STRING PILGRIMAGE Experience a programme of classics and dazzling showpieces from these well-known virtuoso players, Wed 8 Oct, Bramall Music Building, B'ham
CBSO BRUCH'S VIOLIN CONCERTO Programme includes works by Smetana, Bruch & Dvorak, Thurs 9 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham
PETER MOORE & ROBERT THOMPSON Fri 10 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham
CBSO CENTRE STAGE Featuring works by Schubert, Fri 10 Oct, CBSO Centre, B'ham
EX CATHEDRA: THE SUN KING AT VERSAILLES Sun 12 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall
THOMAS TROTTER LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT Programme includes works by Harris, Mendelssohn, William, Bolcom & Walton, Mon 13 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall
CARMEN Mid Wales Opera present Bizet's masterpiece, Wed 15 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
THOMAS ALLEN & JOSEPH MIDDLETON Programme includess Schubert's Die Winterreise, D. 911, Op.89, Wed 15 Oct, The Barber Institute, B'ham
CBSO: BARTOK UNCOVERED Programme includes Brahms' Three Hungarian Dances & Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra, Thurs 16 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
BARTOK AND BRAHMS Performed by Klee String Quartet, Rachel Crisp (soprano), Helen Cooper (mezzo soprano), Rob Tilson (tenor), Will Gee (baritone) & Jonathan French (piano), Thurs 16 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham
HALLE SOLOISTS Programme includes Beethoven's Piano trio variations Ich bin der schneider Kakadu Op. 121a & Schumann's Piano Quintet Op.44, Fri 17 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham
CBSO CENTRE STAGE Featuring works by Schubert, Fri 17 Oct, CBSO Centre, B'ham
PERCY PURSGLOVE Fri 17 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham
CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA Programme includes works by Elgar, Finzi, Gwilym Simcock & Britten, Fri 17 Oct, Holy Trinity Church, Oswestry, Shropshire
IL DIVO Sat 18 Oct, LG Arena, Birmingham
CBSO BARTOK'S CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Brahms, Bartok & Liszt, Sat 18 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham
LONDON VOCAL PROJECT Featuring the Sara Coleman Quartet, Sat 18 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham
ELLEN KENT'S MADAMA BUTTERFLY Puccini's tale of love and tragedy starring Korean soprano Elena Dee, Sun 19 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Romantic Favourites, Sun 19 Oct, Bramall Music Building, B'ham
THE SALOP BAND A new Shropshire-based ensemble of top chamber musicians, Sun 19 Oct, The Wightman, Shrewsbury
THE LARK ASCENDING WITH TAMSIN WALEY-COHEN Tamsin Waley-Cohen joins Orchestra of the Swan to perform Vaughan Williams's Violin Concerto, Wed 22 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall
CBSO MEDITERRANEAN CLASSICS Programme includes works by Rossini, Berlioz, Stravinsky & Ravel, Wed 22 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
CENTRE STAGE Featuring works by Beethoven & Borodin, Thurs 23 Oct, CBSO Centre, B'ham
CBSO FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSICS: TV AND ADVERT CLASSICS Programme includes works by Prokofiev, Bach, Sibelius, Bellini, Grieg, Kats-Chemin, Delibes, Coates, Rossini, Wagner, Bucalossi, Khachaturian, Arnold, Handel, Offenbach, Verdi, Sousa & Ravel, Fri 24 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
PRESTEIGNE FESTIVAL TOUR Programme includes works by Lutostawski, Daniel Kidane, John McCabe, Matthew Taylor & Brahms, Fri 24 Oct, The Barber Institute, B'ham
MARC-ANDRE HAMELIN IN RECITAL Programme features works by Haydn, Field, Debussy, Marc-Andre, Hamelin & Liszt, Sat 25 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall
CBSO FAMILY CONCERT: CARTOON CLASSICS Sun 26 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
BLACK DYKE BAND Sun 26 Oct, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury
THOMAS TROTTER - CHAPTER & VERSE Programme includes works by Peter Hurford, Lionel Rogg, Whitlock & Reubke, Mon 27 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall
I DUE FOSCARI Live-screening from London's Royal Opera House featuring renowned Spanish baritone Placido Domingo in the lead role, Mon 27 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Shropshire
CBSO NELSONS CONDUCTS STRAUSS AND BRAHMS Programme includes works by Strauss & Brahms, Wed 29 - Thurs 30 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham
PHILIP DYSON: POPULAR PIANO CLASSICS Thur 30 Oct, Lichfield Garrick, Staffordshire
BRAHMS' SONATA IN D MINOR Thurs 30 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham
TCHAIKOVSKY FROM THE ST PETERSBURG PHILHARMONIC Programme includes works by Liadov & Tchaikovsky, Fri 31 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
CROSSING BORDERS: MUSIC'S JOURNEY BETWEEN ITALY AND FRANCE Fri 31 Oct, The Barber Institute, B'ham
HALLE ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Mozart, Schumann & Sibelius, Fri 31 Oct, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent


Tamsin Waley-Cohen, Birmingham Town Hall

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Comedy

Charlie Baker

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury, Wed 8 Shrewsbury

A well-respected jazz singer, musician and actor as well as an increasingly popular comedian and (on his own admission) Jack Black lookalike, Charlie Baker is an instantly likeable fella who's been memorably described by The Guardian as 'Devon's answer to Frank Sinatra' (they were referring to his singing ability there, not his comedy). Baker isn't the finished product by any means - his material doesn't always stand up to close scrutiny - but he's nonetheless got plenty to recommend him, and a more thoughtful approach to his comedy could really see him going places. Charlie appears with Nathan Caton and Jimmy McGhie.



Jimeoin

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 14 October; Crewe Lyceum, Wed 15 October; Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 18 October; Warwick Arts Centre, Fri 24 October

Fancy a straightforward comedy night with a straight-talking - well, actually, a bit of a rambling - comedian? If so, then the sublime Jimeoin is the man for you. A gimmick-free one-man comedy machine, Jimeoin's proved he's got what it takes on all manner of top TV shows, including Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, Jason Manford's Comedy Rocks, Just For Laughs and Best Of Edinburgh Comedy Festival.

Paul Foot

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 11 October

Not really a teller of gags, Paul Foot's routines involve him sharing with his audience the seemingly random and intriguingly surreal thoughts that make their way through his ever-busy mind. By way of example, he told comedy.co.uk: "I'd like to do a TV show in which I enter an unsuspecting family's house at dinner time, violently upturn tables, hurl all the crockery and food at the walls and scream 'Oh how the tables have turned!'." On the subject of television shows, Paul admits he doesn't appear on anywhere near as many as some other comedians. "People know when a TV show needs me and the phone will ring. Quite often I'm in the bath, though, or smashing specially-purchased greenhouses with a golf club in the garden."





Tony Law

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Wed 8 October; The Slade Rooms, Wolverhamptom, Fri 10 October; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 1 November

Zany alternative comedy is Tony Law's stock-in-trade, which pretty much means that an evening of off-the-wall, boundary-defying stand-up is a guarantee. If you like your comedians to be touched with genius while at the same time prone to meander with their gag-laden dialogues, Tony's definitely the man for you!

Comedy Box Office

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STAFFORD GATEHOUSE THEATRE
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THEATRE SEVERN, SHREWSBURY
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WULFRUN HALL, WOOLVERHAMPTON
0870 320 7000

Birmingham Comedy Festival

Various Venues, Birmingham, Fri 3 - Sun 12 October

Tickling the ribs of Midlanders since 2001, this annual event is one of the longest-running comedy festivals in the UK, with high-profile laughter-merchants such as Peter Kay, Lee Evans, Michael McIntrye, Frankie Boyle, Lenny Henry, John Bishop, Miranda Hart, Jimmy Carr, Alan Carr, Al Murray, Sarah Millican, Russell Brand and Ken Dodd all having strutted their comedic stuff in years gone by. Returning this month to provide another ten days of marvellous mirth, the festival features leading Irish funnyman Tommy Tiernan, the fast-rising James Acaster, comedian/author Mark Watson, Rory McGrath, Philip Pope and local celebrity Mrs Barbara Nice. A much-anticipated revival of the iconic cult radio series The Goon Show offers the opportunity to enjoy two scripts penned by the late Spike Milligan. This year's event also features a brand new annual prize, the Birmingham Comedy Festival Breaking Talent Award, which aims to encourage and support the next generation of comedians. Meanwhile, a special All-Dayer on Sunday 5 October sees fifteen acts each performing a one-hour show at one of two city centre venues.



Comedy LISTINGS

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

GARY DELANEY Wed 1 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
MILTON JONES Wed 1 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
TOMMY TIERNAN Thurs 2 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
JOHN BISHOP WORK IN PROGRESS Thurs 2 Oct, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
KUM-N-AVALOFF COMEDY NIGHT Thurs 2 Oct, Stourbridge Town Hall
RAY PEACOCK, BARRY DODDS JACK CAMPBELL, AFC BAGGY & ANDY KIND Thurs 2 Oct, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffordshire
JO ENRIGHT Thurs 2 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham
JIMMY MCGHIE, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 2 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
MICHAEL FABBRI, IAN D. MONTFORD, PETER BUSH & SIMON BLIGH Thurs 2 Oct, The George Hotel, Lichfield
JIMMY MCGHIE, SOL BERNSTIEN, LUKE TOULSON & AHIR SHAH Fri 3 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL BREAKING TALENT AWARD 2014 WITH JAMES COOK Fri 3 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JOHN BISHOP Fri 3 Oct, Dudley Town Hall
JENNY ECLAIR Fri 3 Oct, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire
BOB BLACKMAN APPRECIATION SOCIETY Fri 3 Oct, mac, B'ham
HAYLEY ELLIS, OMAR HAMDI & SALLY ANNE-HAYWARD Fri 3 Oct, Hereford Courtyard Theatre
ROY CHUBBY BROWN Fri 3 Oct, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
WIL E ROBO, SEAN GRANT & AKAASH SINGH Fri 3 Oct, The Drum, Birmingham
LARRY DEAN, ROGER MONKHOUSE, CHRIS CAIRNS & DANE BAPTISTE Fri 3 Oct, Highlight Comedy Club, B'ham
LARRY DEAN, ROGER MONKHOUSE SAM AVERY & DANE BAPTISTE Sat 4 Oct, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
JIMMY MCGHIE, SOL BERNSTIEN, LUKE TOULSON & JASON PATTERSON Sat 4 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham
DAVE GORMAN Sat 4 Oct, Hereford Courtyard Theatre
THE NOISE NEXT DOOR Sat 4 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
MARK WATSON Sat 4 Oct, mac, birmingham
ANDY ZALTZMAN Sat 4 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
TOMMY TIERNAN Sat 4 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall
KOJO Sat 4 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
FREDDIE FARRELL Sat 4 Oct, Scruffy Murphy's, Birmingham
PETE CAIN, SOFIE HAGEN, DALISO CHAPONDA & KAREN BAILEY Sat 4 Oct, Players Bar, B'ham
SOL BERNSTIEN, LUKE TOULSON, JIMMY MCGHIE & JASON PATTERSON Sat 4 Oct,The Glee Club, Birmingham
BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL ALL DAYER Sun 5 Oct, Cherry Red's, Birmingham and The Victoria, Birmingham
DAVE GORMAN Sun 5 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
SUSAN CALMAN Sun 5 Oct, mac, Birmingham
PATRICK MONAHAN, OMAR HAMDI, SEAN GRANT & AKAASH SINGH Sun 5 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
MR CEE, WAYNE ROLLINS, SEAN GRANT & KG THA COMEDIAN Sun 5 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham
ALFIE MOORE Mon 6 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham
JIMMY CARR Tue 7 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall
DAVID O'DOHERTY Tue 7 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
MICHAEL MCINTYRE Tue 7 Oct, Crewe Lyceum
STUART GOLDSMITH Tue 7 Oct, Rose Villa Tavern, Birmingham
CHRIS RAMSEY Wed 8 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
TONY LAW Wed 8 Oct The Glee Club, B'ham
DAVE CHAWNER, ROBYN PERKINS Wed 8 Oct, Le Truc, Birmingham
QEHB CHARITY COMEDY NIGHT Wed 8 Oct, Jongleurs, Birmingham
PAUL CHOWDHRY Wed 8 Oct, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
ROBIN INCE Wed 8 Oct, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield
SHAZIA MIRZA, MERCEDES BENSON, LINDSEY HULSE & MAUREEN YOUNGER Wed 8 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
NATHAN CATON, CHARLIE BAKER & JIMMY MCGHIE Wed 8 Oct, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury
PETE JOHANSSON Thurs 9 Oct, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton
ZOE LYONS, JONNY AWSUM & CHRIS TURNER Thurs 9 Oct, Bramall Music Building, B'ham
JAMES ACASTER Thurs 9 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
TOM CHRISTIAN, IMPROVICATION, DOTTY WINTERS & MANY MORE Thurs 9 Oct, Ort Cafe, Birmingham
DAVE CHAWNER, ROBYN PERKINS Thurs 9 Oct, Le Truc, Birmingham
IAN SMITH, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & PAUL THORNE Thurs 9 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
AL MURRAY Fri 10 Oct, Civic Hall, W'hampton
PETE FIRMAN Fri 10 Oct Artrix, Bromsgrove
TONY LAW Fri 10 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
PAUL ZERDIN Fri 10 Oct, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
JAMES COOK Fri 10 Oct, mac, Birmingham
IAN SMITH, DAVID TRENT, RYAN CULL & SEAN MEO Fri 10 - Sat 11 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham
NATHAN CATON, DIANE SPENCER, BENNY BOOT & MATT REED Fri 10 - Sat 11 Oct, Highlight Comedy Club, B'ham
PAUL FOOT Sat 11 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
BRIDGET CHRISTIE Sat 11 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
MICKEY SHARMA Sat 11 Oct mac, Birmingham
DOC BROWN Sat 11 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall
HAL CRUTTENDEN Sat 11 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
IMPROV NIGHT Sun 12 Oct, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield
ROUGH WORKS: NEW MATERIAL NIGHT Sun 12 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL WRAP PARTY Sun 12 Oct, The Roadhouse, B'ham
DAVE CHAWNER, ROBYN PERKINS Sun 12 Oct, Le Truc, Birmingham
LOUDEEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT Mon 13 Oct, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham
JIMEOIN Tue 14 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
TIM KEY Tue 14 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham
TOM STADE Wed 15 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham
SIMON EVANS Thurs 16 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhamptony
CARL DONNELLY AND COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 16 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
PAUL CHOWDHRY Fri 17 Oct, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
MIRANDA HART Fri 17 Oct, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
ANDY ZALTZMAN Fri 17 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
IAIN STERLING, KATIE MULGREW & KEVIN SHEPHERD Fri 17 Oct, Hereford Courtyard Theatre
CHRISTIAN REILLY, PHIL BUTLER & JAMES COOK Fri 17 Oct, Whitehouse Common Primary School, Sutton Coldfield
MARK OLVER, CARL DONNELLY, MICKEY SHARMA & ANDREW O'NEILL Fri 17 - Sat 18 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
BARRY DODDS, BABATUNDE & JOHN MOLONEY Fri 17 - Sat 18 Oct, Highlight Comedy Club, B'ham
JIMEOIN Sat 18 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall
LOL COMEDY CLUB WITH MC DAMION LARKIN Sat 18 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent
MIKE NEWALL, IAIN STERLING, NICK DOODY & TUDUR OWEN Sat 18 Oct, Players Bar, Birmingham
ROBERT NEWMAN Sun 19 Oct, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton
TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Mon 20 Oct, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham
JIM DAVIDSON Wed 22 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
PAUL CHOWDHRY Wed 22 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
MARK STEEL Thurs 23 Oct, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
JOHN FOTHERGILL, JARRED CHRISTMAS & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 23 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JIMMY TARBUCK Fri 24 Oct, Dudley Town Hall
GEOFF NORCOTT, PAUL MYREHAUG, JONNY AWSUM & BENNETT ARRON Fri 24 Oct , Highlight Comedy Club, B'ham
JOHN FOTHERGILL, JARRED CHRISTMAS & ALISTAIR BARRIE Fri 24 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JOHN FOTHERGILL, ALISTAIR BARRIE Sat 25 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
GEOFF NORCOTT, PAUL MYREHAUG, ROGER MONKHOUSE & BENNETT ARRON Sat 25 Oct, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
JON RICHARDSON Sat 25 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent
HAL CRUTTENDEN Sat 25 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
JASON BYRNE Sat 25 Oct, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
COMEDY IN THE MET Sat 25 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
JON RICHARDSON Sun 26 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome
SHAPPI KHORSANDI Sun 26 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
KIRUNA STAMELL AND GARETH BERLINER Wed 29 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
DAVE GORMAN Thurs 30 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
STEVE GRIBBIN, ADAM BLOOM & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 30 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham
STEVE GRIBBIN, ADAM BLOOM, TIFFANY STEVENSON & PAUL MCCAFFREY Fri 31 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham
ROSS NOBLE Fri 31 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
NOEL FIELDING Fri 31 Oct, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
JAMES MULLINGER, CARLY SMALLMAN Fri 31 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
AL MURRAY Fri 31 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall
MARK WATSON Fri 31 Oct, Hereford Courtyard Theatre
NICK DOODY, BEN SCHOFIELD, ADAM STAUNTON & ALAN DONEGAN Fri 31 Oct, The George Hotel, Burslem, Staffs
DAN NIGHTINGALE, STEVE HARRIS, DAVID LONGLEY & TREVOR CROOK Fri 31 Oct, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
THE HOBGOBLIN COMEDY AWARD Fri 31 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
THE SCOTTISH FALSETTO SOCK PUPPET THEATRE Fri 31 Oct, Lichfield Garrick



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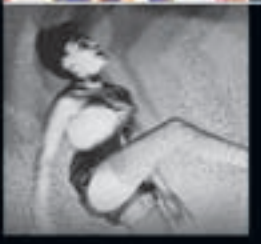
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Top Hat

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 21 October - Sat 1 November

When famous American headliner Jerry Travers arrives in London to appear in his first West End show, it isn't long before he meets the irresistible Dale Tremont. Quickly realising that she's the girl of his dreams, Travers determines to follow her across Europe in a desperate attempt to win her heart with his wonderful song and dance routines... Irving Berlin's celebrated score features such classics numbers as Cheek To Cheek, Let's Face The Music And Dance, Isn't It A Lovely Day To Be Caught In The Rain and Top Hat, White Tie & Tails. *Read the review online at whatsonlive.co.uk*



Jersey Boys

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 28 October - Sat 8 November; New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 9 December - Sun 4 January

Rockin' and rollin' New Jersey boys Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons scored some truly massive hits during the mid-1960s, with best-known numbers including Walk Like A Man, Bye Bye Baby, Big Girls Don't Cry, Sherry and December 1963 (Oh, What A Night). This massive jukebox musical tells their story. Taking a documentary-style format, the show is structured as four 'seasons', each being narrated by a different member of the band. The Tony, Olivier and Grammy award-winning production is visiting the Midlands as part of its first ever UK tour.

The Kite Runner

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 20 - Sat 25 October

This stage version of Khaled Hosseini's international bestselling novel and film has enjoyed some excellent reviews. Taking its audience on a journey across time and continents, it encompasses both the traumas of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and the horrors of 9/11 some twenty-two years later. At its heartland, though, is the story of the friendship that exists between two youngsters - Amir, a well-to-do Pashtun boy, and Hassan, a Hazara who's the son of Amir's father's servant. The boys spend their days happy in one another's company and kite flying together - until their friendship is devastated and their lives shattered by a display of shameful cowardice on Amir's part...



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Director David Bintley CBE



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WED 19 - SAT 22 NOV

WNO

Carmen

Bizet

William Tell

Rossini

Moses in Egypt

Rossini



£16 - £54

FRI 28 NOV - SAT 13 DEC

Sir Peter Wright's

The Nutcracker



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Director David Bintley CBE

£18 - £52

WED 7 - SAT 17 JAN

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CHRISTOPHER GREEN & SARAH HATFIELD



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£14 - £40

Theatre PREVIEWS

Bouncers

Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Thurs 9 - Fri 10 October; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Thurs 23 - Fri 24 October; Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 20 - Fri 21 November

One of the biggest successes in British theatre in the last twenty-odd years, John Godber's clever comedy provides a sharp and funny perspective on the club scene in the late twentieth century, and focuses on four mean and moody bouncers as they prowl around a nightclub, and four good-time girls out on a hen night. Godber has a talent for hitting the right notes with his observations on contemporary life, and Bouncers exemplifies this talent at its best. This particular production is brought to the stage by Reform Theatre.



Frankenstein

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 24 October - Sat 8 November

Mary Shelley's classic gothic horror story has inspired far more movies than Victor Frankenstein used body parts to create his legendary monster, but theatrical versions of the story are rare indeed - so this Blue Orange production should be well worth an evening of your time. Shelley's 1818 novel finds Frankenstein giving life to a creature who so horrifies him that the scientist flees into the night. Alone, lost and confused, the creature must make his own way in the world. But although Frankenstein can run from his ghoulish creation, he cannot hide. Soon enough he finds himself face to face not only with the 'monster' but also with the chance to play God for a second and final time...

The Mousetrap

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 6 - Sat 11 October

Not only has everyone heard of The Mousetrap, everyone's seen it too - haven't they? Okay, maybe not, but as the show recently celebrated its sixtieth year in the West End, it's fair to say its capacity to put bums on seats is absolutely beyond question. The world's longest-running show, the famous Agatha Christie play has been performed over twenty-five thousand times.





WIN TICKETS whatsonlive.co.uk to enter

Solomon And Marion

The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 16 October - Sat 1 November

Solomon And Marion has been described as 'a powerful story about two injured souls searching for redemption in a fragile, post-apartheid South Africa'. It's 2010, and as the country braces itself for the arrival of the football World Cup, Marion is watching her life drain away, isolated in her home and grieving for her dead son and lost husband. Into this world of misery comes Solomon, the grandson of her former servant, who offers her renewed hope - particularly when he says he wants to look after her. But is everything entirely as it seems?... Dame Janet Suzman is joined by Khayalethu Anthony for this thought-provoking two-hander.

Blood Wedding

mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Wed 8 October; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 22 October

Frederico Garcia Lorca's classic play from the early 1930s contemplates the cycle of life and the progression of time, and tells of a peasant bride who elopes with her former lover on the very day of her wedding. But her shocking decision soon leads to fatal consequences, both for her lover and the bridegroom...This particular version of Lorca's play is being presented by Rogue-play Theatre.



What's All The Fuss About?

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 15 - Sat 18 October

How Clean Is Your House? presenter Kim Woodburn will no doubt be hoping her brand new comedy scrubs up well with critics and audiences alike. Kim is here joined by Nolan sisters Anne and Denise in a musical that takes Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing as its inspiration. Set in a small Irish community in the 1950s, the story revolves around the wedding of Hope and Connor - and the trouble that's caused by mischief-making attempts to bring together reluctant lovers Ben and Bernie. The action unfolds to a soundtrack of iconic hits from across the decades, including Build Me Up Buttercup, Come On Eileen, Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now, We've Only Just Begun, Chapel Of Love and I'm In The Mood For Dancing.

Anything Goes

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire, Wed 29 October - Sat 1 November

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

War Correspondents

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 16 - Fri 17 October

This multi-disciplined performance fuses testimony, singing and choreography to offer an insight into the dangerous and sometimes painful world of the war correspondent. A song cycle performance, the show features stories about the often life-changing experiences of war journalists, along the way bringing to life the horrors of being caught up in a violent conflict between opposing factions. In researching the show, composer Helen Chadwick and designer Miriam Nabarro interviewed war correspondents who'd covered Iraq, Chechnya, Georgia, Afghanistan, Liberia and Bosnia. One of the journalists to whom they spoke was Giuliana Sgrena, who was taken hostage in Iraq and subsequently shot at by the US army.



What's on...

the place Theatre TELFORD



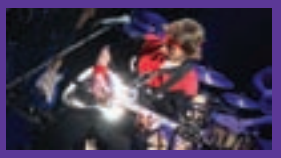
Fri 10th October
PAUL ZERDIN
Time: 7.30pm



Sat 11th October
THE UPBEAT BEATLES
Time: 7.30pm



Thurs 16th October 18+
ADONIS HOLLYWOOD STRIP HOSTED BY OLLIE LOCKE
Time: 7.30pm



Fri 17th October
MONEY FOR NOTHING
Time: 7.30pm



Sat 18th October
THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE
Time: 7.30pm



Wed 22nd October
THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY
Time: 7.30pm



Thurs 23rd October
THE ILLEGAL EAGLES
Time: 7.30pm



Fri 24th October
VIENNA FESTIVAL BALLET PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER
Time: 7.00pm



Sat 25th October
JASON BYRNE IN YOU NAME THE SHOW
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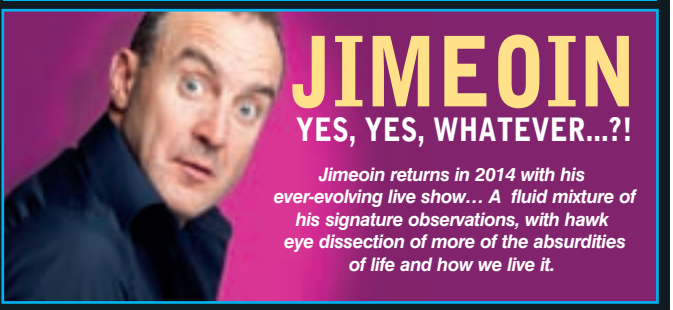
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TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER



SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER



MONDAY 20 - SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER



FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER



MONDAY 27 OCTOBER



Theatre PREVIEWS

Rattle Of A Simple Man

Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 16 - Sat 18 October; Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Thurs 23 October

This revival of Charles Dyer's Rattle Of A Simple Man should make for an interesting experience, given that numerous past productions of the 1960s comedy have been criticised for failing to update the story effectively enough. Dyer's writing certainly has an old-fashioned feel to it, but there's nonetheless plenty to enjoy in this story of a northern football supporter whose weekend in the capital ends up including an encounter with a prostitute. Presented by Opus Theatre.



Of Mice And Men

The REP, Birmingham, Fri 10 October - Sat 1 November

George and Lennie are drifters who only have each other and their shared search for the American Dream. George is the sharp little guy who looks out for Lennie. Lennie, meanwhile, is his big-hearted companion who, unaware of his own strength, seems unable to keep out of trouble. Finding work on a ranch in California, they plan to stay long enough to buy a little place of their own - but their arrival triggers a tragic chain of events that threatens to destroy the very dream that unites them... John Steinbeck's classic novel is widely considered to be one of the twentieth century's greatest works of literature, and is regularly adapted for the stage.



The Hallowed Turf

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Fri 3 - Sat 4 October; The Drum, Birmingham, Thurs 16 October; Bilston Town Hall, Wed 22 October

One of innumerable theatre productions this year commemorating the hundredth anniversary of World War One, The Hallowed Turf tells the story of Walter Tull, Britain's second black professional footballer and the first black combat officer to serve in the British army. Oraine Johnson and Waterloo Road actor Kaine Barr star in this latest play from the pen of Pamela Cole-Hudson, whose previous works include Sorry! No Coloureds, No Irish, No Dogs and Jamaica 50.



Blood Brothers

Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 13 - Sat 25 October; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 20 - Sat 25 April

In amongst so many dross-by-numbers musicals, Blood Brothers stands out as real class. Filled with all of Willy Russell's usual astute observations about the British class system, it's probably better described as a play with music. The story of twins separated at birth who spend their lives in contrasting social circumstances but are inextricably drawn together, it has none of the trite and patronising sentimentality that typifies a lot of Russell's work. If you haven't seen it before, check it out. If you have, you'll no doubt be going to see it again. The Birmingham production sees Maureen Nolan make a welcome return as Mrs Johnstone.



Theatre for kids...

Disney On Ice: 100 Years Of Magic

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Wed 22 October - Sun 2 November

Get your skates on for the return of Disney's ever-popular ice spectacular, complete with high-energy music, glittering sets and dramatic choreography. This particular theatrical extravaganza features over sixty of Disney's most popular stars, including characters from Mulan, The Lion King and Pinocchio. Disney/Pixar favourites from Finding Nemo, The Incredibles and Toy Story also take a spin or several on the ice, in a show that pays homage to a century's-worth of storytelling magic.



Milkshake Party Party Live!

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sun 26 October

If you've watched the TV series and/or been to a previous live production, you'll already know what to expect. If not, get ready for an event that promises lots of laughter, bucketloads of family fun and bags of audience participation. The show's not short on dance routines and brand new songs either, both of which are sure to have youngsters up on their feet and singing at the top of their voices.

Rainforest Symphony

The REP, Birmingham, Sat 18 October

Blending the sounds, songs and stories of an Amazonian rainforest, this Language Alive! production tells the story of a frog named Acapella, who's inadvertently travelled across the world to Birmingham via a fruit delivery. The production invites its audience to help decide where Acapella really belongs. Language Alive! has established an impressive reputation since forming in 1986, from which time it's been dedicated to using theatre to bring to life the national curriculum for Birmingham's three-to-eleven-year-olds.

The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 28 October

Jill Tomlinson's bestselling children's classic is here brought to the stage by the talented Blunderbus ensemble, who utilise music, puppetry and storytelling to present the delightfully reassuring tale of a baby barn owl who's afraid of the dark. The show's been written especially for youngsters aged between three and seven. And according to Blunderbus, it's going to be, er, 'a hoot!'.


Presented by:
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by Sean Burn
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Mon 10 November, 7.30pm
Tue 11 November 1.30pm &
BLACKEYED THEATRE
NOT ABOUT HEROES
BY STEPHEN MACDONALD
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Thurs 20 November, 7.30pm
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Theatre LISTINGS

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

ARDEN OF FAVERSHAM until Thurs 2 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
GHOSTS A New Vic Production of Henrik Ibsen's tale of public virtue and private guilt until, Sat 4 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme
THE KITE RUNNER Haunting tale of friendship which spans cultures and continents while following one man's journey to confront his past and find redemption, until Sat 4 Oct, The REP, Birmingham
CATS Amateur production presented by Lichfield Garrick Youth Theatre, until Sat 4 Oct, Lichfield Garrick
DIRTY DANCING Eleanor Bergstein's smash-hit West End musical that tells the classic love story of Baby and Johnny, until Sat 11 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
WAR HORSE Acclaimed West End drama based on a novel by Michael Morpurgo, until Sat 11 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent
THE WHITE DEVIL Maria Aberg directs a new production of John Webster's violent tragedy, considered by many to be one of the greatest works of Jacobean theatre, until Sat 29 Nov, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST Christopher Luscombe directs a new production of Shakespeare's sparkling comedy, until Sat 14 Mar, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
PANDORA'S BOX Award-winning tragi-comedy about a Nigerian family, love, betrayal & choices... Wed 1 Oct, The Drum, Birmingham
SWINGING AT THE COTTON CLUB Action-packed show celebrating the music, dance and songs of the Cotton Club - New York City's famous nightclub of the 1920s and '30s, Wed 1 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme
TAMASHA: MY NAME IS A new verbatim play which reveals a love story that began in Glasgow in the early '80s, a world away from the tug-of-love tales documented in the world's press, Wed 1 - Thurs 2 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
MY BIG FAT COWPAT WEDDING Black Country Touring, Kali Theatre & Arts Alive present a fast-moving comedy where the audience become the guests at the wedding reception of an intercultural marriage, Thurs 2 Oct, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton
OF MICE AND MEN All & Sundry CIC present their version of John Steinbeck's gripping masterpiece, Thurs 2 - Sat 4 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
BALLAD OF THE BURNING STAR Multi-award-winning Theatre Ad Infinitum presents an explosive tale. An enraged Israeli executes a story of victimhood, persecution, aggression and love, Fri 3 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL: LIVE Delayed live screening from London's West End, Fri 3 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
THE HALLOWED TURF Gazebo Theatre present a powerful new play which tells the story of footballing star Walter Tull, the first black combat officer to serve in the British army in WWI, Fri 3 - Sat 4 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
LOVE'S LABOUR'S WON Christopher Luscombe directs the second of Shakespeare's matching pair of comedies that rejoice in man's capacity to find love in the most unlikely of places, Fri 3 Oct - Sat 14 Mar, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
A REAL FAIRY STORY Ripstop Theatre present a show for young children filled with comedy, magic and shadow puppetry, Sun 5 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
BASHMENT HOUSEWIVES Urban comedy drama highlighting the lifestyles of four women wanting to live a life of luxury... Sun 5 Oct, The Drum, Birmingham

Week Commencing MON 6 OCT

JANET SUZMAN: DISCUSSING LIFE AND POLITICS IN SOUTH AFRICA Presented in association with Birmingham Literature Festival, Mon 6 Oct, The REP, B'ham
THE MOUSETRAP Mon 6 - Sat 11 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
THE 39 STEPS Nonentities present an amateur production of John Buchan's award-winning comedy, Mon 6 - Sat 11 Oct, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster
THE WIZARD OF OZ Amateur production presented by CLOC Musical Theatre Company, Tues 7 - Sat 11 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham
IN THE HOUSE... The Lichfield Players & Different Animal Theatre Group present Alan Ayckbourn's critically acclaimed masterpiece of timing, House & Garden, Tue 7 - Sun 12 Oct, Lichfield Garrick
ROUNDELAY Five interconnected tales which showcase Alan Ayckbourn's particular genius for story, character and theatrical time travel, Tue 7 - Sat 25 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme
BLOOD WEDDING Wed 8 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham
ALBERT EINSTEIN: RELATIVELY SPEAKING Join Albert, the genius behind the übercoolest moustache in science, for a lecture like none you've ever attended, Wed 8 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham
MY BIG FAT COWPAT WEDDING Black Country Touring, Kali Theatre & Arts Alive present a fast-moving comedy where the audience become the guests at the wedding reception of an intercultural marriage between a country girl & an Indian lad from the city, Wed 8 Oct, Brasshouse Community Centre
THE HUMAN ROCKET AND THE FIGHT GAME Owen Lewis Portable Theatre Company present a double-bill of one-act plays, Wed 8 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
SOLFATARA Atresbandes present a witty, fast-paced and hilarious production where a young couple's frustrations explode with catastrophic honesty as a masked figure dares them to voice their true feelings. Performed in Spanish with English surtitles, Thurs 9 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
THE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE European Arts present a dramatisation of the libel and criminal trials of Oscar Wilde, Thurs 9 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
BOUNCERS Reform Theatre present the John Godber classic, Thurs 9 - Fri 10 Oct, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS A collection of monologues that portray the lives of six women who have been working for thirty years in different fields, Thurs 9 - Sat 11 Oct, The REP, B'ham
FAUSTUS Presented by the award-winning Non Stop Cabaret, Fri 10 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham
BEHIND THE BLINDS A new show for people aged fourteen-plus which weaves together lyrically witty & sophisticated songs to reveal what goes on behind the blinds on an ordinary-looking suburban street, Fri 10 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham
DANCER A gentle provocation on what it is to be a dancer, Sat 11 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham
METROPOLIS WITH LIVE SCORE A cinematic and musical feast of the senses which combines the classic 1927 sci-fi film Metropolis with the work of Pink Floyd, Sat 11 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham
EDUCATING RONNIE Thought-provoking true story which explores the 'murky processes behind bettering oneself in Uganda', Sat 11 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
OF MICE AND MEN Roxana Silbert directs John Steinbeck's classic story of two migrant farmworkers who go in search of pastures new, Sat 11 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, The REP, Birmingham
THE SOOTY SHOW A brand new family show featuring Sooty and his friends... Sun 12 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Week Commencing MON 13 OCT

THE BEST OF BE FESTIVAL 2014 Three shows from three European countries, capturing in one night the highlights of BE FESTIVAL 2014, Birmingham's boundary-smashing festival of international performance, Mon 13 - Tue 14 Oct, The REP, B'ham
DREAMBOATS AND MINISKIRTS Sequel to Dreamboats And Petticoats. It's 1963 and the advent of The Beatles... Mon 13 - Sat 18 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's musical, set in his native Liverpool, Mon 13 - Sat 25 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome
LET ME STAY Vital Xposure present a tender and unique exploration of the impact of Alzheimer's on family relations, Tue 14 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
EACH SLOW DUSK Pentabus Theatre Company present Rory Mullarky's WWI drama, which charts the experiences of three young men serving on the Western Front, Tues 14 Oct, All Stretton Village Hall, Shropshire
OLIVER! South Staffs Musical Theatre Company present an amateur production of Lionel Bart's iconic musical, Tue 14 - Sat 18 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
ANNIE Amateur production presented by Stafford & District Operatic Society, Tue 14 - Sat 18 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
HALF A SIXPENCE Amateur production presented by Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company, Tue 14 - Sat 18 Oct, Lichfield Garrick
CARMEN Mid Wales Opera presents Bizet's masterpiece, Wed 15 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
EACH SLOW DUSK Pentabus Theatre Company present Rory Mullarky's WWI drama, which charts the experiences of three young men serving on the Western Front, Wed 15 Oct, Castle Hall, Shropshire
MY BIG FAT COWPAT WEDDING Black Country Touring, Kali Theatre & Arts Alive present a fast-moving comedy where the audience become the guests at the wedding reception of an intercultural marriage between a country girl & an Indian lad from the city, Wed 15 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham
DUSK Fevered Sheep present a show for four to seven-year-olds which celebrates the wide, wild world in which we live, Wed 15 - Sat 18 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre
NOISES OFF! Mad Cow Productions present an amateur production of Michael Frayn's backstage comedy, Wed 15 - Sat 18 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT? Brand new comedy pop musical starring Anne Nolan, Denise Nolan & Kim Woodburn, Wed 15 - Sat 18 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent
THE TWIST Musical featuring songs from the 1950s and '60s, Thurs 16 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
EACH SLOW DUSK Pentabus Theatre Company presents Rory Mullarky's WWI drama, which charts the experiences of three young men serving on the Western Front, Thurs 16 Oct, Snailbeach Village Hall, Shropshire-Birmingham
ADONIS HOLLYWOOD STRIP The UK's original and longest-running male glamour show, appearing on TV in EastEnders, Britain's Got Talent, Graham Norton and many more... Thu 16 Oct, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
WAR CORRESPONDENTS Multi-disciplined production concerning a journalist who's captured while reporting the outbreak of war, Thurs 16 - Fri 17 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
FICTION Fuel present the second performance by Glen Neath and David Rosenberg, which journeys through the sprawling architecture of our dreams... Thurs 16 - Fri 17 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
RATTLE OF A SIMPLE MAN Opus Theatre present Charles Dyer's sex comedy... Thurs 16 - Sat 18 Oct, Lichfield Garrick
OLIVER! Carpet Trades Musical Theatre Company present an amateur production of Lionel Bart's musical, Thurs 16 - Sat 25 Oct, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster
SOLOMON AND MARION Thurs 16 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, The REP, B'ham
HALLOWED TURF Gazebo Theatre present a powerful new play which tells the story of footballing star Walter Tull, the first black combat officer to serve in the British army in WWI, Thurs 16 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, The Drum, Birmingham
HOLY & HORNY Tonya Joy Bolton's empowering and deeply moving play about a Black woman's struggle to remain holy, Fri 17 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
EACH SLOW DUSK Pentabus Theatre Company present Rory Mullarky's WWI drama, which charts the experiences of three young men serving on the Western Front, Fri 17 Oct, Clun Memorial Hall, Shropshire
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A WORKING HYPOTHESIS A contemporary, interactive original drama inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's much-loved detective stories, Fri 17 - Sat 18 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham
TRES TRES CABARET Stafford's very own burlesque and cabaret night. Strictly over-18s only, Sat 18 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
RAINFOREST SYMPHONY Sat 18 Oct, The REP, Birmingham
WILDE WITHOUT THE BOY Gerard Logan presents a dramatisation of 'De Profundis' by Oscar

STAFFORD GATEHOUSE THEATRE

HAL CRUTTENDEN
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

Sat 11 Oct

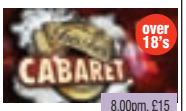


Following stand out performances on Live At The Apollo, Have I Got News For You The Royal Variety Performance and Mock The Week, Hal is being strongly tipped as the next big thing. Footballers, Facebook and food are just three of the topics Hal devours with his unique mix of camp and straight, warm and catty humour.

7.30pm, £16

TRÈS TRÈS CABARET
THE MET STUDIO

Sat 18 Oct



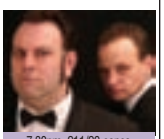
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8.00pm, £15

Dress to impress and join us for an evening of glitz, glamour and so much more. With a stellar line-up of acts soon to be announced, get your tickets now for the show that is yet again set to be the talk of the town.

BOUNCERS
THE MET STUDIO

Thurs 23 & Fri 24 Oct



It's Friday night, it's disco night - time for Bouncers to come alive! Judd, Ralph, Les and Lucky Eric invite you for a night on the town in this hilarious and outrageous look back at the 80's nightclub scene.

7.30pm, £11/£9 concs

In the tatty, glitzy glamour and flashing lights we meet the smooth talking DJ, the lager swilling lads, the lip-sticked, laquered girls and many more gyrating to the pulsating beat of the dance floor. Bouncers was voted by the National Theatre as one of the greatest plays of the 20th century.

CLASSIC CLAPTON
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

Fri 24 Oct



The world's No1 Eric Clapton Tribute Band featuring front-man Mike Hall will be making their first ever appearance in Stafford.

7.30pm, £15

They will perform all of Eric Clapton's classic songs including Wonderful Tonight, Tears in Heaven, Crossroads, I Shot The Sheriff, Cocaine, Lay Down Sally and of course Layla! There will even be an unplugged segment.

PAUL DANIELS
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

Sat 25 Oct



In the world of television magic, no one has enjoyed more success than Paul Daniels. He is has become a true magical legend. Come and see his brand new show where he will perform a selection of his favorite magic and a number of new tricks never performed in public before. He will be joined by the very lovely Debbie McGee.

7.30pm, £18.50 / conc, group and family offers also avaialble

A show full of magic, comedy and amazement.

MILKSHAKE LIVE!
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

Sun 26 Oct



Starring some of your milkshake favourites this brand new musical spectacular is sure to have children up on their feet and singing at the top of their voices! Joining this fantastic show will be two Milkshake presenters, who will take us on a fun Milkshake adventure; bound to dazzle and delight! The show features brand new songs, classic favourites funky dance routines plus plenty of laughter, bags of audience interaction and bucket loads of fun for all the family too!

1pm & 3.30pm, £12.50 / Family £42

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£18



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RATTLE OF A SIMPLE MAN
Thursday 23rd October
7.30pm • £12 • Conc £10



RAYMOND FROGGATT
Friday 24th October 7.30pm
£17



THE LINDISFARNE STORY
Wednesday 29th October
7.30pm • £18.50



DEREK ACORAH ENLIGHTENMENT TOUR
Thursday 30th October
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Theatre LISTINGS

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

Wilde, Sat 18 Oct, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
EACH SLOW DUSK Pentabus Theatre Company present Rory Mullarky's WWI drama, which charts the experiences of three young men serving on the Western Front, Sat 18 Oct, Harley Village Hall, Shropshire
ELLEN KENT'S MADAMA BUTTERFLY Puccini's tale of love and tragedy, starring Korean soprano Elena Dee, Sun 19 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
THE SOOTY SHOW A brand new family show featuring Sooty and his friends... Sun 19 Oct, Lichfield Garrick
A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE Tennessee Williams' masterpiece, screened live by National Theatre Live. Gillian Anderson, Ben Foster and Vanessa Kirby star, Sun 19 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

Week Commencing MON 20 OCT

BIRD Laura Lomas' monologue, which steps inside the mind of a teenage girl to explore grief, the bond of sisters, teenage friendship, first love, and feelings you can't control, Mon 20 - Tue 21 Oct, The REP, Birmingham
THE KITE RUNNER Haunting tale of friendship which spans cultures & continents while following one man's journey to confront his past and find redemption, Mon 20 - Sat 25 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
SKIERLIK Afrovibes present Philip Dikotla's award-winning play, which revisits the horror of a racially-motivated shooting spree that devastated the remote settlement of Skierlik in 2008, Tue 21 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
EACH SLOW DUSK Pentabus Theatre Company present Rory Mullarky's WWI drama, which charts the experiences of three young men serving on the Western Front, Tues 21 Oct, The Talbot Theatre, Whitchurch Leisure Centre, Shropshire
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Tue 21 - Sat 25 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
TOP HAT Tue 21 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
BLOOD WEDDING Rogueplay Theatre present a highly physical production of Lorca Garcia's classic tale, Wed 22 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
HALLOWED TURF Gazebo Theatre present a powerful new play which tells the story of footballing star Walter Tull, the first black combat officer to serve in the British army in WWI, Wed 22 Oct, Bilston Town Hall
EACH SLOW DUSK Pentabus Theatre Company present Rory Mullarky's WWI drama, which charts the experiences of three young men serving on the Western Front, Wed 22 Oct, Quatt Village Hall, Shropshire
DRACULA'S GHOST A sequel to the original Bram Stoker classic, Dracula's Ghost combines mixed media and live performance to create a lurid gothic melodrama, Wed 22 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham
AN EVENING WITH JEAN 'BINTA' BREEZE Featuring acclaimed Jamaican poet & dub artist Jean Binta Breeze and US poet & voice artist Tracie Morris, Wed 22 Oct, The Drum, Birmingham
RAINBOW SCARS Afrovibes presents Mike Van Graan's story of change and identity in South Africa, Wed 22 - Thurs 23 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
FALL OUT & CLUB RED Highly Sprung in association with Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company present two nights of inspiring, devised physical theatre exploring themes of conflict Wed 22 - Thurs 23 Oct, The REP, Birmingham
HA HA HOOD! AND THE PRINCE OF LEAVES Starring Su Pollard as Maiden Marian and Ben Langley as Robin Hood, Wed 22 - Thurs 23 Oct, Lichfield Garrick
DISNEY ON ICE: 100 YEARS OF MAGIC Wed 22 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
FASCINATING AIDA Starring Dillie Keane, Liza Pulman & Adele Anderson, Thurs 23 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
RATTLE OF A SIMPLE MAN Thurs 23 Oct, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER A magical new show for children from Silly Boys, the creators of The Tallest Horse On Earth, Thurs 23 Oct, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire
EACH SLOW DUSK Pentabus Theatre Company present Rory Mullarky's WWI drama, which charts the experiences of three young men serving on the Western Front, Thurs 23 Oct, SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, Shropshire
BOUNCERS Reform Theatre present the John Godber classic, Thurs 23 - Fri 24 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
MACBETH - BLOOD WILL HAVE BLOOD Contender Charlie, China Plate and Warwick Arts Centre present a reworking for a young audience of Shakespeare's macabre play, Thurs 23 - Fri 24 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
YES, PRIME MINISTER Here To There Productions present their version of Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn's acclaimed political comedy, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
THE ACCRINGTON PALS Amateur production of Peter Whelan's poignant and harrowing play, set in the early years of the First World War, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Oct, The Belfrey Theatre, Wellington, Shropshire
THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER A magical new show for children from Silly Boys, the creators of The Tallest Horse On Earth, Fri 24 Oct, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire
IS THAT IT. OUR KYLIE? Stripped Down Theatre tackles funerals in its latest addition to the 'Our Kylie' series of plays, Fri 24 - Sat 25 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham
FRANKENSTEIN Presented by Blue Orange Arts, Fri 24 Oct- Sat 8 Nov, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham
PAUL DANIELS Featuring a selection of Paul's favourite magic acts and a number of new tricks never before performed in public, Sat 25 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
THE MACABRE TALES An original series of short plays based on Rod Serling's The Twilight Zone, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Oct, Dovehouse Theatre, Birmingham
DOLLYHOUSE Oliver Samuels celebrates his sixty-fifth birthday with a comedy that fuses Jamaica's favourite topics - sex, politics, power and betrayal, Sun 26 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
MY BIG FAT COWPAT WEDDING Black Country Touring, Kali Theatre & Arts Alive present a fast-moving comedy where the audience become the guests at the wedding reception of an intercultural couple, Sun 26 Oct, Feckenham Village Hall, Worcestershire
PIRATE AND PARROT A Little Commitment & Red Earth Theatre return with their family tale, set on the pirating high seas, Sun 26 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
JOHNNY CASH REVISITED Semi-biographical show following Johnny Cash's journey from young gospel singer to legendary star. Sun 26 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
MILKSHAKE PARTY PARTY LIVE! Brand new musical for children, featuring new songs alongside old favourites, funky dance routines and plenty of laughter, Sun 26 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
EACH SLOW DUSK Pentabus Theatre Company present Rory Mullarky's WWI drama, which charts the experiences of three young men serving on the Western Front, Mon 27 Oct, Pentabus Theatre, Shropshire

Week Commencing MON 27 OCT

HA HA HOOD! AND THE PRINCE OF LEAVES Starring Su Pollard as Maiden Marian and Ben Langley as Robin, Mon 27 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
THE OWL WHO WAS AFRAID OF THE DARK A gentle reassuring tale by Jill Tomlinson is brought to life via a blend of live music, puppetru & storytelling, Tues 28 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
KEEP THE HOMEFIRES BURNING Apollo Theatre Company present a brand new show punctuated by music and song, which tells the real-life stories of women who lived through the war, Tues 28 - Wed 29 Oct, Lichfield Garrick
ON THE PISTE Brand new production of John Godber's bittersweet comedy, Tue 28 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF Amateur production presented by Lichfield Operatic Society, Tues 28 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Lichfield Garrick
JERSEY BOYS The award-winning West End musical arrives in Stoke, Tues 28 Oct - Sat 8 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent
ANYTHING GOES TADLOP present an amateur production of Cole Porter's musical comedy, Wed 29 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire
HA HA HOOD! AND THE PRINCE OF LEAVES Starring Su Pollard as Maiden Marian and Ben Langley as Robin, Thurs 30 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
THE PIED PIPER One-person show fusing puppetry, music and storytelling. Suitable for children aged three to seven and their families, Thurs 30 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
FOR THE KING'S SHILLING Brand new community theatre piece to commemorate the memory of the fallen of Staffordshire during the Great War, Thurs 30 - Fri 31 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent
UNITED WE STAND The story of the builders' strike of 1972 and the Shrewsbury Pickets, Thurs 30 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



Theatre REVIEWS

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

Avenue Q

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

As the houselights dimmed, it was announced that Jessica Parker, rather than Lucie-Mae Sumner, would be playing Kate Monster and Lucy The Slut. And what a fantastic job she made of it. The connection between Parker and Tom Steedon, playing Princeton and Rod, was exceptional. They drove the story on and on, assisted by a truly wonderful cast. Yes, Avenue Q may be rude and risqué, but in truth it's simply reflecting real life and the various situations which many graduates face on leaving university. The current UK tour is exceptional, as is the talented cast who flawlessly switch between characters (and accents). A must-see musical for those needing to find their 'purpose' - and even for those who've already found it!
Jamie Ryan ■■■■■



Perfect Murder

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

The cast of The Perfect Murder featured numerous familiar faces from various television dramas. Dawn Steele (Wild At Heart) and Robert Daws (The Royal, Outside Edge) presented the slowly diminishing relationship of Joan and Victor Smiley in both a dramatic and comic way. Gray O'Brien's (Casualty, Coronation Street) Don Kirk added another lighthearted element to proceedings. Thomas Howes and Simona Armstrong's characters counterbalanced this with a more serious tone. The introduction of Detective Constable Roy Grace to the stage adaptation of the story was an afterthought, revealed writer Peter James in a post-show Q&A. The farcical elements of the play nicely balanced the inevitably serious plot. The roars of laughter that surrounded me were a sure sign that The Perfect Murder was, indeed, rather perfect.
Joanne Henning ■■■■





Dirty Dancing **Wolverhampton Grand Theatre**

As Dirty Dancing reaches its climax, two members of the chorus line recreate the famous Bill Medley and Jennifer Warnes hit, I've Had The Time Of My Life. Meanwhile, dancers Johnny and Baby finally achieve the equally famous lift they've been rehearsing all show. Just to make it all the more memorable, the catwalk revolves as they do so. It's a tremendously rousing finale to a show that took my breath away with its impeccable slickness and the sheer quality of the cast's performances.
In case you haven't seen the film (and I haven't), it's the summer of 1963 at a holiday camp in the US. On vacation is the young and naïve 'Baby', a sad, mousy girl with turned-in toes who, in just a few short days, becomes a dancefloor sensation. Unlikely, I know, but Rosemary Frascona is totally convincing as Baby. As she takes her first few steps, she dances badly really well.
The dancing star is Garath Bailey, in the late Patrick Swayze's role. This guy has a body filled with liquid and a natural, understated acting ability that's both honest and riveting.
Much of the scenery is beautifully projected, allowing Johnny and Babe to rehearse in a cornfield and practise their 'lift' in a lake.
The show's ultimately uplifting plot and thrilling choreography are peppered with some genuinely funny routines, making Dirty Dancing an irresistible experience. Even for a clodhopper like me. *Chris Eldon Lee* ■■■■■

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Afrovibes

A biennial multi-disciplinary event crossing dance, theatre and music, Afrovibes provides European and African artists and theatre-makers with a medium through which to exchange knowledge and practices. The five-day festival is taking place at various locations across the UK - including The Drum and mac Birmingham - and features an exciting programme of high-energy performances. With 2014 marking the twentieth anniversary of the first democratic election in South Africa, the season charts the country's development through a combination of contemporary award-winning productions, performances and screenings. Here are a few of the highlights of this year's festival, which runs from 20 to 25 October.

Skierlik mac, 21 Oct



Phillip M Dikotla's award-winning play focuses on cold-blooded murder and ensuing grief. The story follows the thoughts and emotions of a father returning to the home he abandoned after his wife and baby were shot in a racist massacre.

The Soil mac, 20 Oct

Fusing jazz, hip-hop, Afro-pop and Afro-soul with constant beatboxing, The Soil present cappella contemporary township music at its very best. The platinum-selling vocal trio bring this performance to Afrovibes 2014 direct from the Apollo Theater in Harlem.



Punk In Africa The Drum, 21 Oct

Keith Jones and Deon Maas' production tells the story of how the multi-racial punk movement in three Southern African countries - South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe - grew and evolved against a backdrop of political and social upheaval.

Biko's Quest The Drum, 23 Oct

A powerful, energetic, large-cast dance-theatre production, Biko's Quest explores the life, death and legacy of inspirational anti-apartheid campaigner Steve Biko - a story which reflects on a humanity that reaches far beyond its racial context.



Double Bill: Mana and Dark Cell mac, 24 Oct

In Mana, South African choreographer Vincent Mantsoe uses contemporary dance, Afro-fusion, martial arts and the essence of flamenco and ballet to evoke the visceral spirituality of African dance and Shamanistic customs... The award-winning Dark Cell, meanwhile, draws inspiration from prisoners on Robben Island, using the concept of a prison cell as a metaphor for mental imprisonment.



Rhetorical The Drum, 25 Oct

Presley Chweneyagae (star of Oscar-winning film Tsotsi) holds the stage in a wickedly satirical exploration of the art of persuasion, cajoling and manipulation. With a host of characters played by five actors, the play revisits some of the most famous speeches of the controversial Thabo Mbeki, who succeeded Nelson Mandela as President of South Africa in 1999.



Mamela The Drum, 24 Oct

Eight young women from the 'born free' generation living in post-apartheid South Africa tell their own moving stories through words, song and dance, talking about the dreams they have for themselves, their country and the future.





Theatre WEST END



Emma and Bryn reunited for the West End

Welsh bass-baritone Bryn Terfel and British actress Emma Thompson are to be reunited when they take the leads in a semi-staged version of Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler's Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street. The couple recently starred together in a concert version of the hit musical at the Lincoln Centre in New York City. The forthcoming London Coliseum show, which runs from 30 March to 12 April 2015, will mark Thompson's return to the West End after a quarter-century absence. The Nanny McPhee actress last performed there in a 1989 production of Look Back In Anger, directed by Judi Dench.

Edinburgh Fringe hit transfers to London

David Ian Lee's daring and provocative thriller The Curing Room is to transfer to the Pleasance Islington for a three-week run from the end of October.

The play received a plethora of plaudits at this year's Edinburgh Fringe, with Lee citing George Steiner's seminal work, The Death Of Tragedy, as his inspiration. Described as bold, brave and powerfully disturbing by The List, The Curing Room is set in 1944 and focuses on seven Polish soldiers, stripped naked and abandoned in a cellar to die by fleeing Nazi soldiers. Deprived of all resources and ties to the world they knew, the prisoners must redefine their concepts of order and human nature, confronting the ultimate taboos of murder and cannibalism in order to survive.

The Curing Room opens on 21 October and runs until 9 November.



Roald Dahl classic now booking until 2015

Booking for Sam Mendes' award-winning stage production of Roald Dahl's Charlie And The Chocolate Factory at the Theatre Royal has been extended until 31 October 2015.

Meanwhile, last month saw plenty of celebrations in the Dahl/Mendes camp. In addition to Roald Dahl Day (on the 13th), September 2014 marked the fiftieth anniversary of Charlie And The Chocolate Factory. The month also saw the Theatre Royal in celebratory mood after selling its one millionth ticket for the show.





THREE MINUTE HEROES

For anybody who wasn't aware of Coventry's relevance to the music scene thirty-plus years ago, Bob Eaton's Three Minute Heroes is sure to be a real eye-opener. If, on the other hand, you very well recall the era when The Selecter, The Specials and the 2 Tone scene ruled the airwaves, brace yourself for an evening of magical nostalgia.

First produced by the Belgrade Theatre fourteen years ago, Three Minute Heroes is an affectionate tribute to the days when Coventry sat near the centre of the musical universe. The show features five local heroes as they bond, fight, love and play their way through the golden days of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Foot-stomping favourites to enjoy include Gangsters; Do Nothing; On My Radio; Missing Words; A Message To You, Rudy; Ghost Town; Free Nelson Mandela; and the track that inspired the show's title, Three Minute Hero.

A committed 2 Tone fan, Bob Eaton has always been fascinated by local stories: "The story of 2 Tone is written into Coventry's DNA, and Three Minute Heroes was my way of celebrating and reflecting upon that legacy. When the show was first conceived back in 2000, I was lucky enough to have the support of many of the original stars of the 2 Tone movement, including Pauline Black, Noel Davies and Horace Panter. They were terrific, especially Pauline, in making sure that the story I was telling chimed with what actually happened."

Bob's excited for many reasons about bringing Three Minute Heroes to the stage for a second time: "I've got a feeling that a new generation of teenagers and young people are really getting back into the whole 2 Tone thing now, in a way that perhaps they weren't in 2000/2001. This generation is really kind of adopting it again, which is great. This time round, I've been able to use quite a few young local people, which means that we get a more authentic Coventry voice."

Bob's also pleased to be directing the show, and assures fans that, although there have been a few tweaks, the production is fundamentally the same.

One of Bob's favourite memories of the original staging was the enthusiasm from the stars of the era who turned up to see the show. "Ranking Roger from The Beat even joined the cast on stage for an encore!"



Three Minute Heroes shows at **The Belgrade, Coventry** from Sat 4 to Sat 25 October

THE 2TONE TRAIL

Coventry's streets are lined with places of interest for any serious ska fan. Here are just a few of them:

THE CANAL BASIN

It was here in 1979 that Chalkie Davies and Carol Starr took a set of iconic photographs that graced the covers of The Specials' albums.

THE BINLEY OAK, BRITANNIA STREET

It was in the back room of this public house that The Specials' unique ska sound was born, and where Pauline Black first auditioned for The Selecter.

HOLYHEAD ROAD YOUTH CLUB

The Holyhead Youth Club and Music Workshop was where Neville Staple first met the rest of The Specials, when they rehearsed from the basement of the club.



52 ALBANY ROAD

The birthplace of 2 Tone. Jerry Dammers had a flat here. After he founded The Specials, the band rehearsed here. It later became 2-Tone Records' company office.



THE HAND AND HEART, FAR GOSFORD STREET

Key venue for many mixed-race bands. The site of many early gigs by The Specials and others.

BUTTS STADIUM, THE BUTTS

Venue for the first Festival Against Racism on 20 June 1981. Artists performing included The Specials, The Police, Hazel O'Connor, The Bureau and Reluctant Stereotypes.

TIFFANY'S, SMITHFORD WAY (CENTRAL LIBRARY)

Now the City Central Library, this famous club inspired The Specials to write Ghost Town. Pete Waterman used to DJ here, and side two of the Special AKA Live EP was recorded here.

THE HORIZON STUDIOS SITE (CENTRAL SIX)

Early 2 Tone hits, including Gangsters by The Specials and On My Radio by The Selecter, were recorded here, in, as Pauline Black put it, "a pretty hopeless studio up on the third floor.

Christmas at mac birmingham

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Barbara Nice's Christmas Cracker

Fri 12 & **Sat** 13 Dec | 8.30pm | Tickets £13 (£10) | Age 14+

Join Barbara for a bumper bundle selection box of seasonal fun, complete with raffle, tombola, and mince pies.



The Albion Christmas Show

Sun 14 Dec | 8pm | Tickets £18 (£15)

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The Laughing Sole Comedy for Kids

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Looking ahead to Christmas!

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

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

With its long-held reputation for hosting the country's biggest panto, the Birmingham Hippodrome this year presents Dick Whittington. Loose Women's Jane McDonald will be on hand to make sure that good conquers evil in this firm family favourite, while Gary Wilmot - a Hippodrome hit when he made his debut as a Dame last year - returns to the city to once again to don bloomers and heels to play Dame Trot. Joining Jane and Gary will be comedy duo Paul Zerdin and Matt Slack. Up the motorway at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton, meanwhile, the wonderful Julian Clary promises plenty of merriment when he stars as Buttons in Cinderella. Julian will be joined by Hollyoaks star Joe Tracini (son of Joe Pasquale) as the prince.

Moving north of the region, Stoke's much-loved son Jonny Wilkes makes his near-annual 'festive pilgrimage' to his home town, performing alongside long-term sidekick Christian Patterson in another version of Dick Whittington. If panto's not your thing, fear not, as there are plenty of festive alternatives available, including the award-winning Jersey Boys at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre. A stage version of Roald Dahl's The BFG promises to be a giant success at Birmingham REP, while the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon is staging a specially commissioned play by Phil Porter. Based on true stories of soldiers in the Warwickshire regiment, The Christmas Truce is being marketed very much as a family play, despite its World War One backdrop. For more information on festive offerings in the region, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Festive show LISTINGS

PUSS IN BOOTS
Presented by MCS Rep Company, Thurs 30 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Old Rep, Birmingham, £9

HORRIBLE CHRISTMAS
Presented by Horrible Histories, Thurs 13 Nov - Sat 17 Jan, Old Rep, Birmingham, £14 - £19.50

THE BORROWERS
Sat 22 Nov - Sat 31 Jan, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, £15 - £22

ALADDIN
Presented by Imagine Theatre, Wed 26 Nov - Sat 10 Jan, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, £8.25 - £21.75

THE BFG
Presented by Birmingham Rep Theatre Company, Wed 26 Nov - Sat 24 Jan, The REP, Birmingham, £7 - £35

A WINTER WONDERLAND
Presented by Reach Musical Theatre School, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, £8

DICK WHITTINGTON
Starring Jonathan Wilkes, Christian Patterson, Sarah the Cook and Kai Owen, Fri 28 Nov - Sun 4 Jan, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Sat 29 Nov - Sat 3 Jan, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, £10 - £23

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE
Sat 29 Nov - Sat 31 Jan, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, £5 - £62.50

THUMBELINA'S GREAT BIG ADVENTURE
Presented by mac Birmingham & Dancing Brick, Mon 1 Dec - Sat 13 Dec, mac - Midlands Art Centre, Birmingham, £14.50

ALADDIN
Wed 3 - Sun 28 Dec, Bedworth Civic Hall, Warwickshire, £12.50 - £14.50

PETER PAN
Starring Brad Fit, Wed 3 Dec - Sun 11 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, £11 - £21.50

CINDERELLA
Thurs 4 Dec - Sun 4 Jan, Lichfield Garrick, Staffs, £12.50 - £24

SANTA'S DIZZY DAY
Fri 5 - Sun 21 Dec, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, £6.50 - £9.50

BEAUTY & THE BEAST
Sat 6 Dec, The Festival Drayton Centre, Shropshire, £7 - £8.50

THE WITCHES
Sat 6 - Sat 20 Dec, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, £8 - £15

OH NO IT ISN'T!
Sat 6 - Sat 27 Dec, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, £8.50 - £15.75

CINDERELLA
Sat 6 Dec - Sat 3 Jan, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington, £11.50 - £14

CINDERELLA
Starring Julian Clary and Joe Tracini, Sat 6 Dec - Sun 18 Jan, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, £20 - £27.50

CINDERELLA
Starring Anne Charleston, Scott Cripps, Rebecca Tyson, Richard Pocock & Derreck Walker, Presented by Jordan Productions, Mon 8 Dec - Sun 4 Jan, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE GRUFFALO
Sat 29 Nov - Sun 4 Jan, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, £14.00

JERSEY BOYS
Tues 9 Dec - Sun 4 Jan, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, £15 - £60

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Tues 9 Dec - Mon 5 Jan, The Place, Oakengates, £9.50 - £17

PINOCCHIO
Presented by Hiccup Theatre, Wed 10 Dec - Sat 3 Jan, The Curve, Leicester, £7

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD
Thurs 11 - Sun 21 Dec, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, £5 - £7

ALADDIN
Thurs 11 Dec - Sun 4 Jan, Malvern Theatres, £10 - £25

CINDERELLA
Fri 12 Dec - Sun 4 Jan, Solihull Arts Complex, £15 - £18.50

CINDERELLA ROCK 'N' ROCK PANTO
Fri 12 Dec - Sat 10 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, £12.50 - £17.50

WIND IN THE WILLOWS
Sat 13 Dec - Sat 3 Jan, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, £10

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK
Starring Lisa Riley and Brendan Sheerin, Sat 13 Dec - Sun 4 Jan, Crewe Lyceum, £15.50 - £21

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT
Tues 16 - Fri 19 Dec, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, £11

GHOST STORIES FOR CHRISTMAS
Wed 17 - Thurs 18 Dec, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, £10

PETER PAN
Thurs 18 Dec - Sun 4 Jan, Playbox Theatre, Warwick, £8 - £13

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK
Starring Jane McDonald, Duncan James, Chris Gascoyne, Gary Wilmot, Paul Zerdin & Matt Slack, Fri 19 Dec - Sun 1 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome, £14 - £40

SLEEPING BEAUTY
Sun 21 - Tues 30 Dec, Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock, £11.50 - £13.50

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS
Presented by The People's Theatre Company, Mon 22 - Tues 30 Dec, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, £9

SLEEPING BEAUTY
Fri 9 - Sat 24 Jan, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich Spa, £8 - £10

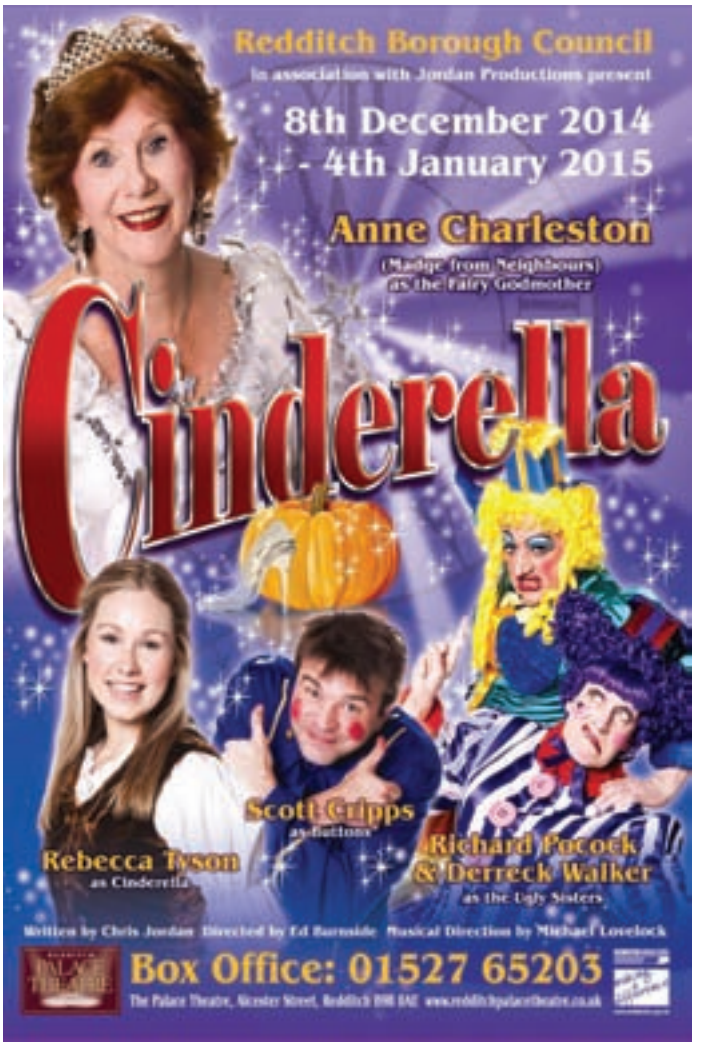








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Dance



Sony B-Boy Championships World Finals

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sat 25 - Sun 26 October

Break dancers, poppers and hip-hop enthusiasts entertain Birmingham audiences this month as they demonstrate their best moves and routines in the nineteenth annual B-Boy Championships World Finals. The 2014 event, which comes to the city in partnership with International Dance Festival Birmingham, features participants going head-to-head to win the coveted world titles. An Open International Qualification tournament on the Saturday offers crews and solo dancers a last chance to compete for the remaining spots.

The main event on the Sunday, meanwhile, sees 'the best of the best' vying for top spot in each of the four World Title categories. New York hip-hop duo Dead Prez headline the day's proceedings, giving their only UK performance. A series of workshops, facilitated by some of the world's top dancers, takes place at DanceXchange in the Southside area of the city throughout the weekend.

For further information, visit www.bboychampionships.com

Shadows Of War

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 8 - Sat 11 October

This second presentation in Birmingham Royal Ballet's autumn season comprises three pieces of dance, all of which present situations which, in one way or another, are touched by the spectre of war.

Opening the programme is Kenneth MacMillan's La fin du jour, which captures a sense of the glamorous lifestyle enjoyed by the wealthy during the 1930s. At its centre is a group of 'trendy bright young things', idly whiling away their days and ignoring the impending threat of war.

Robert Helpman's 1944 ballet Miracle In The Gorbals is showcased next. Set in a run-down corner of Glasgow - and dispensing with the frippery of traditional ballets - this groundbreaking work has been recreated for BRB by Dame Gillian Lynne, a member of the original cast.

David Bintley's Flowers Of The Forest completes the bill. A ballet in two parts, it contrasts picture-postcard Scotland with the country's own bloody history, and is set to the music of Malcolm Arnold and Benjamin Britten.



Dame Gillian Lynne and dancers in rehearsal for Miracle In The Gorbals



Richard Alston Dance

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 7 - Wed 8 October

A choreographer who's very much at the forefront of contemporary dance in the UK, Richard Alston takes inspiration directly from the music he uses. This month sees Alston's highly rated company return to the region with four works from its acclaimed repertoire.

Britten's Rejoice In The Lamb - a relatively new addition inspired by the works of eighteenth century poet Christopher Smart - opens the programme. It's followed by Alston's Hölderlin Fragments. Devised to celebrate last year's Britten centenary, the piece is danced to the composer's calm setting of Friedrich Hölderlin's enigmatic lyrics.

Martin Lawrance's Burning, meanwhile, received its world premiere in Edinburgh this summer, and is inspired by Franz Liszt's passionate Dante Sontata. The evening's programme is completed by Illuminations, a piece which paints a vivid picture of the turbulent creative life of French poet Arthur Rimbaud.







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Grupo Corpo

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 28 - Wed 29 October

Making a welcome return to the UK following a previous and hugely successful tour in 2005, contemporary Brazilian dance company Grupo Corpo here present a double bill of exciting and energetic works choreographed by artistic director Rodrigo Pederneiras.
In Sem Mim - a melancholic piece set to a thirteenth century Portuguese song cycle - the troupe don intricately patterned body-suits to mimic the movement of waves and the ebb and flow of the sea. A huge, shimmering net hangs over the stage during the piece. Next up is company favourite Parabelo. Inspired by rural Brazil, the work shifts from utter piece and stillness to the raucousness of a Brazilian carnival, the dancers moving rhythmically from group to solo performance and back again.



Mark Bruce Company: Dracula

DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 15 - Sat 18 October

Bram Stoker's gothic tale is brought to life in this critically acclaimed production, which won the Mark Bruce Company the prestigious South Bank Award for Dance earlier this year.
Set to an eclectic score featuring music from Bach and Mozart and modern-day offerings by György Ligeti and Fred Frith, Dracula explores various choreographic styles, from classical etiquette to contemporary. The blood-sucking Count is played by the highly regarded Jonathan Goddard, who Bruce says "brings many sides to the role: the hunter; the wolf; the noble and sinister count; the lonely undead; a malevolent humour; a vicious, callous streak, and a child-like naivety." Can't wait!

The Nutcracker

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 4 October; The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Fri 24 October

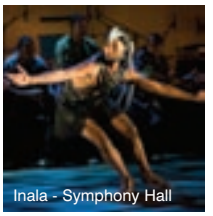
One of the great ballet staples, Tchaikovsky's enchanting tale of Clara and her nutcracker doll has been delighting audiences for generations. The fantasy of soldiers, giant rats, snow fairies, magic and mystery is this month presented in the region courtesy of Vienna Festival Ballet. Featuring a talented array of young dancers, the company was founded in 1980 by Austrian dancer Peter Mallek and typically spends eight months a year performing works from its extensive repertoire in smaller venues across the UK.



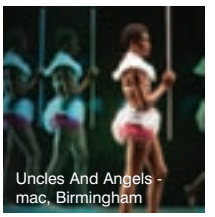
Dance LISTINGS

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

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Choreographed by BRB's Artistic Director, David Bintley, until Sat 4 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome
INALA A Zulu ballet featuring dancers from Royal Ballet & Rambert, Fri 3 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham


Inala - Symphony Hall

JALEO FLAMENCO Andalusian dance, song & guitar, Sat 4 Oct, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
THE NUTCRACKER Vienna Festival Ballet Sat 4 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove
HEAVENS WHAT HAVE I DONE One of the most provocative choreographers of the New York scene, Miguel Gutierrez, performs in the UK for the first time as part of Fierce Festival, Sun 5 Oct, DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham
RICHARD ALSTON DANCE Programme features Alston's latest work, Rejoice The Lamb, Tue 7 - Wed 8 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
SHADOWS OF WAR Birmingham Royal Ballet presents three one-act ballets, each touched in their own way by the shadow of war, Wed 8 - Sat 11 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome
YELLOW TOWEL Award-winning Canadian-based choreographer, Dana Michel arrives in Brum as part of Fierce Festival, presenting a ritual performance in which she revisits the imaginary world of her 'other self', Fri 10 Oct, DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham
DRACULA Mark Bruce Company's award-winning production brings Bram Stoker's erotic tale vividly to life, Wed 15 - Sat 18 Oct, DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham
MANON Kenneth Macmillan's ballet in three acts, streamed live from the Royal Opera House, Thurs 16 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
YOU CAN'T STOP THE BEAT Presented by Dollbaby's and Diva's Dance Academy, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Oct, Albany Theatre, Coventry
CHANGES Phoenix Dance Company present an uplifting, inspirational dance show performed by pupils and members of its dance school, Tue 21 October Solihull Arts Complex
SWAN LAKE Ballet Theatre UK present a retelling of the world famous ballet, Wed 22 Oct, The Roses, Tewkesbury
BIKO'S QUEST A large-cast production which takes audiences on a poignant and emotional journey, telling the story of the life, death and legacy of anti-apartheid campaigner Steve Biko, Thurs 23 Oct, The Drum, Birmingham
THE MEASURES TAKEN & PREVIEW OF THE GRIT IN THE OYSTER Leading new British choreographer, South Bank Award nominee 2014 and Sadler's Wells New Wave Associate Alexander Whitley showcases two works on his company's inaugural tour, Thurs 23 - Fri 24 Oct, DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham
SEVEN PILLARS Vuyani Dance Theatre & ACE Dance & Music fuse Afro-fusion dance with contemporary African and Caribbean techniques in a celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the ending of apartheid, Fri 24 - Sat 25 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham
MAMELA The moving stories of eight young women living in post-apartheid South Africa are told through song, dance & words, Fri 24 Oct, The Drum, B'ham
THE NUTCRACKER The Vienna Festival Ballet presents Tchaikovsky's world famous classical ballet, Fri 24 Oct, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
MANA/DARK CELL Double-bill of contemporary dance from ACE Dance & Music and Broken Borders Arts Project, Fri 24 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
UNCLES AND ANGELS/DARK CELL Double-bill of contemporary dance from two of South Africa's leading performers, Sat 25 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham


Uncles And Angels - mac, Birmingham

SONY B-BOY CHAMPIONSHIPS WORLD FINALS 2014 Weekend of break dance, popping & hip-hop hosted by Crazy Legs & Afrika Islam, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
SWAN LAKE Ballet Theatre UK presents a retelling of the world famous ballet, Tue 28 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex
GRUPO CORPO Brazil's internationally acclaimed dance company makes a welcome return to the UK following its enormously successful tour in 2005. Tue 28 - Wed 29 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome
THE HAPPY PRINCE Chantry Dance Company presents a choreographed production of Oscar Wilde's poignant short story, Thurs 30 Oct, Swan Theatre, Worcester

Dance Box Office

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For full venue information visit: www.whatsonlive.co.uk

24 Hour Culture

The 24 Hour Culture Survey is coming. Between 24-25 October, people around the region are asked to fill in a survey outlining how they get involved in arts and culture. The survey has been commissioned by twenty-two of the West Midlands' leading arts organisations and it's hoped that the findings will inform arts policies in forthcoming years, both by the organisations themselves and by local authority and government. We asked Joanna Reid, Director at the Belgrade Theatre Coventry what it's all about.

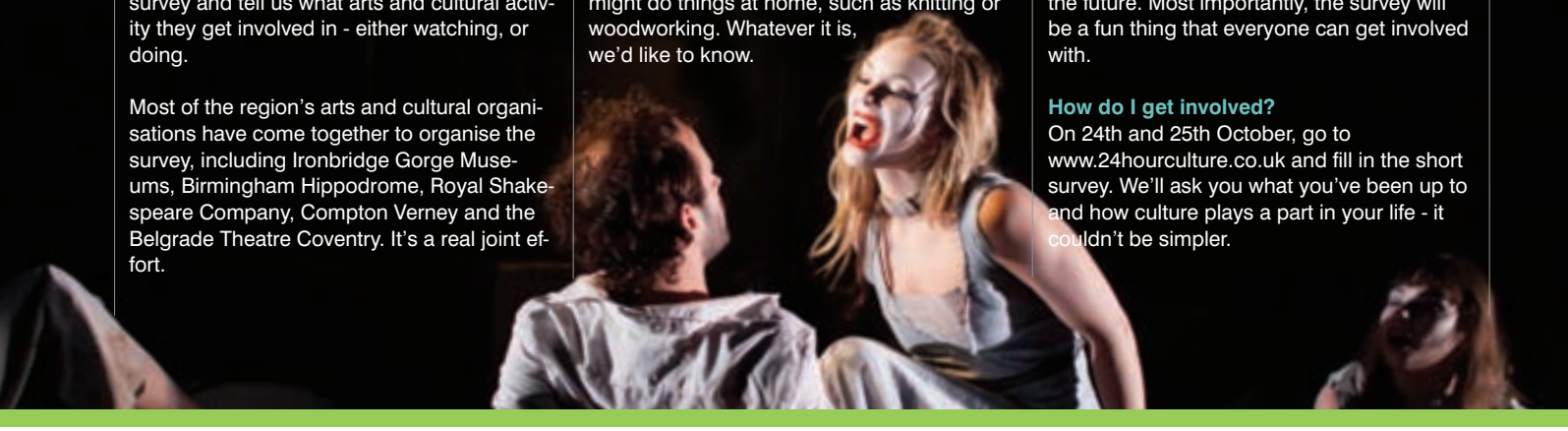
What is it?

The 24 Hour Culture Survey will paint a picture of how much people take part in arts and culture across the region.
In one 24 hour period, from noon on Friday 24 October to noon on Saturday 25 October, we're asking everyone to fill in a quick online survey and tell us what arts and cultural activity they get involved in - either watching, or doing.

Most of the region's arts and cultural organisations have come together to organise the survey, including Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Birmingham Hippodrome, Royal Shakespeare Company, Compton Verney and the Belgrade Theatre Coventry. It's a real joint effort.

What do you mean by arts and culture?

It takes in a lot! Plenty of everyday activities count - if you read a book, watch a film or listen to music on the radio, you're taking part in culture. Or perhaps you've been to the theatre, had a day out at a museum or stately home, or took part in a dance class. You might do things at home, such as knitting or woodworking. Whatever it is, we'd like to know.



What's the point?

There is so much art and cultural activity happening in our region but a lot of it goes under the radar. With the survey, we're hoping to bring attention to our rich cultural life so that it can be better appreciated. We will also use the findings to help us plan our activities in the future. Most importantly, the survey will be a fun thing that everyone can get involved with.

How do I get involved?

On 24th and 25th October, go to www.24hourculture.co.uk and fill in the short survey. We'll ask you what you've been up to and how culture plays a part in your life - it couldn't be simpler.



Film

TO WATCH THE LATEST MOVIE TRAILERS, VISIT: www.whatsonlive.co.uk



Fury CERT tbc

Starring **Brad Pitt, Shia LaBeouf, Logan Lerman, Jon Bernthal, Michael Peña, Jason Isaacs, Scott Eastwood, Xavier Samuel** Directed by **David Ayer (USA)**

'Fury' is the name of a Sherman tank and Brad Pitt is in command. It's the last month of the war (the Second) and Pitt and his crew of five find themselves stuck behind enemy lines. And even though the Allies are mopping up all over Europe, Fury finds itself in dire straits as the full might of a Nazi backlash unleashes its fury. Pitt is said to be terrific in his role as the battle-hardened commander and the director David Ayer is known for his visceral, hard-hitting dramas (think Harsh Times and End Of Watch). And there's even Oscar buzz.



Gone Girl CERT 18 (149 mins)

Starring **Ben Affleck, Rosamund Pike, Neil Patrick Harris, Tyler Perry, Carrie Coon, Kim Dickens, Patrick Fugit, Scoot McNairy**
Directed by **David Fincher (USA)**

Any film from David Fincher is an event. Think Seven, Fight Club, The Social Network, TV's House Of Cards... Here, Gillian Flynn adapts her own 2012 novel about a man, Nick Dunne (Affleck), who, on his fifth wedding anniversary, reports the disappearance of his wife. Then, as a media frenzy builds around the gone girl, suspicion starts to fall on Nick himself… Incidentally, our very own Roz is getting some major Oscar buzz (and there's not even Judi Dench to contest her).

TOP 5
FILM BOX OFFICE

1. The Boxtrolls (PG)
2. Lucy (15)
3. A Most Wanted Man (12a)
4. Pride (15)
5. Sex Tape (15)


The Box Trolls

Film NEW RELEASES

Released from Fri 3 October

You And The Night CERT 18

Starring **Kate Moran, Niels Schneider, Nicolas Maury, Eric Cantona**
Directed by **Yann Gonzalez (France)**

It's important to note that this is meant to be a comedy. But for anybody unfamiliar with the arcane take on the world of its writer-director, this may come as something of a shock. Watching Eric Cantona strut about on all fours around a cage in his underpants may be hilarious to Yann Gonzalez, but to us it remains a mystery. For the record, the film doesn't even feel like a film. It's a play with dream-like inserts shot on studio sets. And if these sequences seem daft enough, there's a cameo from the Grim Reaper in the 'realistic' stretch of the narrative. There's not much plot, the main thrust of the movie concerning seven characters who meet up in the middle of the night for a fully-clothed orgy. There is much kissing and smutty talk but then spurious attempts at profundity take over. Oh, and there's Béatrice Dalle - of Betty Blue fame - as a randy police officer with a whip. Maybe you have to be French…



Dolphin Tale 2 CERT U (107 mins)

Starring **Harry Connick Jr., Ashley Judd, Nathan Gamble, Kris Kristofferson, Morgan Freeman**
Directed by **Charles Martin Smith (USA)**

More true stories from the Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Florida. As to be gleaned from the title, this is a tale of dolphins and is a sequel. The first film was rather sweet.



Dracula Untold CERT 15 (99 mins)

Starring **Luke Evans, Dominic Cooper, Sarah Gadon, Charles Dance, Samantha Barks**
Directed by **Gary Shore (USA)**

In spite of the hundreds of films about the Transylvanian count, this version is actually based on the original novel by Bram Stoker. Expect fangs. And blood. And necks.





Released from Fri 10 October

'71 CERT 15 (112 mins)

Starring **Jack O'Connell, Sean Harris, Sam Reid, Charlie Murphy, David Wilmot**
Directed by **Yann Demange (UK)**

'15 is going to be a huge year for the Derby-born actor Jack O'Connell. He already wowed critics with his excoriating performance in this year's Starred Up and he's getting Oscar buzz for his starring role in Angelina Jolie's Unbroken. Here, he plays an unstable British soldier caught up in riots in Belfast in the year of the title.



The Calling CERT 15 (108 mins)

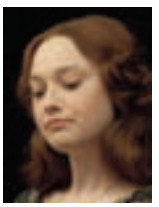
Starring **Susan Sarandon, Gil Bellows, Ellen Burstyn, Topher Grace, Donald Sutherland**
Directed by **Jason Stone (Canada)**

The territory, if not the tone, is Fargo. A female inspector of police (a steely, if weary Susan Sarandon) trudges around in the snow in small-town Ontario looking for a serial killer. However, in spite of the presence of two Oscar-winning actresses (Ellen Burstyn plays her live-in mum), the film is terribly generic, with neither suspense nor black humour to alleviate the grisly proceedings. Based on the 2008 novel by Inger Ash Wolfe.

Effie Gray CERT 15 (120 mins)

Starring **Dakota Fanning, Emma Thompson, Greg Wise, Tom Sturridge, Julie Walters, Claudia Cardinale**
Directed by **Richard Laxton (UK)**

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.



The Judge CERT 15 (142 mins)

Starring **Robert Downey Jr., Robert Duvall, Vera Farmiga, Vincent D'Onofrio, Billy Bob Thornton** Directed by **David Dobkin (USA)**

Estranged from his family, top city lawyer Hank Palmer (Downey Jr) returns to the small town of Carlinville, in Indiana, for his mother's funeral. He then discovers that his father, the local judge, has been accused of murder… Expect Oscar nominations.

The Maze Runner CERT 12a (113mins)

Starring **Dylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario, Thomas Brodie-Sangster, Will Poulter, Patricia Clarkson** Directed by **Wes Ball (USA)**

Brace yourselves. It's back to the future, a post-apocalyptic affair shot in Louisiana, adapted from the 'young adult' novel by James Dashner, the first of a trilogy. Sound familiar? Interesting, though, that three of the four leads were born in England.



The Rewrite CERT 12a (106mins)

Starring **Hugh Grant, Marisa Tomei, Bella Heathcote, Allison Janney, J.K. Simmons, Chris Elliott** Directed by **Marc Lawrence (USA)**

We don't see much of Hugh Grant these days but when we do he's still playing an Englishman tangled up in his heartstrings, even though he's now fifty-four. Here he plays a washed-up screenwriter who falls for a single mother (Marisa Tomei, forty-nine). Grant and the director Marc Lawrence have previously worked together three times.



Released from Fri 17 October

The Best Of Me CERT 15 (90 mins)

Starring **James Marsden, Michelle Monaghan, Liana Liberato, Jon Tenney**
Directed by **Michael Hoffman (USA)**

Another romantic drama from the literary oeuvre of Nicholas Sparks. This one concerns two former sweethearts who reunite when they visit their home town. Sweet.



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

CERT **12a (101 mins)**

Starring **Megan Fox, Will Arnett, William Fichtner, Alan Ritchson, Noel Fisher, Pete Ploszek, Johnny Knoxville, Jeremy Howard**
Directed by **Jonathan Liebesman (USA)**

Get ready for those reptilian Renaissance artists Raphael, Michelangelo, Leonardo and Donatello, who return for this $125million reboot. We're talking teenage turtles who are frightfully good at ninjutsu. Really. In 3D.



Released from Fri 24 October

Alexander And The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

CERT **PG (81 mins)**
Starring **Steve Carell, Jennifer Garner, Ed Oxenbould** Directed by **Miguel Arteta (USA)**

The title pretty much sums up the gist of this Disney comedy about poor old eleven-year-old Alex(ander). It's based on the 1972 children's book by Judith Viorst, which was previously filmed as a cartoon musical for TV.



Love, Rosie CERT 15 (102 mins)

Starring **Lily Collins, Sam Claflin, Tamsin Egerton** Directed by **Christian Ditter (UK/USA/Canada/Germany)**

The Daniel Radcliffe romcom What If was about best friends not having sex and was filmed in Toronto and Dublin. Ditto Love, Rosie. The difference here is that Ireland doubles for England and Toronto for Boston. Unfortunately, this romantic formula has been concocted many times before, usually better, and the normally resplendent Lily Collins just isn't believable as a love-struck English mum. Gosh, remember Anne Hathaway in One Day? And, yes, the accents are all over the place.



Men, Women & Children

CERT **15 (120 mins)**

Starring **Adam Sandler, Jennifer Garner, Rosemarie DeWitt, Judy Greer, Dean Norris, Ansel Elgort** Directed by **Jason Reitman (USA)**

A hugely ambitious undertaking, this dramatic comedy follows the interlocking lives of a group of people whose worlds have been changed by the Internet and social networking. From the director of Juno, Up In The Air and Labor Day.



Book Of Life CERT U

Starring **Diego Luna, Zoe Saldana, Channing Tatum, Christina Applegate, Ice Cube**
Directed by **Jorge Gutierrez (USA)**

Originally entitled Day Of The Dead, this animated musical-adventure concerns a hopeless romantic with a guitar and two swords. However, in order to pursue his romantic dream, he has to manoeuvre two alternative worlds. In 3D.

Released from Fri 31 October

Nightcrawler CERT 15

Starring **Jake Gyllenhaal, Bill Paxton, Rene Russo, Riz Ahmed**
Directed by **Dan Gilroy (USA)**

Co-produced by Jake Gyllenhaal, this thriller is set in the murky world of freelance crime journalism in Los Angeles. First-time director Dan Gilroy is the brother of Tony, he who directed Michael Clayton and The Bourne Legacy.

Mr. Turner CERT 12a (150 mins)

Starring **Timothy Spall, Dorothy Atkinson, Paul Jesson, Marion Bailey, Ruth Sheen, Lesley Manville**
Directed by **Mike Leigh (UK/France)**

Mr Turner seems to have been known by a number of names: Mr Mallord, Mr Booth, William, Billy and by posterity as JMW Turner, arguably Britain's greatest artist of all time. Under the guidance of Mike Leigh, and a somewhat porcine rendering by Timothy Spall in the title role, Turner is depicted as something of a grotesque, a portly gentleman who communicated largely in grunts, snorts and growls. Leigh's film is way too long - and reveals little behind the artist's drive and inspiration. However, the director is a master at capturing the feel of the period, and peoples Turner's life with a colourful catalogue of caricatures. His dialogue is also deliciously idiosyncratic, while Dick Pope's luminous cinematography could hardly be bettered.

Horns CERT 15 (120 mins)

Starring **Daniel Radcliffe, Juno Temple, James Remar, Kelli Garner, Heather Graham, Max Minghella** Directed by **Alexandre Aja (USA/Canada)**

Daniel Radcliffe switches the lightning bolt scar on his forehead for a pair of horns in this dark fantasy. But it's only after the rape and murder of his girlfriend that our Dan discovers an aptitude for the paranormal. Based on the book by Joe Hill.



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RBSA



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Royal Birmingham Society of Artists

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shire hall gallery, stafford

SHIRE HALL Gallery

The Fields of Battle 1914-18

Paintings and drawings by Robert Perry RBSA

Showing until Sunday 2 November 2014

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View near Rifle Range Corner, Cannock Chase

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Visual Arts

The Chubb Exhibition

Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Fri 31 October

Presented as part of the Black Country Echoes festival, this fascinating exhibition explores the personal working experiences of former employees of Chubb & Sons Ltd, along the way presenting a sense of the community spirit for which the company was famous... The Black Country Echoes festival is a collaboration between Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton which celebrates the region's manufacturing heritage and its reputation for creativity and innovation. The festival runs until January, with events taking place at twenty-five venues across the region.



Fields Of Battle

Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford, until Sun 2 November

Described as thought-provoking and original, Robert Parry's works act as a direct response to nature. His mobile studio enables him to produce large-scale pieces entirely on location. During the past twenty years, the Midlands-based artist has been a frequent visitor to the Somme and Verdun, the result of which is a series of atmospheric images depicting the landscape as it is today, where nature and time have played their part in erasing the scars of war. On show for the first time, this major exhibition features a series of commissioned works depicting Messines and the links with Cannock Chase.

Echoes Of War

Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 25 October - Sun 26 April

Personal experiences and powerful images of the Great War are here brought together in a thought-provoking exhibition which highlights the relevance to the war effort of Stoke-on-Trent's infirmary. The exhibition also focuses on key figures from the local area that made a contribution in their own right, and takes a look at the ways in which social conditions were changed during the course of the conflict. The items on display have been drawn from the Potteries Museum's own collections.





Martin Parr: Black Country Stories

New Art Gallery, Walsall, Sat 4 October - Sun 11 January

Martin Parr's photographic exhibition is the latest addition to Black Country Stories, a project which invites critically acclaimed photographers, filmmakers and authors to work with local people 'to tell amazing stories that celebrate everyday life'. Much admired for his close-up and intensely colourful work, Martin embraced the challenge of documenting Black Country life back in 2010, initially focusing on the borough of Sandwell before moving on to examine Walsall, Wolverhampton and Dudley. The project has seen him visit factories, foundries, pubs, working men's clubs, shops, markets, temples, mosques and churches. He's also documented St George's Day celebrations, Royal Wedding street parties, horticultural shows and dog training classes. "The one thing that binds all these photographs together is humour," says Martin, "the diversity and the single-minded quality of the Black Country folk. This is a celebration of their community."

West Midlands Open

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Sat 25 October - Sun 15 February

This biennial public art exhibition features work by both professional and amateur artists from all disciplines, with an expert judging panel having selected a total of eighty-one works for display. "We're delighted to once again host West Midlands Open here at BMAG," says Andy Horn, Birmingham Museums Exhibitions Manager. "Birmingham Museums is committed to supporting artistic talent in the region, and this is a unique opportunity for artists, wherever they may be in their artistic career, to have their work displayed in a high-profile venue."
Many works selected for the show will be available for visitors to purchase.


Lloyd Austins Ions Determine

VisualArts PREVIEWS

Further exhibitions

Qasim Riza Shaheen: The Last Known Pose

mac, Birmingham, until Sun 30 November

A resident creative at mac back in 2010, Manchester-based Qasim Riza Shaheen produces work which contemplates the role of the artist as author, object and protagonist. This new exhibition, exploring his persisting interest in the city, identity, relationships and often-fleeting moments of intimacy and awkwardness, is being presented in two parts. The second part, Autoportraits In Love-Like Conditions, is showing at Manchester's Cornerhouse venue.



Echoes Of Glass

Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge, Sat 11 October - Sat 8 November

A Black Country Echoes Festival event, Echoes Of Glass brings together the work of contemporary artists Terri Colledge, Carol Griffin and Georgia Redpath, all of whom have explored traditional glass-making techniques and spent time at glass manufacturers Plowden & Thompson and Tudor Crystal. The exhibition includes a guided tour of the factory and a glass-blowing demonstration.

Freedom Or Death: Photography Exhibition

The Drum, Birmingham, until Fri 7 November

Documentary photographer Dr Vanley Burke's extraordinary exhibition charts the final days of apartheid in South Africa, and is presented at The Drum as part of this year's Afrovibes festival. Dr Burke travelled to Soweto, Sharpeville, Bophuthatswana, Cape Town and Durban during the 1990s, experiencing at first hand the country's transformation to democracy, the freeing and election of Nelson Mandela and the subsequent nationwide celebrations. These emotive and moving black-and-white photographs brilliantly capture the pain, passion and joy of those turbulent times. The exhibition has been donated by The Library of Birmingham.



VisualArts LISTINGS

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

SIMON REDGRAVE'S HIRED HANDS: PORTRAITS FROM THE WORKPLACE Pop-up exhibition comprising period photography from Nick Hedges and John Bulmer which tells the stories of people who laboured together every day throughout their working lives, until Wed 1 Oct, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

NEW LANDSCAPES AND A GLANCE BACKWARDS EXHIBITION Solo exhibition of new work by Robert Perry RBSA, until Sat 4 Oct, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

CONFLUX - MOTHER AND SON Val and Nevil Brewin explore the world of discarded & found objects, and the micro and macrocosms within the natural world, until Sat 4 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery

CONVERSATIONS A display which spans four centuries of printmaking and features works by Rembrandt, Goya, Cezanne & Picasso, until Sun 5 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

GILLIAN WEARING: WE ARE HERE New single-screen video work which sees the artist return to the area in and around Sandwell where she grew up, until Sun 12 Oct, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

AUTHENTIC BOYS: REHEARSING REVOLUTION A unique European art project of social & creative awareness which shows in Birmingham as part of Fierce Festival 2014, until Sun 12 Oct, mac, Birmingham

MADE IN SHREWSBURY A display celebrating the companies whose goods were proudly made in Shrewsbury over the past two hundred years - from steam trucks to swimsuits, until Sun 19 Oct, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT Works on paper from the Barber's collection, until Sun 26 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

STRANGE WAYS: CRASH TEST DUMMIES Multi-disciplinary practice steered by Elena Cassidy-Smith, Harmeet Chagger-Khan and Helen Grundy, until Sun 26 Oct, New Art Gallery, Walsall

BLACK COUNTRY ECHOES: IN PICTURES Exhibition which brings together the work of five documenters of the post-war era in the Black Country, until Fri 31 Oct, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton

TOM, FRANK AND MAY Original material, uniforms, handling activities and a short film which demonstrates the role played by the Merry family during World War One, until Sun 2 Nov, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

SYMMETRY IN SCULPTURE Focusing on the recent work of one of the UK's most exciting British Asian artists, Zarah Hussain, until Sun 2 Nov, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

LETTERS HOME Exhibition exploring different elements of letters written during the First World War, until Sun 2 Nov, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

TRUE TO LIFE? NEW PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE MIDDLE EAST until Sun 2 Nov, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

MARCIA FARQUHAR: LARGER THAN LIFE until Fri 7 Nov, Grand Union, Birmingham

FREEDOM OR DEATH: PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION BY VANLEY BURKE until Fri 7 Nov, The Drum, Birmingham

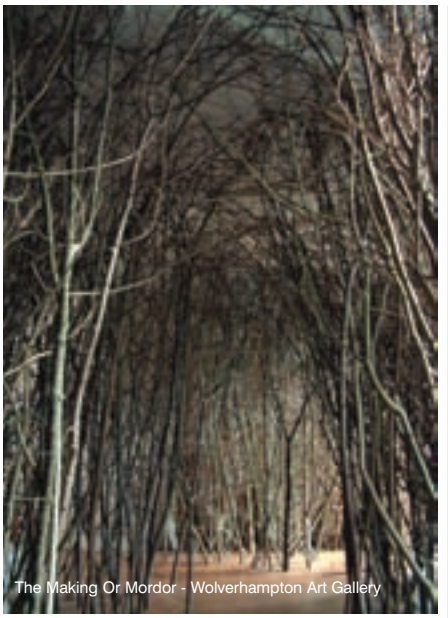
YINKA SHONIBARE The fourth in a series of five exhibitions presented in Ikon's Tower Room as part of the gallery's birthday celebrations, until Sun 9 Nov, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

LEE BUL EXHIBITION The first solo UK show of the artist's visually compelling work, comprising early drawings, photographs, video & sculptural pieces, until Sun 9 Nov, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

MOUNTAINS AND MONUMENTS Featuring paintings of mountain scenery & prehistoric monuments by Brian Fletcher RBSA, until Fri 15 Nov, RBSA, Birmingham

USHA KHOSLA RBSA Featuring handmade textural ceramics, described by Usha as '3D paintings', inspired by the Canadian Rockies and Australia, until Sat 15 Nov, RBSA, Birmingham

BACK TO FRONT: 40 PERMANENT COLLECTION GEMS Exhibition which celebrates the fortieth anniversary of the gallery's Garman Ryan collection, until Sun 16 Nov, New Art Gallery, Walsall



The Making Or Mordor - Wolverhampton Art Gallery

DEALING WITH DREAMS: THE GARMAN RYAN COLLECTION 40TH ANNIVERSARY Exhibition which tells the story of the Garman Ryan collection, from its conception to the present day, with previously unseen archive material and artworks, until Sun 16 Nov, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

CRAFT AND CONFLICT Bringing together both contemporary and historical items that commemorate and explore the themes of war and remembrance, until Sat 22 Nov, Bilston Craft Gallery

BRIAN YALE: FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLEFIELD PAINTINGS until Sat 29 Nov, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

FAITH AND FORTUNE Exploring the early histories of two of the world's great religions, until Sun 30 Nov, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

SQUARE PEGS Exhibition featuring the works of seven international artists whose art blurs the boundaries between documentary & fictional photography, until Sun 30 Nov, Library of Birmingham

RAFAL ZAR EXHIBITION Showcase of new paintings by Sandwell-based Polish artist Rafal Zar, who was awarded the 2014 ESP Members Open Show, until Sat 6 Dec, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

SUSAN PHILIPSZ - BROKEN ENSEMBLE: WAR DAMAGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (BRASS SECTION) New site-specific work from Turner Prize-winning artist Susan Philipsz, which promises to fill the gallery with the sounds of instruments damaged in World War One, until Sat 6 Dec, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

SOUND AND SILENCE EXHIBITION Exploring the experience of prayer & contemplation amongst Birmingham's six major faith groups, until Sat 13 Dec, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

STATIC: STILL LIFE RECONSIDERED until Wed 31 Dec, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

SENSING SCULPTURE Featuring new sculptures alongside old favourites, until Wed 31 Dec, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

CRAFTSENSE Featuring over one hundred of the world-renowned Bilston enamels, until Wed 31 Dec, Bilston Craft Gallery

TURNING 'AGES EXHIBITION Installation & exhibition which comments on our connection with the written word, until Wed 31 Dec, Library of Birmingham

VOICES OF WAR EXHIBITION The experiences of men on the Front, the impact of war on children, the contribution of black & Asian soldiers, and the role of women on the Home Front are among the themes explored in this enlightening WWI exhibition, until Wed 31 Dec, Library of Birmingham

MADE AT MAC: JEWELLERY EXHIBITION Featuring work created under the watchful eye of artist-tutor Nick Greenhough, until Sun 4 Jan, mac, Birmingham

EXPOSED: THE BODY IN ART FORM FROM DURER TO FREUD Exploring artistic responses to the human body, featuring works by Albrecht Dürer, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Helen Chadwick, Francis Bacon, Gillian Wearing and Lucian Freud, until

VisualArts LISTINGS

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

Fri 4 Jan, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

AFTER THE GOLDRUSH An exhibition of work by Stephen Boyd made in response to the finding & conservation of the Staffordshire Hoard, until Fri 11 Jan, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

USEFUL OR BEAUTIFUL CRAFT EXHIBITION Curated selection of contemporary craft for sale, until Sat 17 Jan, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

THE MAKING OF MORDOR Featuring works by Turner Prize nominee Richard Billingham, photographer Brian Griffin & internationally acclaimed installation artist Olafur Eliasson, until Sat 17 Jan, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

POP EUROPE! until Sat 7 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

100 DAYS: THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE TWENTY YEARS LATER A display of photographic, digital and installation works from a selection of international contemporary artists, to give voice to the women who lived through the conflict, until Thurs 30 Apr, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

THE JEWELLERY QUARTER DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR Exhibition of artefacts, images and oral histories relating to the recruitment of soldiers from the Jewellery Quarter, until Sat 27 June, The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

SOLDIERS STORIES: BIRMINGHAM AND THE ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT 1914 - 1918 Exhibition which commemorates the centenary of the First World War and recounts the experiences of Birmingham men who served in the regiment between 1914 and 1918, using personal objects, medals & memorabilia, until Sun 26 July, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

RECOVERY ART Display of works on paper, paintings, mosaics & sculpture, created by members of The Barber's Recovery Art Group, Wed 1 - Sun 12 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

FOUR FATHERS PROJECT EXHIBITION Part of the Library's oral history collection, exploring the traditions, culture, language and lived experiences of different generations of South Asian men living in Birmingham, Thurs 2 - Fri 31 Oct, Library of Birmingham

THE ARTIST AND THE CITY Collaboration between AirSpace Gallery & The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery which explores the idea of Stoke-on-Trent as an Artcity, Sat 4 Oct - Sun 22 Feb, Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

MANDELA 27 A physical display based upon the dimensions of Nelson Mandela's cell, housing cultural stories and works, Mon 15 - Sat 25 Oct, The Drum, Birmingham

ALISTAIR TUCKER Solo show of new drawings, paintings & prints, Mon 13 Oct - Sat 15 Nov, RBSA, Birmingham

JON TONKS: EMPIRE Series of photographs which come together to tell the story of life on four remote islands in the South Atlantic, Sat 18 Oct - Sun 4 Jan, mac, Birmingham

'DEGENERATE ART' German expressionist art from the Barber Collection, including early twentieth century prints by celebrated artists Max Beckmann, George Grosz & Egon Schlele, Fri 24 Oct - Sun 11 Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

REBEL VISIONS Groundbreaking exhibition exploring the work of British war artist Richard Nevinson, Fri 24 Oct - Sat 25 Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

THE NAKED AND THE NUDE Featuring strikingly different images of the unclothed human figure, Fri 31 Oct - Sun 18 Jan, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

Museums & Art Galleries

Birmingham

ARTIFEX Sutton Coldfield 0121 323 3776

BARBER INSTITUTE 0121 414 7333

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 0121 303 2834

CASTLE GALLERIES 0121 248 8484

GRAND UNION 0121 643 9079

IKON GALLERY 0121 248 0708

NUMBER NINE THE GALLERY 0121 643 9099

RBSA GALLERY 0121 2364353

STRYX GALLERY, DIGBETH stryxarts@gmail.com

THREE WHITE WALLS GALLERY 0121 200 3328

Black Country

BANTOCK HOUSE WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 552195

BILSTON CRAFT GALLERY 01902 552507

BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS MUSEUM, DUDLEY 01384 812745

DUDLEY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 01384 815575

LIGHT HOUSE MEDIA CENTRE WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 716055

THE NEW ART GALLERY WALSALL 01922 654400

RED HOUSE GLASS CONE 01384 812750

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Shropshire

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Staffordshire

NEWCASTLE BOROUGH MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 01782 232323

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

SHIRE HALL GALLERY STAFFORD 01785 278345

STAFFORDSHIRE MUSEUM, SHUGBOROUGH 01889 881388

Warwickshire

COMPTON VERNEY GALLERY 01926 645500

HERBERT ART GALLERY COVENTRY 02476 832386

MEAD GALLERY WARWICK 02476 524524

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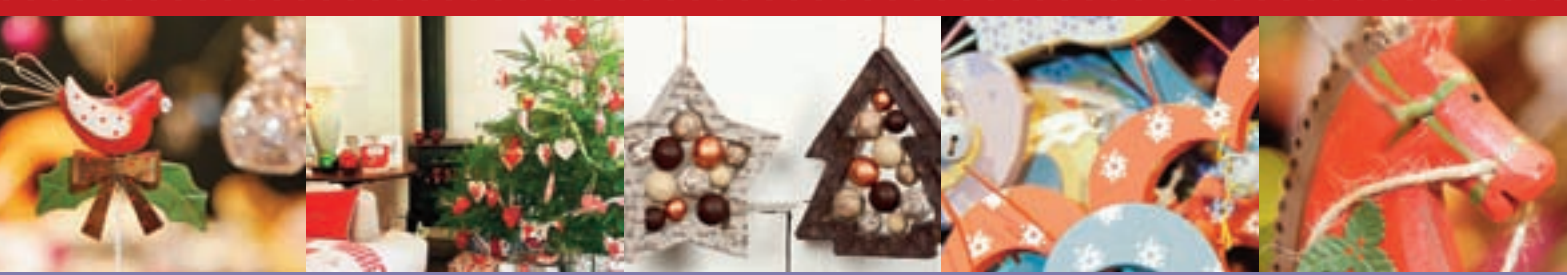
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NEC, Birmingham

Open 9.30am - 5.30pm (Sun 5pm)



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Ticket Hotline 01425 277988

Tickets: **Adults £10 in advance, £12 on the door**
Seniors £9 in advance, £11 on the door

SAVE £2 OFF EACH ADULT AND SENIOR TICKET ordered by 5pm Mon 3 November

SEPARATE ENTRY FEE

The Sugarcraft, Cake Decorating & Baking Show

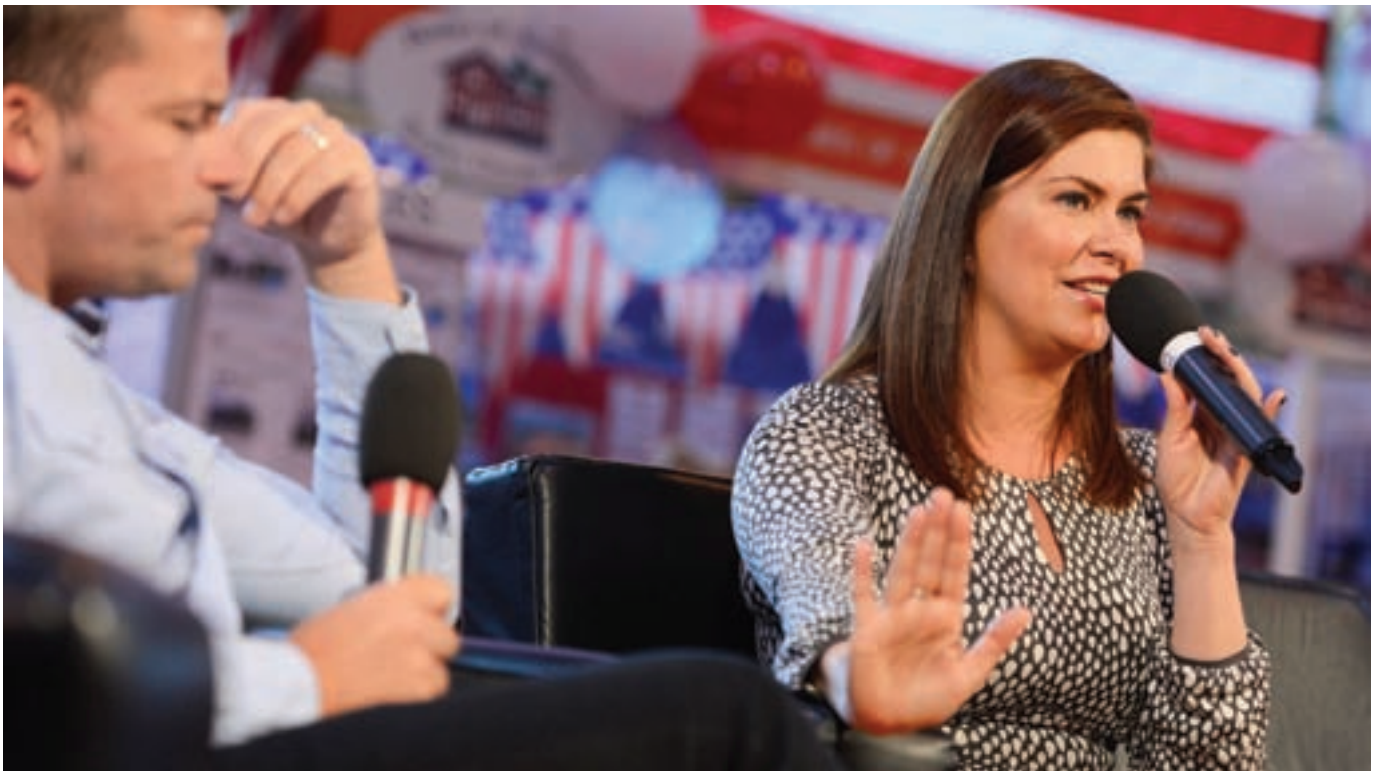
Cake INTERNATIONAL

Friday 7 - Sunday 9 November 2014 NEC, Birmingham

Fri 9.30am - 5.30pm • Sat 9am - 5.30pm • Sun 9.30am - 5pm

Buy tickets online www.cakeinternational.co.uk or phone Ticket Hotline 01425 277988 Tickets: Adults £12 in advance, £14 on the door Seniors £11 in advance, £13 on the door

Events



A Place In The Sun Live

National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, Friday 3 - Sunday 5 October

Looking to invest in that dream holiday home abroad, but not quite sure how best to go about it?
Well, you could start by heading to Birmingham's NEC and checking out Channel Four's overseas property exhibition, A Place In The Sun Live. Featuring around one hundred-and-twenty agents selling property in destinations across the world, the show also hosts a series of free-to-attend seminar sessions, where you can learn about everything from the process of buying property abroad to how you'll be affected by those all-important tax laws.
The TV programme's presenters, Laura Hamilton, Jasmine Harman, Jonnie Irwin and Amanda Lamb, are also on hand with plenty of sound advice. And for anybody who's harbouring celebrity aspirations, there's even a chance to screen-test to appear on the next series of the show.

Stone Food Festival

Stone, Staffordshire, Fri 3 - Sun 5 October

This month sees Staffordshire's original food festival celebrate its tenth year of bringing together the very best in local produce and cooking talent to delight visitors from far and wide.
Festival Friday and Saturday see the town centre bustle with crowds visiting the High Street Farmers' Market - where you'll find the very best local goodies. At noon on Friday the main festival at Westbridge Park opens its gates; offering visitors the chance to discover Staffordshire's very own food heroes in the Taste of Staffordshire area, browse stalls from some of the UK's finest artisan producers in the Gourmet Food Marquee, enjoy informative presentations in the Talks and Tastings Tent and watch top local chefs in action in the Demonstration Kitchen.
If all this activity whets your appetite, there's ready to eat food on offer to suit every taste – from street food to fine dining in the festival's very own pop up restaurant. Staffordshire brewers are also out in force and the Beer Tent has a true party atmosphere with great live music.



Horrible Black Country Histories

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sat 25 October - Sun 2 November

Putrid props, scary spiders, repulsive rats and a hidden mystery surprise await visitors to Dudley's award-winning living history museum this month. Promising to keep both the young and not-so-young entertained throughout the school half-term, the Black Country Living Museum has created a revolting route around its site, with various gruesome activities popping up along the way.
Meanwhile, Halloween Nights (31 Oct and 1 Nov) sees costumed re-enactors dishing out tricks, treats and terrifying tales of old. Other entertainment includes ghoulish face painting, circus performers, fire-jugglers, street theatre from Fizzog Productions, magicians and living statues. Visitors are encouraged to turn up in fancy dress and join the musical parade through the village, with prizes being awarded for the best dressed adult or child.

family arts festival* at mac birmingham



The Big Draw: Apparatus

Sat 4 Oct - Sun 2 Nov | Free Admission

Create drawings by agitating our custom-made drawing apparatus. Fun for all ages and abilities!

Fevered Sleep: Dusk

Wed 15 - Fri 17 Oct, 10am & 1pm | Sat 18 Oct, 10.30am & 1.30pm | Tickets £8 | Age 4+

Your child plays a central role in this inventive show combining film, dance and dressing up. Tails are provided!



A Little Commitment & Red Earth Theatre:

Pirate and Parrot

Sun 26 Oct | 11am & 2.30pm | Tickets £8 | Family Ticket £28 | Age 5+

This odd couple's adventure across the high seas will split your britches!



Tutti Frutti:

The Princess and the Pea

Mon 27 Oct | 11am & 2.30pm | Tickets £8 | Family Ticket £28 | Age 3+

A funny, beautiful retelling Hans Christian Anderson's classic tale.



Tony & Mike

(or the Country Owl and the City Squirrel)

Tue 28 Oct | 11am & 2.30pm | Tickets £8 | Family Ticket £28 | Age 3+

Tony the Owl lives in the countryside. He's really happy until Joe and Charlotte move from the city and ruin his peace and quiet!



Theatre of Widdershins:

The Magic Porridge Pot

Sun 2 Nov | 11am & 2.30pm | Tickets £8 | Family Ticket £28 | Age 3+

A trio of traditional and tasty tales to tantalise and tease. Bon Appetit!



Courses & Workshops

Throughout the October Half term we have workshops for kids of all ages and some for families to enjoy together.

Why not try your hand at textiles, pottery, painting & drawing, animation or paper mache?

Family Arts Festival

The Family Arts Festival runs across the UK from 13 October – 2 November. It aims to develop the range of arts events and activities available to families.

Sales & Information
0121 446 3232
www.macbirmingham.co.uk
Cannon Hill Park | Birmingham | B12 9QH

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BCE BLACK COUNTRY ECHOES FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER -DECEMBER | 2014



The Influence Machine by Tony Oursler © the artist, courtesy Artangel and the Tate

THE INFLUENCE MACHINE

A multi-media installation which haunts the urban landscape with spectres, sound and smoke

28 October - 1 November

St Peters Gardens, Lichfield St, Wolverhampton

ALSO

THE MAKING OF MORDOR EXHIBITION AT NIGHT

Wolverhampton Art Gallery late opening

31 October and 1 November, 5-8pm

Walkabouts and pop up poetry caravan

A festival celebrating Black Country manufacturing
27 exhibitions and 87 events
including family arts activities for half term
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www.supremecatshow.org

Ghostly Gaslight

Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire, Sat 25 October

This popular annual event sees the amiable characters of Blists Hill Victorian Town replaced by ghosts, ghouls and creepy-crawlies. As night falls and street lamps cast their shadows across the cobbled streets, visitors are advised to keep their eyes and ears open, as weird apparitions and spooky sounds take over the town's shops, cottages and workshops.



The Motorhome And Caravan Show

NEC, Birmingham, Tue 14 - Sun 19 October

Former F1 World Champion Nigel Mansell and TV presenter Fiona Bruce open this ever-popular show, the only event of its kind in the country which launches new products onto the market. And speaking of new products, one of the highlights of the 2014 get-together is sure to be the amazing Caravisio - a caravan of the future boasting fingerprint entry, smartphone control and an impressive design that's been inspired by modern yachts.

Attracting huge crowds, filling no fewer than eleven halls of the NEC, and promising to be 'bigger and better than ever', the Motorhome And Caravan Show 2014 features over four hundred UK exhibitors. As well as exploring all the latest products, the show also presents a packed programme of events in the Show Experts' Theatre, complete with top buying tips, cookery demonstrations, holiday advice and plenty of giveaways.

Visitors also get the chance to try towing a caravan and, under expert tuition, driving a motorhome.





Dinosaur Zoo

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 October

Bringing a plethora of prehistoric creatures to the stage, this unique experience enables audiences 'to interact with lifelike dinosaurs in an engaging live show'.

Fronting Dinosaur Zoo is Lindsey Chaplin, who, dressed in bush-ranger gear, introduces Australia's earliest inhabitants - from cute babies to teeth-gnashing giants - in a fun and educational way. 'Danger Zone' seats enable more daring audience members to get just that little bit closer to the action. And who knows, they may even get to meet the most recent addition to the show, a carnivorous theropod known as the Australovenator - the most complete meat-eating dinosaur skeleton ever to be found in Australia.

International Autumn Horse Trials

Weston Park, Staffordshire, Thurs 9 - Sun 12 October

Weston Park's stunning Capability Brown-designed parkland this month hosts one of the region's most prestigious equestrian events, the International Autumn Horse Trials. Many famous faces, including Olympic medal-winners, are expected to attend the trials, which cover a host of specialist disciplines, including cross country, show jumping and dressage.



Birmingham Literature Festival

Library of Birmingham, Thurs 2 - Sat 11 October

A major event on the city's calendar, the ten-day Birmingham Literature Festival continues to attract some of the biggest names in the business. Kicking off on National Poetry Day, this year's event welcomes Anita And Me author Meera Syal, celebrated writer and actress Janet Suzman, and 'Patron Saint of Poetry' Roger McGough.

Olivier Award-winning producer, actor and director Guy Masterson is joined by Hannah Ellis and Sian Lloyd in a performance which brings the words of Dylan Thomas to life on 3 October, while flash performances of Romeo And Juliet take place throughout the Library of Birmingham during lunchtime on the 4th.

For full festival listings, visit www.birmingham-literaturefestival.org


Meera Syal

Fun Palace

The REP, The Pen Museum & the Library of Birmingham, Sat 4 - Sun 5 October

Part of a national initiative celebrating arts, culture and sciences, Fun Palace encourages youngsters to become artists and scientists through fun interactive activities.

In Birmingham, there's a Murder Mystery Trail, using real-life forensics to solve the crime, an all-ages sensory play area, craft workshops and fun games to enjoy. There's also a chance to meet scientists from the University of Birmingham, who'll introduce some of their Think Corner activities to visitors.



Ghostly Gaslight



Sat 25 Oct 2014,
6pm - 9pm

Come in your most frightening costume & meet the creepy characters. Includes family fireworks display.

Advance Tickets Only

Fireworks Night



Sat 1 Nov 2014,
6pm - 9pm

See a fantastic fireworks display and molten iron being poured in the foundry.

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*Booking fees applies & advance prices available until 5pm Friday 17th October, standard price thereafter. See website for full Terms & Conditions.

KIDS GO FREE

Events LISTINGS

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

from WED 1 OCT

CRAFTPLAY LITTLE EXPLORERS Play and discover with your child in friendly, relaxed sessions, Wed 1 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery
LIVE AGE FESTIVAL A celebration of creativity in later life, Wed 1 - Thurs 2 Oct, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
MALVERN FESTIVAL OF INNOVATION Exploring the latest in business & technology innovation, Wed 1 - Fri 3 Oct, Malvern Theatres
CONTINENTAL CIRCUS BERLIN An amalgamation of circus acts, music and youthful energy, incorporating performers from all over the world, Wed 1 - Sun 5 Oct, Worcester Racecourse
DIESEL ENTHUSIASTS GALA Back for a second year, with a full diesel-only timetable operating on all three days and a train service operating well into the evenings, Thurs 2 - Sat 4 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster
A PLACE IN THE SUN LIVE The world's biggest overseas property exhibition, Fri 3 - Sun 5 Oct, NEC, Birmingham
THE NATIONAL WEDDING SHOW Hints, tips and ideas galore for the Big Day, Fri 3 - Sun 5 Oct, NEC, Birmingham
TRUSTEES' CHARITY BALL Fri 3 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens
RUN WHAT YA BRUNG The chance to take your car or motorcycle out on the famous quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sat 4 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
RIDE TO THE WALL Annual pilgrimage of motorcyclists to the Armed Forces Memorial, in support of the National Memorial Arboretum, Sat 4 Oct, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire
BRIT ASIA TV MUSIC AWARDS 2014 Celebrating the best of British Asian music, Sat 4 Oct, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK Sat 4 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham
THE GREAT WALSALL FESTIVAL OF GOOD THINGS Featuring the acclaimed Tat Man Tales, a one-man show by David Calcutt, Sat 4 Oct, The New Art Gallery, Walsall
SPORTS & SALOON CAR RACES Sat 4 - Sun 5 Oct, Donington Park
HERITAGE WEEKEND Listen to informative talks about the Cadbury family, then take a stroll around the historic Bournville Village, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Oct, Cadbury World, Birmingham
APPLE WEEKEND Featuring themed activities for children & families, produce sale, apple pressing & tastings, a longest peel competition, rural crafts and a folk dancing display, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Oct, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens
FUN PALACE The Rep and the Library of Birmingham are transformed into a Fun Palace for the weekend, creating a space for arts, science and discovery, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Oct, The REP, Birmingham, Library of Birmingham & Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
COMPOSERS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE Talk by Dr Donald Huntobe, Sat 4 Oct, The Elgar Birthplace Museum, Worcester
FLIGHT SIM Featuring all the latest flight simulation software and the chance to test your virtual flying skills, Sat 4 Oct, RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton
DOGS UNITE Join the Shrewsbury Guide Dog Association for a fundraising dog walk, Sat 4 Oct, Attingham Park, Nr Shrewsbury
ARTY PARTY Fortnightly art club for eight-to-14-year-olds. Please call 01782 232323 to book, Sat 4 Oct, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
CARS THROUGH THE LENS Photographer Lara Platman gives advice on how to take the perfect car photo, Sat 4 Oct, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire
GRANDPARENT WEEKEND Sat 4 - Sun 5 Oct, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire
CRAFTPLAY SATURDAYS Sat 4 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery
HARVEST WEEKEND Sat 4


Stone Food And Drink Festival









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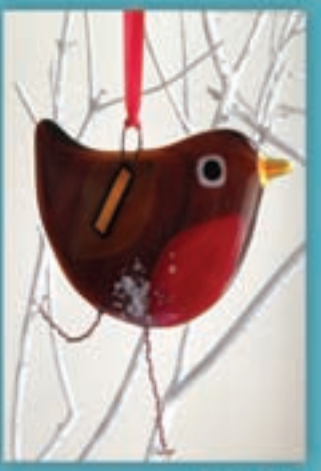
The Shire Hall Gallery

Friday 7th and Saturday 8th November

The Shire Hall Gallery is celebrating the return of itssuccessful annual Craft Fair, open 9am - 5pm free entry.

Our exhibitors will be selling unique handmade craft, including colourful glassware and stunning textiles and jewellery.

You are sure to find that perfect gift or a treat for yourself!



Sarah Myatt

Staffordshire County Council

Shire Hall Gallery, Market Square
Stafford, ST16 2LD 01785 278345
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/arts



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All bookings are subject to a single transaction fee. All information correct at time of publishing. See website for all information. Tickets include showguide to the value of £7.50. Entry to the auction requires purchase of a catalogue.

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Events LISTINGS

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

- Sun 5 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley
RAM RUN Ultimate cross country challenge which takes visitors through and around the beautiful grounds of Stoneleigh Park, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Oct, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

GTI FESTIVAL RWYB for water-cooled VWs, auto jumble, show'n'shine plus club displays, Sun 5 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
THE MINI OWNERS CLUB UK Sun 5 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum
KATHERINE HOUSE 10K RUN Fundraising event for Katherine House Hospice, Sun 5 Oct, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire
BRIDAL FAYRE Sun 5 Oct, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley
ARCHERY AT ATTINGHAM Try your hand at archery with the Bowbrook Archers, Sun 5 Oct, Attingham Park, Nr Shrewsbury
BOOKSALE & FREE ENTRY Check out the wide selection of books on offer and watch as millers display their skills at grinding wheat and producing Sarehole flour, Sun 5 Oct, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham
NICK SHARRATT - LITTLEWORDS Join illustrator Nick Sharratt as he shares some of his favourite books, shows how he creates his characters and offers drawing tips, Sun 5 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove
SIEGFRIED SASSOON REVISITED A talk by Dr Jean Moorcroft Wilson on her reshaped landmark biography of Sassoon, Sun 5 Oct, The Friends Meeting House, Great Malvern
THE RSC FUN PALACE A day of free activities experimenting with elements of theatre-making in the Theatre Laboratory, Sun 5 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
ANCIENT TREES WALK Sun 5 Oct, Attingham Park, Nr Shrewsbury
MOTORSPORT MARSHALLING TASTER DAY Sun 5 Oct, Donington Park
ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR Sun 5 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull
BIG BRUM OPEN TOP BUZ TOURS Sun 5 Oct, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham
CACTUS AND ORCHID SHOW Sun 5 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Week Commencing MON 6 OCT

TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Drop-in sessions where participants use the technique known as tube lining to decorate their very own tile to take home, Tue 7 Oct, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire
NEW DISCOVERIES AT THE IRON BRIDGE Tue 7 Oct, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Shropshire
CRAFTPLAY EXPLORERS Tue 7 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery
LUNCHTIME TALK: 1914 AND ALL THAT An illustrated talk by Kenneth Wright, military historian, on the Western Front and the early battles of 1914, Tue 7 Oct, Bantock House & Park
HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW Including the return of the Musical Ride of the Household Cavalry for 2014, Wed 8 - Sun 12 Oct, NEC, Birmingham
ALL THINGS GREAT AND SCRUMPTIOUS Wed 8 Oct, Dudmaston Estate, Nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire
HONDA MOTORCYCLE EXPERIENCE Wed 8 Oct, Donington Park
CRAFTPLAY LITTLE EXPLORERS Play and discover with your child in friendly, relaxed sessions Wed 8 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery
LOCAL HISTORY TALK: THE MUSIC MAN Wed 8 Oct, Wolverhampton City Archive
SALLY MORGAN: PSYCHIC SALLY ON THE ROAD Thurs 9 Oct, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire
GRAND DESIGNS LIVE The UK's leading contemporary home show makes a welcome return to Birmingham, Thurs 9 - Sun 12 Oct, NEC, Birmingham
STOKE KITCHEN 2014 Three city stars join celebrity chef Gino D'Acampo in the kitchen, Thurs 9 Oct, Britannia Stadium, Stoke-on-Trent
CYRIL SCOTT Centenary lecture, Fri 10 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum
IT'S A GAS! Volunteers bring the gas engines to life in the Cinema Power House and the Trap Shop, Fri 10 Sat 11 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley
GREAT ELECTRIC TRAIN SHOW A model railway event with superb layouts, trade stands and modelling demonstrations, Sat 11 - Sun 12 Oct, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire
RUN WHAT YA BRUNG The chance to take your car or motorcycle out on the famous quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sat 11 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
TRANSPORT ENTHUSIASTS DAY Featuring a selection of vintage vehicles, Sat 11 Oct, Electric Railway Museum, Coventry
1940S HANGAR DANCE Dance the night away to music by Paul Drakeley and his All Stars Band & Singers, with guests encouraged to don wartime uniforms for the evening, Sat 11 Oct, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton
AN EVENING WITH NICK OWEN & DOUG ELLIS An evening for football fans, particularly those of Aston Villa Football Club, Sat 11 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex
SOOTY'S WACKY WORKSHOP Taking time out from his CITV show to visit Birmingham, Sooty is joined at Cadbury World by friends Soo and Sweep, Sat 11 - Sun 12 Oct, Cadbury World, Birmingham
OCTONAUTS ON A MISSION Dive into action with the Octonauts, the team of undersea adventure heroes from CBeebies, with young fans of the TV show invited to embark on a mission where they can meet Kwazil & Peso, Sat 11 Oct - Sun 30 Nov, The National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham
SILVER BANGLE JEWELLERY WORKSHOP Sat 11 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham
RAILWAYANA Memorabilia auction, Sat 11 Oct, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
TOY STEAM & TRADITIONAL HOBBIES DAY Sat 11 Oct, Winterbourne House & Garden, Birmingham
COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM CLASSIC CAR BREAKFAST CLUB Sat 11 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum
MESSINES: THE GREAT WAR MODEL ON CANNOCK CHASE Talk by Steve Dean, County Archaeologist for Staffordshire, Sat 11 Oct, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford
COLIN BROWNLEE An illustrated talk on a much-neglected part of the choral heritage, using rare recordings and archive photographs, Sat 11 Oct, St Leonards Church, Leamington Spa
TELFORD STAMP, CARD & COIN FAIR Sat 11 Oct, Belmont Hall, Telford
TALK AND WALK Join the site's resident expert for an illustrated talk and tour of the ruins, Sat 11 Oct, Weoley Castle, Birmingham
YOUNG ARTISTS Learn how to draw, create paintings and make sculptures, Sat 11 Oct, Wolverhampton Art Gallery
EXCALIBUR COMPUTER FAIR Sat 11 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull
NEWCOMEN IN STEAM The only full-sized working replica of the world's first steam engine can be seen in action, Sat 11 - Sun 12 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley
GLASS HERITAGE WEEKEND Sat 11 - Sun 12 Oct, Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge
JAPSHOW FINALE The finale event of the year for Japanese car enthusiasts, Sun 12 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
BAKING BREAD Sun 12 Oct, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham
FIERCE FESTIVAL: UNLIMITED SALON Aaron Williamson, Nicola Canavan and Noemi Lakmaier join curators from mac birmingham and Fierce Festival to discuss their research and development projects within the Unlimited programme, Sun 12 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
LINDA HART An illustrated talk on the six poets and their friends who lived around Dymock at the beginning of the Great War, Sun 12 Oct, The Coach House Theatre, Great Malvern
THE BATTLE OF THE CONKERS Sun 12 Oct, Chirk Castle, Powys
ORCHARD DAY Learn about the care of the estate's trees, Sun 12 Oct, Dudmaston Estate, Nr Bridgnorth
EID Celebrate the cultural festival of Eid with traditional Qawwali music, Islamic art, dance performances and much more, Sun 12 Oct, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
CION & BANKNOTE FAIR Sun 12 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum
RECORD FAIR Sun 12 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum
AUTUMN WALK IN THE WOODS Sun 12 Oct, Upton House & Gardens, Worcestershire
FUNGI DAY Join in the on-site workshops to make your very own Funghi Fashion hat to take home, Sun 12 Oct, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

Week Commencing MON 13 OCT

BAKE AND MAKE - THE ART OF BREAD AND BUTTER Find out how people in the seventeenth century ran their home, bake a loaf of bread and make butter, Mon 13 Oct, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton
THE MOTORHOME AND CARAVAN SHOW The UK's biggest motorhome and caravanning event returns to the NEC, Tue 14 - Sun 19 Oct, NEC, Birmingham
TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Drop-in sessions where participants use the technique known as tube lining to decorate their very own tile to take home, Tue 14 Oct, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire
CRAFTPLAY EXPLORERS Tue 14 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery
5 WEEK ENAMEL COURSE Play, improve, develop or just enjoy using vitreous enamel to make jewellery, mobiles, small panels, 3D work, clocks and signs, Tue 14 Oct - Tue 11 Nov,









THE EASY WAY TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS ONLINE

whatsonlive.co.uk

The most comprehensive what's on listings website for Birmingham and the West Midlands

Events LISTINGS

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

Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge
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 15 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
DRESSING THE QUEEN See history brought to life and meet Kenilworth's authentically costumed Queen Elizabeth I. Every month, visitors have the opportunity to watch 'Elizabeth' being dressed, from undergarments to the finishing touches, Wed 15 Oct, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR... An illustrated talk by Robert Perry RBSA Wed 15 Oct, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford
WOW, NEARLY A RECORD BREAKER Find out about the record-breaking trees on the estate, Wed 15 Oct, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
CRAFTPLAY LITTLE EXPLORERS Play and discover with your child in friendly, relaxed sessions, Wed 15 October Bilston Craft Gallery
ARTFORUM GOLD CLUB Art club aimed at young people aged 14-25. Explore exhibitions, work with artists and try new techniques, Wed 15 Oct, Wolverhampton Art Gallery
BLACK COUNTRY ECHOES: IN PICTURES ROUND TABLE A rare chance to meet the documenters of the Black Country's manufacturing heritage and social history, Thurs 16 Oct, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton
MIDLANDS MODEL ENGINEERING EXHIBITION Featuring nearly one thousand models, demonstrations, indoor & outdoor displays, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 Oct, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre
GHOST TOURS Fri 17 - Sat 18 Oct, Whittington Castle, North Shropshire
FAMILY ARTS FESTIVAL Fri 17 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Compton Verney Gallery
THE ROAD TO MORDOR: HISTORY TALK Author Bob Blackman explores JRR Tolkien's West Midlands roots and how this and his WWI experiences might have influenced themes and imagery in The Lord Of The Rings, Fri 17 Oct, Wolverhampton Art Gallery
EARLY MUSIC WORKSHOP WITH SIRINU Fri 17 Oct, The Croft Preparatory School, Alveston
EXTREME PERFORMANCE BIKE WEEKEND This is the ultimate track day event for bikers and scooterists, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
NATIONAL CAR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL Sat 18 - Sun 19 Oct, Donington Park
BREAKING CHAINS Featuring a procession of flags, street entertainment, music, crafting activities and theatre from local performers, along with stirring speeches, Sat 18 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley
PUTTING THE HOUSE TO BED WEEKEND Find out about the enormous winter cleaning and conservation programme at Shugborough, and how the site's most treasured artefacts are preserved for generations to admire. There's also a chance to take part in bug hunts and meet some of the venue's pests - safely contained in jars! Sat 18 - Sun 19 Oct, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire
COMEDY CLUB 4 KIDS Cracking entertainment for everyone over six years of age, Sat 18 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
HAWKSTONE GAME FAIR Sat 18 - Sun 19 Oct, Hawkstone Park & Follies, Weston-under-Redcastle, North Shropshire
CHARACTER WEEKEND Get snapped with some of Cadbury's most colourful characters, including Caramel Bunny, Freddo, Creme Egg and Mr Cadbury's Parrot, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Oct, Cadbury World, Birmingham
GYM FUSION Featuring exciting and creative performances from all ages, abilities and disciplines, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Oct, Ricoh Arena, Coventry
THE SPICE TRAIN An evening supper special, Sat 18 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Nr Bewdley
VOICES OF WAR EXHIBITION GUIDED TOURS Sat 18 Oct, Library Of Birmingham
RUT WALKS Sat 18 - Sun 19 Oct, Attingham Park, Nr Shrewsbury
50 THINGS ACTIVITY DAY Sat 18 Oct, Chirk Castle, Clwyd
PRINTMAKING WITH RECLAIMED MATERIALS Artist Joanna Rucklidge offers the opportunity to use common waste materials, household objects and handmade stencils to create pictures, patterns & textiles, Sat 18 Oct, Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry
ARTY PARTY Fortnightly art club for eight-14-year-olds. Please call 01782 232323 to book, Sat 18 Oct, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
DRAWING FROM AUTOMOTIVE HISTORY One-day drawing course with Richard Cook, Sat 18 Oct, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire
AUTUMN BULB DISPLAY Sat 18 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens
CRAFTPLAY SATURDAYS Sat 18 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery
YOUNG ARTISTS Learn how to draw, create paintings and make sculptures, Sat 18 Oct, Wolverhampton Art Gallery
ENAMEL CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS WORKSHOP Using a range of copper working and enamelling techniques, create Christmas decorations in this workshop led by artist Carol Griffin, Sat 18 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley
TRAFALGAR DAY Celebrate Trafalgar Day at Soho House, Sun 19 Oct, Soho House, Birmingham
WILD FOOD WALK Sun 19 Oct, Attingham Park, Nr Shrewsbury
100 YEARS OF ENGINEERING AT ASTON MARTIN Sun 19 Oct, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire
THE MIDLANDS BEAD FAIR Sun 19 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Warwickshire
APPLE DAY Enjoy archery, morris dancing, plant sales and much more, Sun 19 Oct, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham
MUD RUNNER CLASSIC Sun 19 Oct, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire
UNITY INTERNATIONAL The biggest martial arts show in the UK, Sun 19 Oct, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

Week Commencing MON 20 OCT

TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Drop-in sessions where participants use the technique known as tube lining to decorate their very own tile to take home, Tue 21 Oct, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire
SPOOKY OCTOBER HALF TERM - SKULL HUNT Tue 21 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
CRAFTPLAY EXPLORERS Tue 21 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery
SCIENCE OF SOUND Wed 22 Oct - Fri 5 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
FAMILY AFTERNOON Wed 22 Oct, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton
MITCHELL: THE MAN AND THE MACHINE ENGINEERS Centenary celebration with guest speakers Julian Mitchell, Mark Harris from Operation Spitfire, and pilot Ian Smith MBE, Wed 22 Oct, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
CRAFTPLAY LITTLE EXPLORERS Play & discover with your child in friendly, relaxed sessions, Wed 22 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery
DINOSAUR ZOO Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
SALLY MORGAN: PSYCHIC SALLY ON THE ROAD Fri 24 Oct, Dudley Town Hall
GHOST TOURS Fri 24 - Sat 25 Oct, Whittington Castle, Nr Oswestry, North Shropshire
SPOOKY TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Fri 24 - Sat 25 Oct, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire
B-BOY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014 - KNOCK OUT JAM (see dance section), Sat 25 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
HALF-TERM FAMILY ACTIVITIES Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire
FLAME & THUNDER SHOW An action-packed family day of drag racing, stunts and more, Sat 25 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
BULB PLANTING WEEKENDS Sat 25 - Sun 26 Oct, National Memorial Aboretum, Staffordshire
GORE AND GRIME HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley
THE GHOST TRAIN A thrilling ride out into the countryside, from Kidderminster to Arley and back, Sat 25 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Nr Bewdley
NO TRICKS JUST TREATS Halloween-themed event, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Oct, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge
HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR Arrive in fancy dress for some ghoulish fun and enjoy Cadbury World's brand new live show, Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Cadbury World, Birmingham
DIVE 2014 The UK's biggest event for divers, featuring around two hundred-and-fifty exhibitors, two try-dive pools, special features and free talks by diving's leading experts, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Oct, NEC, Birmingham
GHOSTLY GASLIGHT The friendly Victorians have been replaced by creepy characters, so dress in your most frightening costume to keep ghosts and ghouls at bay!, Sat 25 Oct, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire
WALSALL LOCAL HISTORY FAIR Sat 25 Oct, The Crossing at St Paul's, Darwall Street, Walsall
OCTOBER HALF-TERM FAMILY FUN Featuring fun drop-in activities, from dipping fabulously colourful candles and building a wall with mini-bricks to discovering Morse Code and colouring in pictures of Victorian scenes, Sat 25 - Fri 31 Oct, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire
STICKY CRITTERS Design and make creepy, suction-cup sticky critters that can stick to your windows, Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire
SPOOKY STORIES Sat 25 Oct, Winterbourne House & Garden, Birmingham
AY THOU POOR GHOST Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon
HALLOW HALLOW Featuring activities such as pumpkin carving, cake and charm-making, falconry demonstrations, archery and much more... Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Mary Arden House, Stratford-upon-Avon
THE PATH OF THE PLAGUE WOODLAND WALK Discover what Tudor England was really like during the plague, Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon
ALL HALLOWS Halloween-themed activities as part of the October half-term programme, Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon
FIRE BURN AND CAULDRON BUBBLE Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon
HALLOWEEN AND GUNPOWDER Spooky outdoor trail and take-home activities, Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Coughton Court, Warwickshire
ROSIE BROADLEY A talk on Laura Knight's lost portraits, Sat 25 Oct, Colwall Village Hall, Colwall
HALLOWEEN ACTIVITY TRAIL Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
FAMILY WORKSHOP: LOVE LABOUR'S LOST Sat 25 Oct, Clore Learning Centre, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
PINHOLE CAMERA WORKSHOP Led by photographer Jo Gane, Sat 25 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry
HALLOWEEN HALF-TERM TRAILS Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Attingham Park, Nr Shrewsbury
LINOPRINTING WORKSHOP Sat 25 Oct, Jack field Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire
THE BIG DRAW AT ENGINUITY Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire
OCTOBER HALF-TERM FAMILY ACTIVITIES Sat 25 - Fri 31 Oct, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire
HALLOWEEN HALF-TERM FUN Including spooky crafts, pumpkin carving, a haunted castle, a kids' cinema, a storytelling adventure playground & hours tours, Sat 25 - Fri 31 Oct, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire
HALLOWEEN AT HOO Featuring scary surprises in the Halloween Barn, a pumpkin maze for younger visitors, pumpkin carving, a themed fancy dress competition and a Devils Derby Sheep Race, Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Hoo Farm Animal Kingdom, Telford, Shropshire
HALF-TERM POTTERY PAINTING Paint a piece of pottery to take home with you. Choose from animals, bottle ovens, flowers and much more... Sat 25 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN TRAIL Sat 25 - Thurs 2 Oct, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire
EXCALIBUR COMPUTER FAIR Packed with computer goods at trade prices, Sat 25 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Warwickshire
DOWN UNDER LIVE A show put on by special exhibitors giving advice to those thinking of emigrating to Australia or New Zealand, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Warwickshire
CIVIL WAR CAMP Experience a weekend C17 Civil War camp and muskett firing with Fairfax Battalia, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Oct, Upton House & Gardens, Worcestershire
TEXTILE CRAFT CLUB Sat

Events LISTINGS

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

25 Oct, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham
THE SCARIEST TRICK OR TREAT IN TOWN Sat 25 - Sun 26 Oct, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove
ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR Sat 25 Oct, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
YOUNG ARTISTS Learn how to draw, create paintings and make sculptures, Sat 25 Oct, Wolverhampton Art Gallery
HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN DAY A day of spooky fun for all the family, Sat 25 Oct, Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge
PUMPKIN FESTIVAL Carve a wicked pumpkin and eat scary treats, Sat 25 - Weds 29 Oct, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton
HALF TERM FAMILY ACTIVITY WEEK with spooky crafts, fun quizzes and trails, Sat 25 - Fri 31 Oct, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire
HALLOWEEN TRAILS Sat 25 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton
UK B-BOY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014 - WORLD FINAL (see Dance section) Sun 26 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
NATIONAL RESTORATION SHOW Sun 26 Oct, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
LARGE MODEL AIRCRAFT SHOW Annual indoor show has over 100 large-scale radio-controlled model aircraft on display; plus demonstrations and aircraft simulators, Sun 26 Oct, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire
RUN WHAT YA BRUNG The chance to take your car or motorcycle out on the famous quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sun 26 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
DREAM LANTERN WORKSHOPS Make a lantern and return on 8 November for the Birmingham Lights switch-on parade, to illuminate the route for The REP's float, Sun 26 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, The REP, Birmingham
MAC FOOD MARKET Indulge yourself with tasty treats and specialist goods at a special festive edition of mac's monthly food market, featuring a host of local artisan producers, Sun 26 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
THE ORIGINS OF MIDDLE EARTH WALK A guided walk exploring the surroundings that inspired JRR Tolkien, Sun 26 Oct, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham
HALLOWEEN FUN Sun 26 Oct, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
DIWALI - THE HINDU FESTIVAL OF LIGHT Featuring performances by Bollywood drum players, and classical music & dance from the Asian continent, Sun 26 Oct, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
CLOCK & WATCH FAIR Sun 26 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Warwickshire
THE HAUNTING A chilling passage of terror to scare the bravest of hearts. Expect special effects & ghosts, Sun 26 - Fri 31 Oct, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

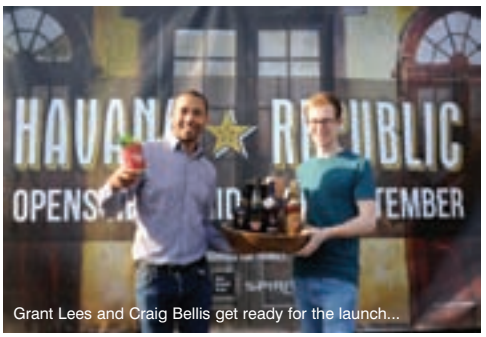
Week Commencing MON 27 OCT

HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES Mon 27 - Fri 31 Oct, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton
HALLOWEEN MAKE UP WORKSHOPS Join Andrew Whiteoak, The REP's Head of Wigs And Make-Up, as he introduces visitors to the wonderful world of theatrical make-up effects. Learn how to create wounds and scars with your kids. Take a kit home so that you can create them at your own Halloween party, Mon 27 - Wed 29 Oct, The REP, Birmingham
GHOSTS, GHOULS AND GOBLINS Join in the fun by making a ghoulish card, a changing zigzag picture and a goblin badge. Explore the yucky boxes and create shadow puppets. Plus, as part of the Big Draw, enter the ghouls' gallery, Mon 27 - Fri 31 Oct, Selly Manor, Birmingham
PLAGUE & PESTILENCE Mon 27 - Fri 31 Oct, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham
STORYTELLING WITH ANNAMATION Be transported back in time to Anglo-Saxon England with an interactive and entertaining performance by storytellers Annamation, Mon 27 - Fri 31 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
PLAY CART An array of craft activities, Mon 27 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
ADVENTURE BAGS Check out an RSC adventure bag and enjoy exploring the words of the world's most famous playwright in his home-town, Mon 27 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
DRESSING UP BOX Half-term dressing-up activity for kids, Mon 27 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
DRAWING WORKSHOP Half-term activity, Mon 27 - Fri 31 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
PLAY IN A DAY Opportunity for young people to make their very own play, Mon 27 - Wed 29 Oct, Clore Learning Centre, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
SPOOKY WALKS Enjoy a self-guided walk around the grounds at night. But beware - who knows what may be prowling around at Halloween?, Mon 27 - Wed 29 Oct, Attingham Park, Nr Shrewsbury
THE BIG DRAW Help make a large-scale, mixed media artwork, Mon 27 - Fri 31 Oct, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Shropshire
DROP IN CRAFTS: HAROLD HAREFOOT'S HELMET Join local artist Lucy Read and make your very own Saxon helmet mask to take home, Mon 27 - Fri 31 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
OBJECT HANDLING Get hands-on with history and find out lots more about fascinating objects that are over 1000 years old!, Mon 27 - Fri 31 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
SPOOKY TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Mon 27 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire
OCTOBER HALF-TERM CERAMIC DROP-IN WORKSHOPS Mon 27 - Fri 31 Oct, Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire
THE APOTHECARY'S APPRENTICE Mon 27 - Wed 29 Oct, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
GHOSTS AND GHOULS WEEK Mon 27 - Fri 31 Oct, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire
HALLOWEEN TRAIL Follow spooky clues to earn a sweet prize Mon 27 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Upton House & Gardens, Worcestershire
STORY TIME AT BMAG Mon 27 - Fri 31 Oct, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery
CRAFTPLAY EXPLORERS Tue 28 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery
GET RATTY! Fun Pied Piper-themed workshops for kids. Make hand-held mazes with magnetic rats, and awesome masks! Tue 28 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Shropshire
SPOOKY SECRETS Explore a selection of rarely displayed props, costumes and accessories from the RSC collection, and unearth stories of Shakespeare's villains and magical characters, Tue 28 - Thurs 30 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
PUMPKIN CARVING WORKSHOP Learn new techniques for pumpkin carving, Tue 28 Oct, Attingham Park, Nr Shrewsbury
AUTUMN HALF-TERM - BATTY HATS Tue 28 - Thurs 30 Oct, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stratford-upon-Avon
HALF-TERM SPOOKY CRAFTS AND PUMPKIN CARVING Tue 28 - Thurs 30 Oct, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove
ONCE UPON A TIME... Storytelling followed by craft activities, Tue 28 Oct, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton
OCTOBER HALF-TERM FUN DAY Featuring castle tours with Lady Caroline, a living history tent, have-a-go archery, meerkats and creepy crawlies, Wed 29 Oct, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire
LOTIONS AND POTIONS gather your own materials to make a wand and witches potion for Halloween, Wed 29 Oct, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham
CRAFTPLAY LITTLE EXPLORERS Play & discover with your child in friendly, relaxed sessions, Wed 29 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery
HALLOWEEN FUNDAY Spooky, fun and free, Wed 29 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery
LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOP Make a willow lantern to take on the Gruffalo lantern parade. All materials and training will be provided. Children need to be accompanied by an adult, Wed 29 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
BLOOD, GUTS & GORE Half-term activity. Join former RSC head of wigs and make-up for talks and demonstrations on how bruises, cuts and scars are created, Wed 29 - Thurs 30 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
ART WORKSHOP: ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARTEFACTS Join ceramic artist Lorraine Bates to design and make your very own Ancient Egyptian-style amulet to take home, Wed 29 - Thurs 30 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
SINGING WORKSHOP Sing your heart out with an RSC coach. 8 plus, Wed 29 - Thurs 30 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
SPOOKY STORIES Wed 29 Oct, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
BOULTON GOES BOLLYWOOD Family-friendly fun with silk painting demonstrations and rangoli & garland-making craft activities, Wed 29 Oct, Soho House, Birmingham
MIDWEEK MUSIC AND MAKING Wed 29 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham
HALLOWEEN CRAFTS Wed 29 - Fri 31 Oct, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton
THE GHOST TRAIN A ride out into the countryside, from Kidderminster to Arley and back, Thurs 30 - Fri 31 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster
HALLOWEEN FUNDAY Thurs 30 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens
AUTUMN ART gather natural materials and turn them into decorations, Thurs 30 Oct, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham
DEREK ACORAH: THE ETERNAL SPIRITS TOUR Thurs 30 Oct, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock
HALLOWEEN GHOST TOURS Exclusive tour of the castle. Hear tales of dark deeds, ghostly apparitions and scary happenings, Thurs 30 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire
PUMPKIN LANTERN WORKSHOP Thurs 30 Oct, Weoley Castle, Birmingham
DIRT BIKE SHOW Thurs 30 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
HALLOWEEN NIGHTS Fri 31 Oct- Sat 1 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley
HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR Spine-chilling family fun for those brave enough to venture into the ghostly grounds, Fri 31 Oct, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire
HALLOWEEN WEEKEND Fri 31 Oct, Hawkstone Park & Follies, Weston-under- Redcastle, North Shropshire
MONSTER MASK CHILDREN'S CRAFT ACTIVITY Make a monster mask in preparation for the witching hour. Drop-in activity, Fri 31 Oct, Weoley Castle, Birmingham
HALLOWEEN EVENING EVENT Fri 31 Oct, Whittington Castle, Nr Oswestry, North Shropshire
SPOOKTACULAR PUPPET SHOW Fri 31 Oct, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon
VINTAGE NIGHT Featuring a three-course meal and live music, Fri 31 Oct, Le Truc, The Arcadian, Birmingham
SPELL FEST Halloween half-term activities, Fri 31 Oct, Clore Learning Centre, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS PARTY Fri 31 Oct, Attingham Park, Nr Shrewsbury
HAUNTING & BONFIRE NIGHT Doors open 5pm, bonfire starts at 5.30pm, fireworks start at 8.30pm, Fri 31 Oct, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire
HUBBLE BUBBLE, TOIL AND TROUBLE Meet the gruesome Barber-Surgeon, Macbeth's witches, and see some real animals that would've been included in their potions, Fri 31 Oct, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
HALF-TERM ACTIVITY - MONSTER MASKS Make a monster mask to scare people this Halloween, Fri 31 Oct, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
GHOST BUSTERS Take the Stratford Ghost Walk and discover terrible tales of ghosts, witches, murder and misery, Fri 31 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon
STEVE PARRISH MAD TOUR Fri 31 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Warwickshire
FREAKY FRIDAY Spooky crafts, trails and much more, Fri 31 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham
MONSTER MASK CHILDREN'S CRAFT ACTIVITY Fri 31 Oct, Weoley Castle, Birmingham
THE SCARIEST TRICK OR TREAT IN TOWN Fri 31 Oct, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove
HALLOWEEN STORY NIGHT Includes ghost walk, terrifying tales and light refreshments, Fri 31 Oct, Martineau Gardens, Birmingham
OUTBREAK FESTIVAL UK's biggest indoor music festival, Fri 31 Oct - Sat 1 Nov, Ricoh Arena, Coventry
NEWCOMEN IN STEAM The only full-sized working replica of the world's first steam engine can be seen in action, Fri 31 Oct - Sun 2 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

Eating Out

A taste of Cuba in Shropshire

A brand new experience is taking Shrewsbury by storm following the opening of Havana Republic, a Cuban-inspired lounge bar. “Havana Republic will combine the very best rums, recipes and inspiration from the fun country of Cuba,” says the venue’s Group Operations Director, Grant Lees. “Its relaxed atmosphere, excellently crafted speciality Mojitos and real Deep South Soul food are unrivalled anywhere in the county. Building on the recent success of the adjoining Japanese noodle and ramen restaurant, Momo No Ki, Havana Republic will be the perfect space in which to enjoy a pre-dinner cocktail. Our venue plays Cuban-inspired live music from 5.30pm every Friday and Saturday evening - perfect for the after-work crowd.”



Grant Lees and Craig Bellis get ready for the launch...

Celebrated chef lends a hand...

One of Britain’s most acclaimed chefs has played a major role in the lead-up to this month’s opening of new Shropshire restaurant The Townhouse. Michael Caines MBE and his team at Michael Caines Limited are lending their support with regard to a number of key elements, including menu creation. Located in Oswestry and formerly called Bar 35, The Townhouse has undergone an extensive two-year refurbishment and features a bar, a restaurant, private dining facilities and a function & wedding space. Of his involvement, Michael said: “The Townhouse is a really exciting project to have become involved with. Unfortunately I can’t personally be in the kitchen at the venue on a day-to-day basis, but I very much look forward to regular visits and lending my support for key events.”





A Punjabi welcome on Broad Street

REVIEW

No longer just a drinking hotspot, Broad Street is fast becoming a popular destination for dining too. The latest restaurant to grace the cobbles is EastZEast, a northern institution that’s finally made its way to Birmingham.

The hustle and bustle of Broad Street becomes a distant memory as you enter the venue via its frosted glass doors, stepping into an interior that features chandeliers, palm trees and grandiose décor. Offering up Punjabi cuisine, EastZEast has an extensive menu of both meat and vegetarian dishes, grills, karahis and mocktails, complemented by a full bar.

Ordering the obligatory poppadoms to start, we were taken aback by the wheel of eight dips that accompanied it. The meal was certainly off to a good start! Our drinks, a half-pint of mango lassi and a Sweet Dream mocktail, were sweet and moreish; I’d soon finished off my mocktail and was swiftly on to the next.

Chicken and lamb seekh kebab arrived quickly. The lamb, especially, had a kick to it. Next, we had the Meat Feast Balti and the chicken biryani, complete with sag aloo, lemon pilau and a garlic coriander naan. Both dishes were rated as medium-spiced on the menu, but I found the biryani to be more medium-to-hot.

Traditionally presented with a curry sauce, boiled egg and much-needed raita, it was good value at £9.95. The meat dish worked well with the lemon rice and garlic naan, and the sag aloo was something that I’d definitely order again.

The portions were so big that we had to pass up on the selection of western and eastern delights available for dessert.

An ideal venue for celebrations, EastZEast is a welcome addition to the West (Midlands). *Alev Dervish*

Food:
Service:
Ambience:
Overall value
OVERALL

EastZEast
197 Broad Street
Birmingham
B15 1AY
0121 643 4808

Restaurant LISTINGS

For full listing information on restaurants, including opening times and type of cuisine, visit: www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Birmingham

AALTO RESTAURANT Hotel La Tour, Albert Street, Birmingham B5 5JT 0121 718 8000

AIR RESTAURANT LG Arena, Bickenhill Rd, 0844 338 0333

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

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

CARLUCCIO'S The Water's Edge, Brindleyplace B1 2HP 0121 633 9262

CENTENARY BAR & BRASSERIE Broad Street, B1 2EP 0121 245 2080

CHUNG YING 16-18 Wrottersley Street, B5 4RT 0121 622 5669

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

DEL VILLAGGIO Unit 528, Middle Mall, The Bullring. B5 4BE 0121 643 1400

EDMUNDS 6 Brindley place, B1 2JB 0121 633 4944

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

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

MOUNT FUJI The Bullring, B5 4BH 0121 633 9853

OPUS 54 Cornwall St, B3 2DE 0121 200 2323

THE ORIENTAL The Mailbox, 128-130 Wharfside St, B1 1RQ 0121 633 9988

PEACHYKEENS 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'SBISTOR & GINGER'S BAR 11 Newhall Street, B3 3NY, 0121 2000 1588

RED PEPPERS 117 Wharfside St, B1 1RF 0121 643 4202

SAN CARLO 4 Temple St, B2 5BN 0121 633 0251

SHIMLA PINKS 215 Broad St, B15 1AY 0121 633 0366

SIMPSONS, 20 Highfield Rd, Edgbaston B13 3DU 0121 454 3434

THE SLUG AND LETTUCE, Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2HL 0121 633 3049

STRADA 109-111 Wharfside St, The Mailbox B1 1XL 0121 643 7279

THAI EDGE 7 Oozells Sq, B1 2HL 0121 643 3993

WAGAMAMA Brindley Place, birmingham B1

Black Country

ARBOUR LIGHTS 127-128 Lichfield Street, Walsall WS1 1SY 01922 613361

BANKS BISTRO Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton WV1 4EP 01902 238433

BELLA 82 Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton. 01902 427555

BENGAL FUSION 174 High St, Lye, Stourbridge DY9 8LN. 01384 891111

BILASH 2 Cheapside, Wolverhampton, WV1 1TU 01902 427762

THE BLUE BRICK Broad Gauge Way, Wolverhampton WV1 1AA 01902 875301

BRAVACCIOUS 4 Upper Green, Wolverhampton WV6 8QQ 01902 756052

CAFE CHAMPAGNE 253-255 Bilston Road, Wolverhampton WV2 2JN 01902 458024

CASA CASITA Upper Gornal, Dudley. DY3 1UP 01902 676754

CATELLANI'S 6 School St, Wolverhampton, WV1 4LR 01902 428928

CINNAMON COURT Bentley Mill Way, Walsall WS2 0BP 0121 568 6664

THE COWSHED Clive Farm Clive Rd, Pattingham, WV6 7EN 01902 701888

THE CROOKED HOUSE Coppice Hill, Himley DY3 4DA 01384 238583

THE DITCH 1 Town Hill, Walsall, WS1 2EU 01922 643215

DON SALVO 25 Darlington Street, Wolverhampton WV1 4HW 01902 712819

DUNSLEY HALL Dunsley Rd, Kinver, DY7 6LU 01384 877077

FARADAYS The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, Dudley, DY5 1UR 01384 482 882

FIVE RIVERS Vicarage Place, Walsall WS1 3NA 01922 646164

FOUR STONES Adam's Hill,Clint, Stourbridge, DY9 9PS 01562 883260

FRANZLS 151 Milcote Rd, Smethwick, B67 5BN 0121 429 7920

FRENCH CONNECTION 3 Coventry St, Stourbridge DY8 1EP 01384 390940

FRENCH HEN Bromsgrove Rd, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9PY 01562 883040

GOLDEN MOMENTS 2-3 Ablewell St, Walsall WS1 2EQ 01922 640363

THE HUNGRY BISTRO 81 Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1EQ 01902 546336

LE BRASSERIE 5 Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster. DY11 6UU 01562 744976

MADE IN THAI Darlington St, Wolverhampton WV1 4HW 01902 312512

PARADISE BALTI 7 Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster DY11 6UU 01562 60479

THE PIE FACTORY 50 Hurst Lane, Tipton DY4 9AB 0121 557 1402

RED FORT Fold St, Wolverhampton, WV1 4LP 01902 424440

RISTORANTE ROMAGNA 4 Upper Green, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton WV6 8QQ 01902 756052

SAFFRON Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury B69 4RR 0121 552 1752

SIMON'S 520 Chester Rd, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0PU 0121 580 9293

SPICES Hollywell Rd, Wednesbury. WS10 7PA 0121 502 0720

THE SPRINGHILL Warstones Rd, Penn, Wolverhampton WV4 4LB 01902 342530

THE SUMMERHOUSE 92 Gospel End Rd, Dudley DY3 4AN 01902 676 102

THORNESCROFT Bridgnorth Rd, Wolverhampton, WV6 7EQ 01902 700 253

THE WOODMAN Claverley, Wolverhampton WV5 7DG 01746 710 553

Shropshire

AFTAB 25 High St, Ironbridge TF8 7AD 01952 432055

ALBRIGHT HUSSEY Ellesmere Rd, Shrewsbury, SY4 3AF 01939 290 523

BISTRO JACQUES 77/77a Mardol, Shrewsbury SY1 1PZ 01743 272586

BUFFALO STEAK HOUSE 125 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8JX 01743 537523

BUTLERS Park St, Shifnal, TF11 9BA 01952 460662

CASA NARANJO Barracks Passage, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 01743 588165

CASA RUIZ 45 High Street, Bridgnorth, WV16 4DX 01746 218 084

CHEZ MAW Best Western Valley Hotel, Buildwas Rd, Ironbridge, TF8 7DW 01952 432247

THE COTTAGE Tern Hill, Market Drayton TF9 3PX 01630 638984

CROMWELLS 11 Dogpole, Shrewsbury SY1 1EN 01743 361440

DA VINCI'S 26 High St, Ironbridge, TF8 7AD 01952 432250

DORRINGTON OLD HALL PERSIAN CUISINE Main Road, Dorrington, Shropshire SY5 7JD 01743 719100

DRAPERS 10 St Mary's St Shrewsbury, SY1 1DZ 01743 344679

THE FEATHERS Brockton, Much Wenlock TF13 6JR 01746 785202

FENNELS 8 Market Place, Shifnall TF11 9AZ 01952 463020

THE FOX INN 46 High St, Much Wenlock TF13 6AD 01952 727292

FRANK CAFE BAR 129 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8JX 01743 354422

THE GOLDEN CROSS 14 Princess St, Shrewsbury, SY1 1LP 01743 362507

GRANARY BAR & GRILL Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Nr Shifnal, TF11 8LE 01952 852107

THE GLUTTON CLUB 165-167 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8LG 01743 361672

HADLEY PARK HOUSE Hadley Park, Telford TF1 6QJ 01952 677269

THE HAYWARDS at The Lion Hotel, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1UY 01743 353107

HENRY TUDOR HOUSE Barracks Passage Shrewsbury SY1 1XA 01743 361666

HILL VALLEY HOTEL Tarporley Road, Whitchurch SY13 4HA 0844 879 9049

THE INN AT GRINSHILL The High Street, Grinshill, Shrewsbury, SY4 3BL 01939 220410

KING & THAI Avenue Rd, Broseley, Telford TF12 5DL 01952 882004

THE KNIGHTON HOTEL Broad Street, Knighton, Powys LD7 1BL 01547 520530

LA BÉCASSE 17 Corve St, Ludlow, SY8 1DA 01584 872 325

LA DOLCE VITA 35 Hills Lane, Shrewsbury SY1 1QU 01743 249126

LA LANTERNA The Old Vestry, St Julian's Church, Shrewsbury SY1 1UH 01743 233552

LION & PHEASANT 50 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1XJ 01743 770345

THE LION QUAYS Moreton, Oswestry SY11 3EN 01691 684300

LOCH FYNE Talbot House, Market Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1LG 01743 277140

LUDLOW KITCHEN Bromfield, Ludlow, SY2 2JR 01584 856020

THE MALTHOUSE The Wharfage, Ironbridge TF8 7NH 01902 433712

MORGANS 1 Bellstone, Shrewsbury SY1 1HU 01743 231199

MR UNDERHILLS Dinham Weir, Ludlow Shropshire SY8 1EH 01584 874431

THE MYTTON & MERMAID Atcham, Shrewsbury, SY5 6QG 01743 761220

THE OLD ORLETON INN Holyhead Rd, Wellington, TF1 2HA 01952 255011

THE OLD RECTORY HOTEL & RESTAURANT Lowe Hill Road, Wem, Shropshire SY4 5UA 01939 233233

THE PEACH TREE 21 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE 01743 355055

THE PLUME OF FEATHERS Harley, Shrewsbury SY5 6LP 01743 727360

PORTER HOUSE 15 St Mary's St, Shrewsbury, SY1 1EQ 01743 358870

THE POUND AT LEEBOTWOOD Leebotwood, Nr Church Stretton SY6 6ND 01694 751477

RENAISSANCE, 29a Princess St, Shrewsbury, SY11LW 01743 354289

ROMOLO Victoria Avenue, shrewsbury SY1 1HH 01743 233244

SARACENS Shrewsbury Rd, SY4 4AG 01939 210877

SEBASTIANS 45 Willow St, Oswestry SY11 1AQ 01691 655444

SHALIMAR 23 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6AE 01743 366658

SHERAZ 79 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1UT 01743 242321

THE SILVERTON the Old Dairy, 9-10 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8JY 01743 248000

TIN TINS Wellington Road, Telford TF2 8AJ 01952 608688

THE WALLS Welsh Walls, Oswestry SY11 1AW 01691 670970

ZIZZI RISORANTE 39-40 High Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1SF 01743 353232

Staffordshire

NO 5 Gaol Mews, Stafford ST16 3AN 01785 22 9900

95 HIGH GREEN Cannock. WS11 1BH 01543 573905

1709 THE BASSERIE 3-5 Lombard St, Lichfield. WS13 6DP 01543 257986

BELLA ITALIA 20 Greengate St, Stafford, ST16 2HS 01785 211968

CHANDLERS Corn Exchange, Conduit St, Lichfield, WS13 6JU 01543 416688

THE CORNER HOUSE Second Avenue, Burton-On-Trent DE14 2WF 01283 542321

CURRY KUTEER 31 Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HY 01785 253279

ESSENCE OF THE ORIENT 27 Broad Eye, Stafford ST16 2QB 01785 229988

FOUR SEASONS Swinfen Hall Lichfield, WS14 9RE 01543 481494

THE GREEN ROOM Castle Dyke, Lichfield WS13 6HR 01543 412121

INDIAN VILLAGE 8 Lombard St, Lichfield. WS13 6DR 01543 253415

INDICA Virage Park, Cannock. WS11 0HN 08712 070417

LA DOLCE VITA 19 Stafford St, Stone ST15 8QW 01785 817 985

THE LODGE 24 Birmingham Road, Shenstone. WS14 0LQ 01543 483334

MALABAR 1-2 Water Street, Stafford, ST16 2AG 01785 227 500/600

MARLOES 13 London Road, Newcastle under Lyme, ST4 1LQ 01782 661983

THE MILL 1 Mill St, Stone, ST15 8BA 01785 818456

THE NAVIGATION INN Newport Road, Gnosall, Stafford ST20 0BN 01785 822327

OLD VICARAGE 2 Main St, Branston, Burton, DE14 3EX 01283 533222

PASCAL AT THE OLD VICARAGE 2 Main Street, Branston, Burton-upon-Tren 01283 533222

PASTICHE BISTRO 1 - 2 Mill Street, Stafford, ST16 2AJ 01782 263 737

THE PEAR TREE Swinfen, Nr. Lichfield, WS14 9QR 01543 481807

PORTOFINO 38-40 Marsh St Stoke-On-Trent, ST1 1JD 01782 209444

THE RED ROOM 7 Newcastle Road, Congleton CW12 4HN 01260 297871

THORNBURY HALL, RASOI Lockwood Rd, Kingsley Holt, Stafford ST10 2DH 01538 750831

WOLSELEY ARMS Wolseley Bridge, Stafford ST17 0XS 01889 883179

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Menu

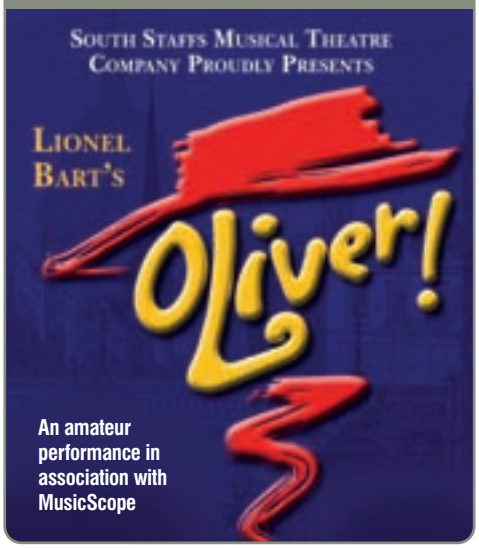
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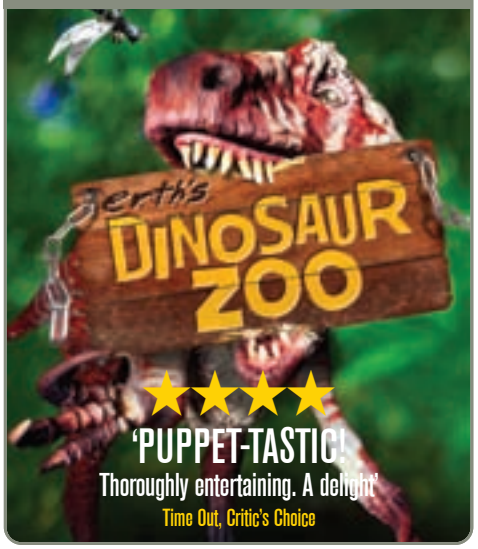
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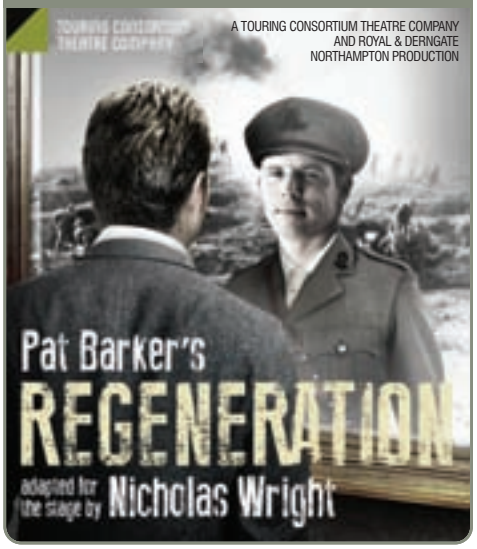
TUES 14 - SAT 18 OCT



THU 23 - SAT 25 OCT



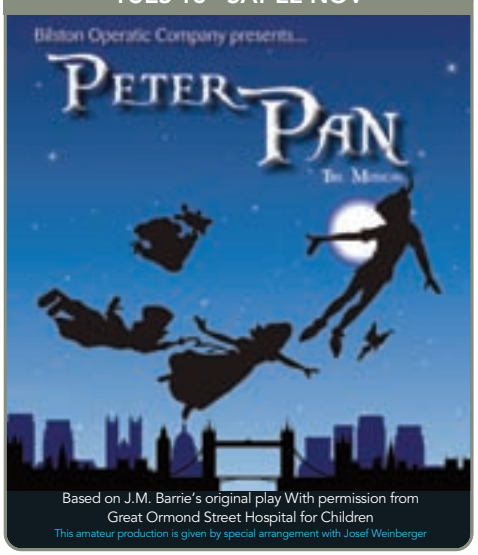
TUES 4 - SAT 8 NOV



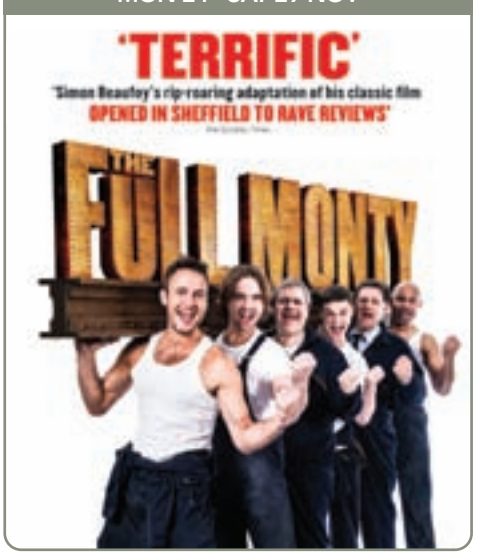
TUES 11 - SAT 15 NOV



TUES 18 - SAT 22 NOV



MON 24 - SAT 29 NOV



SAT 6 DEC - SUN 18 JAN



TUES 27 - SAT 31 JAN



SUN 8 - MON 9 FEB



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