

# THE MIDLANDS ESSENTIAL ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

MIDLANDS

# What's On

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**ISY SUTTIE**  
DOBBY IN THE MIDLANDS  
INTERVIEW INSIDE...

INSIDE

**Elaine C Smith**

portrays Susan Boyle  
interview inside

**Ali Bastian**

interview inside



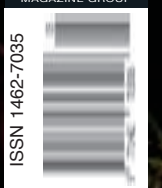
# Coldplay

Chris and the boys come to the Midlands...

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**What's On**  
MAGAZINE GROUP

ISSN 1462-7035

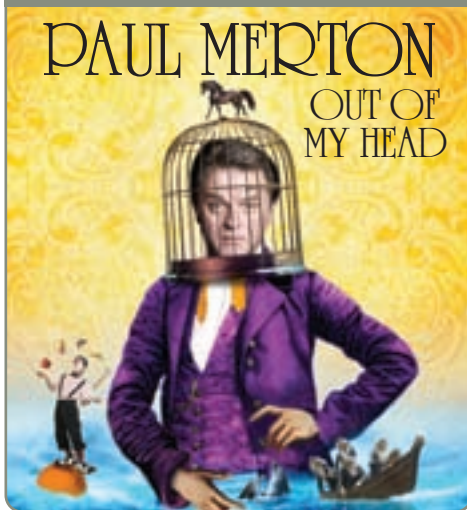


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SUNDAY 6 MAY



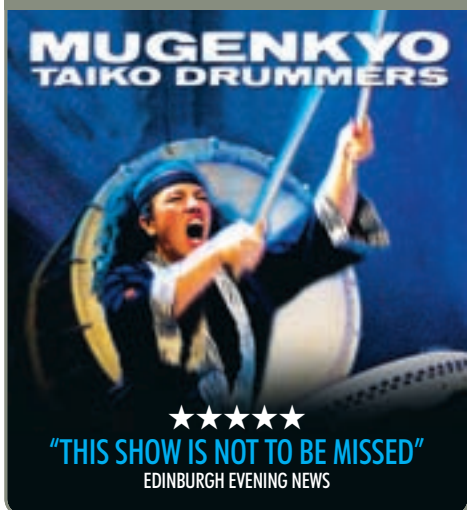
MONDAY 7 MAY



TUESDAY 8 - WEDNESDAY 9 MAY



THURSDAY 10 MAY



FRIDAY 11 - SATURDAY 12 MAY



MONDAY 14 - SATURDAY 19 MAY



MONDAY 21 - SATURDAY 26 MAY



## ALSO BOOKING

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SATURDAY 9 JUNE  
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# May 2012

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MAGAZINE GROUP



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## Get in on the moves...

A chance to perform at this year's Dance Show - part of Clothes Show Live at Birmingham's NEC in December - is just one of the prizes on offer at a competition to be held in the city this month. A partnership between Punch and International Dance Festival Birmingham 2012, Desi Moves sees six groups/individuals present a fusion dance act to celebrity judges, with Bhangra, Bollywood, Giddha, street dance and bashment styles all incorporated. An impromptu audience dance - choreographed and led by a famous dancer - also features. Desi Moves forms part of the Cultural Olympiad's Dancing For The Games project, and will take place at Birmingham's Town Hall on 18 May. Tickets, priced £6 to £12, are available from [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)



## Transport museum awarded lottery funding

Coventry Transport Museum has announced that it's received the green light to move on from the first stage of its application for lottery funding. The popular visitor attraction has been awarded an undisclosed sum, which will enable it to proceed to the next level of the application process, where, if successful, it will be awarded £4.9million from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A major redevelopment of the museum's exhibition spaces, together with plans to bring the city's Grade One Listed Old Grammar School back into public use, form the basis for the project, which promises to provide enhanced opportunities for people to learn about, and get involved with, Coventry's rich transport heritage.

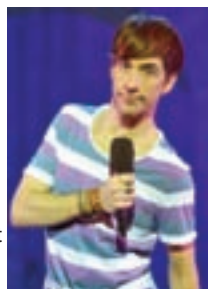


## Local designer crossing boundaries

Fusing his eclectic range of skills as a designer, composer and drummer, JoJo Remy this month heads to Birmingham's Adrian Boult Hall to showcase the world premiere of his symphony, *Bombay Is Weeping* - a production that fuses Indian, Western classical and jazz. Birmingham Conservatoire-trained JoJo is bringing together Conservatoire students and Birmingham musicians in an orchestra of eighty to accompany a fashion show of his couture clothing, all of which reflects the diversity of the city. Spending his formative years in the care of Father Hudson's children's orphanage, JoJo's creative passion earned him an apprenticeship with an Italian tailor. Now, in his most adventurous project to date, he hopes to be able to give something back to the community via *Crossing Boundaries*, an event which it's hoped will raise much-needed funds for Selly Oak's St Mary's Hospice. For further information, visit, [www.crossingboundaries.eventbrite.com](http://www.crossingboundaries.eventbrite.com)

## Birmingham date for award-winning comedian

Russell Kane is just one of three authors who are stopping off at Waterstones in Birmingham's New Street this month as part of the chain's Meet The Authors series. The award-winning comedian is in the city to read from, discuss and sign copies of his debut novel *The Humorist* on 8 May. The other two authors appearing in the series are social commentator Owen Jones, who shares and debates a new edition of his book *Chavs: The Demonization Of The Working Class*, on 9 May, and American writer Rachel Caine, making a rare UK appearance to sign copies of *Black Dawn - The Morganville Vampires* 12 on 13 May. For further information on all three events, and to book tickets, call 0843 2908151.



## A very English play for a very English town...

It's been announced that a production of Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives Of Windsor* is to form part of this year's Much Wenlock Festival, a biennial arts and music event running from 2 to 22 June. Rehearsals for the colourful comedy - to be presented by the Shropshire Drama Company (SDC) - are well under way, with in-the-round outdoor performances of the play scheduled to take place from 11 to 16 June on the market town's Holy Trinity Church Green.

## Are you a SuperScrimper?

Channel Four are on the lookout for families, couples or groups of friends from the Birmingham area to take part in a new series of *SuperScrimpers*, produced by Remarkable Television. Producers are seeking serious over-spenders who want to curb their habits. If you're interested in taking part, email [Superscrimpers@endemoluk.com](mailto:Superscrimpers@endemoluk.com) or call 0333 577 773.



## Downton Abbey comes to Dudley

During the 1930s Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson were regular visitors to Dudley's historic Himley Hall. Now the venue's royal connections are being recognised in an exhibition of period drama costumes that forms part of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The exhibition includes outfits worn in the hit TV drama series Downton Abbey, displayed alongside a dress worn by Helena Bonham Carter when she portrayed Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in the King's Speech. Items which featured in Madonna's recent film, WE, are also included. The Drama Queens exhibition shows at Himley Hall until 17 June.



## West Brom students take centre stage...

This summer sees The Public in West Bromwich host Judgestock, a musical fundraising event in memory of local man Simon Turton, who lost his battle with cancer in 2011. It's hoped that around two thousand visitors will attend the event, which will see students from the George Salter Academy Saturday School showcase their talents alongside professional bands and musicians. Taking place on 7 July, Judgestock will also feature an array of activities for children, including Punch and Judy, a bouncy castle and face painting. Tickets cost £8 and can be purchased directly from The Public.

## BBC Learning unveils Shakespeare unlocked

A new online resource to assist young people with their studies has been launched in a collaboration between BBC Learning and the Royal Shakespeare Company. A new series of short films will allow students to unlock key scenes from three of Shakespeare's most widely studied and performed plays - Romeo And Juliet, Macbeth and A Midsummer Night's Dream. By visiting [www.bbc.co.uk/shakespeare](http://www.bbc.co.uk/shakespeare), students will be able to click through to explore three pivotal scenes from each play, each containing significant moments in terms of character and plot development.



Romeo And Juliet



Marti Pellow

## Season highlights revealed...

Birmingham Hippodrome has announced that Cameron Mackintosh's new production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom Of The Opera will show at the theatre during March and April 2013 - with priority booking for Birmingham Hippodrome Friends available from 8 May.

Other highlights for 2012/13 include a full Welsh National Opera repertoire, which sees a new production of Lulu performed alongside Madam Butterfly, The Cunning Little Vixen and Wagner's Dream. Resident company Birmingham Royal Ballet will present Far From The Madding Crowd, Swan Lake, the highly acclaimed Cinderella, and a UK premiere of David Bintley's Aladdin. The eagerly anticipated West End hit Dirty Dancing visits in July, Marti Pellow joins the cast of Willy Russell's Blood Brothers for a limited two-week stint in the autumn, and the feelgood musical Sister Act takes to the stage in October. For further information, visit, [www.birminghamhippodrome.com](http://www.birminghamhippodrome.com)

### IN BRIEF

#### Blists Hill gains top ratings

A gem amongst the ten Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Blists Hill has proudly announced that it's received more than one hundred excellent ratings on the Trip Advisor website. The museum - which is one of the largest independent museums in the Midlands, receiving more than half a million visitors annually - has been praised for its authenticity and traditionally cooked fish and chips.

#### Star of fame for Bhangra legend

The King Of Bhangra, Malkit Singh, is this month being honoured with his very own star on Broad Street's Walk of Stars, joining other Midlands luminaries such as Julie Walters and Lenny Henry. Malkit will be presented with his star on 10 May at Birmingham's Gatecrasher.

## Visitor attraction up for major award...

Staffordshire's Trentham Estate has been selected as a finalist in the country's biggest tourist awards scheme. With three hundred-and-ninety-two applications received for this year's awards, Trentham is guaranteed to win a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Highly Commended award at the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence ceremony, which takes place in London early this month. One of the country's largest historic gardens restoration projects, Trentham combines beautifully landscaped gardens and sweeping parklands with a huge array of facilities to keep visitors busy, including the Monkey Forest - a favourite with families - and the Aerial Extreme, ideal for the more adventurous. Other attractions include a huge garden centre and shopping village.



Trentham Gardens

### Professional Association of Alexander Teachers

#### Recreational Course in the Alexander Technique Starting Early May 2012

If you have had lessons in the Alexander Technique for about a year or attended an Introductory Evening Class, or a module in the Alexander Technique at a university or equivalent then you are eligible to join the PAAT Recreational Course.

The Recreational Course will offer guidance in deepening your understanding, knowledge and application of the Technique and you get to do it in company.

The 12-week course is held in Birmingham.

For an application form, please contact the PAAT Secretary on 01743 236195 or email [rec@paat.org.uk](mailto:rec@paat.org.uk)

[www.paat.org.uk](http://www.paat.org.uk)





“ I think, “what if I watch one of her songs and then, a year later on stage, I come out with ‘beat me on the bottom with a Woman’s Weekly’?” ”

# Isy Suttie

Peep Show actress in the Midlands...



**Although best recognised for playing the softly spoken Dobby in the award-winning Peep Show, the lovely Isy Suttie is also an accomplished musician, songwriter and stand-up comedian, all of which will be greatly in evidence when she stops off at two Midlands venues this month. What's On caught up with the Derbyshire lass to talk about what audiences can expect, and what it's like being compared to Victoria Wood...**

**For those not familiar with you as a stand-up comedian, how would you define your show?**

Well, it's a story about my pen pal and his relationship with a woman. It's got a bit of stand-up in it and quite a lot of tomfoolery. There's quite a lot of music too, but generally it's a play based around the characters Pearl and Dave. Sometimes I sing as them, sometimes I speak as them, and sometimes I sing as myself. It kind of goes in and out of songs, but basically it's just like a long story.

**Is there any audience interaction that forces you to digress from the story?**

No, I don't think it's that kind of a show, to be honest. It's a gentle show, and I've not been heckled yet...

**So how old were you when you decided you wanted to become an entertainer?**

I was very young; probably from when I first learned to speak. I think my first word was "encore". No, I did a lot of amateur stuff when I was little, and it was always my plan to write and perform. But even now I can't believe I've actually done it.

**You started out in acting, so how did you end up doing comedy?**

I'd been writing songs since I was ten or eleven, always together with the acting. I always thought that maybe I could be a singer alongside being an actress, so I always wrote stuff. When I went to drama school, I didn't really know that you could make a living being a comic. It didn't really occur to me, because I was in quite a theatrical setting. I think if I'd gone to university, then I might have started writing sketches and stuff, but that didn't really happen at college. But I did go in for a songwriting competition there, and it was such a great feeling when everybody started to laugh at the song I'd written. I'd never had that feeling before, because up until then I'd always written serious songs. I decided to do it in a stupid voice at the very last minute. It was just such a great feeling, and I guess I became addicted, although I didn't really take the plunge until I was twenty-two or twenty-three.

**Can you remember the time when you thought, "right, this is it, I'm on my way!"?**

I don't think there was a single moment. Certainly with the acting, it was when I joined Peep Show. I'd done bits of telly before that, but nothing people would remember, because they were really small parts. With stand-up, it was probably when I did my first solo Edinburgh show in 2007, which was before Peep Show. I remember when I'd finished I couldn't believe that I'd done an hour. I didn't really care whether it was good quality or not. When you stop off in stand-up, you do about five minutes and you can't believe that you'll ever manage seven. Then, when you've done seven, you can't ever imagine doing fifteen. So when you get to an hour, well...

**As an accomplished musician and songwriter, who and what influences your writing most?**

I like all kinds of musicians, really. I really like Frank Zappa, Rufus Wainwright and Tom Waits. Tom is so funny he could have been a stand-up. I like all different styles - people like Tim Minchin and Johnny Vegas. I remember Johnny was one of the first stand-ups that I saw live. It was in Edinburgh, and I was about eighteen. I just thought, "wow, what an incredible experience!". It was so fast and so raw, but I never thought it was something that I'd end up doing. The thing that I try to do is make my songs as specific as possible. A lot of them have me playing people I know; songs where I try and focus on their particular idiosyncracies. Sometimes I make people up, but in the main they're based on people I've met.

**Is there a fellow female comedian who's inspired you most?**

No, I generally just like things that I find funny. When I was younger, I didn't really watch stand-ups and think "I'd like to be like that". I just wanted to go to London and make money out of acting and writing.

**So what are your thoughts on the comparisons between you and Victoria Wood?**

Even though she's wonderful, I've hardly watched any of her stuff. I think I've seen three of her songs in my whole life, so I find it really funny when people say, "well, she's not as funny as Victoria Wood!" because it's not something that I'm trying to be. I've met her in real life and she's lovely. She's wonderful, and when I've seen little bits of her work, I've thought, "Oh, I don't want to watch anymore in case I do think we're really similar". Also, I think, "what if I watch one of her songs and then, a year later on stage, I come out with 'beat me on the bottom with a Woman's Weekly'?" Since the comparisons, I've consciously avoided watching her, but I'm always very chuffed to be compared to her.

**What was your most memorable moment when filming Peep Show?**

It was definitely the cupboard scene, but only because it was very awkward. I'd only met David Mitchell a short while before, and there we were crammed into this tiny cupboard and everyone was saying "this scene is either going to be really great or really awful, we don't know which, so you're just going to have to go for it". It was just a case of getting on with it. The funniest scene was - I think it was the series before last - when we were using the fire extinguishers, and had to spray them all over each other. We were so very cold and wet afterwards, but it was really fun to do because I'd never used a fire extinguisher before.

**What was it like being part of such a hugely popular TV series?**

At the beginning I was quite quiet and shy,

but David and Robert were both really lovely to work with, and they made me feel really welcome.

**How much were you personally able to develop Dobby as a character, or were you told "this is how she's got to be"?**

I suppose there was a bit of both, really. Often when you go for auditions, you're told she's got to be like this, and this, and this, and you do it as best you can. I think when I auditioned, she was going to be a bit more of a goth - I certainly think they'd planned for her to be a little less girly. Her costumes were always a bit quirky, and I guess it was a process of discovery. Initially when I joined, I just read what was in the script, but over the years, as I've got to know the writers better, a bit more of me has gone into the character.

**Any plans for more Peep Show?**

Yeah, we're doing the next one in August, and I guess it'll probably screen before the end of the year.

**Is there a particular artist who you'd really like to collaborate with?**

Steve Coogan, I suppose. When I was growing up, me and my mates just really loved watching Brass Eye and The Day Today. I think Alan Partridge is the best comedy creation ever, and I love Saxondale and Tony Ferrino. Everything he's done, really...

**You've been described as 'one of the nicest women in showbusiness'. What's that about?**

Oh, that's probably my mum. No, I think they're referring to the fact that I'm quite upbeat and positive. I can't ever see why that would change, because even when I've gone through hard times in my life, I've not become a hard-hitting political comic as a result of it. I've always managed to get back on the horse, so to speak. It's my nature to tackle things head on. Although you never know - maybe I've got a dark period ahead of me where I'll turn into a female Frankie Boyle and people will then say, "she's the nastiest woman in showbusiness but she used to be the nicest - how can she have fallen so far?".

**What's the best thing that could happen to you professionally?**

It would have to be making a sitcom. I'm working on a pilot at the moment with my mate, and it's going to be a sitcom with songs in it. I'd really love to write and perform in the same production.

Isy Suttie brings Pearl And Dave to **The Glee Club, Birmingham**, Fri 11 May; **Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry**, Sun 13 May



“ the biggest compliment has been her family, in tears in my dressing room in Newcastle on the opening night, saying “you’ve really honoured us, Elaine, thank you”. ”

# Elaine C Smith

Dreams a dream in Birmingham...

**When global phenomenon Susan Boyle announced that she'd like Scottish actress Elaine C Smith to portray her in the story of her life, it came as a complete surprise - not least to Elaine herself, best recognised for playing Mary Doll in one of Britain's best-loved comedies, Rab C Nesbitt. What's On recently caught up with Elaine to talk about I Dreamed A Dream - the musical that's creating so much interest, both here and abroad...**

**Were you surprised when approached to portray Susan in her life story?**

It was a complete surprise. It was never something that I would have pursued, and I would never have wanted to do something that was in any way exploitative of Susan.

**So how did it come about?**

It came from Susan, when she was doing an interview with the Radio Times and there was talk about doing a movie of her life. They asked her who she thought should play her. They'd heard that Demi Moore was interested! But Susan said that there was this Scottish actress who she'd long admired called Elaine C Smith, and she knew that she sung as well. Susan had sort of grown up watching me on television in Rab C Nesbitt and Naked Video. She'd also seen me do stand-up, and appear in panto at the King's Heath in Glasgow. We'd never met and I'd sort of joked about it to Michael Harrison, the producer, because he'd seen lots of stuff in the press about her suggesting me and about me ending up on these American websites with people going 'who the hell is she?' So it all snowballed from there. I joked and said "we'll never get the movie, it's Hollywood. But once the movie's out, we should put in for the stage show." He phoned me back and said, "why don't we go for that, then?". I said, "don't be ridiculous; Simon Cowell will never give you that - there'll be lawyers from here to Los Angeles". But Michael pursued it and we got it. In between times, I'd done the audio book of Susan's life. I'd had access to her autobiography before it was published, so I knew that there was a great story there - much better than we, the public, knew at that particular time. Also, I found that there were huge similarities in our backgrounds. We're both from mining communities, and although I'd gone off to the Royal Academy to be an actor, we'd both sung in working men's clubs. So I guess it's a very strange serendipity that's brought us together.

**And is it a truthful portrayal?**

Oh absolutely! I wouldn't want to be involved if it wasn't. It's not a sing-along-a-Susan or a Mamma Mia! version of her life - not that there's anything wrong with that - but I made sure all along that we spoke to her family to ensure it was an honest account. It's much more of a Blood Brothers/Billy Elliot musical. It examines the darker side of her life, because that fascinates me from a writing point of view. Who was that woman? Why did she have her hair like that? Why did she choose that dress? Why did she wear black tights with white shoes?

**What's the balance between pre and post-Britain's Got Talent?**

It doesn't get to Britain's Got Talent until the second half. From Susan's perspective, it's a fairytale, and I play her looking back on her life - from her parents being told at her birth not to expect too much because there'd

been a lack of oxygen to her brain, through the experience of being bullied at school because her slight learning difficulties made her different, to discovering that she was an extremely talented singer.

**Susan's got an iconic voice. Can you live up to audience expectations?**

So far, so good. I'm a different singer to Susan, and it's not an impersonation. The only time I have to sing in the same key is the Britain's Got Talent scene, when I have to sing a bit of I Dreamed A Dream. But within the context of the show, it works. The first number that I do is Someone To Watch Over Me. It's at least about twenty minutes in, and it's great because you can feel the audience thinking 'can she sing, or is she just going to talk about singing?'. Then, when I actually do sing, you can feel the relief of 'oh, she can sing, it's okay!' I'm not an impersonator but I've got a good enough singing voice to manage.

**And how much has Susan been involved from concept to stage?**

Again, I wouldn't have been involved if she didn't approve. So I went to her house and we had a cup of tea and a laugh together. I met a lot of her family, and then, when I left, she put her arms around me and said, "I'd be honoured if you'd play me, Elaine". So from then on I felt I was holding something very precious in my hands, and that I didn't want to do a sugary sweet version of her life. But the biggest compliment has been her family, in tears in my dressing room in Newcastle on the opening night, saying "you've really honoured us, Elaine, thank you". That means more than anything.

**Do you think that this has been a cathartic process for Susan?**

Maybe. I do know that when she first saw the dress rehearsal, although she'd had the script and been there all along, she had to get up and leave, because she found it too distressing watching the death of her father. But then I don't know how anyone would cope with such a dramatic version of their life being portrayed on stage. So it was very delicate, but she loves it, and I think it was a real relief for her that her family loved it too...

**So have you become firm friends as a result of I Dreamed A Dream?**

Yeah, but it's not like we're round each other's houses all the time. I'm on tour every night. But we get on well and we're good professional friends.

**So what's the most challenging aspect of playing Susan?**

I suppose I hadn't realised the emotional places to which you have to go to portray it accurately. It sounds very actory, but doing it twice a day is knackered. And it's a big thing for me - there's no after-show drinking or anything like that. I've got to be very disciplined, so much so I'm living like a nun at the moment, straight home to toast, tea

and bed. I have to, because I've got eight or nine numbers to do every night, and there's an expectation that, although you're not going to be Susan Boyle, you're still going to be on a par...

**Do you have a favourite scene?**

Well, I have to say the Britain's Got Talent scene is very good and very funny. We use Gerry Rafferty's Stuck In The Middle With You, which works very well in that scene. Also, I love the last song that I do, which is Patty Griffin's I Went Up To The Mountain, based on Martin Luther King's words. I just adore that, because it's such a great song and has great sentiment.

**Has Simon Cowell seen the show yet?**

Not yet. I think he might be around in Birmingham. I don't know when, but I think Birmingham being closest to London, it'll probably be there. We've had Cameron Mackintosh and Andrew Lloyd Webber on the phone, and there's been so much interest because it's been such a hit so far. The reaction from the audience is amazing - they've been on their feet every night.

**Apart from the voice, why do you think it is that the nation have taken Susan to their hearts?**

I don't know. I remember standing on stage one night in Newcastle and at one point thinking 'what is this feeling?'. I guess it's fairy dust, and we mention that in the show - there's fairy dust around her and there's fairy dust around the story. In Newcastle, we had one hundred-and-one women from Texas, California and Chicago, who came to see the show five times.

**So would you class this as one of your biggest roles?**

Twenty-odd years ago I did Shirley Valentine, and that was a huge role. I've also done Calendar Girls and various other big roles throughout my career, but this is probably the most pressured I've ever felt.

**Are there any plans to tour the show further afield?**

There's been a lot of speculation, but we'll have to wait and see. It could go anywhere, I think.

**So would you like to play Susan abroad?**

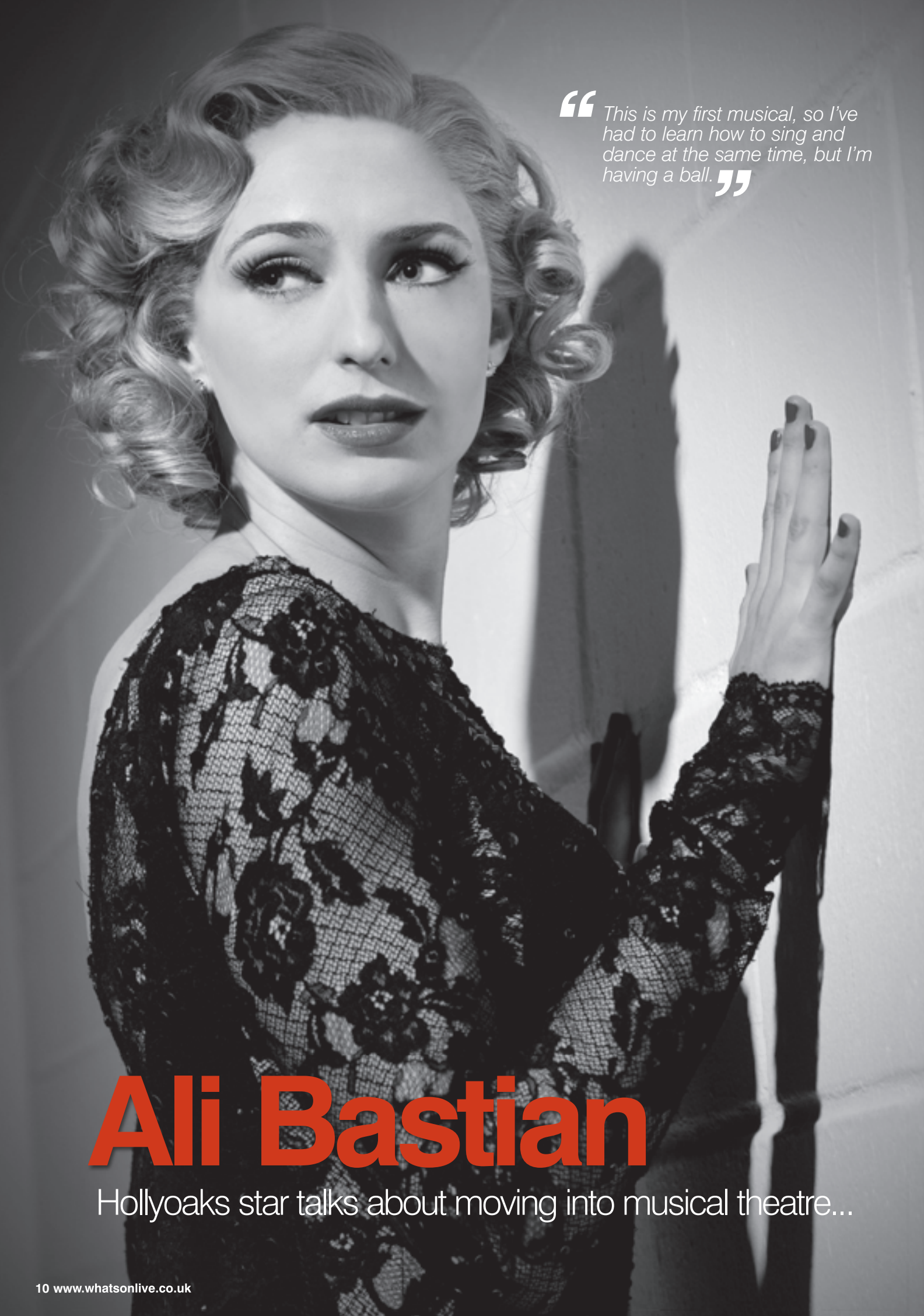
If I'm asked, I'd like to. They might get Demi Moore! Who knows...

**And finally, you're obviously well recognised for playing Mary Doll in Rab C Nesbitt. For all those fans out there, are there any plans for a future reunion?**

I think there are plans for a Christmas special, possibly. One-offs are easier to get together for. I'm destined to wear a wig forever, I think...

Elaine stars as Susan Boyle in I Dreamed A Dream which shows at **Birmingham Hippodrome**, from Tues 29 May to Sat 2 June



A black and white photograph of Ali Bastian. She has blonde, wavy hair and is looking slightly to the right of the camera. She is wearing a dark, long-sleeved lace dress with a floral pattern. Her right hand is raised, with fingers slightly spread, against a light-colored wall. The lighting is dramatic, casting shadows on the wall behind her.

“ This is my first musical, so I’ve had to learn how to sing and dance at the same time, but I’m having a ball. ”

# Ali Bastian

Hollyoaks star talks about moving into musical theatre...

**With roles in Brookside, Hollyoaks and The Bill under her belt, as well as a stint on Strictly Come Dancing, British actress Ali Bastian has now turned her hand to musical theatre, playing Roxie Hart in the current tour of Chicago. What's On recently caught up with Ali to talk about her latest venture, and to find out about her time on Strictly.**

**Why do you think Chicago remains so popular?**

I think it's a very unique, very special musical. To me as an actress, when I got hold of the script, I thought, "wow, what a well-written piece". It's so well devised and the script is so economical, which I really like. Everything is so polished - Bob Fosse's style of dance, the music and all of the different mediums seem to echo each other, and it all works really well. I've never done anything like this before, so I'm finding it a really amazing experience. Also, I think having the band - who are absolutely phenomenal - on stage brings a wonderful cabaret-feel to the show, and gives us, as performers, a real boost.

**Is it a musical that you were familiar with when you were growing up?**

Yeah, definitely. I'd seen it a couple of times, so I was just thrilled when I got offered the role of Roxie. It's an absolute dream role, and probably the most exciting one I've ever had. I just love it and can't wait to get on stage every night.

**You say this is a new experience for you. So which disciplines have you had to master?**

This is my first musical, so I've had to learn how to sing and dance at the same time, but I'm having a ball. I did Burn The Floor last year, which was a dance stage show, so I'm familiar with the dancing part. And obviously my experience with Strictly has helped me prepare. That's an opportunity for which I'll always be grateful. It's given me another string to my bow.

**Were you surprised by your success on Strictly?**

Yeah, we all were. You never know what to expect when you say yes to doing it, or whether you'll even get past the first week. You just take a leap of faith and see what happens. When Brian and I got through to the finals, it was amazing. We managed to do every show and then do the tour, which then led to doing Burn The Floor. It was an amazing run, really.

**So was it Strictly which gave you the confidence to do Burn The Floor?**

Definitely! It was all about the technique, because it was a Latin show. If Brian hadn't taught me the way he did, then I couldn't have done it. He was quite a taskmaster. When it was Samba week, he taught me a proper traditional Samba, which meant blood, sweat and tears in the training room. He imparted a great deal of knowledge, for which I'm really grateful.

**Who's your all-time favourite Roxie?**

I saw America Ferrera perform Roxie just before I got the part, and I remember seeing Ruthie Henshall years ago. Then obviously I've seen Renee Zellweger in the film. But if I had to choose, it would have to be America. We all bring a bit of ourselves to this, and you really want to make it your own, but she was really fantastic. I loved her characterisation.

**You're performing alongside stage veteran Bernie Nolan. Was that an intimidating prospect initially?**

I've known Bernie for years and I just love her. The nice thing is that we all go back a long way. Bernie and I were in Brookside together, and Stephan and I got our first big break at the same time. We were both in Hollyoaks, and actually played girlfriend and boyfriend. We've sort of been tailing each other in our careers ever since, so it's really nice to be back together and to rekindle our friendships.

**It's a very physical show. How do you unwind after a performance?**

It's a very fast-paced show, which just seems to hurtle along for two hours. We've got a really great group of people in the company, and we all get on really well. Most of the time we live together, so we chill-out together. We come back and make dinner, relax and watch TV. We may have the odd night out - not me so much, though, as playing this role is, as you say, so physical. I really do have to pace myself. Last night, I literally came home, climbed into bed and watched old episodes of Will And Grace with my little puppy Molly, who's also touring with me.

**Do you have a routine that you use to psyche yourself up before going on stage?**

We get in quite early to do a group and vocal warm-up, then I go and do my make-up. That's always a bit of 'you time', where you just sit and relax and put your face on, but I do have funny little things that I do. When I worked on Burn The Floor, we had this thing that we did on the side just before we went on stage. We'd all stand in a circle and do this little ritual...

**A bit like Madonna?**

Yeah, that's it. You know, I really do get the mickey taken out of me for that. But on this show I've only managed to recruit two other people to do it with me, but we do it every night. The others all look on like we're real idiots. I know it sounds silly, but I really like it; it kinds of gets my head in the right place. Roxie's got a bit of a journey to go on during the show, so I really need to get my head into gear.

**What's your favourite all-time musical?**

I've really fallen in love with Chicago, but Phantom is probably my all-time favourite.

**Is there a particular role that you'd really love to play?**

I'd love to play Christine; wouldn't everybody? I remember seeing Phantom when I was about twelve and thinking she was absolutely amazing.

**Talking about age, how old were you when you got your first break in acting?**

I was ten. I started working as a child. I attended a theatre school in Berkshire, then I got a job as Jane Eyre in a BBC

production, and I guess it all started from there. I always knew that it was what I wanted to do, and I was lucky that I had a stage school just up the road from where I lived. Crossing over from child to adult actress is always a bit of a tricky time, and Hollyoaks was a really good break for me in that respect. I was nineteen, and it really helped with the child actor to adult actress transition.

**Having broken into stage musicals, which do you now prefer, stage or screen?**

It's always difficult to say. I love them both. You can't beat the buzz of a live performance, but at the same time, I really like TV. I suppose it's what I've known for the past few years; it's very fast-paced and every day is very different.

**What's the downside of touring with such a major show?**

I don't think there's a downside to this - apart from missing my family, obviously.

**Are there any roles that you've turned down and later regretted?**

No! I pretty much don't believe in ever turning down a job. It's such a hard industry.

**Has there been a time when your looks have proved a disadvantage when auditioning for a role?**

No, I don't think so.

**But don't you always get glamorous roles?**

Oh no! I get a real mix of roles. I can be a little bit of a chameleon. To be honest, the glamorous roles aren't always the most interesting. As an actress, you want to have an eclectic range. In my last couple of plays, I've been a murderer. One of those was an Agatha Christie play, which had a great script and was really enjoyable. Obviously I'm playing a murderer in Chicago too, so I guess I'll have to be careful not to get typecast.

**So where does Ali Bastian want to be in five years' time?**

Oh, that's a difficult one. I guess I'd just like to still be working, and to be happy. I just tend to go with the flow in most aspects of my life, really - there's no big 'game plan'. You never know where life's going to take you, but I'd just like to keep things as varied as possible.



Ali Bastian appears in Chicago at **The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton** from Mon 14 - Sat 19 May





# Denise Welch

Celebrity Big Brother winner talks about her latest role...



**Actress Denise Welch heads for the Midlands this month, where she'll follow in the footsteps of Dolly Parton by portraying beauty parlour owner Truvy in *Steel Magnolias* - the story of six strong-willed women from deep south Louisiana whose friendship knows no boundaries. What's On caught up with Denise to find out more...**

The character who holds everything together in Robert Harling's *Steel Magnolias* is, of course, Truvy, whose hairdressing salon and beauty parlour provides the meeting place for the town's prominent ladies.

For Denise Welch, in the role of Truvy, this means only one thing. "I'm not marvellous with props," she confesses, "and I spend a lot of the play walking, talking, doing nails. We've had Nicky Clarke in to teach us, so I hope that it looks as if I know what I'm doing. It has to be so tightly choreographed that the sooner I can put the script down, the better."

Audiences first got to know Denise as a television actress in such series as *Coronation Street* and *Waterloo Road*. More recently, she's established herself as a plain-speaking presence on ITV1's *Loose Women*. She's also been a regular subject of stories in tabloids and celebrity magazines. Her best-selling autobiography, *Pulling Myself Together*, which detailed her struggle with depression and with the alcohol and drugs she took to combat it, has found a sympathetic echo among the many who also suffer from the illness.

With all this other activity, it's easy to overlook Denise's theatre career, which began at the Live Theatre in Newcastle, within hailing distance of her birthplace in County Durham.

So why did she choose *Steel Magnolias* as a vehicle for her return to the stage?

"I hadn't toured for about twenty years because I was otherwise engaged bringing up my children. I would just say no thanks, almost automatically. However, when *Steel Magnolias* popped up, I thought to myself that I loved the film, that it was about eight years since I'd done any stage work, and that it wasn't that long a commitment. So I decided to go for it. *Steel Magnolias* is an ensemble piece, so I'm not carrying the weight of the play on my shoulders - everybody has an equal share. And I'm working with some proper grown-up actresses."

In comparing her experience of the stage

with television, Denise makes an interesting point. "Having done a lot of television, I was desperate to come back to the stage, where I could give a performance without somebody shouting out Cut! Rehearsal is a great luxury. On television the lines are in your head only about five minutes before you're due to go on the set to say them." Like the ladies in *Steel Magnolias*, Denise treasures her moments at the hairdressers. "They're friends and counsellors. You sit down, you relax, you have your coffee and you start to gossip. I love gossip - not the malicious kind - and I love to gossip with my friends. I love my female friends, and it's the 'girl power' aspect of *Steel Magnolias* that was one of the reasons I wanted to do the play. I don't quite trust women who don't have many female friends. The friendships in the play are already reflected in the cast. The first day of rehearsals is a bit like the first day of school. To begin with, you think you're the only person who's a bag of nerves and who's worried and anxious about everything. In fact, you soon find out that everybody's in the same position." At various stages of the tour, Denise will be returning to London to join her colleagues on *Loose Women*, the show that opened up a whole new presenting career for her. "I was originally a guest on the show - this was before the programme became such an important part of the TV furniture - and I was eventually asked to be a regular member of the team. I tend to be a bit of an open book, and that gives the viewer access into what's happening in my life. People believe that I tell everybody everything but I'm just being myself.

"You have to diversify. *Loose Women* keeps my profile up. These days, if you're not on television, people assume you've either retired or died."

Denise explains that one of the reasons for writing her autobiography was to help people suffering from similar symptoms. "I had to take the reader to my dark places, and I had to talk about them honestly." She is certain that her illness was the result

of post-natal depression, but hopes that she may now be over the worst. "I'm well for longer periods of time nowadays," she says, "although depression is an illness where you can go to bed feeling fine only to wake up in despair."


Brandishing a copy of a celebrity magazine, Denise indicates a front cover photograph in which she's looking especially downcast. "My misery sells," she remarks with a smile of resignation. "A photographer followed me, my son and the dog around the park last weekend. I had to say to him that there was no point in taking a shot of us enjoying a family occasion, because the papers only buy when I'm miserable."

The date that will mean the most to Denise is the week that *Steel Magnolias* plays the Theatre Royal, Newcastle. It was in the city that both Denise and her husband, the actor Tim Healy, made their professional debuts. And it was at school, in a production of the Broadway musical *Finian's Rainbow*, that Denise first felt that a life on the stage was for her. "I was a terrible show-off as a child, and I could never understand why my mother kept me away whenever she had company, since I was more than happy to entertain them! When I took part in that school production, it was as if a lightbulb had gone on inside my head. I thought originally of becoming a drama teacher, but dad, who was a very keen amateur actor and who eventually got his Equity Card at the age of sixty, persuaded me to try for drama school. My mum and sister are very supportive, but they prefer to keep their distance from the showbiz world. Most parents are against their children going on the stage but dad positively encouraged me. For some reason, he didn't think I'd make it as a teacher, and after working on *Waterloo Road*, I know he was right."

Denise stars alongside Kacey Ainsworth, Isla Blair, Cheryl Campbell, Cherie Lunghi and Sadie Pickering in *Steel Magnolias* at New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 21 to Sat 26 May





A close-up portrait of Miles Jupp, a man with dark, curly hair and light blue eyes, wearing a dark suit jacket, a blue and white striped shirt, and a yellow patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

“ I know a lot of people who are much posher and better bred than me. Okay, I’m privately educated, so that puts me in a certain percentage, but it’s not as if I went to Eton or anything... ”

# Miles Jupp

on the art of successful blagging...

**Comedian, actor and panellist Miles Jupp is taking his bow as an author with the publication of *Fibber In The Heat*, a book based around his cricketing adventure in India in 2005 - a story which also provides the basis for his current stand-up show. What's On caught up with him to find out more...**

**Can you tell us a bit about *Fibber In The Heat*?**

Around about 2005 I got it into my head during the Ashes series that what I really wanted to do was not to be an actor or comedian, but rather a cricket correspondent of some sort. I wanted a job where I could watch cricket all day and kind of get paid for it. I've loved the game since I was ten or eleven, and covering it was something that I really wanted to do, but couldn't be arsed to go through the traditional route of journalism college and the like. So I thought if I could be in the right place at the right time - get into a press box and look as though I was busy - then people would start giving me work to do. I remember reading this thing about what Barry Norman did when he was out of work. He would go to El Vino's in London, in a suit, looking very smart, armed with some paper and a pen, and chat to everyone. When people would ask him how he was, he'd say "busy, very busy". Then, after a while, people would start to come up to him and say: "Barry, I know you're really busy, but could you possibly do...". So I decided to try the same formula. It meant me telling quite a few fibs, but it ended up with me having a bit of paper that said I was the cricket correspondent for Radio Scotland. So I rang the people that I needed to, turned up in India at the beginning of March and finally got on to the press tour. My father-in-law is Sub Editor of a paper in Wales, and they'd said that they'd pay me a small fee to write a piece about one particular Welsh cricketer, but he'd left before I arrived.

**So do you consider yourself to be a good blagger?**

Er, I don't know. I think sometimes I've been able to be persuasive, but often I actually feel quite bad about asking permission to do things all the time. It's not really my nature to be audacious. I'm not the sort of person who finds it easy working a room full of strangers, but a lot of what I needed to do involved exactly that. When I got there, I thought the hard part would be getting into the press box, but that bit was alright. It was actually what to do once I was in there that became more of a problem.

**So has *Fibber In The Heat* formed the basis for your stand-up show?**

Yeah, that's right. I told this story as a show at the 2010 Edinburgh Festival. It's presented in a stand-up style but it's not conventional - it's more of a monologue. When I first came back from India, after the whole thing had finished, I attempted to write a book but got a little bit confused and didn't quite know how to go about it. Instead, I just shoved the whole idea in a drawer for three years or something. I'd heard Tom Wrigglesworth do this show about an old lady on a Virgin train who was told that she'd got the wrong ticket and was forced to pay some exorbitant fee, and how he (Tom) got a whip round on the train that resulted in him getting arrested. I listened to that on Radio Four and thought "God, I'd love to do a show that was just telling a story. What if I

tell the story about my Indian adventure - the thing that I did that's just been growing mould in the corner of my study?". So I wrote it as a show and from there got asked to write a book about it.

**What came first, the comedy or the acting?**

Professionally, comedy came first. I started stand-up when I was twenty. In my first year at Edinburgh University, I remember getting paid £15 for ten minutes. Balamory was my first professional acting job, although I'd spent a day playing a shoe salesman in something. Acting was something that I'd always done at both school and university.

**Regarding Balamory, was that just a case of taking your first step on the ladder?**

Yeah, there was an element of me not really understanding how it all worked. I was doing a programme in Scotland called Live Floor Show, which was a stand-up gang show with Frankie Boyle and Paul Sneddon, when I got asked to do an audition for Balamory by someone I already knew. I thought "I'll give it a go", got the part and thought "this must be how this TV thing works. I've done this comedy thing, I'll now try the children's thing and I'll see what comes after that". But there was nothing for ages...

**Were you afraid that you might be forever holed up in the world of children's TV as a result of Balamory?**

Yeah, I suppose - although I didn't stop really doing the comedy side of things. For one, when I did Balamory I was still at university, so I didn't feel like someone who didn't have any options. We filmed two series in 2002 and another in 2004, and in between I went to the Edinburgh Festival and got a Perrier nomination, so I was still trying to keep that side of things alive. Stand-up's always been a good way of getting back on the horse, so to speak...

**And has your stand-up style always been the same?**

Not really. When I first started, it was me as me, then I turned into a character, which was a bit of a self-defence mechanism. I started out in Scotland and the comperes would always say "this next act is English", and I thought that the best way to deal with that would be to be even more English than they expected me to be. That then grew into a character thing, and then, when I stopped doing stand-up in 2005 - before I went off on my India adventure - that was one of the things that I was saying goodbye to. I started up again properly two years later, and went back to storytelling and stuff, telling it as myself.

**You're recognised, as you say, as being very English and quite 'posh'. So just how posh would you rate yourself on a scale of one to ten?**

Probably ten. No, not really! How about seven or eight? I know a lot of people who are much posher and better bred than me. Okay, I'm privately educated, so that puts me

in a certain percentage, but it's not as if I went to Eton or anything...

**So what's your take on comedy being very much more working-class?**

I think it's more in vogue for people to play things down. You may be in the dressing room, chatting with someone quite normally, and then they go out on stage with "alright fella?", in that sort of slightly irritating type of speech. But Will Smith is fantastic. When I was at university, some friends said "you want to come along and see Will, you'll get on because he's posh like you". I remember seeing him and thinking it was really brave. I guess he became a real inspiration for me. As we were both doing quite posh things, I'd often have to ring him up - you know, when a joke pops into your head so quickly and so perfectly that you may have heard it before.

**How would you define a Miles Jupp audience?**

I've absolutely no idea. I think they're very nice, and I hope that they're people who enjoy needless wordliness with perhaps the occasional bit of dressed-up filth - that's me, not them. I would hope that my audience would be reasonably diverse - and I guess for this show it would probably help if they liked cricket. The only audience that I look at and think "Oh, am I really going to be able to make those people laugh?" are when it's a Friday or Saturday night and it's people with pointy shoes and shiny short-sleeve shirts, or whatever. But of course, one plays to those sort of people all the time - they make up a huge bulk of the audience, and they're usually really good fun. It's very dangerous to pre-judge any audience in terms of intelligence. To assume an audience won't get certain things is very reckless and conceited. So I'd like to hope that anyone would feel welcome at one of my shows...

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

Probably the last heckle that I received. It was last week and from a Chelsea Pensioner at a function I was doing at The Dorchester. He took issue with me for being about to speak about Newcastle. I've never been heckled by anyone in uniform before, so I found that exciting, even if his heckle revealed some politics that I personally find unacceptable.

**Did it throw you off your track?**

No, I found it funny that this pensioner, a guest of honour, would spring up from nowhere and start to shout. But no, I've dealt with things like that lots and lots of times. It was nice to see one Chelsea Pensioner ask another to be quiet, though.

**Do you have a favourite one-liner?**

I'm a very judgmental person, I think you are too!

**How much does your material evolve as you work through a show?**

Well, something like *Fibber In The Heat* starts out as a very scripted piece, and I





# Jessie J

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suppose you might embellish it as you go along. When I first did it in Edinburgh, it was a fifty-five minute/hour-long show. Now it's seventy-five minutes or so, and I've not done any writing to get it there. That's down to onstage evolution or whatever. I usually start out with something scripted. Sometimes you find that you've been doing something for ages, then suddenly something pops into your head - a new line or something. My safety-conscious attitude is that if I've been booked for twenty minutes, I need to be able to talk for twenty minutes, even if there are no pauses for laughter. I always need to be able to fulfill my contractual obligation. I'm not one of those people who can walk on stage and just go "Alright mate, look at your hat!" and then proceed to talk about it for twenty minutes.

**You recently appeared on Dancing For Sport Relief. How much control did you have over your choice of dance?**

Quite a lot - well, with the song anyway. I wanted to do one of those songs that you could go a bit nuts to; something that had a get-out clause, meaning that if I forgot any of the choreographed stuff, I could just jump around a bit.

**So was it a case of masking an inability to dance properly?**

I'm the first to admit that I can't dance. That piece was just two minutes long and within it there were only four bits of dancing.

**You've had quite a few acting roles of late. Can you tell us a bit about what you've been up to?**

I've just finished filming with Michael Winterbottom's *The King Of Soho*, a film about London porn baron-turned-property millionaire Paul Raymond. I've also done a little bit more of *The Thick Of It*, and I'm currently working on *Tank Commander*, which is an extraordinary creation about the very funny Greg McHugh, who's just back from a war campaign.

**You seem to be everywhere at the moment - books, stand-up shows, films and panel series. Would you describe yourself as a bit of a workaholic?**

I guess I have been in the last few years. I did have a lazy spell in my mid-twenties. *Balamory* made me a bit too comfortable. I lost all ambition, and was mainly concerned with having Chinese food delivered and watching box sets. Now I'm married with two young children, and have a host of responsibilities. I try to work all the time, because that's what normal people do.

**Acting is quite a fickle industry, so are you ever afraid to turn work down?**

Oh, I do occasionally turn work down, but there's got to be an alternative. There's an element of managing things as well. I genuinely want my acting work to be different to my stand-up and panel show persona. I want there to be a distinction between the two, because I want it to be actual acting and creating characters. In *Rev*, *The Thick Of It* or a play that I did recently, *A Day In The Death Of Joe Egg*, I've played characters that were far removed from my own personality.

**What acting role have you enjoyed the most?**

I played Bri in *A Day In The Death Of Joe Egg* just before Christmas at the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow, which was fun. Also, the first time I did *The Thick Of It*, I played a character called John Duggan, who I really, really enjoyed.

**So what do you hope will dominate your future professionally - stand-up or theatre?**

Gosh, I never have any plans. I don't know. Probably acting. I do like writing, and there's a radio sitcom that I've written about a cookery writer called Damien Trench, for which I'm going to write another series. I hope to take that into television in some format, slightly different from the radio one, but it's certainly something that I'd like to develop.



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# Music

## Morten Harket

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 14 May

Best known as the voice of A-Ha, Morten Harket is performing solo here in the Midlands just a few short months after completing the internationally renowned Norwegian trio's final UK tour. A-Ha's mid-'80s superstardom offered the perfect platform for a twenty-five-year-long career in the limelight, with fifteen top ten singles in the UK alone ensuring Morten has plenty of great material with which to regale his audiences. He'll be augmenting the A-Ha hits with a selection of solo material, and is joined by Karl Oluf Wennerberg on drums, Dan Sundhordvik on guitar and Erik Ljunggren on keyboards/bass, who played with A-Ha on their farewell tour.



## The Horrors

HMV Institute, Birmingham, Fri 18 May

Having only just finished supporting Florence And The Machine on tour, the gothic collective have been criss-crossing the globe since January. Recently winning Album of the Year at the NME Awards for third release *Skying*, the post-punk band have been busy with various side-projects, with Faris Badwan's *Cat's Eyes* releasing an EP and full-length album last year. Hear them play tracks from all three albums, including recent anthem *Still Life*, at this Birmingham concert.

## The Lines

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sat 5 May

Wolverhampton four-piece The Lines formed in 2006 and reached Number One in 2008 with debut single *Domino Effect*. Having supported everyone from The Killers to Babyshambles, the band are co-headlining this tour with Manchester group The Rainband. Compared to The Verve, they describe their music as having "a big guitar sound". Following a year that saw them play North America at SXSW and Canadian Music Meek, The Lines have been busy writing and recording new material that they might just share with the audience at this Birmingham show.



## Coldplay

Ricoh Arena, Coventry, Tues 29 May

Playing just four stadiums on this tour, Coldplay will be rocking Coventry during this sure-to-be-unforgettable show. With big hitter Robyn and Jay Z protégé Rita Ora supporting, it's no surprise that tickets sold out in just ninety minutes. Breaking out in 2000 with anthem single *Yellow*, the band have gone on to fight for numerous worthy causes, and have been involved with Make Trade Fair, Amnesty International, Band Aid 20 and Live 8, as well as donating ten per cent of their profits to charity. They've also found time to release five albums, which have been influenced by such diverse artists as Travis, Kate Bush, Johnny Cash and Blur.

## Guns N' Roses'

LG Arena, Birmingham, Sat 26 May

Axl Rose and his cohorts make a welcome return to Birmingham to remind Guns N' Roses' Midlands fans exactly how real rock'n'rollers like to party! With over one hundred million album sales worldwide to their name since hitting the dizzy heights of '80s stardom, the Los Angeles band are twenty-four carat, bonafide rock legends, scoring massive hits with numbers like *Sweet Child Of Mine* and *Paradise City*. Their return to the region coincides with their induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, an accolade which came their way as soon as they became eligible for it.







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## Ladyhawke

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 6 May

Real name Pippa Brown, Ladyhawke is one cool Kiwi, known not only for singles Magic, My Delirium and Paris Is Burning, but also for her insistence on wearing men's clothes. Playing as part of a number of groups, including one with Empire Of The Sun's Nick Littlemore, she relocated to the UK in 2007 and released her eponymous debut album the following year. A self-confessed fan of video games and LMFAO, expect a darker, rockier sound from second album Anxiety, released this month.



## The Xcerts

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 12 May;  
O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sun 13 May

Originally from Aberdeen, this three-piece moved to Brighton in 2006 and have since released two albums and supported Biffy Clyro, Taking Back Sunday and Get Cape Wear Cape Fly, to name but a few. They've been touring non-stop since the release of latest album Scatterbrain at the end of 2010, not only as support to Frank Turner and Taking Back Sunday but also as headliners in their own right. Scheduled to start recording a new album this year, don't bank on these boys taking a break any time soon.



## The Imagined Village

Birmingham Town Hall, Mon 21 May

The Imagined Village has been likened to the classic Incredible String Band ethnic-crossover experiments, and comprises ten members, all of whom play in other bands, including Chase & Status, Afro Celts Sound System, Cornershop, Transglobal Underground, The Bays, Dhol Foundation and Red Snapper. 'Head Villagers', so to speak, are Eliza Carthy, Martin Carthy, Jackie Oates and Barney Morse Brown, all of whom return to Birmingham to perform this gig to mark the release of new album Bending The Dark. Commenting on The Imagined Village collaborations, guitarist Simon Emmerson says: "As a band we feel we've come through tough times. Through dogged perseverance and the simple joy of playing together we've achieved what we set out to do when we



## Keane

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Fri 25 May

Achieving huge success with debut album Hopes And Fears in 2004, the piano rock band have since released a further two critically acclaimed albums, Under The Iron Sea and Perfect Symmetry. The boys' latest album has been two years in development, and this Birmingham gig - the third sold-out date of their comeback tour following a three-year break - offers the opportunity for fans to enjoy a sneak preview of the new material.

came off the Empire And Love Tour in January 2010, and that's to make a recording that reflects both the fun and energy we generate as a live unit, plus our respective skills, eccentricities and unique identities as song writers, arrangers and musicians."

## Ramin Karimloo

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 17 May

West End star Ramin Karimloo is best known for his performance as The Phantom Of The Opera in the hit Andrew Lloyd Webber musical's twenty-fifth anniversary concert, performed at the Royal Albert Hall and broadcast around the world. This solo show finds Ramin presenting a selection of material from his new album alongside some of his favourite numbers from much-loved shows such as Love Never Dies, South Pacific, Les Misérables, and, of course, The Phantom Of The Opera.



## Ozric Tentacles

The Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Sun 13 May

Known as The Ozrics to fans, Ozric Tentacles have been playing instrumental rock since the 1980s. Unbelievably, they've released twenty-eight albums in that time, despite never having been signed to a major record label. Best known for their style of psychedelic, electronic music, complete with thumping bass, guitar, sound effects and synths, the band are currently in the studio preparing for the forthcoming Paper Monkeys Tour. Support comes from Champignon, Jon Egan of Ozric Tentacles' group, and Midlands band The Tantrics.

## Kassidy

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Thurs 31 May

Recently hitting the headlines following the revelation that frontman Barrie James O'Neil is dating Lana Del Rey, long-haired heartthrobs Kassidy major in a Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young-esque style of country folk rock. The Glasgow four-piece have enjoyed a meteoric rise to fame in little more than a year, and appear in the Midlands as part of a nine-date tour to support the release of their second album, One Man Army.

## Tellison

The Rainbow, Birmingham, Tues 8 May

The indie four-piece stop off in Birmingham as part of a final run of seven shows to promote second album The Wages Of Fear. The boys will be booked in for some studio time to work on their third album this summer, and following The Wages Of Fear's success in winning both Kerrang! and Rock Sound Magazine Album of the Year 2011, expectations are inevitably high. Youthful two-piece The Bots - two LA-based brothers who are aged just fifteen and eighteen - offer support.





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## Music PREVIEW

### Jimmy Cliff

The Ballroom, Birmingham, Sun 20 May  
Jamaican musician, singer and actor Jimmy Cliff is the only still-living musician to hold the Order of Merit, the highest honour that can be granted by the Jamaican government for achievement in the arts and sciences. Jimmy has also been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, another outstanding honour which speaks volumes for the regard in which he is held throughout the music industry. Best known to mainstream audiences for songs such as *Sitting In Limbo*, *You Can Get It If You Really Want* and *Many Rivers To Cross*, all of which featured in the soundtrack to the hit 1972 movie *The Harder They Come*, Jimmy is one of Reggae music's most legendary exponents, and continues to draw a crowd wherever he tours.



### Elvis Costello

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 15 May  
Can it really be over three decades since Elvis Costello arrived on the music scene wearing a charity shop suit and a chip on his shoulder? From his first album - the angry and vitriolic *My Aim Is True* (1977) - onwards, Costello's career has had some incredible highs and some spectacular lows, yet well over a quarter of a century later, he's still going strong. Be prepared for a wide range of exciting and innovative styles, presented by one of the most enduring and sophisticated home-grown talents of his generation.



### Hue & Cry

The Robin, Bilston, Tues 15 May  
Brothers Pat and Greg Kane have certainly kept themselves busy on a professional level since bursting onto the music scene way back in the 1980s, but it's for early-career tracks like *Labour Of Love*, *Violently* and *Looking For Linda* - as well as for their first two albums, *Seduced And Abandoned* and *Remote* - that they remain best known. Their music has been described as intellectual, soulful pop, the most recent example of which is the newly released *Hot Wire* album, for which this Bilston performance is a supporting-tour gig.



### Marina and The Diamonds

The Assembly, Leamington Spa, Thurs 10 May; HMV Institute, Birmingham, Fri 11 May  
Marina Diamandis burst onto the scene when she came second to Ellie Goulding in the BBC Sound Of 2010 poll. Her imminent second album, named after her new alter-ego *Electra Heart*, fits more into the pop vein and is "a vehicle to portray part of the American dream, with elements of Greek tragedy". Accompanied by an art project named *The Archetypes*, she's sure to have plenty to say at this gig, where FOE support.

### The Real Thing

The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury, Sat 5 May  
With hits like *You To Me Are Everything*, *Can't Get By Without You*, *Feel The Force*, *You'll Never Know What You're Missing* and *Whenever You Want My Love* to their name, there's little wonder *The Real Thing* were the most successful black rock/soul act in England during the 1970s. As such, the group's credentials are not in question, with the Guinness Book Of Records having once pointed out that only fellow Liverpudlians *The Beatles* and *Frankie Goes To Hollywood* had had more singles in the all-time Top One Hundred.



### Twenty Twenty

HMV Institute, Birmingham, Thu 3 May  
Three-piece pop band *Twenty Twenty* is made up of lead vocalist/guitarist Sam Halliday, his brother and bassist/vocalist Jack, and drummer/vocalist Sonny Watson-Lang. Last year saw the boys not only release debut album *Small Talk* but also support *The Saturdays* and *The Wanted* on tour. With a huge fanbase, thanks to their camera-pleasing looks and not a little charm, the band have admitted to wanting to duet with *Jessie J*, and look set to become the next *McFly*. Room 94 and Futureproof support.

### Brit Floyd

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Thurs 10 May; De Montford Hall, Leicester, Wed 16 May; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 24 June  
They may not be as well known or as widely revered as the Australian *Pink Floyd Show*, but if critical responses to *Brit Floyd's* early-career gigs are anything to go by, it won't be long before 'the new Floyds on the block' are giving their better-established counterparts a real run for their money. Not that *Brit Floyd's* success should come as any real surprise - the band does, after all, include numerous members who've previously lined up with the Australian incarnation, most notably front man *Damian Darlington*. Maybe not yet quite as cool with the skin they're in as the Aussie boys are, the Brit lads are certainly no slouches when it comes to banging out an evening of *Pink Floyd* classics.

### Blaze Bayley Band

The Public, West Bromwich, Sun 20 May  
Birmingham-born *Blaze* makes a welcome return to his old stamping ground of the Midlands to show there's more to his career than stints as the lead singer for two of heavy metal's biggest bands. Not that a guy who's fronted *Wolfsbane* and, most impressively, *Iron Maiden*, has got anything to prove when it comes to the issues of talent, charisma and star quality, of course! *Blaze* here presents songs from new offering *King Of Metal*, which he considers to be his first ever album as a 'solo artist'.



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# Music GIG REVIEWS

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

## Steps

LG Arena, Birmingham

As the lights dimmed on the LG Arena, the audience began to cheer. Kamaliya, a former Miss World, opened the show, performing songs from her new album. She was followed by second guest Shock-O-lady.



The much-anticipated Steps reunion show began with Claire, Lisa, Lee, Faye and H appearing from under the stage in clear glass pods to the song Here And Now. The audience erupted into a standing ovation. The evening was overflowing with the band's well known hits and also featured various solos, with Claire Richards - dressed in a beautiful full-length sequin dress - receiving a raptuous applause for her performance of I Surrender. The 90's band certainly provided a show that was fun, vibrant and entertaining - a night of pure indulgence for any Steps fan. **Adam Starr** ■■■■■■

## Noah And The Whale

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

Noah And The Whale have achieved a lot in the last three years, with recent album Last Night On Earth proving to be a real commercial breakthrough. The Civic Hall was crammed with fans as the band kicked off proceedings with Life Is Life, followed by a lively Just Before We Met and Give It All Back. With old cinema-style curtains and video as the backdrop, the gig offered a good evening of entertainment, with one of the highlights being the encore of The First Days Of Spring. Support was provided by singer-songwriter Lucy Rose, who performed her set with an acoustic guitar and accompanied by her five-piece band. She proved to be the perfect opening to a highly enjoyable evening. **Rhiann Atherton** ■■■■■■

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01952 728911  
THE HIVE, SHREWSBURY  
01743 234970  
THE IRONWORKS, OSWESTRY  
01691 679123  
THEATRE SEVERN,  
SHREWSBURY 01743 281281  
THE PLACE, OAKENGATES,  
TELFORD 01952 382382  
WEM TOWN HALL  
01939 232299

### Staffordshire

LICHFIELD GUILDHALL  
01543 262223  
THE SUGAR MILL, HANLEY  
STOKE-ON-TRENT  
01159 454 593  
TAMWORTH ASSEMBLY ROOMS  
01827 709618  
VICTORIA HALL, HANLEY  
0844 871 7649  
STAFFORD GATEHOUSE  
01785 254653

### Warwickshire

COX'S YARD, STRATFORD  
01789 404600  
THE ASSEMBLY, LEAMINGTON  
01926 311311  
THE KASBAH, COVENTRY  
02476 554473  
NAILCOTE HALL,  
BERKSWELL 02476 46 6174  
STRATFORD CIVIC HALL  
01789 207100  
TAYLOR JOHN'S HOUSE,  
COVENTRY  
024 7623 0699

### Worcestershire

HUNTINGDON HALL / SWAN  
THEATRE 01905 611427  
MARR'S BAR, WORCESTER  
01905 613336  
THE RIVER ROOMS,  
STOURBRIDGE  
01384 397177

# Music LISTINGS

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## TUE 1 MAY

**SINCE MONROE** The Queen Elizabeth Hospital: Bored On The Ward Charity Event, 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**EXAMPLE** National Indoor Arena, Birmingham  
**DON WILLIAMS PLUS SPECIAL GUEST COLM KIRWAN** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**MANFRED MANN'S EARTH-BAND** The Robin, Bilston  
**TEAM ME** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**BY LANTERN LIGHT** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**LUMI HD, STEVE SWIFT & SIMON BREVIK** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**BOW WOW WOW** The Assembly, Leamington Spa

## WED 2 MAY

**PAUL BRADY & BAND** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**THE OCEAN BETWEEN US PLUS OUR PEOPLE VS YOURS, FIGHTS AND FIRES & KAILIN** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**DANGEROUS GIRLS REUNITED** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**SYLOSIS** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**GILMORE ROBERTS** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham  
**THE MAGIC TOMBOLOS** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**STACKRIDGE** The Robin, Bilston  
**ARTFUL** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE UNTHANKS** The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock



The Unthanks

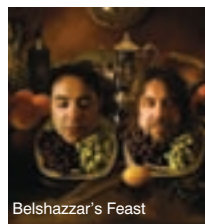
## THUR 3 MAY

**MATT BLACK BAND & DAY-LIGHT ROBBERY** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**NEWTON FAULKNER** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**LARRY MILLER** The Robin, Bilston  
**A 60S NIGHT OUT FEATURING THE FORTUNES & THE IVY LEAGUE** Solihull Arts Complex  
**THE SUBS** The Jam House, Birmingham

**THE SUBWAYS** Kasbah, Coventry  
**TWENTY TWENTY** HMV Institute, Birmingham

## FRI 4 MAY

**BLOOD RED SHOES** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**THE ULTIMATE EAGLES** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**NIKI & THE DOVE** Kasbah, Coventry  
**BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



Belshazzar's Feast

**MR BEN** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**BLACK DOLLAR BILLS** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**HELLRAZOR** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**MULLIGAN SOUP** Lichfield Garrick  
**THE ELO EXPERIENCE** Tamworth Assembly Rooms  
**QUILL** The Robin, Bilston  
**PURPLE ZEPPELIN** Lichfield Guildhall  
**51 STONE** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**SILENT SCREAMS PLUS OUR PEOPLE VERSUS YOURS, VILLA RISE, FOREVER GRACE & SEALL** The Marr's Bar, Worcester  
**THE MAGICAL HISTORY TOUR - BEATLES TRIBUTE** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**THE UNTHANKS** Wem Town Hall  
**MEMORIES ARE MADE OF HITS** The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury  
**THEY WROTE THE SONGS** The music of four great piano singer songwriters, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury  
**THE CHARMERS, DARK ACTORS & THE MILLS** Taylor John's House, Coventry

## SAT 5 MAY

**THE BOYS NEXT DOOR** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**MAIDALLICA** Tribute band to Metallica The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**MR BEN** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**BEYOND THE BARRICADE** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**RAVEN VANDELLE PLUS O.W.L.S. BURY THE LADYBIRD, THE KI AND WOODEN BOY** 02 Academy, Birmingham

**TRAIN** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**Z ROCK 2012** Featuring Paul Sabu, Arabia, Legion, Shakra, Vanden Plas, Steele and Coldspell. 6th Scream Arena, Summers, Dercole, Hush, Newman, Michael Bormann and von Groove, The Robin, Bilston  
**TREMBLING BELLS** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Rock'n'Roll spectacular combining music from the 50s, 60s & 70s Bedworth Civic Hall  
**NEVER FOR EVER - TRIBUTE TO KATE BUSH** Lichfield Garrick  
**THE OFFICIAL RECEIVERS BAND** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**THE ULTIMATE MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE** The Public, West Bromwich  
**PENDRAGON** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**BLUZEBOX** The Ironworks, Oswestry, North Shropshire

## SUN 6 MAY

**EVERYBODY LOOKS FAMOUS** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**WE ARE AUGUSTINES** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**JACOB BANKS AND THE BLUE WOLVES PLUS KILLING FIELDS OF ONTARIO, VANESSA KNIGHT, GEORGE GADD, JAMES HOUGH** The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham  
**THE DAMNED - 35TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**PAUL BRADY & BAND** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**Z ROCK 2012** The Robin, Bilston  
**LADYHAWKE** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**WE THE KINGS** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**DIRTY DC - TRIBUTE TO AC / DC** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**THE CORONAS** The Ballroom, Birmingham

## MON 7 MAY

**VEIL OF MAYA** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**CHRIS GUMBLEY** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**HOLY STATE** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**ZULU WINTER** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**ADMIRAL FALLOW** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**10CC** Symphony Hall, Birmingham



10CC



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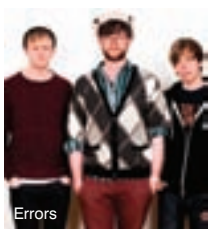
**FUDGE STOCK FEATURING ONE LOVE, RUDI & THE REVOLVERS, CRAZY HORSES, PLANET ROCK & THE NAKED BEATLES** The Robin, Bilston

## TUES 8 MAY

**BEN CAPLAN & THE CASUAL SMOKERS** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham  
**TELLISON** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**SIMON FAULKNER** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**ALKALINE TRIO** Kasbah, Coventry  
**CANDYRAT GUITARIST TOUR 2012** Featuring Antoine Dufour, Ewan Dobson, Jimmy Wahlsteen & Adam Palma, The Robin, Bilston  
**ALL OUR YESTERDAYS** Solihull Arts Complex

## WED 9 MAY

**JOOLS HOLLAND & HIS RHYTHM & BLUES ORCHESTRA** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**JOANNE SHAW TAYLOR** The Robin, Bilston  
**AN EVENING WITH PETE ALLEN** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**LUNASA** Lichfield Guildhall  
**TRIBES** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**MICHAEL SCHENKERS TEMPLE OF ROCK** Wulfrun Hall  
**CANDYRAT GUITARIST TOUR 2012 FEATURING ANTOINE DUFOUR, EWAN DOBSON, JIMMY WAHLSTEEN & ADAM PALMA** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**A PLACE TO BURY STRANGERS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**ALL OUR YESTERDAYS** Solihull Arts Complex  
**ERRORS** Central Station, Wrexham



## THUR 10 MAY

**SLOW CLUB** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**MARINA AND THE DIAMONDS** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**LIMEHOUSE LIZZY** The Ironworks, Oswestry

**JOE LONGTHORNE** Crewe Lyceum  
**DANA GILLESPIE** The Jam House, B'ham  
**THE MANDOLINQUENTS** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS** The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**BRIT FLOYD** National Indoor Arena, Birmingham  
**THE SEARCHERS** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**JEZ LOWE** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**THE ZOMBIES** The Robin, Bilston  
**ALBERT LEE & HOGAN'S HEROES** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**A 60S NIGHT OUT FEATURING THE FORTUNES & THE IVY LEAGUE** Lichfield Garrick  
**BROKENDYDE** The Ballroom, Birmingham

## FRI 11 MAY

**MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS** The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury  
**THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**ALABAMA SHAKES** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**DANA GILLESPIE** The Basement Restaurant, Leamington Spa  
**BUDDY HOLLY - A LEGEND REBORN** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**GYPSY FIRE** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**BACK FOR GOOD** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford  
**SWINGING 60'S 'BEATLES' PARTY WITH THE CHEATLES** Nailcote Hall, Berkswell  
**DENNIS LOCORRIERE** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**AND FINALLY - PHIL COLLINS TRIBUTE SHOW** The Swan Theatre, Worcester  
**ANDY SHEPPARD & TRIO LIBERO** CBSO Centre, Birmingham  
**IVYRISE** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**SOLID SOUL** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THE KAST OFF KINKS** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**THE HEARTBREAKS** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**LIBBY SINGS ADELE** The Ironworks, Oswestry, North Shropshire  
**MARINA AND THE DIAMONDS** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**WATCHFIRES FEATURING SUNRISE OVER EUROPE AND THE YOUNG SUN- ALWAYS** The Flapper & Firkin, Birmingham

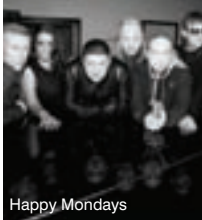


Gypsy Fire

**GLENN TILBROOK & NINE BELOW ZERO PRESENT THE CO-OPERATIVE** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**JOHN COOPER CLARKE** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**STANLEY BRINKS, FRESH-CARD & MELLOW PEACHES** Taylor John's House, Coventry

## SAT 12 MAY

**ALTERED IMAGES** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**HAPPY MONDAYS** 02 Academy, Birmingham



Happy Mondays

**THE XCERTS** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**NEW KILLER SHOES** The Flapper & Firkin, Birmingham  
**SOLID SOUL** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THE SEX PISTOLS EXPERIENCE FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST ED TUDOR-POLE** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**ZAKOPOWER** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**DELAIN & TRILLIUM** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**PAUL SAWTELL VIBES QUARTET** The Hive, Shrewsbury  
**ROLO TOMASSI** Kasbah, Coventry  
**GYPSY FIRE** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**SMALL FAKERS & PRITTY GREEN** Tribute to the Small Faces & Paul Weller Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**DEFINITELY MIGHTBE & CHANGING MAN** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**FRIENDS** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**NORTHERN SOUL & MOWTOWN NIGHT** Dudley Concert Hall

**SHOWADDYWADDY** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**TALON - THE BEST OF THE EAGLES** The Robin, Bilston  
**STONE FOUNDATION** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**MOTOWN MAGIC** The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## SUN 13 MAY

**STILLMARRILLION** The Robin, Bilston  
**MATTHEW HERBERT'S ONE PIG** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**THE XCERTS** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**ALBERT LEE & HOGAN'S HEROES** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**FOREVER IN BLUE JEANS** Crewe Lyceum  
**STEVE GIBBONS** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham  
**OZRIC TENTACLES** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**WILLIS EARL** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**BEN CALVERT & THE SWIFTS** mac, Birmingham

## MON 14 MAY

**ESTELLE** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**FLATS** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**MICHAEL KIWANUKA** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**MORTEN HARKET** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**THIS IS HELL & FEED THE RHINO** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**SPECTOR** HMV Institute, Birmingham

## TUE 15 MAY

**HUE AND CRY** The Robin, Bilston  
**DUKE SPECIAL** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**ELVIS COSTELLO** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**PETER KNIGHT'S GIGSPANNER** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**THIN LIZZY** Kasbah, Coventry

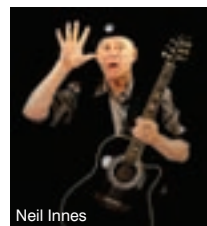
**PHRONESIS** mac, Birmingham

## WED 16 MAY

**HAMILTON LOOMIS** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**BRIT FLOYD** De Montfort Hall, Leicester  
**THE TEMPER TRAP** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**JUSTIN CURRIE** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**JP COOPER** The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham  
**YELAWOLF** The 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**MORE GIRLS WITH GUITARS 2012** featuring Dani Wilde, Victoria Smith and Samantha Fish, The Robin, Bilston  
**SARAH JEZEBEL DEVA** The Ballroom, Birmingham

## THUR 17 MAY

**THE FARM** The Robin, Bilston  
**GET CAPE WEAR CAPE FLY** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE JIVE ACES** The Swan Theatre, Worcester  
**SUNJAY BRAYNE** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**RAMIN** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**MARTYN JOSEPH & STEWART HENDERSON** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**FUNERAL SUITS PLUS THE HOLE IN THE HEAD GANG** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**BLEACHED** The Rainbow, Bilston  
**NEIL INNES** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon



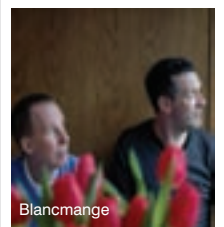
Neil Innes

**LES AND THE LICKS** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THE BLUES BAND**

**RHYTHM & BLUES** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**BARRY MANILOW** LG Arena, Birmingham

## FRI 18 MAY

**THE INTENTIONS** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**CASTROVALVA** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**KENNY BALL & HIS JAZZMEN** Tamworth Assembly Rooms  
**BLANCMANGE** The Assembly, Leamington Spa

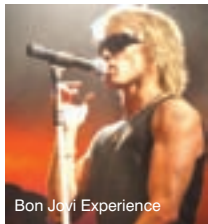


Blancmange

**THE HORRORS** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**PETER DALEY BAND WITH THE TOWN HALL GOSPEL CHOIR** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC** Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**LICHFIELD BLUES ON THE LOOSE** Spring Gathering headlined by Tom Doughty, Lichfield Guildhall  
**JOE LONGTHORNE** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**SILENT FILTER FT. FAKULTY** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**NEIL INNES** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**FLEETWOOD BAC** The Robin, Bilston  
**MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA** Featuring numbers from the musicals, Old Rep, Birmingham  
**THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN** Malvern Theatres  
**KEITH JAMES - THE GREAT CANADIAN SONGBOOK** Solihull Arts Complex  
**FIXERS** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**DRESSED TO KILL - KISS TRIBUTE** The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## SAT 19 MAY

**80'S SENSATION** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**THE BLUES BAND** Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Evesham  
**THE BEATLES REVOLUTION** Genting Club Star City, Birmingham  
**THE UPBEAT BEATLES** Malvern Theatres  
**RED PRIEST - CARNIVAL OF THE SEASONS** Lichfield Garrick  
**ACHTUNG BABY - U2 TRIBUTE** The Robin, Bilston  
**THE INTENTIONS** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**SARVAR SABRI PRESENTS SYNERGY** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA FEATURING NUMBERS FROM THE MUSICALS** Old Rep, Birmingham  
**BLANCMANGE** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**SEVENDAZE, INSOLITO, NIGHTBLADE AND THE SINFUL DIGITAL** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**AN EVENING WITH DANA LUDLOW** Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire  
**THE HOLLYWOOD BEES** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**LEGENDS OF ROCK FEATURING: CRASH, DIZZY LIZZY AND BON GIOVI** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE** The Assembly, Leamington Spa



Bon Jovi Experience

**BENNY BANKS** Kasbah, Coventry  
**GUITAR ANTHEMS** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**ARE YOU EXPERIENCED - JIMI HENDRIX TRIBUTE** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon

## SUN 20 MAY

**BLAZE BAYLEY BAND** The Public, West Bromwich  
**WESTLIFE** LG Arena, Birmingham  
**KIERAN GOSS** The Hive, Shrewsbury  
**POND** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**BLANCMANGE** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**RED SHOES** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham  
**KATZENJAMMER** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**DENNIS LOCORRIERE** The Robin, Bilston  
**STEAMCHICKEN** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**CAMILLE O'SULLIVAN** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**THE GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND** Malvern

Theatres  
**DEMON BARBER ROAD-SHOW** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**JIMMY CLIFF** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**MOTHERS RUIN** The Roadhouse, Birmingham

## MON 21 MAY

**MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS** Solihull Arts Complex  
**DICK VALENTINE** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**CLIVE GREGSON** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham  
**THE PRIMITIVES** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**THE IMAGINED VILLAGE** Birmingham Town Hall  
**TV BUDDHAS & THE JANGLE BOX** Taylor John's House, Coventry

## TUE 22 MAY

**MOTOWN'S GREATEST HITS - HOW SWEET IT IS** Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**JOHN FLEMING & MATT GOUGH QUARTET** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**NIKI & THE DOVE** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**JIM BOB (CARTER USM) & BURNSIDE** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**FEI COMODO** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE WATERBOYS** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**SIR BOB GELDOF** Lichfield Garrick  
**HEATHER PEACE** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**THE LADY: A HOMAGE TO SANDY DENNY** Featuring special guests Maddy Prior, Thea Gilmore, Joan Wasser, Dave Swarbrick, Jerry Donahue, PP Arnold, Lavinia Blackwall, Sam Carter & Blair Dunlop, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## WED 23 MAY

**MARQUIS DRIVE** The Robin, Bilston  
**SIR BOB GELDOF** Lichfield Garrick  
**THE MANFREDS** Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**FOREVER THE SICKEST KIDS** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**GENERAL FIASCO** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**EMILY SMITH** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**SPAGHETTI WESTERN ORCHESTRA** Birmingham Town Hall  
**DORIAN WOOD, SEF & NATHANIEL ROBIN MANN** Taylor John's House, Coventry

## THUR 24 MAY

**JUAN MARTIN** Birmingham Town Hall



Westlife

**MIKE STEWART LAWRENCE IN CONCERT** Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull  
**LUCY ROSE** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**JILL JACKSON** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**LOUIS BARABBAS & THE BEDLAM SIX** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE PARIS 1940S** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**ROBERT GLASPER EXPERIMENT & BEATS** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**JOURNEY 2 TOTO** The Robin, Bilston  
**GYPSY FIRE** Solihull Arts Complex  
**THE FORTUNES & THE IVY LEAGUE** Artrix, Bromsgrove

## FRI 25 MAY

**CHRIS DIFFORD** Solihull Arts Complex  
**THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC - TRIBUTE TO ABBA AND THE BEE GEES** Malvern Theatres  
**MAETLOAF** The Robin, Bilston  
**KEANE** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE SKATALITES** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE BEAT AND FROM THE JAM** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton



The Beat

**ONE NIGHT OF ELVIS STARRING LEE MEMPHIS KING** Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**GEOFF EALES' ISORHYTHM** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE FOLK ENSEMBLE** Lichfield Guildhall  
**THE SOUL SURVIVORS WITH MEL DAY SOUL** Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire  
**TYGA** HMV Institute,

Birmingham  
**HOLD BACK THE NIGHT** New production that celebrates the music of ABBA and the Bee Gees, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**THE ZOMBIES** Artrix, Bromsgrove



The Zombies

**BBC BIG BAND: THE MUSIC OF PEGGY LEE** Birmingham Town Hall  
**THE SKYNYRD EXPERIENCE** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**STARLIGHT CLUB** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**BIG UP THE 90'S** The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## SAT 26 MAY

**THE 7 TEEZ** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**MAC MILLER** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**COOL BRITANNIA** The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury  
**GUNS N' ROSES** LG Arena, Birmingham  
**THE UK CULT & REBEL YELL (BILLY IDOL TRIBUTE)** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**HITS OF THE HOLLYWOOD LEGENDS** Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**STARLIGHT CLUB** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**FOUR FIGHTERS - FOO FIGHTERS TRIBUTE** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**SAINT ETIENNE** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**ACKER BILK & THE PARAMOUNT JAZZ BAND** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**COUNTERFEIT STONES** The Robin, Bilston  
**T-REXTASY** Tamworth As-

sembly Rooms  
**THE FRANK & BUBBLE SHOW** Solihull Arts Complex  
**KEITH & JULIE TIPPETT: A COUPLE OF SPIRIT & DEEP JOY QUARTET** mac, Birmingham

## SUN 27 MAY

**GEMMA HAYES** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**IT BITES** The Robin, Bilston  
**FAIRPORT CONVENTION** Lichfield Guildhall  
**WILLIAM CONTROL PLUS FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS AND OBSCURE PLEASURES** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**FREI. WILD** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**ATTILA THE STOCKBROKER** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham  
**THE SOUNDS OF THE SUPREMES** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

## MON 28 MAY

**BROKEN HANDS** Kasbah, Coventry  
**TIR NA NOG** Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham  
**MILAGRES** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**WATERMELON SLIM** The Robin, Bilston  
**DUANE EDDY** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

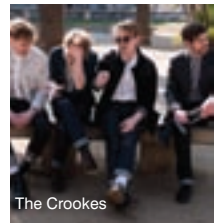
## TUES 29 MAY

**TRAGEDY** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE SEARCHERS** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**COLDPLAY** Tue 29 May, Ricoh Arena, Coventry  
**KIERAN GOSS** The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

## WED 30 MAY

**TEN, SERPENTINE & WHITE WIDDOW** Wed 30 May, The Roadhouse,

Birmingham  
**KATE MCGILL** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**THE SOUNDS OF THE SUPREMES** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**ALT-J** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**NEW STREET ADVENTURE** The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham  
**INTO IT. OVER IT** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE CROOKES** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent



The Crookes

**CONNIE LUSH & BLUES SHOUTER** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**CHRIS DIFFORD** Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**PETER HOOK AND THE LIGHT** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**TERRY REID** The Robin, Bilston  
**TRIO TEKKE** Taylor John's House, Coventry

## THU 31 MAY

**ROXY MAGIC** The Robin, Bilston  
**COOL BRITANNIA** Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**ADMIRAL FALLOW** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**GARY NUMAN** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**DEL CAMINO** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**LAWSON** Birmingham HMV Institute  
**DIONNE WARWICK** Symphony Hall, B'ham



Dionne Warwick





The Barber Of Seville

## English Touring Opera

English Touring Opera perform at Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, Tues 1 - Fri 4 May & Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 9 - Sat 12 May.

Renowned for its varied repertoire and high-quality professional productions, English Touring Opera returns to the region to present two classic works - Rossini's *The Barber Of Seville* and Tchaikovsky's romantic *Eugene Onegin*. Conducted by Paul McGrath and directed by Thomas Guthrie, *The Barber Of Seville* features Kathleen Ferrier Award-winner Kitty Whately as Rosina alongside Nicholas Sharratt as the roguish Count Almaviva. In *Eugene Onegin*, ETO's Music Director Michael Rosewell conducts a thirty-two piece orchestra, while emerging star Nicholas Lester takes the title role of Onegin. Joining him, in the role of Tatyana, is Welsh soprano Sarah-Jane Davies, who represented Wales at BBC Cardiff Singer of the World.



## Modigliani Quartet

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 13 May

First attracting international attention in 2004 with victory in the Frits Philips String Quartet competition in Eindhoven, the Modigliani Quartet are now regarded as one of the world's most sought-after chamber ensembles. Having featured at some of Europe's finest festivals, the French foursome - Philippe Bernhard and Loïc Rio on violins, Laurent Marfaing on viola and François Kieffe on cello - this month arrive in Birmingham to present a Sunday Morning Coffee Concert that promises to be well worth the foregoing of a lie-in. Their programme features Arriaga's *Quartet No.3*, Haydn's *Quartet Op76 No1* and Debussy's *Quartet Op10*.

## Burman In Bollywood

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 18 May

RD Burman, undoubtedly one of the world's great film composers, is here celebrated in a concert featuring songs and scores from hundreds of films spanning five decades. One of the biggest names in Bollywood music, Burman is recognised for his iconic soundtracks from *Monsoon Wedding*, *West Is West* and the award-winning *Hum Kisi se Kum Nahin*. This Friday Night Classic concert sees the CBSO joined by vocalists Rashid Ali and Shin DSC, as well as tabla player Shahbaz Hussain.

## The Infernal Comedy

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 26 May

Acclaimed American actor, producer and director John Malkovich arrives in Birmingham this month to star in *The Infernal Comedy*, a stage play for baroque orchestra, singers and actor. Based on an idea by Birgit Hutter and Martin Haselböck, the production sees Malkovich take the audience on a monologue journey through the life and mind of a notorious Viennese womaniser, writer and murderer - Jack Unterweger - on whom the play is loosely based. Under the directorship of Martin Haselböck - and with performances by sopranos Louise Fribo and Marie Arnet - this Birmingham International Concert Series presentation features works by Vivaldi, Beethoven, Haydn, Weber and Mozart.



John Malkovich

## Philharmonia Orchestra

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 4 May

Swiss conductor Philippe Jordan brings a touch of Brahms to the Warwick Arts Centre this month when he relives the German composer's *Symphony No.1* - a piece that took ten years and a shattered heart to write. Dubbed 'Beethoven's Tenth' by the critics of the day, due to its similarities with various compositions by that composer, *Symphony No.1* will here be joined by Beethoven's stirring *Leonora* and Liszt's *Second Piano Concerto*, the latter of which will see acclaimed Macedonian pianist Simon Trpceski take centre stage.



Philippe Jordan

# Classical LISTINGS

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

## THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

English Touring Opera present Rossini's classic comic opera. Sung in English translation, Tue 1 - Fri 4 May, Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

## ORGAN RECITAL WITH NIGEL PURSEY

Wed 2 May, Abbey Church, Shrewsbury

## EUGENE ONEGIN

English Touring Opera present Tchaikovsky's romantic opera. Sung in English, Wed 2 - Sat 5 May, Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

## CBSO - THE YEAR 1912: BERG & RAVEL

Featuring City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Oliver Knussen (conductor), Claire Booth (soprano) & the CBSO Youth Chorus. Programme includes works by Ravel, Knussen, Berg & Debussy, Thurs 3 May, Birmingham Town Hall

## CAMERATA CONCERT

Programme features works by Haydn, Byrd, Parry, Berkeley, Blow, Eccard, Howells & Finz, Thurs 3 May, St Alban The Martyr, Highgate, Birmingham

## MARTINO TIRIMO PIANO CONCERT

Programme features works by Tchaikovsky, Thurs 3 May, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

## JAMES GILCHRIST (WINTERREISE SONG CYCLE)

Fri 4 May, Maidment Hall, Shrewsbury

## CBSO BAROQUE ENSEMBLE

Programme to include works by Purcell, Matteis, Marini & Pachelbel, Fri 4 May, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

## FITZWILLIAM STRING QUARTET

Programme to include works by Glazunov, Liadov, Borodin & Tchaikovsky, Fri 4 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

## BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - THE WIZARD OF OZ

John Wilson conducts a lavish orchestral score, accompanied by a screening of the iconic 1939 film, Fri 4 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## ORCHESTRAL COMPOSITION CONCERT

Fri 4 May, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

## PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Featuring conductor Philippe Jourdan & pianist Simon Trpceski, Fri 4 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## MALCOLM STENT'S EASTERN SONGS OF PRAISE

Sat 5 May, Solihull Arts Complex

## JEAN-MICHEL DAYEZ PIANO RECITAL

Programme to include works by Ravel, Stravinsky & Mussorgski, Sat 5 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

## BADKE STRING QUARTET WITH SIMON CRAWFORD-PHILLIPS ON PIANO

Programme to include works by Borodin, Ravel & Franck, Sat 5 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

## JERUSALEM STRING QUARTET

Programme includes works by Schumann, Sun 6 May, Birmingham Town Hall

## WORCESTERSHIRE YOUTH MUSIC GALA

Sun 6 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## ERATTO PIANO TRIO

Programme to include works by Rachmaninov, Faure & Saint-Saens, Sun 6 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

## FAMILY CONCERT WITH HANNAH MEDLAM & JEAN-MICHEL DAYEZ

Sun 6 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

## ELIAS STRING QUARTET

Featuring Malin Broman (violin) & Simon-Crawford Phillips (piano). Programme to include works by Chausson, Franck & Faure, Sun 6 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

## BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA: PORTRAITS

Programme to include works by Coates, Copland & Elgar, Mon 7 May, Birmingham Town Hall

## FLOWER FESTIVAL ORGAN RECITAL

Mon 7 May, Coventry Cathedral

## SEAN MONTGOMERY ORGAN RECITAL

Programme includes works by Glazunov, Franck, Shostakovich, Mushel, Bonnet & Jehan Alain, Mon 7 May, All Saints Church, Leamington Spa

## CONCERT WITH JONATHAN LEMALU & JOSEPH MIDDLETON

Programme includes works by Faure, Duparc, Mussorgski, Glinka & Rachmaninov, Mon 7 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

## ERRINGDEN ENSEMBLE

Programme includes works by Rimski-Korsakov, Borodin & Tchaikovsky, Mon 7 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

## ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & ST CHAD'S FESTIVAL CHORUS

Programme: Mozart's Requiem, Mon 7 May, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

**ENSEMBLE 360** Featuring Benjamin Nabarro (violin), Gemma Rosefield (cello) & Tim Horton (piano). Programme includes works by Rachmaninov, Tues 8 May (12noon) Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

**ENSEMBLE 360** Programme includes works by Saint-Saens, Nielsen, Glinka & Rimski Korsakov, Tues 8 May (7.30pm), Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

## ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL

Featuring Benjamin Grosvenor (piano) & David Curtis (conductor). Programme includes works by Delius & Beethoven, Wed 9 May, Birmingham Town Hall

## BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY SINGER & CEMPR: MUSIC FOR THE HABSBURG EMPERORS

Wed 9 May, St George's Church, Edgbaston, Birmingham

## THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

English Touring Opera present Rossini's classic comic opera. Sung in English, Wed 9 - Sat 12 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## CBSO: ONCE UPON A TIME

Featuring Kazuki Yamada (conductor) & James Ehnes (violin). Programme includes works by Prokofiev, Ravel & Rimski-Korsakov, Wed 9 May, Symphony Hall

## BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE & ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL ORGAN RECITAL

Programme features works by Louis Vierne, David Briggs, Sigfrid Karg-Elert & Flor Peeters, Wed 9 May, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

## EUGENE ONEGIN

English Touring Opera present Tchaikovsky's romantic opera. Sung in English, Thurs 10 - Fri 11 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## MOZART BY CANDLELIGHT

Featuring the Mozart Festival Orchestra in full period costume, Thurs 10 May, Solihull Arts Complex

## TENORS UN LIMITED

Thurs 10 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

## CLASSICAL MEETS ROMANTIC

Featuring Orchestra Of The Swan & City Of Birmingham Choir. Programme includes works by Mozart, Schumann & Beethoven, Sat 12 May, Birmingham Town Hall

## MODIGLIANI QUARTET

Programme includes works by Arriaga, Haydn & Debussy, Sun 13 May, Birmingham Town Hall

## THOMAS TROTTER WITH THE ROYAL WELSH COLLEGE OF MUSIC STRING ENSEMBLE

Mon 14 May, Birmingham Town Hall

## HUW WIGGIN - SAXOPHONE CONCERT

Mon 14 May, St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury

## LUDLOW WAITES RENAISSANCE INSTRUMENTS

Wed 16 May, Abbey Church, Shrewsbury

## LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

Thurs 17 May, Walsall Town Hall

## BERLIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Featuring conductor Mario Venza-go & pianist Kit Armstrong. Programme to include works by Weber, Mozart & Beethoven, Thurs 17 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## CBSO FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSICS: BURMAN IN BOLLYWOOD

Featuring Michael Seal (conductor), Fri 18 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## COULL QUARTET

Programme includes works by Schubert, Shostakovich, Derek Smith Partita & Beethoven, Fri 18 May, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: VAUGHAN WILLIAMS & IRELAND - CELEBRATING ENGLISH GENIUS

Fri 18 May, Stratford Civic Hall

## CBSO: VISIONS OF ENGLAND

Featuring Andrew Manze (conductor) & Lisa Milne (soprano). Programme to include works by Elgar, Britten & Vaughan Williams, Sat 19 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## FRAUENKIRCHE CHAMBER CHOIR

Programme features works by Schütz, Byrd, Bach, Homilius, Brahms and Barber, Sat 19 May, Coventry Cathedral

## CBSO FAMILY CONCERT: MUSIC FOR CHAMPIONS

Featuring the CBSO Children's Chorus, Matthew Coorey (conductor) & Alasdair Mally (presenter), Sun 20 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## DANTE STRING QUARTET

Programme to include works by Britten, Sun 20 May, Concord College, Nr Shrewsbury

## STEVE ROBERTS PIANO CONCERT

Wed 23 May, Abbey Church, Shrewsbury

## CBSO THE YEAR 1912: IVES & PROKOFIEV

Featuring Andrew Litton (conductor) & Lise de la Salle (piano). Programme to include works by Ives, Prokofiev & Walton, Thurs 24 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## CBSO PLAYERS

Programme includes works by Prokofiev, Brahms & Copland, Thurs 24 May, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

## THE SIXTEEN: CHORAL PILGRIMAGE

Thurs 24 May, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

## OLIVER KNUSSEN'S 60TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT

Featuring Oliver Knussen (conductor) & Huw Watkins (piano). Programme includes works by Sean Shepherd, Tansy Davies & Oliver Knussen, Fri 25 May, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

## L'ELISIR D'AMORE

Pop-up Opera present their production of Donizetti's comic opera, Fri 25 May, Lyde Court, Herefordshire

## ORGAN PROM WITH ROGER SAYER

Sat 26 May, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

## THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Featuring Andrew Litton (conductor) & Lise de la Salle (piano) Programme to include works by Ravel, Prokofiev & Walton, Sat 26 May, Cheltenham Town Hall

## EX CATHEDRA: SPLENDOURS FROM THE DOGE'S CHAPEL

Sat 26 May, Birmingham Town Hall

## KARL JENKINS A concert

featuring excerpts from the Welsh composer's most popular works. The Manchester Concert Orchestra, Lichfield Cathedral Young Voices and Cor Caerdydd all accompany, Sun 27 May, Symphony Hall

## LOUIS CLARK'S HOOKED ON CLASSICS - LIVE

Featuring the English Pops Orchestra, Sun 27 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

## LADYWOOD SHOWCASE

Hundreds of children from Birmingham's Ladywood district showcase their instrumental talents, Mon 28 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## THOMAS TROTTER SUMMER REQUEST CONCERT

Mon 28 May, Birmingham Town Hall

## BIRMINGHAM CHAMBER ORCHESTRA WITH SIMON CALLAGHAN

Programme includes works by Mozart & Beethoven Mon 28 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove



Fitzwilliam String Quartet

turing Oliver Knussen (conductor) & Huw Watkins (piano). Programme includes works by Sean Shepherd, Tansy Davies & Oliver Knussen, Fri 25 May, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

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## DRACULA: THE MUSIC & FILM

Philip Glass shares the stage with

the Kronos Quartet to present his revolutionary score as an accompaniment to a screening of the iconic 1930's Dracula movie, Tue 29 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## CBSO PERFORM BRIT-TEN'S WAR REQUIEM

Featuring Andris Nelsons (conductor), Kristine Opolais (soprano), Mark Padmore (tenor), Hanno Muller-Brachmann (baritone) & the CBSO Chorus & Youth Chorus, Wed 30 May, Coventry Cathedral

## GILL BARROW AND WILLIAM SMALLMAN

Wed 30 May, Abbey Church, Shrewsbury

## Classical Box Office

- ABBEY CHURCH, SHREWSBURY 01743 232723
- ADRIAN BOULT HALL, B'HAM 0121 331 5901
- ARTRIX, BROMSGROVE 01527 577330
- BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE 0121 331 5901/2
- BARBER INSTITUTE, BIRMINGHAM 0121 414 7333
- BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL 0121 780 3333
- CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM 0121 780 3333
- COVENTRY CATHEDRAL 02476 521200
- CREWE LYCEUM 01270 537333
- LICHFIELD GARRICK 01543 412121
- MALVERN THEATRE 0845 287 2146
- STRATFORD CIVIC HALL 01789 207100
- SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM 0121 780 3333
- VICTORIA HALL STOKE-ON-TRENT 0844 871 7649
- WARWICK ARTS CENTRE 02476 524524



# Comedy

## Andrew Maxwell

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton,  
Wed 30 May

Andrew Maxwell is widely considered to be one of the most talented stand-up comedians in the UK. A sell-out hit in both the UK and Ireland, he's appeared on shows such as Have I Got News For You and Argumental, and has been nominated for both the Edinburgh Comedy Award and the Time Out Award.



## Patrick Monahan

The Place, Oakengates, Telford, Wed 16 May

Half-Iranian, half-Irish stand-up comic Patrick Monahan is no slouch when it comes to bringing up the subject of his own ethnicity on stage - after all, he's got a quality opening gag about spending all of his holidays in customs, and he's not afraid to use it! "Iran has been in the news pretty much constantly since I was a kid," says Monahan. "I guess I like to think that maybe I'm breaking down stereotypes about Iranians. I've lost count of the number of people who've come up to me after a show and said that they didn't expect Iranians to be funny."



## Miles Jupp

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Mon 7 May

The Daily Telegraph has described an evening with Miles Jupp as being 'a little like watching an Evelyn Waugh character narrate his hopeless exploits before your very eyes'. That's patently not a bad thing, of course, as evidenced by Mr Jupp's hugely successful stand-up career! Miles is no stranger to Televisionland either, having appeared in, among other shows, The Thick Of It, Mock The Week, and Have I Got News For You. Oh, and he's even been a movie star, courtesy of a role in Made In Dagenham. An evening of great comedy and equally impressive storytelling awaits...



## Stewart Francis

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 13 May; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 19 May; The Place, Oakengates, Telford, Wed 23 May; Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Fri 1 June

Appearances on TV shows like The Comedy Store, Mock The Week and 8 Out Of 10 Cats have ensured that Canadian laughter-merchant Stewart Francis has become one of the most recognisable faces on the UK comedy circuit. When he's not behind the microphone casting his comic pearls of wisdom, he's likely to be found pursuing one of his other careers as an actor and writer.

Not to be confused with Stu Francis, who used to present Crackerjack and wasn't very funny.

## Jerry Seinfeld

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Fri 11 May

Hailed as "the master stand-up comic of his generation", Jerry Seinfeld is one of the most famous and influential comedians of modern times. Born in Brooklyn, he starred in his own TV show for nearly a decade, the final episode of which drew a national audience of seventy-five million people. Gags include "It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper," and "Never raise your hands to your kids. It leaves your groin unprotected."



## Comedy Box Office

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM  
0844 871 3011  
ARTRIX, BROMSGROVE  
01527 577330  
BEDWORTH CIVIC HALL  
02476 376707  
BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL  
0121 780 3333  
COX'S YARD  
01789 404600  
THE DRUM, BIRMINGHAM  
0121 333 2444  
DUDLEY CONCERT HALL  
01384 815 577  
GLEE CLUB, BIRMINGHAM  
0871 4720400  
HIGHLIGHT, BIRMINGHAM,  
0844 844 0044  
HUNTINGDON HALL,  
WORCESTER,  
01905 611427  
THE JAM HOUSE,  
BIRMINGHAM  
0121 200 3030  
KITCHEN GARDEN CAFE,  
BIRMINGHAM  
0121 443 4725  
LG ARENA, BIRMINGHAM  
0844 338 8000  
LUDLOW ASSEMBLY  
ROOMS  
01584 878141  
MAC, BIRMINGHAM  
0121 446 3232  
PALACE THEATRE,  
REDDITCH  
01527 65203  
THE PUBLIC, WEST  
BROMWICH  
0121 533 7161  
REGENT THEATRE, STOKE-  
ON-TRENT  
0844 871 7649  
RICOH ARENA, COVENTRY  
0844 873 6565  
THE ROSE THEATRE,  
KIDDERMINSTER  
01562 743745  
ROYAL SPA CENTRE,  
LEAMINGTON SPA  
01926 334418  
STAFFORD GATEHOUSE  
THEATRE  
01785 254653  
SOLIHULL ARTS COMPLEX  
0121 704 6962  
THE SLADE ROOMS,  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
0870 320 7000  
SYMPHONY HALL,  
BIRMINGHAM  
0121 780 3333  
TAMWORTH ASSEMBLY  
ROOMS  
01827 709618  
THEATRE SEVERN,  
SHREWSBURY  
01743 281281  
VICTORIA HALL, HANLEY,  
STOKE-ON-TRENT  
0844 871 7649  
WARWICK ARTS CENTRE  
02476 524524  
WEST BROMWICH TOWN  
HALL  
0121 596 4429  
WULFRUN HALL,  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
0870 320 7000



# Comedy LISTINGS

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

**THE LAUGHING SOLE**  
FEAT. **JAMIE SUTHERLAND**  
Wed 2 May, The Public, West Bromwich  
**CHRIS RAMSEY** Thurs 3 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**KUM-N-AVALOFF COMEDY NIGHT** Thurs 3 May, Stourbridge Town Hall  
**IAN MOORE, SEAN PERCIVAL, ANTHONY J BROWN & RIA LINA** Thurs 3 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**SEANN WALSH** Thurs 3 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**ADAM KAY'S SMUTTY SONGS** Fri 4 May, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford  
**BRIAN HIGGINS, SIMON BLYTH, PAUL SINHA & ZOE LYONS** Fri 4 May, Comedy Live @ Highlight, Birmingham  
**BRIAN HIGGINS, LUKE TOULSON, PAUL SINHA & ZOE LYONS** Fri 4 May, Comedy Live @ Highlight, Birmingham  
**DIANE SPENCER & RO CAMPBELL** Fri 4 May, mac, Birmingham  
**COMEDY'S BAD BOYS** Featuring Toju, Glazz Campbell, Aurie Styla & John Simmit, Fri 4 May,

The Drum, Birmingham  
**IAN MOORE, SEAN PERCIVAL, ANTHONY J BROWN, NINIA BENJAMIN** Fri 4 & Sat 5 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**SHAPPI KHORSANDI & JON RICHARDSON** Sun 6 May, Birmingham Town Hall  
**MARTIN BEAUMONT, DAN WRIGHT, JON PEARSON, PHIL MCCULLOUGH & COMPERE RYAN GOUGH** Sun 6 May, The Granville, Barford, Warwickshire  
**BBC RADIO 4: SORRY I HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE** Sun 6 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**MILES JUPP** Mon 7 May, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**ADAM KAY'S SMUTTY SONGS** Mon 7 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**KAREN BAYLEY, KATIE MULGREW, BARTUSCHKA & MANDY MUDEN** Wed 9 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham  
**LOVDEV, RICHARD WOOD, MATT LEIGH, DAVID HANNANT, GWILUM ARGOS, ROB C AND MC DAMIAN KINGSLEY** Thurs

10 May, Evesham Arts Centre  
**DOMINIC FRISBY, MARK MAIER, GARETH RICHARDS & KEVIN GILDEA** Thurs 10 - Sat 12 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**ISY SUTTIE** Fri 11 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**JERRY SEINFELD** Fri 11 May, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham  
**RUDI LICKWOOD, STEVE WILLIAMS, COLIN COLE & THE RAYMOND & MR TIMPKINS REVUE** Fri 11 May, Comedy Live @ Highlight, Birmingham  
**TOM STADE** Sat 12 May, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT** Sat 12 May, Solihull Arts Complex  
**ANDY ROBINSON, STEVE WILLIAMS, COLIN COLE & THE RAYMOND & MR TIMPKINS REVUE** Sat 12 May, Comedy Live @ Highlight, Birmingham  
**SHAPPI KHORSANDI** Sun 13 May, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**ISY SUTTIE** Sun 13 May, Wulfrun Arts Centre, Coventry  
**STEWART FRANCIS** Sun 13 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**PATRICK MONAHAN** Wed 16 May, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford  
**NEIL INNES** Thurs 17 May, Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon

**MARK OLVER, JIMMY MCGHIE, RICHARD MORTON & BRENDAN DEMPSEY** Thurs 17 - Sat 19 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**JIMMY CARR - GAGGING ORDER** Fri 18 May, Dudley Concert Hall  
**ROB COLLINS, JASON PATTERSON, WAYNE DEAKIN & OWEN O'NEILL** Fri 18 May, Comedy Live @ Highlight, Birmingham  
**DARA O'BRIAIN** Fri 18 - Sun 20 May, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**STEWART FRANCIS** Sat 19 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**ROB COLLINS, ANTHONY J BROWN, JASON PATTERSON & OWEN O'NEILL** Sat 19 May, Comedy Live @ Highlight, Birmingham  
**STEWART FRANCIS** Wed 23 May, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford  
**TOM STADE** Wed 23 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**STEWART LEE** Thurs 24 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**IAN COPPINGER, ROB DEARING & MARTIN MOR** Thurs 24 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**RHOD GILBERT** Fri 25 May, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent  
**DAVE GORMAN** Fri 25 May, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**COMEDY AT THE MET** Fri



Jon Richardson & Shappi Khorsandi  
Birmingham Town Hall

25 May, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**STEWART LEE** Fri 25 May, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**MARK STEEL** Fri 25 May, mac, Birmingham  
**ALEX BOARDMAN, JOHNNY CANDON, JOHN SCOTT & QUINCY** Fri 25 & Sat 26 May, Comedy Live @ Highlight, Birmingham  
**IAN COPPINGER, ROB DEERING, MARTIN MOR & JOSH HOWIE** Fri 25 & Sat 26 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**THE HUMOUR OF BOB NEWHART & TOM LEHRER** Sat 26 May, Number 8 Community Arts Centre,

Evesham  
**STEWART LEE** Sat 26 May, Malvern Theatres  
**TIM CLARE: HOW TO BE A LEADER** Sat 26 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**SEVERN JESTERS** Sun 27 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**MICHAEL MCINTYRE** Mon 28 - Tue 29 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**ANDREW MAXWELL** Wed 30 May, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**HOLLY WALSH, JOHN WARBURTON & KEVIN MCCARTHY** Thurs 31 May, The Glee Club, Birmingham

# ACARI

## COMEDY HYPNOTIST STAGE SHOW

21st & 22nd JULY

**This Charismatic Performer will have you in Hysterics from watching him put the volunteers through their paces during his comedy Hypnotic Show.**

Member of the audience who wish to volunteer can join Acari on stagewhere he proceeds to hypnotize them, then issuing them with instructions on what he wants them to do.



**Tel: 0121 200 0946**

[www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk](http://www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk)  
or on-line at: [www.oxboffice.com](http://www.oxboffice.com)



THIS IS ONE SHOW NOT TO BE MISSED



[www.solihullartscomplex.co.uk](http://www.solihullartscomplex.co.uk)

**Fri 4 May Tickets £10 £9 £6 child**  
**Much Ado About Wenlock**  
Dynamic full mask, fun theatre show for the whole family about 'Olympian exploits' in the village of Much Wenlock in the 1850s. Age 8+

**Sat 5 May Golden Age of Musical Satire Tickets £12**  
Bank Holiday show with Peter Gill recreating the funniest songs of the last century from Flanders & Swann to Monty Python via Noel Coward and Victoria Wood - great fun.

**Thurs 10 May Mozart by Candlelight Tickets £16**

**Fri 18 May Great Canadian Songbook Tickets £12**

**Mon 21 May Mugenkyo Taiko Drums £18 £16 £14 ch.**

**Tues 22 May Kathakbox Tickets £10 £9 £7 child.**  
Fusion of Kathak dance, Hip Hop rhymes, rap & beatbox

**Thur 24 May Gypsy Fire Tickets £15 £14**  
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THE TONY AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL  
CONNIE FISHER

**WONDERFUL TOWN**

★★★★★  
"SHEER FEEL-GOOD ENERGY"  
DAILY EXPRESS, APRIL 2012

£17.50 - £42.50

TUE 29 MAY - SAT 2 JUN

The SUSAN BOYLE Musical

**I DREAMED A DREAM**

STARRING ELAINE C SMITH  
SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCES BY SUSAN BOYLE

\*Subject to availability

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WED 6 - SAT 9 JUN

The Gershwins

**PORGY and BESS**

George Gershwin, Libretto and Quality by Howard and his Daughter

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£15 - £50

WED 13 - SAT 16 JUN

WNO Welsh National Opera

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# Theatre



## Wonderful Town

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 22 - Sat 26 May

After debuting in Birmingham in *The Sound Of Music*, *How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?* winner Connie Fisher makes a return to the Midlands in Leonard Bernstein's multi-award-winning musical comedy. Premiering in 1953, *Wonderful Town* tells the story of aspir-

ing Ohio writer Ruth Sherwood, who arrives in 1930s New York with her beautiful younger sister Eileen and a desperate desire to enjoy romance and riches - oh, and maybe even a free lunch at Walgreen's deli...



## Grease The Musical

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 7 - Sat 12 May

Dust off your leather jackets, pull on your bobby-socks and get ready for the most fun-filled, high-octane rock'n'roll party of them all. *Grease* is the original High School musical, featuring all the unforgettable songs from the hit movie, including *You're The One That I Want*, *Grease Is The Word*, *Summer Nights*, *Hopelessly Devoted To You*, *Sandy*, *Greased Lightnin'* and many more. This latest touring version stars blonde baritone and former *X Factor* favourite Rhydian Roberts, who takes the role of Teen Angel. Danny Bayne, the winner of ITV1's *Grease Is The Word* talent contest, stars as Danny Zuko, appearing in the touring show after completing two hugely successful years playing the part in the West End.

## Bette And Joan

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 14 - Sat 19 May

Hollywood star Greta Scacchi headlines alongside *EastEnders* and *Strictly Come Dancing* favourite Anita Dobson in this new comedy from Anton Burge. Movie legends Joan Crawford and Bette Davis have hated each other for a long time, but with their careers now in freefall, the ageing stars are brought together for *Whatever Happened To Baby Jane?*, a movie that could maybe change their fast-failing fortunes. The problem is, how do two warring divas manage to make a movie together without their age-old feud reaching boiling point?...







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## A taste of summer at mac birmingham

### mac birmingham's Food Fest

Sun 23 May | All day

Featuring *The Soul Food Project*, a unique Cajun menu, local artisan food stalls, *Soul Food Soundsystem* and more.

### Mark Steel's in Town

Fri 25 May | 7.30pm | Tickets £14 (£11)

Mark attempts to shed light on the quirkiness and interesting aspects of every town and city he visits, so expect to see Birmingham as you've never seen it before!

### Amy Lamé: Unhappy Birthday

Fri 8 Jun | 8pm | Tickets £10 (£7)

Catch the hilarious *Amy Lamé* before she heads off to Edinburgh Festival 2012. Amy invites you to share her birthday. A seat is reserved for Morrissey.... will he arrive clutching flowers and a gift? Will he turn up at all?

### Walden Day

Sat 23 Jun | All day

mac birmingham will be alive with films, talks, music, performances and the UK premiere of *Heiner Goebbels' Walden*. The day's activities amplify *Henry Thoreau's* aim to 'live deep and suck out all the marrow of life'.

### The Destroyers & Sheelangig

Sat 7 Jul | 7.30pm | Tickets £13 (£10)

Performing in the outdoor arena *The Destroyers* bring an anarchic orchestra of blazing passion and breathtaking originality. They are joined by *Sheelanganig* who offer elements of storytelling and street theatre with intricate and irresistibly danceable music.

### KOSUGE1-16: THE PLAYMAKERS

Sat 7 Jul - Sun 9 Sep | Free Entry | First Floor Gallery

Japanese artist collective *KOSUGE1-16* present their first ever UK exhibition. They will transform the space into a playful and interactive installation.

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## The King And I

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 1 - Sat 5 May

Based on the autobiography of Anna Leonowens, this classic musical tells the story of an Englishwoman who takes up the position of governess to the children of the King of Siam in the 1860s. Memorable musical numbers include The March Of The Siamese Children, Shall We Dance, I Whistle A Happy Tune, Hello Young Lovers and Getting To Know You. *Read the review page 38*



## Girls Night

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 8 - Sat 12 May; Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 22 - Sat 26 May

Real-life sisters Gillian Taylforth (*Eastenders*, *The Bill*) and Kim Taylforth (*London's Burning*, *Bad Girls*) take top billing as siblings Carol and Kate in a show that returns to the region by popular demand. It's a simple enough storyline, with five friends celebrating the past on a karaoke night out that's positively jam-packed with girly anthems, including *Dancing Queen*, *I Will Survive* and *It's Raining Men*.



## The Anniversary

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 15 - Sat 19 May

Alexander Galin's Moscow Olympics drama finds the Soviet capital being readied for the arrival of the 1980 Games. As the Olympic torch-bearer approaches Moscow, the city is cleaned up, with prostitutes and other undesirable cleared off the streets to avoid offending the eyes of the world. But when one unforgettable night brings with it both brutality and unexpected romance, the story's characters discover what matters to them most, and realise that they must cling onto it for dear life...

## Fever Pitch

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Fri 4 May

Probably better known nowadays for such classic novels as *About A Boy* and *High Fidelity*, Nick Hornby first came to prominence in the Brit Pop era of the mid-1990s via this lighthearted ode not only to the Beautiful Game but also to his beloved Arse-



## Chicago

The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, Mon 14 - Sat 19 May

Chicago's debauched glamour makes it a musical with a difference, and its jazz-tinged score and smouldering dance numbers give it a touch of old-Broadway style decadence. It's an astonishingly accurate satire on the shallow, media-obsessed world of the twenty-first century, so it's almost impossible to believe it was first conceived over forty years ago. It also has the considerable lure of choreography by Broadway legend Bob Fosse, and he's the reason the show was re-conceived in 1996.

Set in the Chicago of the roaring '20s, the action takes place in a jailhouse, as two ambitious and sexy 'cons battle it out to be the most notorious murderer, guaranteeing them a ticket to celebrity when they win their appeals. Supposedly helping them to do this is slippery lawyer Billy Flynn, who, on this occasion, is played by ex-Eastender Stefan Booth. Ali Bastian, Tupele Dorgu and Bernie Nolan also star. *Read the interview with Ali Bastian on page 10*

nal Football Club. Indeed, *Fever Pitch*, along with TV shows like *Skinner* and *Baddiel's Fantasy Football* - and the fact of the Euro '96 Championships being held in England - played a key role in rejuvenating football in this country, and follows Nick on his journey from young boy to rabid Gooner, as Arsenal supporters are nowadays affectionately known.

## The Lady In The Van

Malvern Theatre, Tues 29 May - Sat 2 June

Best known for such works as *The History Boys*, *Talking Heads* and *The Madness Of George III*, Alan Bennett is one of the country's most accomplished and best known playwrights. He's so well known, in fact, that he can even afford to write himself into his plays - which is exactly what he does here! This is a gentle, poignant and lighthearted piece, very much in keeping with the style for which Bennett has become so famous, and focuses on the story of Mrs Shepherd, a woman who, somehow, has ended up living in a van at the bottom of the playwright's garden...

Nichola McAuliffe - probably best known as Sheila Sabatini from ITV's *Surgical Spirit* - takes the title role.



## In A Pickle

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Wed 23 May - Sun 17 June

By transforming everyday environments into colourful, tactile 'wonderlands', *Oily Cart* take their audiences on a journey into the world of the imagination. Hydrotherapy pools and trampolines, aromatherapy, video projection and puppetry all feature in their work, with this particular project seeing them inviting their young audiences on a voyage of discovery through the landscapes of Shakespeare's imagination.



## An Instinct For Kindness

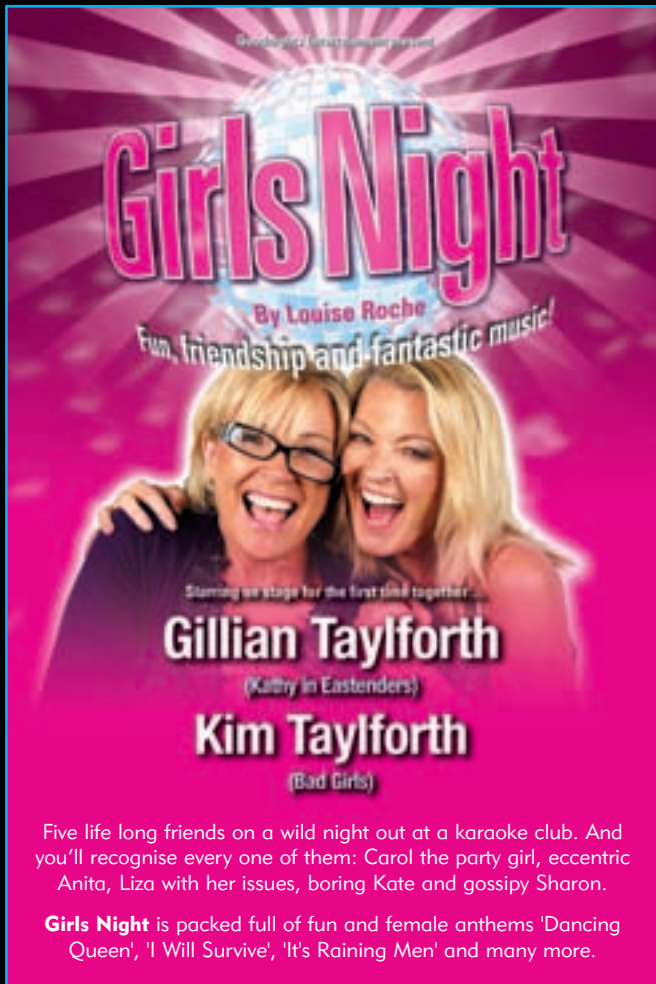
mac, Birmingham, Wed 23 May

*An Instinct For Kindness* won critical acclaim and a Fringe First Award at its Edinburgh Fringe premiere last year, and is touring the UK prior to a three-week run in the London West End. A thought-provoking work, it tells the story of Chris Lerner, and the journey he took to Switzerland's Dignitas clinic with his chronically ill ex-wife. Blending candour with humour, Chris uses the production to explore both the profound personal implications and the wider ethical considerations surrounding the contentious issue of assisted dying.



# COMING SOON TO THEATRE SEVERN

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Girls Night  
By Louise Roche  
Fun, friendship and fantastic music!

Starting on stage for the first time together...

**Gillian Taylforth**  
(Kathy in Eastenders)

**Kim Taylforth**  
(Bad Girls)

Five life long friends on a wild night out at a karaoke club. And you'll recognise every one of them: Carol the party girl, eccentric Anita, Liza with her issues, boring Kate and gossipy Sharon.

**Girls Night** is packed full of fun and female anthems 'Dancing Queen', 'I Will Survive', 'It's Raining Men' and many more.

Thursday 10 May

**THE MANDOLINQUENTS**

Friday 11 May

**KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS**

Saturday 12 May

**GYPSY FIRE**

Tuesday 15 May

**PETER KNIGHT of STEELEYE SPAN**  
presents **GIGSPANNER**

Thursday 17 May

**THE BLUES BAND**

Wednesday 23 May

**EMILY SMITH**



MONDAY 2ND TO SATURDAY 7 JULY



**Thelma Holt and Bill Kenwright**  
present **Jenny Seagrove** leading  
a star cast in

**NOEL COWARD'S**  
**NEWLY DISCOVERED GEM**

**NOËL COWARD'S**  
**VOLCANO**

Directed by Roy Marsden

Recently widowed Adela Shelly finds herself being seduced by the suave Guy Littleton, a visitor to her elegant Caribbean house. When Guy's acid-tongued wife Melissa decides to fly in to see off the competition, she hasn't considered that Adela's best friend might also be falling for her husband's charms! As tensions begin to erupt, so does the volcano, with explosive consequences...

Never performed in the author's lifetime, this is the first major production of a work which gives a fascinating insight into the glamorous and scandalous Caribbean lifestyle that Coward himself enjoyed.



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## Jane Eyre

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham,  
Sat 5 - Sat 12 May

A production that's garnered plenty of praise, the Crescent's version of Charlotte Bronte's classic novel manages not only to stay faithful to the original plot but also to approach the story from a unique and intriguing angle - namely, that Bertha Mason, Rochester's first wife, is a manifestation of Jane's passionate inner self... For those who're not up to speed with the novel, it follows the orphaned Jane as she's sent by her cruel Aunt Reed to the bleak Lowood School. On securing a position as governess at Thornfield Hall, Jane finds herself falling for the charms of enigmatic master Edward Rochester, unaware that the new object of her affection harbours a dark and terrible secret...



rehearsal shot

## Oh What A Lovely War

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 2 - Thurs 3 May

Blending songs and performance with documentation from the First World War, Joan Littlewood's brilliant satire continues to resonate just as profoundly in the twenty-first century as ever it did way back in the 1960s, when it was originally performed. Presented by NEW College Degree and Diploma students.

## Julius Caesar

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Mon 28 May - Sat 7 July

Julius Caesar is both popular and familiar, not least because it's appeared so often on GCSE syllabuses. It is a bloody story of conspiracy and murder, of noble intentions and ignoble actions. Caesar is assassinated on the Capitol by a group of prominent senators. In the aftermath of this, one of his staunchest supporters, Mark Antony, manages not only to turn the crowd against the conspirators but also to defeat them in battle.



## Steel Magnolias

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 21 - Sat 26 May

Although based on a play - written by Robert Harling as a form of therapy following the death of his sister from diabetes - Steel Magnolias is best known from its 1989 film incarnation starring Sally Field, Dolly Parton, Shirley Maclaine, Darryl Hannah, Olympia Dukakis and Julia Roberts. It tells the bitter-sweet story of six female friends, and the way in which their loyalty to one another helps them through the trials and tribulations of life. This latest touring version of the hit show stars Kacey Ainsworth, Isla Blair, Cheryl Campbell, Cherie Lunghi, Sadie Pickering and Denise Welch. *Read the interview with Denise Welch online at [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)*

## We Love You City

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,  
Tues 8 - Sat 26 May

On a fateful day in May 1987, against all odds and expectations, Coventry City Football Club achieved their ultimate goal - they won the FA Cup. The streets were soon awash with a sea of sky blue as the people of the city united in victory. The atmosphere and emotion surrounding that legendary game are revisited in We Love You City, a true story of triumph over adversity.



## Frozen

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham,  
Thurs 31 May - Sat 9 June

A murderer, his psychologist, and the mother of one of his victims are brought together in Bryony Lavery's hugely engaging and highly acclaimed work. When ten-year-old Rhona goes missing, her mother Nancy retreats into a state of frozen hope - but the arrival of an American academic and a loner who's seeking some distraction serve to send her into a darkness from which it's uncertain she will ever emerge.



## Vincent

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,  
Thurs 3 - Sat 5 May

Best known, of course, for playing ultra-logical pointy-eared Vulcan Mr Spock in the original 1960s TV series of Star Trek, actor Leonard Nimoy turned his hand to writing in the 1970s and penned this one-man imaginary informal eulogy, delivered by Theo Van Gogh one week after his famous brother Vincent's death. The performance is based on actual correspondence between the two brothers, and is here being performed by The Purple Cast.

## I Dreamed A Dream

Birmingham Hippodrome,  
Tues 29 May - Sat 2 June

Susan Boyle's extraordinary journey from never-been-kissed fortysomething unknown to global superstar-singer is very much the stuff that dreams are made of. No wonder, then, that this rags-to-riches tale has been deemed suitable material for a stage musical! Elaine C Smith, best known as Mary Doll in BBCTV's Rab C Nesbitt, takes the lead role, and will be joined by Susan herself, who'll be making a guest appearance, notwithstanding unforeseen circumstances.



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Sun 13th May, 7.30pm

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Mon 21st - Wed 23rd May, 7.00pm,  
Wed Mat 1.30pm

## HULL TRUCK THEATRE PRESENT DNA

Tickets from £16.00



Mon 28th - Wed 30th May, 7.30pm,  
Wed Mat 2.30pm

## TALKING SCARLET PRESENT KISS CHASE

Contains occasional bad language

Tickets from £12.00 - £18.00



Thu 7th June, 7.30pm

## BARRY WALKER & SMACKEE THEY WROTE THE SONGS!

Tickets from £15.50 / £16.50



Sun 10th June, 10.00am & 2.00pm

## THE WHEELS ON THE BUS

Tickets from £10.00, Family £34.00



Tues 12th - Sat 16th June, 7.30pm, Sat Mat 2.30pm

## THE CEMETERY CLUB

starring Anita Harris and Shirley-Ann Field

Tickets from £12.00 - £18.50



Sun 17th June, 7.30pm

## ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN

performed by Gary Mullen and The Works

Tickets £17.50



Wed 20th June, 7.30pm

## BUDDY HOLLY'S WINTER DANCE PARTY

Tickets £15.00 / £16.00 / £17.00



Sun 24th June, 2.30pm

## THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY

Tickets £9.50 / Children £8.50 / Family £32.00



Tue 26th June, 7.30pm

## CARNIVAL QUEENS PRESENTED BY THE LADY BOYS OF BANGKOK

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# Theatre LISTINGS

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

From  
**TUES 1 MAY**

**ROMEO & JULIET IN BAGHDAD** Baghdad's Iraqi Theatre Company present a contemporary reworking of Shakespeare's great love story that's fused with Iraq's traditions of poetry, music and ritual, until Sat 5 May, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**TWELFTH NIGHT** David Farr directs Shakespeare's tale of mistaken identity, cross-dressing and unrequited love, until Tue 15 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE COMEDY OF ERRORS** Amir Nizar Zuabi directs a new version of Shakespeare's joyful comedy of mistaken identity, until Mon 14 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**RICHARD III** Roxana Silbert directs a contemporary version of Shakespeare's expose of one of history's most infamous monarchs, until Sat 15 Sep, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE TEMPEST** David Farr directs a new version of the Bard's final masterpiece, until Sat 19 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**KING JOHN** Maria Aberg directs the RSC in a new version of Shakespeare's play about the medieval monarch's political struggle with France, until Sat 15 Sep, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**KISS CHASE** Intense new drama from Philip Gladwin, until Wed 2 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**DERREN BROWN** until Sat 5 May, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

**DESERT CROSSINGS** State Of Emergency present a choreographed performance that promises a sensory delight, Tue 1 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE KING & I** Grand scale production of Rodgers and Hammerstein classic musical, Tue 1 - Sat 5 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

**MY FAIR LADY** Worcester Operatic & Dramatic society present an amateur production of the popular musical that's based on George

Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion, Tue 1 - Sat 5 May, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**BLACK T-SHIRT COLLECTION** An exploration of brotherhood from Fringe First winner Inua Ellams, Tue 1 - Wed 2 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**BODY PODS** A series of twelve podcasts created by artists and scientists, designed to inform the mysteries of the human body, Tue 1 - Sat 5 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**WHITE** Catherine Wheels Theatre Company present a playful new show for very young children, Tue 1 - Sat 5 May, Old Rep, Birmingham

**THE PRODUCERS** Brownhills Musical Comedy Company present their version of Mel Brooks' outrageously funny musical, Tue 1 - Sat 5 May, Lichfield Garrick

**THE WINTER'S TALE** All-male theatre company Propellor present Shakespeare's mysterious and extraordinary story of a man consumed by an inexplicable jealousy that destroys him, his family and his kingdom, Tue 1 - Sat 5 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**THE SUNSHINE BOYS** Amateur production of Neil Simon's witty American comedy, Tue 1 - Sat 12 May, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield

**MUCH ADD ABOUT WENLOCK** Worcester-based theatre company Vamos present a fully-masked show that centres on Much Wenlock's very own Olympic Games in 1850, Wed 2 - Thurs 3 May, Hereford Courtyard Theatre

**PEPPA PIG'S TREASURE HUNT** A brand new show featuring true-to-life puppets, sing-along songs, and a new story to charm and delight Peppa's young fans, Wed 2 - Thurs 3 May, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**HENRY V** All-male theatre company Propellor present Shakespeare's tale of the greatest British warrior in English folklore, Wed 2 - Sat 5 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR** New College Degree & Diploma Students present their version of Joan Littlewood's modern classic, Wed 2 - Thurs 3 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**AN EVENING WITH RABBI LIONEL BLUE** Using his own experiences and offbeat sense of humour, Rabbi Lionel Blue tells a selection of stories, incidents and conversations, Thurs 3 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**VINCENT** One-man play in the form of an imaginary informal eulogy delivered by Theo Van Gogh, brother to Vincent, Thurs 3 - Fri 4 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**AN EVENING WITH MEDICUM TJ HIGGS** Thurs 3 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**LOYALTY BINDS ME** Tread The Boards Theatre Company present the story of Richard III and his involvement with the princes in the tower - the greatest conspiracy in history, Fri 4 May, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

**SING-A-LONG-A GREASE A** brand new sing-a-long version of the classic film starring Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta, Fri 4 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**SPITFIRE SOLO** One-man show that blends theatre, music and film to recreate the Battle of Britain on stage. Written and performed by Nicholas Collett, Fri 4 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**AN AUDIENCE WITH PATRICIA ROUTLEDGE** Fri 4 May, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**FEVER PITCH** Acclaimed drama adapted from Nick Hornby's best-selling book, Fri 4 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**MUCH ADD ABOUT WENLOCK** Worcester-based theatre company Vamos present a fully-masked show that centres on Much Wenlock's very own Olympic Games in 1850, Fri 4 May, Solihull Arts Complex

**THE DREAMBOYS FULL FRONTAL 2012 TOUR** UK's top male glamour show, Fri 4 May, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**HORMONAL HOUSEWIVES** Margi Clarke stars in an acclaimed new comedy that casts a humorous eye over everyday female issues, Sat 5 May, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**PETER GILL - THE GOLDEN AGE OF MUSICAL SATIRE** Ninety-minute 'one man and his piano' show, Sat 5 May, Solihull Arts Complex

**LOYALTY BINDS ME** Tread The Boards Theatre Company present the story of Richard III and his involvement with the princes in the tower - the greatest conspiracy in history, Sat 5 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE HONEY MAN** A fasci-

nating and beautifully-detailed account of an unlikely relationship that develops between a fifteen-year-old girl and ancient afro-Caribbean man, Sat 5 May, Brilley Village Hall, Nr Kington, Herefordshire

**SING-A-LONG-A GREASE A** brand new sing-a-long version of the classic film starring Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta, Sat 5 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**THE JESTER & THE WICKED WITCH** Amateur children's theatre that explores why Wanda the Witch from Wichenford has taken away Jester Minute's sense of humour, Sat 5 May, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**JANE EYRE** Shared Experience present their version of Charlotte Bronte's classic novel, Sat 5 - Sat 12 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**BUSINESS AFFAIRS** Amateur production of Chapman & Lloyd's sparkling farce - the duo who brought Allo, Allo and Are You Being Served to our TV screens, Sat 5 - Sat 12 May, Oldbury Rep - Barlow Theatre

**WILDBOYZ** New show starring Alex Reid, Marcus Patrick, Danny Young and Dale Howard, Sun 6 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**PAUL MERTON: OUT OF MY HEAD** A night of sketches, music, magic and variety featuring Paul Merton, Lee Simpson, Richard Vranich and Suki Webster, Sun 6 May, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY** A colourful show for children that brings the classic nursery rhyme to life, Mon 7 May, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

**BIRDS OF A FEATHER** Pauline Quirke, Linda Robson & Lesley Joseph star in a stage version of one of BBC TV's most popular and fondly-remembered sitcoms, Mon 7 - Sat 12 May, Malvern Theatres

**GREASE THE MUSICAL** Mon 7 - Sat 12 May, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**TWO ROSES FOR RICHARD III** A Companhia Bufomecnica production that fuses Shakespeare's text with circus, multimedia, visual metaphor and aerial choreography, Mon 7 - Sat 12 May, The Courtyard, Strat-

ford-upon-Avon

**WE LOVE YOU CITY** A true story of triumph over adversity that centres around the day Coventry City won the FA Cup, Tue 8 - Sat 26 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**GIRLS NIGHT** Musical comedy that's packed with nostalgic anthems, Tue 8 - Sat 12 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**A NIGHT AT THE MUSIC HALL** Hosted by Don Maclean & featuring Marilyn Hill Smith, Jan Hunt, Simmons & Simmons, David Conway & Jimmy McWilliams, Tue 8 - Wed 9 May, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

**EUROBEAT** Stage musical that celebrates everything we love and cringe about when we watch the Eurovision Song Contest, Tue 8 - Sat 12 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**I, ELIZABETH** Acclaimed Edinburgh show that's adapted and performed by Rebecca Vaughan & directed by Guy Masterson, Wed 9 May, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**AN EVENING OF MEDICUMSHIP WITH TJ HIGGS** Wed 9 May, Lichfield Garrick

**MUCH ADD ABOUT WENLOCK** Worcester-based theatre company Vamos present a fully-masked show that centres on Much Wenlock's very own Olympic Games in 1850, Wed 9 - Thu 10 May, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

**STAN'S CAFE - THE CARDINALS** A haphazard show that attempts to tell the history of the world, Wed 9 - Fri 11 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**HI DE HI** Amateur production of the acclaimed TV series, presented by Dudley Little Theatre, Wed 9 - Sat 12 May, Netherton Arts Centre, Dudley

**AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Consensus Opera present Oscar Wilde's

acclaimed comedy, Wed 9 - Sat 12 May, Stratford Civic Hall

**PETER PAN** Coventry Youth Operatta Group (YOG) present an amateur production of JM Barrie's timeless tale of the boy who never grew up, Thurs 10 - Sat 12 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**ALL OUR YESTERDAYS** A musical journey from the good old days of music hall, through the 40's, 50's, 60's & 70's, Thurs 10 May, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**AN AUDIENCE WITH COLIN FRY** Thurs 10 May, Bedworth Civic Hall

**HEROES DUCK**brothers Productions present the Olivier Award-winning comedy that tells the story of three French veterans of WWI, Thurs 10 - Sat 12 May, mac, Birmingham

**MUCH ADD ABOUT WENLOCK** Worcester-based theatre company Vamos present a fully-masked show that centres on Much Wenlock's very own Olympic Games in 1850, Fri 11 - Sat 12 May, Cheltenham Playhouse

**COFFIN UP** Critically acclaimed mask theatre company Village Idiots present a fast-paced farcical comedy that tells the story of a dastardly undertaker and his efforts to make money - whatever the consequences, Fri 11 May, SpArC, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

**BANE 1, 2** A multi-award-winning one-man comedy that's set on the streets of a non-descript American city, Fri 11 May, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

**THE TEMPEST** Presented by Worcestershire touring company MadCaps Theatre, Sat 12 May, Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Evesham

**BANE 1, 2** A multi-award-winning one-man comedy that's set on the streets of a non-descript American city, Sat 12 May, Goodrich Village Hall, Nr Ross-on-Wye

Week Commencing  
**MON 7 MAY**

Week Commencing  
**MON 7 MAY**

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Week Commencing  
**MON 7 MAY**



Desert Crossings - Arena Theatre

ford-upon-Avon

**WE LOVE YOU CITY** A true story of triumph over adversity that centres around the day Coventry City won the FA Cup, Tue 8 - Sat 26 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**GIRLS NIGHT** Musical comedy that's packed with nostalgic anthems, Tue 8 - Sat 12 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**A NIGHT AT THE MUSIC HALL** Hosted by Don Maclean & featuring Marilyn Hill Smith, Jan Hunt, Simmons & Simmons, David Conway & Jimmy McWilliams, Tue 8 - Wed 9 May, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

**EUROBEAT** Stage musical that celebrates everything we love and cringe about when we watch the Eurovision Song Contest, Tue 8 - Sat 12 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**I, ELIZABETH** Acclaimed Edinburgh show that's adapted and performed by Rebecca Vaughan & directed by Guy Masterson, Wed 9 May, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**AN EVENING OF MEDICUMSHIP WITH TJ HIGGS** Wed 9 May, Lichfield Garrick

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# Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**BEYOND THE BARRICADES**  
IN CONCERT

CALL FOR YOUR BROCHURE TODAY

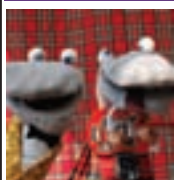
Sat 5 May

Recreating original West End/Broadway musical hit songs with amazing authenticity, 'Beyond the Barricade' features a cast of past principal performers from the West End production of Les Miserables, and the 25th Anniversary Concert at the O2 Arena.



7.30pm, £18.50

**THE SCOTTISH SOCK THEATRE**  
GATEHOUSE THEATRE



Sat 5 May

The stars of stage, screen & YouTube bring you a brand new show of songs, sketches, socks and violence. "Endlessly barny" - The Independent 2011 "An absolute winner" Chor-te

8pm, £11.00, £9.00 concs

**MIES JUPP**  
FIBBER IN THE HEAT

Mon 7 May

Award winning stand up and actor Miles Jupps returns to the Gatehouse Theatre with a brilliant tour sharing his tales from his time in India with the English Press, a sun-soaked disaster.



8pm, £14.00, £12.00 concs

**THE SEARCHERS**  
GATEHOUSE THEATRE



Thur 10 May

With total record sales well in excess of 40 million, The Searchers still have great appeal to audiences of all ages. They continue touring the globe as much today as they have done through their 5 decade career

7.30pm, £18.50

**THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN**  
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

Sat 2 June

Get Ready for the return of the smash hit concert show from the States with its brand-new production authentically recreating the harmonies, slick moves, stylish looks and legendary musicianship that were the making of Motown



8pm, £20.50

**THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA**  
GATEHOUSE THEATRE



Sun 3 June

Ray McVay presents the world's GREATEST Big Band LIVE in concert! for a very special celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee! This show will have you all singing in your seats and waving your flags.

5.30pm, £18, £16 concs

**BOOK ONLINE**



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# ENTERTAINMENT CANNOCK CHASE

At The Prince of Wales Centre

Wednesday 13th June, 2.30pm

## ROLL OUT THE BARREL

A joyous and unforgettable musical journey. 'Roll Out The Barrel' is a feast of non-stop nostalgia featuring over 65 songs that you know and love.



Thursday 14th June, 7.30pm

## JETHRO

Jethro is the stage name of British stand-up comedian Geoff Rowe, based in Cornwall. Rowe was born in 1948 in St Buryan, a small village in west Cornwall.



Friday 15th June, 7.30pm

## HERMAN'S HERMITS

The mid 60s music scene was dominated by british groups, three of which became household names - The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and... Herman's Hermits, who are one of the most successful groups throughout the world. From their beginning in



Saturday 16th June, 7.30pm

## LETS HANG ON

'Let's Hang On' takes you on a musical journey through the prolific career of one of the most successful bands of all time.



Friday 22nd June, 7.30pm

## DESPERADO

HELL FREEZES OVER TOUR

Desperado make a welcome return this year performing their take on that very same show faithfully recreating the tour that was so successful.



Friday 29th June, 7.30pm

## BON JOVI EXPERIENCE

Formed in 1983, Bon Jovi is an American rock band from Sayreville, New Jersey, fronted by lead singer and namesake Jon Bon Jovi.



Saturday 30th June, 7.30pm

## JOE LONGTHORNE

Joe's repertoire of voices is endless and includes hundreds of the world's top singers. However, he is perhaps best known for his impersonation of Shirley Bassey



Wednesday 11th July, 8pm

## ROY CHUBBY BROWN

Get ready for a barn-storming night of jokes, banter and hilarious mickey-taking from Britain's most outrageous comedian



# Wem Town Hall

## Music

Fri 4th May, 8pm

An Intimate Evening with

## The Unthanks

with support from Jonny Kearney and Lucy Farrell



Sat 7th July, 7.30pm

## Squeezing Shropshire Concert



## Theatre

Fri 18th May, 8pm

## A Second Helping of Mervyn Stutter



## National Theatre Live via satellite

Thurs 14th June, 7pm

## Frankenstein Encore Screening

Jonny Lee Miller as the Creature



Fri 13th July, 7pm

## Frankenstein Encore Screening

Benedict Cumberbatch as the Creature



INFO/TICKETS:

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# Theatre LISTINGS

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

Week Commencing  
**MON 14 MAY**

**MY BOY JACK** The Nonentities present David Haig's moving play. Please note, this play contains some strong language. Mon 14 - Sat 19 May, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**BETTE & JOAN** New comedy by Anton Burge that stars Anita Dobson and Greta Scacchi, Mon 14 - Sat 19 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**ANNIE GET YOUR GUN** Bromsgrove Operatic Society (BOS) present an amateur production of Irving Berlin's acclaimed musical, Mon 14 - Sat 19 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**BIRDS OF A FEATHER** Pauline Quirke, Linda Robson & Lesley Joseph star in a stage version of one of BBC TV's most popular and fondly-remembered sitcoms, Mon 14 - Sat 19 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**CHICAGO** Award-winning musical that follows two women on Death Row & their lawyer's attempt to get them back in the fast lane, Mon 14 - Sat 19 May, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE ANNIVERSARY** New version of Roy Ward's Baker's acclaimed black comedy, Tue 15 - Sat 19 May, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**SUGAR THE 'SOME LIKE IT HOT' MUSICAL** Solihull Theatre Company present a fun musical based on the classic American film, Some Like It Hot, Tue 15 - Sat 19 May, Solihull Arts Complex

**RAINING MEN!** A new comedy by Hen Party Night writer Chris Ponka, Wed 16 - Thurs 17 May, Lichfield Garrick

**EQUUS** Inspired by a true story, Peter Shaffer's unique psychological thriller explores the complex relationships between worship, myth and sexuality, Wed 16 - Thurs 17 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE BEST OF BRITISH** CWAGMS present an evening of music and scenes from Gilbert and Sullivan, The Beatles, Morecambe and Wise and Annie Lennox, Wed 16 - Sat 19 May, Prince Of

Wales Centre, Cannock

**LOVELY RITA** Student theatre company Fresh-blood present an English-speaking premiere of Thomas Brasch's unsettling drama, Wed 16 - Sat 19 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE CURE** The Swan Youth Theatre present a gripping new drama that's written and directed by Ben Humphrey & Lucy Robinson, Wed 16 - Thurs 17 May, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**RENT** A rock opera that tells the story of a year in the life of a group of bohemians, Wed 16 - Sat 19 May, Crewe Lyceum

**AN EVENING WITH TONY BENN** Wed 16 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**SING-A-LONG-A GREASE** Wed 16 May, The Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

**MIDSUMMER DREAMING: WILL AND ANNE** A new interpretation of A Midsummer Night's Dream by performing arts students from Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, Thurs 17 May, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon

**SPITFIRE SOLO** One-man show that blends theatre, music and film to recreate the Battle of Britain on stage. Written and performed by Nicholas Collett, Thurs 17 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**AN EVENING WITH JIMMY GREAVES** A series of anecdotes from the sporting legend, Thurs 17 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**PAUL MERTON: OUT OF MY HEAD** An evening of sketches, music, magic and variety featuring Paul Merton, Lee Simpson, Richard Vranich and Suki Webster, Fri 18 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**COUNTRY ROADS - A CELEBRATION OF JOHN DENVER** Featuring Wayne Denton and a fabulous full live band in a show that's dotted with anecdotes & humour, Fri 18 May, Lichfield Garrick

**THE THREEPENNY OPERA** Tewkesbury Arts And Drama Society presents a thrilling version of Bertolt Brecht's musical, Fri 18 - Sat 19 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**CHILDREN'S THEATRE** The Norbury Players present an amateur production especially for chil-

dren, Sat 19 May, The Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

**AN EVENING OF BURLESQUE** A fascinating art form is brought to life, Sat 19 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**I AM MARK** Applecarr Productions present The Gospel of Mark as you've never heard it before, Sat 19 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**PAUL MERTON: OUT OF MY HEAD** An evening of sketches, music, magic and variety featuring Paul Merton, Lee Simpson, Richard Vranich and Suki Webster, Sun 20 May, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

Week Commencing  
**MON 21 MAY**

**DNA** A compelling thriller by award-winning writer Dennis Kelly that stars James Alexandrou, Mon 21 - Wed 23 May, Crewe Lyceum

**STEEL MAGNOLIAS** Featuring Kacey Ainsworth, Isla Blair, Cheryl Campbell, Cherie Lughni. Sadie Pickering and Denise Welch, Mon 21 - Sat 26 May, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**MURDER ON THE NILE** The Agatha Christie Theatre Company present their latest Christie production, Mon 21 - Sat 26 May, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

**WONDERFUL TOWN** Award-winning musical that features The Sound Of Music star Connie Fisher, Tue 22 - Sat 26 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

**RICHARD D. HALL'S 2012 UK TOUR** The presenter behind Sky's Richplanet takes to the road to talk about an array of subjects, including terrorism, 9/11, the UFO phenomenon and animal mutilation, Tue 22 May, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

**WEDDING OF THE YEAR** Comedy presented by the Lichfield Players, Tue 22 - Sat 26 May, Lichfield Garrick

**GIRLS NIGHT** Musical comedy packed with nostalgic anthems, Tue 22 - Sat 26 May, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**AN EVENING WITH GERVAISE PHINN** Tales of the life of a schools inspector in the Yorkshire Dales, Wed 23 May, Solihull Arts Complex

**MUCH ADD ABOUT WENLOCK** Wed 23 May, Feckenham Village Hall, Redditch

**AN INSTINCT FOR KINDNESS** A moving show that explores the wider

ethical issues surrounding assisted suicide, Wed 23 May, mac, Birmingham

**THE UGLY SPIRIT** Fusion of improvisation and text that explores the backstage world of Chang and Eng Bunker - the original Siamese twins, Wed 23 - Fri 25 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**IN A PICKLE** An Oily Cart & Royal Shakespeare Company co-production that takes young audiences through the landscapes of Shakespeare's imagination and the music of his language, Wed 23 May - Sun 17 Jun, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**COLD COMFORT FARM** Bristol Old Vic Theatre School's hilarious stage play of the well-known novel, Thurs 24 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**THE BATTLE OF GOOSE GREEN** A talk by Peter Kennedy, C Company 2

**PARA** at Goose Green, Thurs 24 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**DOLLY WEST'S KITCHEN** The Birmingham School Of Acting presents Frank McGuinness's play that, while set in the small town of Bun-crana in Donegal, explores issues of gender, identity, sexuality and nationality, Thurs



An Evening Of Burlesque - Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**WIN TICKETS**  
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to enter

24 - Sat 26 May, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**LILIES ON THE LAND** Touching play that charts the personal journeys of four women who sign up to become Land Girls, Thurs 24 - Sat 26 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET** Sci-fi drama that's loosely based on the 1956 film Forbidden Planet, which was a sci-fi version of Shakespeare's The Tempest, Thurs 24 - Sat 26 May, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**SPRING & PORT WINE** The Phoenix Players present their version of Bill Naughton's acclaimed drama, Thurs 24 - Sat 26 May, Stratford Civic Hall

**CAPITAL THEATRE FESTIVAL** Featuring performances, discussions, workshops, networking events and readings that celebrate and promote new writers and theatre-makers in Birmingham and beyond, Thurs 24 - Sun 27 May, mac, Birmingham

**L'ELISIR D'AMORE (THE ELIXIR OF LOVE)** Young professional company

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	Sat 5 May 7.30 <b>THEY WROTE THE SONGS</b> £16.50 & £15.50 (disc)		Sat 19 May 7.30 <b>THE MAGIC OF TAKE THAT</b> £18.50 & £17.50 (disc)
	Tue 8 May 2.30 <b>WE'LL MEET AGAIN - DIAMOND JUBILEE SHOW</b> £12.50 & £10.50 (disc)		Thur 31 May 7.30 <b>JIMMY TARBUCK THIS IS MY LIFE</b> £18.50
	Fri 11 May 7.30 <b>BUDDY HOLLY A LEGEND REBORN</b> £18.50 & £17.50		Fri 1 June 7.30 <b>MUSICAL YOUTH</b> £12.00 & £11.00 (disc)
	Sat 12 May 7.30 <b>An Evening with JOE LONGTHORNE</b> £22.50		Sat 2 June 8.00 <b>LAUGHTERHOUSE COMEDY SHOW</b> £12.50 & £8.50 (disc)
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# Theatre LISTINGS

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

Pop-up Opera present their version of Donizetti's comic opera, Fri 25 May, Lyde Court, Herefordshire

**BANE 1, 2** A multi-award-winning one-man comedy that's set on the streets of a nondescript American city, Fri 25 May, SpArC, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

**THE MAGIC OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN** Presented by RNLI Stourbridge Branch, Fri 25 May, Stourbridge Town Hall

**THE INFERNAL COMEDY** John Malkovich stars in a stage play that's based on the real-life story of convicted serial killer Jack Unterweger, Sat 26 May, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**HAVE YOU HAD IT LONG MADAM?** An insider's view in which Hilary & Paul (BBC's Antiques Roadshow) share their antique stories and behind-the-scenes experiences, Sat 26 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**CHARLIE AND LOLA'S BEST BESTEST PLAY** BBC's favourite brother and sister are brought to life with a magical mix of puppets and music, Sat 26 May, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

**CURTAIN UP** A night of entertainment presented by local Performing Arts & Dance groups, Sat 26 May, Crewe Lyceum

**TIM CLARE: HOW TO BE A LEADER** Sat 26 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE HUMOUR OF BOB NEWHART & TOM LEHRER** Sat 26 May, Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Evesham

**BANE 1, 2** A multi-award-winning one-man comedy that's set on the streets of a nondescript American city, Sat 26 May, Garway

Village Hall, Herefordshire

**ONCE ON THIS ISLAND** Double Dose Theatre Company present an almost non-stop song and dance show with a catchy, contemporary, upbeat, Caribbean-flavoured score, Sat 26 - Sun 27 May, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

**THROUGH THE AGES** Annual dance show presented by SB Danceworks, Sat 26 - Sun 27 May, The Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

**GRAND HOTEL** The Crescent Theatre Company present Luther Davis' musical that focuses on events that take place over the course of a weekend in an elegant hotel in 1928 Berlin, Sat 26 May - Sat 2 Jun, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**THE WRITING ON THE WALL: TONY BENN & ROY BAILEY** A witty, perceptive and thought-provoking show featuring songs and stories, Sun 27 May, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**SUNFLOWERS AND SHEDS** M6 Theatre Company present a tale of friendship and growth for children aged five-plus, Sun 27 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**Week Commencing  
MON 28 MAY**

**SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME** Brand new rock'n'roll musical that's described as Dreamboats & Petticoats meets Dirty Dancing, Mon 28 May - Sat 2 Jun, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

**KISS CHASE** Intense new drama from Philip Gladwin, Mon 28 - Wed 30 May, Crewe Lyceum

**AVENUE Q** Tony Award-win-

ning musical that centres on a group of loveable yet hopeless characters on a downtown New York street, Mon 28 May - Sat 2 Jun, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**WE'LL MEET AGAIN DIAMOND JUBILEE SHOW** Starring Marilyn Hill Smith & comedian Adam Daye, Mon 28 May, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

**JULIUS CAESAR** Director Gregory Doran brings a contemporary edge to Shakespeare's great political thriller, Mon 28 May - Sat 7 Jul, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**I DREAMED A DREAM** New musical that charts the extraordinary story of singing sensation Susan Boyle, Tue 29 May - Sat 2 Jun, Birmingham Hippodrome

**LOVE'S LABOURS LOST** Deafinitely Theatre present a British sign language production of Shakespeare's classic battle of the sexes, Tue 29 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**A ROYAL MIDDAY VARIETY** Afternoon variety show starring Don MacLean and hosted by Malcolm Stent, Tue 29 May, Solihull Arts Complex

**THE LADY IN THE VAN** Hull Truck Theatre present Alan Bennett's acclaimed drama that's based on the playwright's personal experiences with a tramp camped out on his driveway, Nichola McAuliffe stars, Tue 29 May - Sat 2 Jun, Malvern Theatres

**PIRATES OF PENZANCE** The multi-award-winning Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company present the Broadway version of Gilbert and Sullivan's acclaimed comedy, Tue 29 May - Sat 2 Jun, Lichfield Garrick

**KAFKA'S MONKEY** Olivier Award-winner Kathryn Hunter portrays an ape in a tale of forced assimilation into an alien culture that's based on A Report To The Academy by Franz

Kafka, 30 May - Fri 1 Jun, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**IT'S RAINING MEN** A new comedy by Hen Party Night writer Chris Ponka, Wed 30 - Thurs 31 May, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

**KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN** Music Theatre Warwick present their version of Kander & Ebb's musical which is based on Manuel Puig's successful novel, Wed 30 May - Sat 2 Jun, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**GORE BLIMEY** Don't Go Into The Cellar Theatre Company present an evening of stand-up comedy, Victorian sing-songs, magicians, melodramas and novelty acts, Wed 30 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham

**LOVE ON THE TRACKS** Romantic comedy inspired by the early stories and farces of Anton Chekhov, Wed 30 May, Steiner Academy, Hereford

**FROZEN** Bryony Lavery's award-winning play, Thurs 31 May - Sat 9 Jun, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**OUR LADS** Kidderminster College present a new play from young local writer Joshua Read, Thurs 31 May - Fri 1 Jun, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**WE'LL MEET AGAIN DIAMOND JUBILEE SHOW** Starring Marilyn Hill Smith & comedian Adam Daye, Thurs 31 May, Dudley Concert Hall

**FIRST DATE** David Ireland's new play about objectification, gratification, fornication and when you don't know how to behave, Thurs 31 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**HIP HOPE HERO** Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company, together with Moving Hands, fuse dance, poetry, animation, original music and puppetry in a new and exciting show for children, Thurs 31 May - Sat 2 Jun, Old Rep, Birmingham



**BIRMINGHAM'S PREMIER PUB THEATRE**

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Jadis Shadows presents an adaptation of Marlowe's classic play

**Thurs 3 - Sat 5 May, 8pm  
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The Purple Cast presents Leonard Nimoy's play about the Van Gogh Brothers

**Thurs 24 - Sat 26 May, Eves 7.45pm, Sat 5pm**

**DOLLY WEST'S KITCHEN**

Birmingham School Of Acting present Frank McGuinness' powerful play set in Ireland during WWII

**Thurs 31 May, 8pm**

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# Theatre REVIEWS

Here are a few of the theatre productions we reviewed from last month. For further theatre reviews, visit, [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Cirque du Soleil's Alegria

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

Engaging from the outset, Cirque du Soleil's Alegria takes its audience into a world where Baroque meets Burlesque - a place dominated by colourful characters who oversee the evening's proceedings. The show's ethereal set sees performers rise from the bowels of the stage to present an eclectic range of skills, interspersed with theatrical slap-stick courtesy of the troupe's three hugely popular clowns. Accompanied by a fusion of French/African music, the story of Alegria is recounted by The White Singer, whose beautifully honed vocals bring further magic to the evening's proceedings.

Cirque has a reputation for producing some of the world's most skilled performers, something that was very much in evidence during Alegria, as fire-twirlers, high-wire acrobats, trapeze and hand-balancing artists took to the stage. For me, however, there were three acts that really raised the bar. One of them saw two young girls contorting their bodies into the most



unimaginable positions. The second featured acrobatic flyers who drew gasps of amazement from the audience as they were thrust into the air from narrow, flexible bars perched on the shoulders of their catchers. The third was a ribbon dancer, whose ability to rotate numerous metal hoops around different parts of her body was simply amazing.

Alegria is every bit as spellbinding a show as you'd expect from the fabulous Cirque du Soleil. If you've never seen this truly stunning circus ensemble in action, make a mental note to grab yourself a ticket the next time they stop off in the Midlands. *Davina Evans* ■■■■■■

## The King And I

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

This latest production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's classic musical is a feast for the eyes and ears, its lavish sets, colourful costumes, precise choreography and the performance of sixteen talented local schoolchildren ensuring the show will live long in the memory. Based on the autobiographical story of the volatile relationship between an English schoolteacher and the King of Siam, Paul Kerryson's production is perfectly cast, with This Life actor Ramon Tikaram hugely convincing in his portrayal of the King. What he lacks in vocal aptitude is made up for by an abundance of charisma and wit.

Playing opposite the handsome Tikaram is ballerina Josefina Gabrielle, who gives a spectacular performance as the quintessentially English Anna, displaying the voice of a nightingale when singing numbers like Hello Young Lovers and Getting To Know You.

A story within a story, The Small House Of Uncle Thomas provides much amusement with



its quirky movements and comedic approach, with Japanese actress Makoto Iso offering a very credible portrayal of the quick-footed Little Eva. The King And I shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Mon 1 to Sat 5 May.

*Davina Evans* ■■■■■■

## Mustafa

mac, Birmingham

Starting in the midst of the story, the protagonist is introduced by prison guards as magic Mustafa. As the story unravels, it becomes apparent that this quiet man is in prison for the manslaughter of a young boy during an exorcism. Questions of faith and religion, and of East versus West, are raised, as we question how so pious a man could have been accused of so terrible an act. The explanation, that evil magic or djinn killed the boy, is disturbing - especially when it becomes evident that the djinn is still with Mustafa, and might well be responsible for a number of strange and unexplained happenings taking place in the prison... Dark and unsettling, this compelling thriller is expertly written, and takes ghost stories to another level. *Alev Dervish* ■■■■■■



## Cbeebies

LG Arena, Birmingham

Robbie Rotton from Lazytown was on a mission to steal away Cbeebies' best-loved characters in this latest fun-filled offering. Against a backdrop of much booing and hissing, he managed to trick Sportacus, Stephanie, Postman Pat, Squiglet, the ZingZillas, Mister Maker and Mike the Knight into his hidden box. The rotter!

Hosted by Cbeebies presenters Andy and Katy, along with my personal favourite, Justin Fletcher, the show boasted lots of fun songs and dances - not to mention an Animatronic elephant! We were a bit disappointed that there were no Numberjacks or Octonauts, who are hugely popular in my house, but at least Mr Tumble was there to delight the toddlers. The dance finale to the SClub7 song Reach For The Stars was a big hit with the kids.

*Anita Champaneri* ■■■■■■

## Giglor's Comedy Feast

The Queen's Head Inn, Bromsgrove

Following a hot buffet feast, included in the £15 ticket price, Resident MC 'Sheila M' kicked off the night with a raunchy rendition of Hey Big Spender, setting the tone for two hours of innuendo, songs and jokes, all brilliantly delivered by stand-up comedians Jane Hill, Rob Coleman, and headline act Brian and Krysstal. Jane Hill's intelligent and comic observations on love, life and relationships were followed by Rob Coleman's quickfire one-liners, with co-owner Lorenzo Richards then filling in for a performer who'd apparently got lost en route to the venue! Brian and Krysstal, closing the show, presented an unconventional vaudeville-style act, and were hilarious from the moment they walked onto the stage. Krysstal's gawky, simple charm was offset beautifully by Brian's confident timing. The interaction between the pair was outstanding, their act perfectly illustrating just how much fun you can have with a guitar, a tambourine and an audience! Giglor's Comedy Feast next takes place on 10 May. *Sarah Rees* ■■■■■■

## Treasure Island

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

I remember Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island from my boyhood days, but the details of the story have been lost to me in the mists of time.

The gaps in my memory were ably filled by this excellent Blue Orange Theatre production, however. Using a cast of just six actor-musicians, the show certainly wasn't for the fainthearted, with no fewer than eighteen deaths occurring during the course of the drama. No doubt some land-lubbers were left floundering by the breakneck pace of the production - boy, was it fast-moving! - but the speed at which the action took place was certainly one of many positives to enjoy. With live music and excellent performances from the half-dozen 'crew', this was a real 'treasure' of a show that proved to be well worth discovering.

*Adam Sherwood* ■■■■■■



## Robin Cousins to join cast of West End musical

Olympic gold medalist Robin Cousins has announced that he's to join the cast of Chicago The Musical late summer. The skating legend - who enjoyed recent success starring as Teen Angel in the nationwide tour of Grease The Musical - is to play Billy Flynn at the Garrick Theatre from 17 July to 8 September. Cousins joins Sarah Soetaert as Roxie Hart, Rachel McDowall as Velma Kelly, James Doherty as Amos Hart, Jasna Ivir as Mama Morton and R Whitehead as Mary Sunshine.



## Casting announced for new version of satirical drama

This Is England screenwriter Jack Thorne is to bring a new version of The Physicists - Friedrich Durrenmatt's acclaimed satirical drama - to the Donmar Warehouse next month. Recognised as the most easily understood of Durrenmatt's works, The Physicists explores and questions scientific ethics, and whether insanity is the only refuge for the dangerously intelligent. Miranda Reason (Spooks) will appear in the production alongside Sophie Thompson, Paul Bhattacharje, John Heffernan, John Ramm, Justin Salinger and Joanne Brookes. The Physicists shows at The Donmar Warehouse from 7 June to 21 July.



Ruthie Henshall

## Ruthie Henshall to star in Guys And Dolls in concert

New Tricks actor Dennis Waterman will be joined by West End star Ruthie Henshall when he takes to the stage at London's Cadogan Hall in a concert production of Guys And Dolls late this summer. While Waterman narrates, Henshall will assume the role of Adelaide in Frank Loesser's much-loved musical, best known for huge hits such as Luck Be A Lady, Sit Down You're

Rocking The Boat, If I Were A Bell and Take Back Your Mink. Conductor Richard Balcombe will direct the thirty-strong Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra for the four-night run, while other cast members include Anna-Jayne Casey as Sarah, Tim Howar as Sky Masterson and Graham Bickley as Nathan Detroit. Guys And Dolls In Concert runs at Cadogan Hall from 22 to 25 August.

## WEST END LISTINGS:

### MUSICALS

**BILLY ELLIOT - THE MUSICAL** Victoria Palace Theatre, booking until 15 Dec 2012

**BLOOD BROTHERS** Phoenix Theatre booking until 24 Nov 2012

**CHICAGO** Garrick Theatre booking until 26 Jan 2013

**DREAMBOATS & PETTICOATS** Playhouse Theatre, booking until 24 Nov 2012

**GHOST THE MUSICAL** Piccadilly Theatre, booking until 13 Apr 2013

**JERSEY BOYS** Prince Edward Theatre, booking until 21 Oct 2012

**LES MISÉRABLES** Queen's Theatre booking until 27 Apr 2013

**LION KING** Lyceum Theatre, booking until 30 Sept 2012

**MAMMA MIA!** Prince of Wales Theatre, booking until 13 Apr 2013

**MATILDA THE MUSICAL** Cambridge Theatre, booking until 17 Feb 2013

**PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Her Majesty's Theatre, booking until 27 Apr 2013

**ROCK OF AGES** Shaftesbury Theatre, booking until 20 Oct 2012

**SHREK THE MUSICAL** Drury Lane, Theatre Royal, booking until 16 Dec 2012

**SINGIN' IN THE RAIN** Palace Theatre, booking until 23 Feb 2013

**STOMP** Ambassadors Theatre, booking until 15 Dec 2012

**SWEENEY TODD - THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET** Adelphi Theatre, booking until 22 Sept 2012

**THRILLER LIVE** Lyric Theatre, booking until 23 Sept 2012

**TOP HAT** Aldwych Theatre, booking until 26 Jan 2013

**WE WILL ROCK YOU** Dominion Theatre, booking until 20 Oct 2012

**WICKED** Apollo Victoria Theatre, booking until 27 Apr 2013

**WIZARD OF OZ** London Palladium Theatre, booking until 28 Oct 2012

### DRAMA

**AFTER MISS JULIE** Young Vic Theatre (maria studio), booking until 14 Apr 2012

**ANTIGONE** Olivier National theatre, 23 May - 20 June 2012

**BELONG** Royal Court Theatre, booking until 26 May 2012

**CHILDREN'S CHILDREN** Almeida Theatre, 17 May 2012 - 30 June 2012

**COLLABORATORS** Olivier National Theatre, booking until 23 June 2012

**DETROIT** Cottesloe National Theatre, booking until 15 June 2012

**DOLLS HOUSE** Young Vic Theatre, 29 June - 26 July 2012

**DUCHESS OF MALFI** Old Vic Theatre, booking until 9 June 2012

**FILUMENA** Almeida Theatre, booking until 12 May 2012

**GATZ** Noel Coward Theatre, 8 June - 15 July 2012

**HENRY V** Shakespeare Globe Theatre, 7 June 2012 - 26 Aug 2012

**HORRIBLE HISTORIES - BARMY BRITAIN** Garrick Theatre, booking until 1 Sept 2012

**KINGS SPEECH** Wyndham's Theatre, booking until 21 July 2012

**LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT** Apollo Theatre, booking until 18 Aug 2012

**MOON ON A RAINBOW SHAWL** Cottesloe National Theatre, booking until 9 June 2012

**MOUSETRAP** St Martins Theatre, booking until 13 Dec 2012

**PHYSICISTS** Donmar Warehouse, 31 May - 21 July 2012

**WILD SWANS** Young Vic Theatre, booking until 13 May 2012

**WOMAN IN BLACK** Fortune Theatre, booking until 15 Dec 2012

**WRITTEN ON THE HEART** Duchess Theatre, booking until 21 July 2012

### COMEDY

**39 STEPS** Criterion Theatre, booking until 20 Oct 2012

**COMEDY OF ERRORS** Roundhouse Theatre, 1 June - 4 July 2012

**DERREN BROWN: SVEN-GALI** Novello Theatre, 12 July - 11 Aug 2012

**HAYFEVER** Noel Coward Theatre, booking until 2 June 2012

**NOISES OFF** Novello Theatre, booking until 30 June 2012

**ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS** Haymarket Theatre Royal, booking until 1 Sept 2012

**PAUL MERTON: OUT OF MY HEAD** Vaudeville Theatre Royal, booking 1 Oct - 20 Oct 2012

**SUNSHINE BOYS** Savoy Theatre, booking until 28 July 2012

**TWELFTH NIGHT** Roundhouse Theatre, 5 June - 5 July 2012

**WHAT THE BUTLER SAW** Vaudeville Theatre, 4 May - 25 Aug 2012



Singing In The Rain - Palace Theatre



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## May Event Highlights



**David Toole, Lucy Hind & Remix Dance Company // The Impending Storm**  
Tue 1 & Wed 2 May // The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

Disabled and non-disabled artists push the boundaries of integrated dance in this explosive and emotional look at the stories we tell, and the stories that we are.



**Sylvie Guillem & Russell Maliphant // PUSH**  
Fri 11 & Sat 12 May // Birmingham Hippodrome

Legendary ballerina Sylvie Guillem is joined on stage by UK dancer/choreographer Russell Maliphant in a programme of solos and duets.



**Birmingham Royal Ballet // Three Short Works**  
Thu 3 & Fri 4 May // The Crescent Theatre

A breathtaking programme including premieres by US choreographer Jessica Lang and company dancer Kit Holder, plus *Take Five* by Director David Bintley.



**Wings of Desire**  
Wed 16 – Sat 19 May // Victoria Square, Birmingham

Angels gather on rooftops as this iconic Birmingham location comes alive with jaw-dropping circus acrobatics, exhilarating dance, and the most amazing transformation of a Birmingham building ever seen.

FREE  
OUTDOOR  
EVENT



**Family Weekend**  
Sat 5 – Mon 7 May // mac birmingham & Cannon Hill Park

A three-day mini festival where performances and workshops combine in a fun-filled programme for families of all ages to enjoy.



**Circolombia // URBAN**  
Thu 17 & Fri 18 May // Birmingham Hippodrome

A show set to thrill audiences with its unique blend of electrifying circus, South American hip-hop and reggaeton dance.



**Danza Contemporanea de Cuba**  
Tue 8 & Wed 9 May // Birmingham Hippodrome

Sensual, intense and dynamic this show promises electrifying dance in a distinctly unique expression of all that is Cuban.



**International Raw Energy**  
Sat 19 May // Town Hall

See the next generation of dance talent in action in this showcase featuring new work by international choreographers and youth dance companies from across the West Midlands. Presented in partnership with sampad South Asian arts.

**Buy tickets and find out all you need to know at [idfb.co.uk](http://idfb.co.uk)**



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# Dance



## Push - Sylvie Guillem & Russell Maliphant

Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 11 - Sat 12 May

Referred to by The Guardian as 'the most brilliant ballerina of her generation', Sylvie Guillem this month makes her Birmingham debut as part of the city's International Dance Festival. Guillem once again performs alongside British dancer/choreographer Russell Maliphant in a union that's previously earned them an Olivier Award and a Critic's Circle National Dance Award for Best Choreography for their production Broken Fall. Here, the duo perform a mixed programme of works that includes Push, a duet set to an original score by Andy Cowton that perfectly combines the respective abilities of both artists. The evening also sees Guillem perform Solo to the music of Carlos Montoya, while Maliphant completes the performance with his signature solo Shift.

## Richard Alston Dance Company

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
Mon 21 - Tue 22 May

Richard Alston is recognised as one of British dance's most inspiring and influential choreographers, his work being described by The New York Times as 'the finest by any choreographer alive'. Alston is also renowned for his instinctive musicality - an attribute which is sure to be much in evidence in this triple-bill of recent works. In Unfinished Business, the choreographer uses the fluidity of Mozart's unfinished piano sonata, Opus K533, alongside Federico Busoni's arrangement of Mozart's Gigue in D as a backdrop to the performance. The second piece, A Ceremony Of Carols, is choreographed to Benjamin Britten's masterpiece for boys' voices and harp. A live performance of the music of Ravel forms the basis for Alston's third piece, Shimmer, which also features jewel-encrusted cobweb costumes designed by Julien Macdonald.



## Wings Of Desire

Victoria Square, Birmingham, Wed 16 - Sat 19 May

Midlands actor and musician Goldie here takes the lead in a four-night production which brings International Dance Festival Birmingham 2012 to a close. An adaptation of Wim Wenders' cult, Bafta-nominated film - and set against an illuminated Birmingham Town Hall - Wings Of Desire fuses acrobatics and dance in a performance that's based on stories about Birmingham. Assuming the role of a fallen angel (a role played by Peter Falk in the film), Goldie interacts with performing angels on the tops of buildings in the vicinity of Victoria Square - an area which will also double as a stage from which audience members can witness the story unravelling around them.



# THE ROSES

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## In The Dust

A powerhouse triple bill of explosive dance from 2Faced Dance  
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## MAY HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday 5th May

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 TREAD THE BOARDS**  
 THE MURDER MYSTERY OF  
 THE MILLENIUM



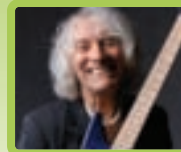
Sunday 6th May

**PAUL BRADY -  
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 ELEANOR MCAVOY**



Thursday 10th May

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Sunday 20th May

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## Circolumbia Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 16 - Fri 18 May

Circolumbia showcases young performers in their teens or early twenties, some of whom have graduated from the Circo Para Todos, Columbia's national circus school. The establishment, which takes young people off the streets and teaches them circus skills, is the only circus school in the world set up to train disadvantaged young people in a range of abilities. This month sees the troupe return to Birmingham to debut *Urban*, which, based on the lives of the young cast, uses acrobatics, fire-juggling, stilt-walking, street dance and hip hop to tell a tale of confrontation and redemption, of gangs and individual freedom, and of poetics and cruelty.

## Kathakbox

Solihull Arts Complex, Tues 22 May

Sonia Sabri Company are recognised as one of the most diverse dance companies in the UK, receiving much critical acclaim for their ability to fuse the grace of Indian Kathak dance with the rhythms of hip hop culture. In *Kathakbox*, they present dialogue as the dominant artistic form - work that's described by Sabri as a poem "capturing a thought about our identity, separation and togetherness, and how we relate to others".



## Dance LISTINGS

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

**HOME** A bold and inventive new production that moves through the streets and squares of Birmingham city centre, engaging with thousands of people and presenting a diverse range of dance styles, Mon 1 - Sun 13 May, Birmingham City Centre

**NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY WALES** A triple-bill of international work including *B/olero*, *The Grammar Of Silence & Phantoms For Us*, Tue 1 - Wed 2 May, Malvern Theatres  
**DESERT CROSSINGS** State Of Emergency present a choreographed performance that promises to offer a sensory delight, Tue 1 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**THE IMPENDING STORM** David Toole, Lucy Hind and Remix Dance Company present the world premiere of Mark Storor's acclaimed choreography that pushes the boundaries of integrated dance, Tue 1 - Wed 2 May, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome  
**ESSENCE OF IRELAND** Featuring a huge cast of talented dancers, singers, and musicians, *Essence of Ireland* combines breathtaking

dance routines - the very best of Irish music and a touch of Irish craic - in a heart-warming tale, Wed 2 May, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford  
**'OLYMPIC' DANCE FESTIVAL** Showcase of work from dancers aged six to eighteen years of age from schools across Staffordshire, Thurs 3 - Fri 4 May, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**THREE SHORT WORKS** IDFB2012, in partnership with Birmingham Royal Ballet, present a triple-bill of works, including the world premiere of Jessical Lang's *Lyric Pieces*, Thurs 3 - Fri 4 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham  
**CU-CUCO** Spanish contemporary dance company Aracaladanza present an inspirational performance combining music and dance with umbrellas, spinning chairs, puppets and balloons, Sat 5 - Sun 6 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
**CLOUDS** Spanish dance company Aracaladanza present an imaginative show for adults and children alike, Sat 5 - Mon 7 May, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**DANZA CONTEMPORANEA DE CUBA** World premiere of renowned Israeli choreographer Itzik Galili's latest work, Tue 8 - Wed 9 May, Birmingham Hippodrome  
**SPRING FLING** University of Wolverhampton Dance Students present the premiere of an original piece by Victoria Thoms, together with new work by third year student choreographers, Wed 9 May, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**SYLVIE GUILLEM & RUSSELL MALIPHANT** Fri 11 - Sat 12 May, Birmingham Hippodrome  
**ESSENCE OF IRELAND** Fri 11 - Sat 12 May, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**SONIA SABRI COMPANY: YOUTHINK** Fusion of dance, theatre and music that aims to challenge perceptions, break down barriers and give young people a platform on which to express their own ideas, Sat 12 May, The Drum, Birmingham  
**BOJANGLES PRESENT DANCE 2012** Pupils from Lichfield's Bojangles Dance present a showcase a variety of styles, including ballet, tap, modern, Irish and national, Sat 12 - Sun 13 May, Lichfield Garrick  
**BREAKIN' CONVENTION** '12 Critically acclaimed international festival of hip-hop dance theatre, hosted and curated by

Jonzi D, Mon 14 - Tue 15 May, Birmingham Hippodrome  
**THE BLAKE DIPTYCH: INNOCENCE** An innovative dance experience that takes children under the age of seven on an interactive journey of theatre, story and live music, Tue 15 - Wed 16 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**CIRCOLOMBIA: URBAN** Highly acclaimed show that fuses circus skills, South American hip-hop and reggaeton dance, Wed 16 - Fri 18 May, Birmingham Hippodrome  
**LA FILLE MAL GARDEE** Live broadcast from the Royal Opera House, Wed 16 May, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire  
**WINGS OF DESIRE** Wed 16 - Sat 19 May, Victoria Square, Birmingham  
**DESI MOVES** A Dancing For The Games event which sees six of the hottest dance acts battle it out in front of a panel of celebrity judges, Fri 18 May, Birmingham Town Hall  
**GISELLE** Vienna Festival Ballet present a tale of innocent love, betrayal, madness and the supernatural, Fri 18 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**INTERNATIONAL RAW ENERGY** A brand new showcase of youth dance, Sat 19 May, Birmingham Town Hall  
**L'ACADCO (A UNITED CARIBBEAN DANCE FORCE)** World famous

choreographer L'Antoinette Stines presents a physical display in celebration of Jamaica's 50th anniversary of Independence, Sat 19 May, The Drum, Birmingham  
**KALAA MAHOTSAV** An eclectic showcase of works from performer, teacher and choreographer Geetha Sridhar, Sat 19 May, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**KATHAKBOX** Ground-breaking dance production from mac associate artist Sonia Sabri Company that celebrates the unique & diverse energy of modern Britain through the Urban Kathak dance style, Tue 22 May, Solihull Arts Complex  
**RICHARD ALSTON DANCE COMPANY** Tue 22 - Wed 23 May, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**SWAN LAKE** Vienna Festival Ballet present a lavish production of one of the best-known love stories of all time, set to Tchaikovsky's enchanting score, Thurs 24 - Sat 26 May, Lichfield Garrick  
**THROUGH THE AGES** Annual dance show presented by SB Danceworks, Sat 26 - Sun 27 May, The Norbury Theatre, Droitwich  
**IN THE DUST** A powerhouse triple-bill of explosive dance, Wed 30 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

## Dance Box Office

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From  
**FRI 25  
MAY**

## Men In Black III CERT tbc

Starring **Tommy Lee Jones, Will Smith, Josh Brolin, Emma Thompson, Alice Eve, Nicole Scherzinger, Jemaine Clement** Directed by **Barry Sonnenfeld (USA)**

Black is back - and in 3D. And this time Agent J (Smith) is trying a spot of time-travel. It's been ten years and \$442million in the bank since the last outing, so it's a wonder it's taken these gentlemen so long to get back together. For the uninitiated, the Men in Black are government agents assigned to monitor extraterrestrials living undercover in New York. The idea for the new story was actually proposed by Will Smith (presumably because it gives him more screen time than Mr Jones).



From  
**FRI 18  
MAY**

## The Dictator CERT tbc

Starring **Sacha Baron Cohen, Anna Faris, Ben Kingsley, Kevin Corrigan, J. B. Smoove, John C. Reilly, Megan Fox** Directed by **Larry Charles (USA)**

He gave us Ali G And then Borat. And then Bruno, the shamelessly camp Austrian fashionista. Now Sacha Baron Cohen has invested his considerable talent (and chutzpah) to play a middle-Eastern tyrant. In the words of the publicity, it is "the heroic story of a dictator who risked his life to ensure that democracy would never come to the country he so lovingly oppressed." How could we put it better than that? Believe it or not, the screenplay is based loosely on the romantic novel Zabibah And The King (2000), penned by Saddam Hussein. Although it's directed by Larry Charles, who brought us Borat and Bruno, this is not a mockumentary but a "straight" comedy, with a professional supporting cast. However, the film - or at least Baron Cohen in character - has already courted controversy when SBC turned up at the Oscars with an urn allegedly containing the ashes of Kim Jong-il. It was Kim's dream, he explained, to be sprinkled on the chest of Halle Berry - again.

## TOP 5 FILM BOX OFFICE

- 1 **Battleship (12a)**
- 2 **Titanic 3D (12a)**
- 3 **The Cabin In The Woods (15)**
- 4 **The Hunger Games (12a)**
- 5 **The Pirates! In An Adventure With Scientists (U)**



Battleship



## Film NEW RELEASES

Released from Wed 2 May

### The Lucky One

CERT 12a (101 mins)

Starring **Zac Efron**, **Taylor Schilling**, **Blythe Danner** Directed by **Scott Hicks** (USA)

While on his third tour of duty in Iraq, US Marine Logan Thibault comes across the photograph of a beautiful woman signed 'Beth'. When he escapes two ambushes alive, he credits the unknown blonde as a good luck token. So, once back in America, he sets out to find her. When he does, and ends up working at the kennel Beth runs, Logan is unable to tell her how he knows her... It's hard to credit that this is from the director of *Shine*, for which Geoffrey Rush won an Oscar. An adaptation of the novel by Nicholas Sparks (*The Notebook*, *Dear John*), the film presents Logan as a man who can seemingly do anything: fix Beth's tractor, play chess and the piano, quote philosophy, read improving books and look every bit as gorgeous as Zac Efron. The word you're looking for is "contrived".

The Lucky One



American Reunion

### Beauty and The Beast 3D

CERT U (92 mins)

Featuring the voices of **Paige O'Hara**, **Robby Benson**, **Jerry Orbach**, **Angela Lansbury**, **David Ogden Stiers** Directed by **Gary Trousdale** and **Kirk Wise** (USA)

The story is unimportant, although you may be familiar with the bare bones of it anyway. What you need to know is that the animation, the camera moves, the background detail, the humour, the Oscar-winning music and, above all, the timeless message all help to make this one of Disney's true classics. It was also the first cartoon ever to be nominated for an Academy Award for best film. And now it's in glorious 3D.

### American Reunion

CERT 15 (113 mins)

Starring **Jason Biggs**, **Alyson Hannigan**, **Chris Klein**, **Tara Reid**, **Seann William Scott**, **Mena Suvari**, **Shannon Elizabeth** Directed by **Jon Hurwitz** and **Hayden Schlossberg** (USA)

If you've missed the odd chapter of the *American Pie* series, you might be surprised that this is the eighth instalment. This one centres on the high school reunion of the Class of 1999 and features all the original stars. Expect some rather crude content, nudity, appalling language and a lot of alcoholic consumption. We know, we know, you can't stand the excitement.

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### Angel & Tony

CERT 15 (83 mins)  
Starring **Clotilde Hesme, Grégory Gadebois, Evelyne Didi, Jérôme Huguët, Antoine Couleau** Directed by **Alix Delaporte (France)**

Angel is the core of this modest, rather odd French film - and she's a core that makes it worth a bite of the apple. She is certainly an enigma: a striking, tall woman of twenty-seven who's just arrived at a small fishing village in Normandy. Angel obviously has an agenda and will lie, steal and copulate her way to achieving it. Tony is the pudgy fisherman who falls in her path... Because of its secrets - and the performance of Clotilde Hesme (who won the César for Most Promising Actress, having been nominated four years earlier for *Les Chansons d'amour*) - *Angel & Tony* remains worth watching up until its entirely satisfying conclusion. It's a slight affair - and not always convincing - but is perfectly rendered and ultimately rather touching.



Angel & Tony

### Piggy

CERT 18 (106 mins)  
Starring **Martin Compston, Paul Anderson, Neil Maskell, Ed Skrein** Directed by **Kieron Hawkes (UK)**

This has got nothing to do with the Muppets or the fat kid from *The Lord Of The Flies*. This is a dark, violent thriller set on the streets of London about a young man, Joe (Compston), whose brother is murdered. Joe then turns to his brother's old friend Piggy, who helps guide him down a treacherous path of revenge. Note the 18 certificate.

### Safe

CERT 15 (94 mins)  
Starring **Jason Statham, Catherine Chan, Chris Sarandon, Robert John Burke, James Hong** Directed by **Boaz Yakin (USA)**

Jason Statham is back doing what he does best: romantic comedy. Just kidding. Here he plays an ex-government agent who rescues a twelve-year-old Chinese girl. Not a good idea. Now he must defend the kid and himself from corrupt cops, equally corrupt politicians (is that an oxymoron?), the Triad and the Russian Mafia. Of course, it's all quite exhausting.



Safe

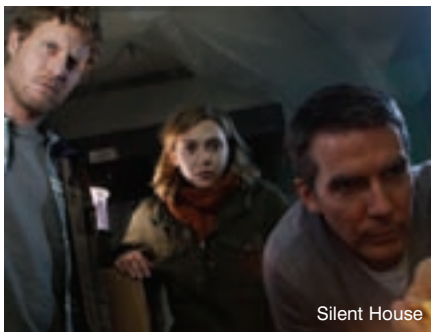


Dark Shadows

### Silent House

CERT 15 (85 mins)  
Starring **Elizabeth Olsen, Adam Trese, Erich Sheffer Stevens** Directed by **Chris Kentis and Laura Lau (USA)**

Another horror remake? Surely not. This one is taken from the 2010 Uruguayan film *The Silent House* and concerns a young woman trapped in her family's lakeside retreat. Ms Olsen won rave reviews for her performance in *Martha Marcy May Marlene*, so it's rotten that her follow-up movie was so disparaged by the American critics.



Silent House

### Dark Shadows

CERT 12a (113 mins)  
Starring **Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Helena Bonham Carter, Eva Green, Jonny Lee Miller, Chloë Moretz, Sir Christopher Lee** Directed by **Tim Burton (USA)**

In its time, *Dark Shadows* (1966-71) was a huge breakthrough in daytime American TV. Long before the predominance of JK Rowling and Stephenie Meyer, here were ghosts, warlocks, vampires, zombies, witches and the like. Tim Burton seems an appropriate director to tweak this phenomenon for the big screen (on IMAX in some cases), with his old friend Depp playing Barnabas Collins, a two hundred-year-old vampire. And the cast is mouthwatering (and blood-letting).

### Jeff Who Lives At Home

CERT tbc  
Starring **Jason Segel, Ed Helms, Susan Sarandon, Judy Greer, Rae Dawn Chong** Directed by **Jay Duplass and Mark Duplass (USA)**

Like many thirty-year-olds these days, Jeff (Segel) still lives at home with his parents. However, his life is transformed when he teams up with his brother (Helms) to track down the latter's possibly adulterous wife.



Jeff Who Lives At Home

Released from Fri 11 May

### How I Spent My Summer Vacation

CERT 15 (96 mins)  
Starring **Mel Gibson, Peter Stormare, Dean Norris, Bob Gunton, Kevin Hernandez** Directed by **Adrian Grunberg (USA)**

Mel Gibson is fifty-six and still wreaking havoc. Here he plays a career criminal who ends up in a Mexican jail and is helped to survive by a nine-year-old boy. Gibson co-wrote the screenplay himself on a \$20million budget, a reflection of his diminishing stature at the box-office. Just fifteen years ago his salary alone was \$25million.



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Piranha 3DD

### Piranha 3DD CERT tbc

Starring **Danielle Panabaker, Matt Bush, David Koechner, Katrina Bowden, Christopher Lloyd, David Hasselhoff**  
Directed by **John Gulager (USA)**

Those pesky prehistoric predators just won't stay away. Following the \$83million take of Piranha 3D (a guilty pleasure, it has to be said), the scissor-teethed fish are now enjoying fresh waters in the plumbing and swimming pools of North Carolina. As this is scripted by the scribes of Saw 3D, don't go expecting a sequel to Free Willy.

### Beloved CERT tbc

Starring **Chiara Mastroianni, Catherine Deneuve, Ludivine Sagnier, Louis Garrel, Milos Forman, Paul Schneider**  
Directed by **Christophe Honoré (France/UK/Czech Republic)**

Madeleine and Véra, played by real-life mother-and-daughter Deneuve and Mastroianni, fall in and out of love with a variety of men over the course of forty-five years. During this time we encounter the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia, the spread of Aids and the events of 9/11, while popping in and out of Paris, Prague, London and Reims, accompanied by no end of lovers and husbands. Unfortunately, with such a broad canvas, it's hard to engage with the characters, particularly as they tend to break into song at any given moment. It's an audacious, ambitious endeavour, and has its share of wonderful moments, but the whole is unwieldy and in the process is often dull and unconvincing.



Beloved

### Released from Fri 18 May

### 2 Days In New York CERT 15 (96 mins)

Starring **Chris Rock, Julie Delpy, Vincent Gallo, Albert Delpy, Daniel Brühl, Dylan Baker, Kate Burton**  
Directed by **Julie Delpy (France/Germany/Belgium)**

The beautiful and talented Julie Delpy made a critical splash with her witty and insightful cross-cultural romance 2 Days In Paris (2007), which she wrote, produced, directed, edited, scored and starred in. She now crosses the Atlantic for the sequel, in which she is now coupled with Chris Rock, a black radio DJ. But just as she's about to mount an exhibition of her photographs, her family decides to visit - bringing an ex-boyfriend in tow. Expect pure joy.



2 Days In New York

### The Raid CERT tbc

Starring **Iko Uwais, Joe Taslim, Doni Alamsyah, Yayan Ruhian, Pierre Gruno, Ray Sahetapy**  
Directed by **Gareth Evans (Indonesia)**

A huge hit at last year's Toronto Film Festival, this is, by all accounts, an action movie with a phenomenal punch. New martial arts 'sensation' Iko Uwais leads an elite SWAT team against an impenetrable safe house in the heart of Jakarta's slum district. Shots will be fired.



The Raid

### Released from Fri 25 May

### What To Expect When You're Expecting CERT tbc

Starring **Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez, Elizabeth Banks, Anna Kendrick, Dennis Quaid, Chris Rock** Directed by **Kirk Jones (USA)**

This is interesting. The book, a guide to pregnancy, was a runaway success on The New York Times Best Seller list. The film introduces a number of narrative strands and has a cast nobody was expecting. There's even Cheryl Cole in a cameo. It could be wonderful... or not.



What To Expect When You're Expecting

### Moonrise Kingdom CERT tbc

Starring **Bruce Willis, Edward Norton, Bill Murray, Frances McDormand, Tilda Swinton, Jason Schwartzman, Bob Balaban, Harvey Keitel** Directed by **Wes Anderson (USA)**

Director Wes Anderson is an acquired taste and his films are pretty hit-and-miss. Rushmore and The Royal Tennenbaums were wonderful; The Life Aquatic and The Darjeeling Limited less so. Moonrise Kingdom is the story of a search party convened to find a pair of young lovers who have eloped in 1960s' New England. Bruce Willis is the sheriff on the case.



Moonrise Kingdom

### Now Is Good CERT tbc

Starring **Dakota Fanning, Jeremy Irvine, Paddy Considine, Olivia Williams, Kaya Scodelario** Directed by **OI Parker (UK)**

When you don't have long to live you have to make the most of each day. Seventeen-year-old Tessa Scott (Fanning) draws up a bucket list of things she hopes to achieve, although falling for Adam (Irvine, from War Horse) wasn't one of them. Adapted from the 2007 novel Before I Die by Jenny Downham.



Now Is Good

# Film A-Z LISTINGS

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

**2 Days In New York 15**  
See Preview Page 49

**A Dangerous Method 15**  
Michael Fassbender and Keira Knightley star in David Cronenberg's drama that's based on the turbulent relationship between Carl Jung and Sigmund Freud. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 4 - Mon 7 May; OMH, Shrewsbury Fri 11 - Thurs 17 May; Warwick Arts Centre, Fri 25 - Sun 27 May*

**A Separation PG**  
Award-winning Iranian film that paints a portrait of domestic breakdown. *Showing at Wern Town Hall, North Shropshire, Thurs 10 May*

**All In Good Time 12a**  
Funny, tender-hearted portrait of family strife from East Is East writer Ayub Khan-Din. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 25 - Thurs 31 May*

**Albert Nobbs 15**  
Glenn Close stars as a woman who, in order to scrape together a living in nineteenth century Ireland, poses as a male waiter. Based on the short story by Irish novelist George Moore. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 May; Warwick Arts Centre, Fri 18 - Thurs 24 May*

**Altered States 18**  
William Hurt stars in Ken Russell's only foray into science fiction - a film that's adapted from Paddy Chayefsky's novel. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 28 May*

**American Reunion 15**  
See Preview Page 46

**Angel & Tony 15**  
See Preview Page 47

**The Artist PG**  
Multi-Oscar-winning romantic drama that pays homage to Hollywood's golden age. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 May; Warwick Arts Centre, Tue 8 - Thurs 10 May; The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 28 May*

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**Avengers Assemble 12a**  
Robert Downey Jr, Samuel L Jackson and Chris Hemsworth come together in an ultimate gathering of the superheroes. *Showing at Electric Theatre, Birmingham, until Thurs 11 May*

**Babycall 15**  
Norwegian thriller starring The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo star Noomi Rapace. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent*

**Beauty and The Beast 3D U**  
See Preview Page 46

**Bel Ami 15**  
Robert Pattinson, Christina Ricci, Uma Thurman and Kristin Scott Thomas star in a costume drama that's based on the 1885 French novel by Guy de Maupassant. *Showing at Artrix, Birmingham, Tues 8 - Fri 11 May; OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 25 - Thurs 31 May*

**Beloved tbc**  
See Preview Page 49

**The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel 12a**  
Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Penelope Wilton & Celia Imrie star as a group of retired Brits who descend on a hotel in Udaipur, only to find that it's not at all as they'd been led to believe. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 4 - Sat 5 May; OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 11 - Thurs 17 May; Wern Town Hall, North Shropshire, Thurs 31 May*

**Bombay Beach 15**  
Drama documentary from filmmaker Alma Har'El that's set in one of the poorest communities in southern California and is punctuated with surreal moments that see the characters spontaneously break into choreographed routines. *Showing at Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 12 May*

**Bonsai 15**  
Melancholic Chilean black comedy about the frictions with which we surround ourselves. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 29 May*

**Breathing 15**  
Karl Markovics' directorial debut that portrays a stark, naturalistic tale of a nineteen-year-old in limbo. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 May*

**Cafe De Flore tbc**  
French love story about people separated by time and place but connected in profound and mysterious ways. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 18 - Thurs 24 May*

**Carancho 15**  
Hard-hitting drama set in Argentina, where love flourishes in the heart of darkness. *Showing at The Royal, Leamington Spa, Fri 4 - Thurs 11 May*

**Coriolanus 15**  
Ralph Fiennes' contemporary adaptation of Shakespeare's play of political power and

intrigue. Gerard Butler stars. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 1 May*

**Dark Shadows 12a**  
See Preview Page 47

**Decoy Bride 12a**  
Romantic comedy starring David Tennant, Alice Eve, Kelly Macdonald and Dylan Moran. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 10 May*

**Delicacy 18**  
Audrey Tautou stars as a woman learning to love again after the death of her husband. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 May*

**The Devils 18**  
Oliver Reed & Vanessa Redgrave star in Ken Russell's acclaimed historical drama. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 14 May*

**The Dictator tbc**  
See Preview Page 45

**The FP 15**  
Comedy directed by Brandon and Jason Trost that concerns two rival gangs fighting for control of Frazier Park - a deadly arena in a competitive dance-fight video game. *Showing at Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 5 May*

**The Garden Of The Finzi-Contini 12**  
Award-winning drama set in 1930s Italy that tracks the loss of an idyllic way of life for an aristocratic Jewish family, the Finzi Contini. *Showing at Birmingham Library Theatre, Thurs 17 May*

**The General U**  
Buster Keaton, Marion Mack & Glen Cavender star in what's considered to be one of the funniest films ever made. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 26 May*

**The Gospel Of Us U**  
Last Easter's live Passion Play in Port Talbot starring Michael Sheen is screened for audiences across the UK. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Wed 2 May*

**Headhunters 15**  
Norwegian drama that's based on the novel by acclaimed thriller writer Jo Nesbo. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Tues 1 - Thurs 3 May; The Royal, Leamington Spa, until Thurs 3 May; Warwick Arts Centre, until Thurs 3 May*

**How I Spent My Summer Vacation 15**  
See Preview Page 47

**Hunky Dory 15**  
Minnie Driver here adopts a Welsh accent, starring as an idealistic Swansea secondary school teacher attempting to mount a musical version of The Tempest. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Tues 22 - Thurs 24 May*

**The Hunger Games 12a**  
Highly anticipated adaptation of Suzanne Collins' popular novel of the same name. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 11 - Sat 12 May*

**In Darkness 15**  
A dramatisation of one man's rescue of Jewish refugees in the Nazi-occupied Polish city of Lvov - a film nominated at the Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 8 May; The Royal, Leamington Spa, Fri 11 - Thurs 17 May; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Sun 27 - Thurs 31 May; OMH, Shrewsbury, Mon 28 - Thurs 31 May*

**Into The Abyss U**  
Werner Herzog's unsentimental documentary that follows Michael Perry and Jason Burkett, sentenced to death and life imprisonment respectively, after a botched robbery attempt. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 24 May*

**The Iron Lady 12a**  
Meryl Streep stars as Margaret Thatcher in Abi Morgan's compelling story that paints an intimate portrait of Britain's first-ever female Prime Minister. *Showing*

*at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Mon 14 May*

**Jeff Who Lives At Home tbc**  
See Preview Page 47

**Killing Kasztner E**  
Biographical documentary that centres on Israel Kasztner, a Hungarian Jew who negotiated with Adolf Eichmann for the lives of thousands during the Holocaust. *Showing at Birmingham Library Theatre, Thurs 17 May*

**La Fille Mal Gardée PG**  
Music On Screen present Frederick Ashton's sunny story of young love, regarded as one of the most delightful and popular works in the Royal Ballet repertoire. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Wed 16 May*

**La Grande Illusion U**  
A new digital transfer celebrating the 75th anniversary of Jean Renoir's sublime pacifist masterpiece, starring Jean Gabin and Erich Von Stroheim. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 1 May*

**Lang Lang PG**  
Live concert from acclaimed Chinese pianist Lang Lang, filmed at London's legendary Roundhouse. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Sun 13 May*

**Les Adoptes 15**  
Mélodie Laurent's debut French drama about redefining relationships. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Thurs 3 May*

**Lisztomania 18**  
Ken Russell's 1975 fantastical comedy that sees Who frontman Roger Daltry star as composer Franz Liszt, while Paul Nicholas stars as his competitive friend Richard Wagner. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 21 May*

**Liverpool 12**  
Subtitled Spanish film that concerns a merchant sailor who returns to his

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home town of Tierra del Fuego after spending most of his life at sea. *Showing at Birmingham Library Theatre, Tues 1 May*

**The Lucky One 12a**  
See Preview Page 46

**Marley 15**  
Definitive life story of the musician, revolutionary and legend, from his early days to his rise to international superstardom. *Showing at Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 May; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 11 - Thurs 17 May; Warwick Arts Centre, Mon 28 - Thurs 31 May*

**Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake 3D PG**  
Screening of Matthew Bourne's modern day interpretation which has become the longest running ballet in the West End and on Broadway. *Showing at The OMH, Shrewsbury, Sun 20 May*

**Men In Black III tbc**  
See Preview Page 45

**Michael 18**  
Markus Schleinzer's eerily compelling story that follows the final months of a sinister controlling relationship. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 15 May*

**Midnight In Paris 12a**  
Woody Allen sitcom that sees Owen Wilson cutting it up with Carla Bruni on the boulevards of the City of Lights. *Showing at Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Thurs 17 May*

**Moonrise Kingdom tbc**  
See Preview Page 49

**My Week With Marilyn 15**  
Michelle Williams stars as Marilyn Monroe in an acclaimed drama that follows the sex symbol's sojourn to Britain to film *The Prince And The Showgirl* opposite Laurence Olivier. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, Mon 21 May*

**Now Is Good tbc**  
See Preview Page 49

**Once Upon A Time In Anatolia 15**  
Acclaimed crime drama that's based on the real-life experiences of one of its writers. *Showing at The Royal, Leamington Spa, Fri 18 - Sun 20 May; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 18 - Tues 22 May*

**Piggy 18**  
See Preview Page 47

**Pina 3D 15**  
Wim Wenders documentary that pays hom-

age to choreographer Pina Bausch. *Showing at Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Tues 1 May*

**Piranha 3DD tbc**  
See Preview Page 49

**The Portuguese Nun 15**  
French drama concerning a young actress on a film shoot who becomes obsessed with a nun she sees kneeling in the chapel where she's filming. *Showing at Birmingham Library Theatre, Tues 1 May*

**Position Among The Stars E**  
Leonard Retel Helmrich's award-winning film that explores issues of globalisation and rising Islamic fundamentalism, and their implications on one working-class Indonesian family. *Showing at Birmingham Library Theatre, Tues 8 May*

**The Raid tbc**  
See Preview Page 49

**Rampart 15**  
A taut modern-day thriller written by James Ellroy, centred on a career best performance from Woody Harrelson. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 18 - Sat 19 May*

**The Raven 15**  
Thriller that sees John Cusack star as American poet Edgar Allan Poe. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 3 May*

**Salmon Fishing In The Yemen**  
Romantic drama starring Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Fri 11 - Sun 20 May; Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 25 - Sat 26 May; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 27 May*

**Shame 18**  
Steve McQueen's compelling and timely examination of the nature of need, how we live our lives, and the experiences that shape us. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 4 - Mon 7 May*

**Silent House 15**  
See Preview Page 47

**This Is Not A Film u**  
A compelling self-portrait made by Iranian director Jafar Panahi while under house arrest in his apartment. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 22 May*

**This Must Be The Place 15**  
Comedy drama that

sees Sean Penn star as a bored, retired rock star who sets out to find his father's executioner, an ex-Nazi war criminal who is a refugee in the US. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 11 - Sun 13 May; Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 17 May*

**Trishna 15**  
Michael Winterbottom directs Freida Pinto and Riz Ahmed in a contemporary working of Thomas Hardy's 1891 novel *Tess Of The D'Urbervilles*. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Thurs 3 May; OMH, Shrewsbury, Tues 8 - Thurs 10 May*

**Tyrannosaur 18**  
A debut feature from award-winning actor Paddy Considine that follows the story of two lonely damaged people brought together by circumstances. *Showing at Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Thurs 24 May*

**We Bought A Zoo 15**  
Matt Damon stars as a young father who moves his family to the countryside in Southern California to renovate and re-open a struggling zoo. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 18 - Wed 23 May*

**What To Expect When You're Expecting tbc**  
See Preview Page 49

**Wings Of Desire 15**  
Wim Wenders fantastical romantic drama that concerns an angel who tires of overseeing human activity and falls in love with a mortal. *Showing at Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 13 May*

**The Woman In Black 12a**  
Acclaimed thriller that sees Daniel Radcliffe star as a young lawyer who travels to a remote village to settle the affairs of the recently deceased Alice Drablow. *Showing at Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Thurs 3 May*

**The Woman In The Fifth 15**  
Ethan Hawke, Kristin Scott Thomas & Joanna Kulig star in Pawel Pawlikowski's thriller. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 18 - Mon 21 May*

**Wrong Rosary (Uzak Intimal) 12**  
Turkish drama that follows a devout Muslim and his desires to meet his neighbour's shy, catholic nurse. *Showing at Birmingham Library Theatre, Tues 8 May*

## DVD NEW RELEASES

**War Horse PG**  
Emily Watson, Jeremy Irvine, Peter Mullan & Benedict Cumberbatch star in Steven Spielberg's blockbuster tale of loyalty, hope & tenacity, set during the First World War. **Released 7 May**



**Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows 12**  
Robert Downey Jnr and Jude Law return to face their most formidable foe, criminal mastermind Professor James Moriarty. **Released 14 May**



**Underworld Awakening 18**  
Fantasy thriller starring Kate Beckinsale as the vampire warrior Selene.

Charles Dance co-stars. **Released 14 May**

**Shame 18**  
Steve McQueen's compelling and timely examination of the nature of need, how we live our lives, and the experiences that shape us. **Released 14 May**

**The Sitter 15**  
Comedy starring Jonah Hill as a layabout student harassed into babysitting his neighbours kids. **Released 14 May**



**Haywire 15**  
Fast-paced action thriller starring Channing Tatum and Michael Fassbender. **Released 21 May**

**The Darkest Hour 12**  
Sci-fi disaster thriller set in a future where invisible alien invaders have seized control of the world's major cities. **Released 21 May**



**The Artist PG**  
Multi-Oscar-winning romantic drama that pays homage to Hollywood's golden age. **Released 28 May**

**The Grey 12**  
Liam Neeson and Dermot Mulroney star in Joe Carnahan's survival drama, based on the short ghost story by Ian Mackenzie Jeffers. **Released 21 May**



**The Descendants 15**  
George Clooney stars in Alexander Payne's acclaimed drama that blends comedy and tragedy while exploring a father's journey to re-examine his past and embrace his future. **Released 21 May**

**Chronicle 12**  
Teen sci-fi thriller filmed in hand-held documentary style. **Released 28 May**

**Martha Macy May Marlene 15**  
Elizabeth Olsen stars in a psychological thriller about a young woman who struggles to re-connect with her family and her life after escaping from the confines of a cult-like farming community. **Released 28 May**

**Journey 2: The Mysterious Island PG**  
Action adventure sequel to *Journey To The Centre Of The Earth* (2008). Josh Hutcherson, Dwayne Johnson star. **Released 28 May**



## Exhibitions

### Transmitter/Receiver:

The Persistence of Collage  
An Arts Council touring exhibition  
4 May – 30 June 2012

### Eric Bainbridge:

Collage  
4 May – 21 July 2012

### Blue skies, nothing but blue skies.....

Until 12 May 2012

## Artists' Studio

### Group Occupation:

Artist Residencies  
8 May - 2 June 2012

### Open Studio event and artists' talk:

Saturday 5 May, 2-4pm. Free – all welcome

## Garman Ryan Collection and Exhibitions

### Garman Ryan Collection

on display all year round

### Epstein's Rima:

'A Travesty of Nature'  
Until 2 June 2012

### Make Room2

Interventions into the Garman Ryan Collection  
Until 22 September 2012

## Free Regular Family Events

### Baby Palace

Friday 25 May,  
Sessions 10.30-11.30am, 12-1pm, 2-3pm

### Art Start

Wednesday 30 May, 11am-12noon  
Sessions for pre school children 1 year old upwards with their carer.

## Events

### Young People's Days :

Collage Party  
Saturday 12 May, 11am-4pm

### Free Adult Workshops:

Learn to Knit Day  
Saturday 12 May, 1-4pm  
Try your hand at knitting during adult learners week

For a full list of exhibitions and events  
[thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk](http://thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk)

The New Art Gallery Walsall, Gallery Square,  
Walsall WS2 8LG | 01922 654400



Walsall Council



The New Art Gallery Walsall

# museums

## in dudley exhibitions & events 2012

## Broadfield House Glass Museum

Compton Drive, Kingswinford, DY6 9NS Tel: 01384 812745

### BEADS DAY

Saturday 12 May,  
10am - 4pm

A wide range of beads and jewellery for sale, plus beadmaking demonstrations. FREE



### BLOOD AND BONES

Until 5 August

Solo exhibition by Patricia Niemann. Glass, jewellery, textiles and drawings inspired by the human body, funeral archaeology and the wild landscapes of Scotland.



### TAKE A LOOK AROUND OUR GIFT SHOP

Looking for beautiful and unusual gifts? The museum's gift shop is now stocking new ranges of handmade glass gifts and jewellery as well as cards and books.

## Red House Glass Cone

High Street, Wordsley, DY8 4AZ Tel: 01384 812750

### SPRING CRAFT MARKET

Sat 12 & Sun 13 May,  
11am - 4pm

Handcrafted goods, children's craft activities, glass making demonstrations and open studios.



### HAVE A GO DAY

Sun 13 May, 11am - 4pm

Drop by and join in a craft with one of the made@the cone collective including glass bead making, fused glass, pottery wheel, jewellery making, glass engraving and woodturning. All sessions £5



### 35 YEARS OF THE STOURBRIDGE EMBROIDERS' GUILD

Until 27 May

A showcase of all aspects of hand and machine embroidery including crewel work, needlepoint, cross stitch, textile art and mixed media.

We also offer a great programme of activities for adults at Broadfield House Glass Museum and Red House Glass Cone, including craft classes, tea and talk sessions and kiln fused glass workshops. For more information please call 01384 815571 or visit the website.

### ADMISSION FREE

For more information about the museums visit  
[www.dudley.gov.uk/museums](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/museums)

Dudley  
Metropolitan Borough Council



# Visual Arts

## From Highfield Road To Wembley Way

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Sun 1 July

Artist Duncan Whitely's representation of a players' tunnel - complete with realistic sound effects - provides the entry point for an exhibition



that celebrates Coventry City's 1987 FA Cup win. Once inside, an array of photographs, films and memorabilia - provided by both fans and players - guides visitors through a brief history of the club, while recently commissioned photographic portraits of the '87 FA Cup-winning team illustrate how much football has changed in the last twenty-five years.

## Royalty On The Road

Coventry Transport Museum, until Sun 10 June

As the nation makes plans to celebrate HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the region's premier transport museum marks the occasion with an exhibition of motor vehicles which have been used by British monarchy past and present.

Royalty On The Road sees the Austin Metro given to Diana Spencer by Prince Charles featured alongside spectacular Daimler limousines used by various monarchs. A series of themed activities accompanies the exhibition, including a Crown Jewels Activity Trail over the Whitsun holiday.



## New Art For A New Age: Optimism In Post-War British Abstraction

Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, Thurs 3 May - Sun 1 July

Curated by ten local History of Art finalists from the University of Warwick, New Art For A New Age comprises nineteen works in a variety of mediums that depict how certain artists in the 1960s brought a new, optimistic theme to art. Featured artists include David Annesley, Bernard Cohen, Robyn Denny, Barry Flanagan, Terry Frost, Barbara Hepworth, Patrick Heron, John Hoyland, Sarah Kent, Jeremy Moon, Eduardo Paolozzi, Bridget Riley, Peter Sedgley and Bryan Wynter.



## Antony Donaldson: Take Five

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 5 May - Sat 3 November

Celebrated for his paintings of brightly coloured racing cars and his portrayal of the female form as a sexually confident being, artist Antony Donaldson's work has been included in all international overview exhibitions about Pop Art, as well as in all publications on the movement. This exhibition, developed in partnership with The Mayor Gallery, London, is Donaldson's first solo exhibition in a UK art gallery, and features early works from the 1960s and '70s alongside a selection of recent paintings produced in France.



## Good Sport

The New Art Gallery, Walsall, Fri 18 May - Sat 1 September

Paintings, photographs, memorabilia and installations are here brought together in a display that celebrates the passion and sense of community often associated with sport. Designed to coincide with London 2012 and the Paralympic Games, Good Sport features football, pigeon racing, wrestling, boxing and plenty more besides. Works by May Cornet, Leo Fitzmaurice, Neville Gabie, Darryl Georgiou, Ming de Nasty, Andrew Tift and Mo Wilson all feature.



# THE ROSES

Live Film Take Part Contribute Exhibitions Festivals

## The artdepot in 2012

An exhibition of textiles, glasswork, ceramics, metal work, printmaking, painting and sculpture.

Saturday 28 April - Sunday 10 June

The Roses Bar

Open during theatre opening hours



Box Office: 01684 295074

[www.rosestheatre.org](http://www.rosestheatre.org)

Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Glos, GL20 5NX



## Bedwyr Williams *My Bad* 16 May – 8 July 2012

Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS  
Open Tuesday – Sunday, 11am–6pm, free entry  
0121 248 0708 / [www.ikon-gallery.co.uk](http://www.ikon-gallery.co.uk)

Ikon is supported by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. Exhibition is organised in collaboration with Clynn Vivian Art Gallery in partnership with Mission Gallery, and supported by the Henry Moore Foundation, the Arts Council of Wales and Arney working in partnership with Birmingham City Council. Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered charity no. 538892.

**IKON**

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

## RELIVE THE GOLDEN YEARS

6 APRIL - 1 JULY 2012



**FROM HIGHFIELD ROAD  
TO WEMBLEY WAY**

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Coventry City's FA Cup win**

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Admission FREE

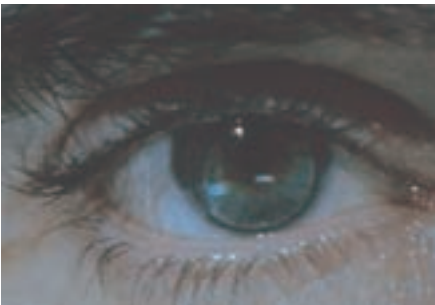


## Ongoing exhibitions

### Maestros

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,  
Tues 1 May - Sat 23 June

Featuring two moving-image installations by Turner Prize-winner Douglas Gordon, *Maestros* provides portraits of two diverse but equally impressive artists and their art forms. In *Feature Film* (1999), conductor James Conlon is the subject, and is seen conducting the Paris Opera Orchestra in a performance of Bernard Herrmann's famous score for Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo*. Meanwhile, Zinedine Zidane provides the focus for *Zidane* (2006), a multi-screen installation that uses a number of monitors to display real-time footage of the French footballer playing in a match between Real Madrid and Villareal.



### Bedwyr Williams: My Bad

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,  
Wed 16 May - Sun 8 July

Using a variety of media, conceptual artist Bedwyr Williams is recognised for drawing on his own personal life experience of growing up as part of a North Wales farming community to produce work that reflects on rural life, loss, memory, and the folly of ambition. However, *My Bad* sees Williams move away from his previous obsession with Wales, and instead presents a series of newly commissioned installations and sculptural pieces that use the artist's wry humour to depict scenes of negativity and disaster.

### The Artdepot In 2012

The Roses, Tewksbury, until Sun 10 June

Comprising a group of not-for-profit artists based in and around Tewksbury, artdepot this month celebrates its relaunch with a group exhibition. Featuring a variety of media - textiles, glasswork, ceramics, metalwork, printmaking, painting and sculpture - this latest exhibition marks an exciting new relationship between the group and The Roses theatre.



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

#### CHANGING TIMES

Machines and gadgets that have been used through the ages to write, send messages, play music and make recordings are the subject of this intriguing and educational permanent exhibition, Thinktank, Birmingham

**16 COWRIES - ERINDIN-LOGUN** Showcase of work from the award-winning Nigerian artist Taiwo Abiodun Adediran that features sixteen vibrantly painted batik textiles, until Sat 5 May, The Drum, Birmingham

**ALISTAIR COWIN - READ MY LIPS** A collection of expressive lips captured by renowned fashion & beauty photographer Alistair Cowin, created and designed by the make-up artists from NEW College, until Sun 6 May, Artrix, Bromsgrove

#### TIME GENTLEMEN

**PLEASE** An exhibition about the history of Wolverhampton's Public Houses, until Sun 6 May, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

**IF WARDS COULD TALK** A people's history display that features the stories of former patients, current and retired nurses, doctors and support workers, until Mon 7 May, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

#### ITALIAN CONNECTION

**EXHIBITION** An exhibition of paintings, sculpture, prints and glass work by renowned British and international artists, all inspired and influenced by Italy and Italian Art, until Mon 7 May, The Willow Gallery, Oswestry, North Shropshire

#### PICTURING THE POTTER-

**IES** An evocative exhibition that explores how artists and photographers have created striking images of the local area, until Mon 7 May, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

#### ANTHEA SIDWELL EXHIBITION

A display of nudes, landscapes, animals and still life in a wide variety of media, until Fri 11 May, Ludlow Assembly Room, Ludlow, South Shropshire

#### BLUE SKIES, NOTHING BUT BLUE SKIES...

This exhibition, drawn from Walsall's Collections, brings together artists who literally look to the skies! Working in a wide range of media, and with different perspectives and priorities in mind, each of them share a concern with the power of the sky and its ability to add drama and expression to their work, until Sat 12 May, New Art Gallery, Walsall

#### REGGIE'S ROLLER

**PALACE** This fun exhibition is the latest creation from Olivia Brown, the highly talented artist best known for her unique sculptures of dogs and animals, until Sun 13 May, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

#### THE ROYAL PHOTO-

**GRAPHIC SOCIETY 154TH EXHIBITION** A selection of contemporary photographs from the society's 2011 exhibition, shown in collaboration with the University of Wolverhampton's School of Art & Design, until Sat 19 May, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

#### WILL ALSOP - A BOX OF DELIGHTS

The Stirling Prize-winning architect creates an environment designed to

make us think about architecture and how it makes us feel, until Sun 20 May, The Public, West Bromwich

#### JOHN WOOD AND PAUL

**HARRISON** A series of twenty-six short films that explore rhythm and synergy within different surroundings, until Sun 20 May, The Public, West Bromwich

#### ANDY DAY: PARKOUR

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Just one in a series of six exhibitions being shown at The Public under the umbrella title of The Art Of Architecture, until Sun 20 May, The Public, West Bromwich

#### FRANK COHEN COLLEC-

**TION** Exhibition of contemporary artworks themed around the built environment and space. Works from Graham Little and Miranda Donovan feature, until Sun 20 May, The Public, West Bromwich

#### HEATHER AND IVAN

**MORRISON** Exhibition of two large kite sculptures, until Sun 20 May, The Public, West Bromwich

#### EPSTEIN'S RIMA: 'A

**TRAVESTY OF NATURE'** Featuring a selection of Jacob Epstein's preparatory drawings for the WH Hudson Memorial, this exhibition provides a rare opportunity to explore the artist's creative imagination and question the controversy that surrounded much of his work, until Sat 2 June, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

#### TOM PRICE EXHIBITION

Major solo exhibition of animated works by the London-based sculptor who has a special interest in the minutiae of body language and facial expression, until Sun 3 June, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

#### CONTEMPORARY COL-

**LECTION** An insight into the artworks that feature in Wolverhampton's contemporary collections, until Sat 9 June, Wolverhampton Art

#### Gallery

**JOURNEY OF THE DRUM** Exhibition curated by young people that visually represents the use of the drum in Diasporic communities and the tradition and ritual that surrounds the instrument in West African communities, until Sat 9 Jun, The Drum, Birmingham

#### INTO THE LIGHT: FRENCH & BRITISH PAINTING FROM IMPRESSIONISM TO THE EARLY 1920S

Fifty-four paintings and drawings from some of the UK's major galleries are brought together in an exhibition that illustrates trends in painting practice at the beginning of the last century, until Sun 10 June, Compton Verney Gallery, Warwickshire

#### CHILDREN'S LIVES A

new project that focuses on children's experiences from the eighteenth century to the present day, until Sun 10 June, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

#### GAINSBOROUGH'S LAND-

**SCAPES: THEMES & VARIATIONS** This, the first exhibition solely devoted to the landscapes of Thomas Gainsborough, brings together paintings and drawings from both public and private collections that span the artist's career, until Sun 10 June, Compton Verney Gallery, Warwickshire

#### PLANES IN FRAMES An

exhibition by local artists who belong to the National Society of Aviation Painters, until Sat 16 June, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

#### THE DRAMA QUEENS

Exhibition featuring costumes worn by some of the cast in the acclaimed period drama *Downton Abbey*, until Sun 17 June, Himley Hall, Dudley

#### PUGIN, DURER AND THE

**GOthic** Display that showcases eight prints and a single drawing by the well-known Renaissance artist

## Museums & Art Galleries

### Birmingham

ARTIFEX Sutton Coldfield  
0121 323 3776

BARBER INSTITUTE  
0121 414 7333

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM &  
ART GALLERY 0121 303  
2834

THE BURROWS GALLERY,  
THE CUSTARD FACTORY  
0121 224 7344

CASTLE GALLERIES  
0121 633 0015

IKON GALLERY  
0121 248 0708

### NUMBER NINE THE GALLERY

0121 643 9099

RBSA GALLERY 0121236  
4353

THREE WHITE WALLS  
GALLERY  
0121 643 0078

### 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 CO  
01384 812750

WOLVERHAMPTON ART  
GALLERY 01902 552055

STAFFORDSHIRE MUSEUM,  
SHUGBOROUGH  
01889 881388

WARWICKSHIRE

COMPTON VERNEY GALLERY  
01926 645500

HERBERT ART GALLERY  
COVENTRY 02476 832386

MEAD GALLERY WARWICK  
02476 524524

ROYAL PUMP ROOMS  
01926 742700

WORCESTERSHIRE

WORCESTER CITY ART  
GALLERY 01905 25371

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

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# Galleries Night

Wednesday  
30 May  
5 – 9pm



Five of Birmingham's top art galleries  
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- Enjoy the FREE Art Bus between venues.
- Free guided tours and refreshments at each venue.
- Gift items available from selected venues.

Downloadable timetable and what's on information  
for each gallery:

[www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk), [www.ikon-gallery.co.uk](http://www.ikon-gallery.co.uk)  
[www.macarts.co.uk](http://www.macarts.co.uk), [www.rbsa.org.uk](http://www.rbsa.org.uk)  
[www.eastsideprojects.org](http://www.eastsideprojects.org)



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E: [shirehallgallery@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:shirehallgallery@staffordshire.gov.uk)

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/has](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/has)

**Open:** Monday - Saturday 9.30 - 5.00

Tuesday 10.00 - 5.00 Sunday 1.00 - 4.00

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Albrecht Durer, together with two stained-glass designs by 16th century German artists, Hans Holbein and Abel Stimmer, until Thurs 21 June, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**THE AGE OF LEONARDO** A special collection display that features ten works from some of the greatest 16th century Italian print-makers, until Thurs 21 June, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**LEATHER** Exhibition that celebrates Worcester's history in the British glove-making industry, until Sat 23 June, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

**FROM HIGHFIELD ROAD TO WEMBLEY...** Collection of photography, film and memorabilia that celebrates one of the most memorable FA Cup Finals (1987), until Sun 1 Jul, Herbert Art Gallery Museum, Coventry

**GARY HUME: FLASHBACK** Exhibition by one of Britain's most celebrated contemporary artists, until Sat 7 July, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**ROYAL JOURNEYS** An exhibition that brings together stories of royal obsessions, escapes, command-

ments and freedoms, told through historic paintings and a contemporary artwork by acclaimed artist Uriel Orlow, until Sat 14 July, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

**WONDERFUL WATER-COLOURS: VIEWS OF COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE** Showcase of some of the gallery's watercolour collection - including works by Paul Sandby, David Cox & Thomas Girtin, until Sun 22 July, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**BLOOD AND BONES** Solo exhibition by Patricia Niemann that features work in precious metals, glass, textiles and drawings, all of which are inspired by the human body, archaeology and wild landscapes, until Sun 5 Aug, Broadfield House, Dudley

**CRAFTSENSE** Exhibition that celebrates the links between eighteenth century industry and modern craft practices, until Sat 1 Sep, Bilston Craft Gallery

**STYLE AFRICA** Exhibition that explores the changing traditions of woven, embroidered, printed and dyed clothing and textiles, from the early 20th century through to 2011, until

Sun 2 Apr, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**OUR SPORTING LIFE: THE SCIENCE OF SPORT EXHIBITION** Exhibition that focuses on the relationship between science & sport, in particular how technological advancements have shaped achievements and performance in the elite sporting world, until Sun 9 Sept, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**LIVING WALLS** New exhibition commissioned for the World Shakespeare Festival, until Sun 9 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**ALLOTMENT** An innovative programme that sees mac's Arena Gallery divided into plots and tended by independent curators and artists, until Sun 9 Sep, mac, Birmingham

**CORE - A DIGITAL ART INSTALLATION** Kurt Hentschlag's installation that provides an insight into a weightless world of virtual aquariums, until Sun 30 Sep, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**CITYSCAPES** An exhibition of the world in miniature featuring items from the most circulated art medium - coins and medals, until

Sun 6 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**CELEBRATION** A display of costumes in the Servants' Quarters Costume Gallery, until Sun 28 Oct, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

**MUSCLES, BALLS & BOWLS** Exhibition that explores the history of sport in Shakespeare's time, until Sun 4 Nov, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE DIG!** Exhibition showcasing archaeological finds uncovered so far, until Mon 31 Dec, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE STORIES OF SHAKESPEARE** Joint exhibition from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre & the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, until Mon 31 Dec, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**PENELOPE TIMMIS EXHIBITION** Penny uses a variety of materials such as pastels, watercolours and acrylic to create her mixed-media pieces which depict scenes of landscapes, animals and still life, Tues 1 - Wed 30 May, The Granary, Weston Park, Staffordshire

**REWORKED** An exploration of the photographic medium, Wed 2 - Thurs 10 May, The Works Gallery, Digbeth, Birmingham

**ERIC BAINBRIDGE: COLLAGES** Exhibition that consists of more than forty small-scale collages realised from images culled and cut from fashion magazines, Fri 4 May - Sat 21 July, New Art Gallery, Walsall

**I WANT MORE LIFE EXHIBITION** A showcase of paintings by Horace Panter - best known for being the bass-player with Coventry ska band The Specials, Sat 5 May - Tues 26 June, Talisman Theatre, Kennilworth

**KATE SPENCE - TIME STOOD STILL IN THE SHADOWS** Exhibition of work that explores the notion of being able to stop time, Wed 9 May - Sun 10 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**A BEAUTIFUL CATASTROPHE** Magnum photographer Bruce Gilden celebrates his trademark style with abandon, capturing New York City street life from 1981 to 2001, Mon 14 May - Fri 13 July, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton

**YTO BARRADA: RIFFS** Photographs, films, publications, installations and sculptures all feature in this, the first UK solo exhibition by Moroccan artist Yto Barrada, Wed 16 May - Sun 8 July, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

**STAFFORDSHIRE OPEN ART** Sat 19 May - Sun 8 July, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

**FROM CAMERA TO CANVAS** Printed works on canvas, Sun 20 May - Sat 2 June, Bears Steps Gallery, Shrewsbury

**JUBILEE** A series of photographs of HRH The Queen taken by Patrick Lichfield, Fri 25 May - Sat 30 June, Shugborough Estate, Stafford

**DEAR SHAKESPEARE** New display that showcases a small but rare collection of letters written by famous authors, from Oscar Wilde to Bram Stoker, Fri 25 May - Mon 31 Dec, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

**BEING HUMAN** Documentary artwork by artist Jill Impey that's inspired by young people's responses to identity, Sat 26 May - Sat 23 June, W'hampton Art Gallery

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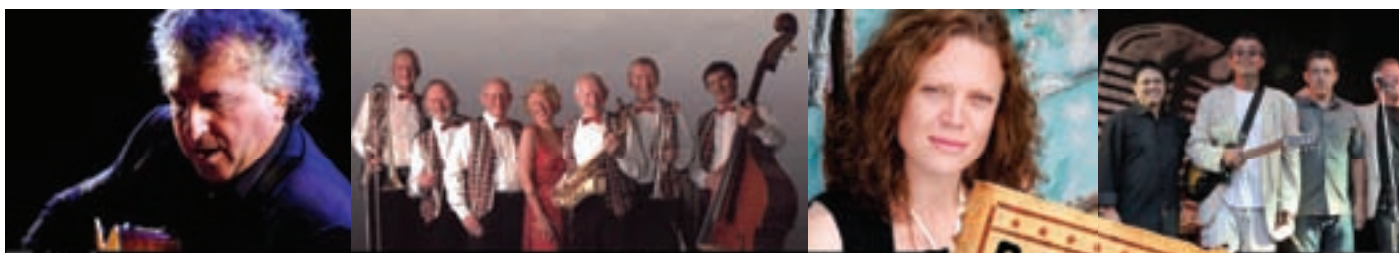
t: 0115 846 7155

e: [mayfest@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:mayfest@nottingham.ac.uk)

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/mayfest](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mayfest)

#mayfest





# Lichfield Real Ale, Jazz & Blues Festival

festival organised by:  
lichfield arts

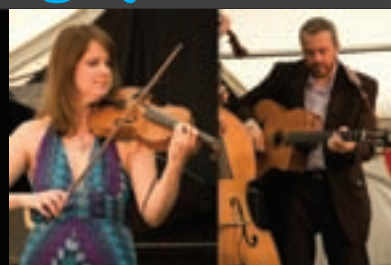
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**Full Festival Ticket + FREE Camping (Early Bird Discount before 1st May) £45/£41 concs/£37 members/£25 students. Full Festival Ticket + FREE Camping (after 1st May) £55/£51 concs/£47 members/£30 students.**

**Single day tickets available: £7-£20 / Camping £7 (per tent or caravan/per day)**

**Booking Office: 01543 262 223 lichfieldarts.org.uk**

Lichfield Rugby Club, Tamworth Road, Lichfield. WS14 9JE



# Festivals

## Hay Festival

Various locations within Hay-on-Wye, Powys,  
Thurs 31 May - Sun 10 June

Ten glorious days in early summer is a pretty apt way of describing the Hay Festival, famously founded around a kitchen table some twenty-five years ago. Since its modest beginnings, the event has grown spectacularly in size and stature, now attracting high-profile writers, filmmakers, comedians, politicians and musicians from across the globe - and 2012 is no exception. Little Britain star and children's author David Walliams makes his Hay debut to talk Scrabble, swimming and five hundred words on 31 May, while composer Simon Rattle, comedian Tim Minchin, Charlie And Lola author Lauren Child and Mayor of London Boris Johnson are just some of the many people booked to entertain at this year's event.



David Walliams

## Stafford Festival

Various locations in and around Stafford,  
Sat 5 - Sat 19 May

This well-established annual event includes the Party In The Park, puppet shows, fun rides, circus skills workshops and special guest appearances. There's also a Raw Talent Music Competition, the Mayor's Festival Parade and a Teddy Bears Picnic to enjoy.

## Off The Tracks Spring Festival

Donnington Park Farmhouse, Castle Donnington,  
Fri 25 - Sun 27 May

Taking place in and around a farmhouse courtyard, this popular family-friendly festival offers folk, roots, dance and fusion on two stages, acoustic sessions, and plenty of real ales and ciders to keep your whistle well and truly wet! Headliners for 2012 include English rock band Hawkwind, Wilko Johnson and Dub Pistols.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE...

## The Lunar Festival

Umberslade Estate, Tanworth in Arden,  
Warwickshire, Fri 1 - Mon 4 June

Set in the spiritual home of singer/songwriter Nick Drake, this brand new family-orientated festival offers an intimate weekend of entertainment in the beautiful setting of the Umberslade Estate. Featuring two stages of live music, film screenings, a mini-rave and on-site catering provided by Birmingham's Soul Food Project, the inaugural Lunar Festival is headlined by the extremely talented Benjamin Francis Leftwich, Scott Matthew and Fionn Regan.



Jamie Cullum

## Cheltenham Jazz Festival

Various locations in and around Cheltenham, Wed 2 - Mon 7 May

Every year, Cheltenham Jazz Festival brings together the cream of the UK jazz scene with a great selection of international artists. The diverse festival programme also features an annual education project, showcasing the best of Gloucestershire's school jazz bands, performing everything from soul to big band. Legendary singer/songwriter - and festival patron - Steve Winwood opens the 2012 festival with what's sure to be a memorable set of iconic hits, including Gimme Some Lovin', Can't Find My Way Home and I'm A Man. Steve joins a stellar line-up that sees the return of jazz superstar Jamie Cullum, as well as performances from Melody Gardot and The Puppini Sisters.

## Acoustic Festival Of Britain

Uttoxeter Racecourse,  
Staffordshire, Fri 25 - Sun 27 May

Unplugged and acoustic music covering the genres of live folk, rock, blues, guitar, country and bluegrass is the name of the game at this hugely popular annual event. Artists appearing at this year's festival include headliner Joan Armatrading, English performance poet John Cooper Clark, Quill, Glenn Tilbrook, Gordon Giltrap and The Animals. Legendary German guitarist Uli Jon Roth also makes a much-anticipated appearance, crossing the genres of heavy metal, neo-classical metal and psychedelic rock. Regarded as a very 'grown-up' event, the Acoustic Festival of Britain promises to cater for the needs of the mature festival-goer, with posh loos, a caravan site, camping space and an abundance of world-inspired food stalls all readily to hand.



Joan Armatrading



**MOSTLY JAZZ** proudly presents  
**Trad Jazz**  
 evening in the park  
**Moseley Park, Birmingham**

**Wednesday 27th June**

The  
**Big Chris Barber** Band.

**Acker Bilk**  
 & his Paramount Jazz Band

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*An intimate camping weekend of acoustic music set in the spiritual home of Nick Drake.*

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

**Lunar**  
 Festival

**TANWORTH IN ARDEN**  
 UMBERSLADE ESTATE, WARWICKSHIRE

**BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH**  
**FIONN REGAN**  
**SCOTT MATTHEWS**  
 THE OLD DANCE SCHOOL • HANNAH PEEL  
 JIM MORAY • MICHAEL CHAPMAN  
 ASHLEY HUTCHINGS & BLAIR DUNLOP  
 GOODNIGHT LENIN • RICHARD JAMES

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2<sup>nd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2012

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Stafford Gatehouse Theatre



# Festivals Listings

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

## MAY

**CHELTHENHAM JAZZ FESTIVAL** Highlights include Jamie Cullum, Candi Staton, The Puppini Sisters, Imelda May & Paloma Faith with the Guy Barker Orchestra, Wed 2 - Mon 7 May, Various locations in and around Cheltenham

**UPTON FOLK FESTIVAL** Highlights include John Prentice, Jill Dury, Jaywalkers, Ralph Jordan Trio, Will Hampson and many more, Fri 4 - Mon 7 May, Various locations in Upton-on-Severn, Worcestershire

**CLUN GREEN MAN FESTIVAL** Featuring The Roving Crows and The Swing Commanders, Fri 4 - Mon 7 May, Various locations throughout Clun, South Shropshire

**SHI\*FEST 2012** Featuring One O'Clock Horses, Love Fungus, No Americana, Jester, Black Shark & The Hole In The Head Gang, Sat 5 May, Hopton Court, Worcestershire

**STAFFORD FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS** Sat 5 - Sat 19 May, Various venues in and around Stafford

**LUDLOW SPRING FESTIVAL** Fri 11 - Sun 13 May, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**KENILWORTH FESTIVAL** Sat 12 - Sun 20 May, Various locations in and around Kenilworth, Warwickshire

**BEARDED THEORY** Highlights include the Levellers, The Damned & Dreadzone, Fri 18 - Sun 20 May, Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire

**THE ACOUSTIC FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN** Highlights include Joan Armatrading, Glenn Tilbrook, John Cooper Clarke, Katrina and The Waves & The Move, Fri 25 - Sun 27 May, Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire

**OFF THE TRACKS SPRING FESTIVAL** Highlights include Hawkwind, Wilko Johnson and Dub Pistols, Fri 25 - Sun 27 May, Donington Park Farmhouse, Castle Donnington

**BATH INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL** Highlights include Benjamin Grosvenor, Courtney Pine & Julie Fowlis, Wed 30 May - Sun 10 Jun, Bath

**HAY FESTIVAL** Featuring David Walliams, Simon

Rattle, Tim Minchin & Michael Morpurgo, Thurs 31 May - Sun 10 Jun, Hay-on-Wye, Powys

## JUNE

**GATE TO SOUTHWELL FOLK** Highlights include Jools Holland and his Rhythm & Blues Orchestra, Fri 1 - Mon 4 Jun, The Workhouse, Southwell, Nottingham

**CHESTER FOLK** Fri 1 - Mon 4 Jun, Kelsall Village, Chester

**SOLIHULL JAZZ** Debut festival with a line-up featuring Tipitina & Ricky Cool & The Hoola Boola Boys, Fri 1 - Mon 4 Jun, Solihull, Warwickshire

**OS FEST** Highlights include Razorlight, Dappy, Benjamin Francis Leftwich and Hard-Fi, Fri 1 - Mon 4 Jun, Oswestry Showground

**LUNAR** Highlights include Benjamin Francis Leftwich & Rory McLeod, Fri 1 - Mon 4 Jun, Umberslade Estate, Stratford-upon-Avon

**ENGLISH HAYDN** Tue 1 - Sun 10 Jun, Various locations in Bridgnorth, Shropshire

**MUCH WENLOCK** Arts festival featuring an outdoor production of the Merry Wives of Windsor, Sat 1 - Sun 24 Jun, Various venues throughout Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

**REGGAE CITY** Confirmed acts include the Twinkle Brothers, The Beat, Congo Natty feat. Nanci & Pheobe, Friendly Fire ft Peppy and many more!, Sat 2 Jun, Rainbow Warehouse, Birmingham

**STRATFORD FRINGE** Sat 2 - Sun 10 Jun, Various locations throughout Stratford-upon-Avon

**DOT TO DOT FESTIVAL** Line-up includes The Drums, Pulled Apart by Horses & Dog is Dead, Mon 4 Jun, Various locations in Manchester city centre

**LICHFIELD REAL ALE, JAZZ & BLUES** Line-up includes Paul Cox and Charlie Fabert, Wonderbrass, Eduardo Niebla, Derrin Nauendorf Band & Led Bib, Thurs 7 - Sun 10 Jun, Lichfield Rugby Club

**WYCHWOOD** Line-up includes Bellowhead,

The Saw Doctors, The Damned, Hawkwind & Port Isaac's Fisherman's Friends, Fri 8 - Sun 10 Jun, Cheltenham Racecourse

**DOWNLOAD** Highlights include The Prodigy, Metallica & Black Sabbath, Fri 8 - Sun 10 Jun, Donington Park, Derby

**WELFEST ON THE MEADOW** Highlights include The Deltours, Magic Eight Ball, Sat 9 Jun, Synder Meadow, Stratford-upon-Avon

**CHAZZSTOCK** Highlights include The Vaccines, The Horrors & Tribes, Sat 9 - Sun 10 Jun, Stanford Hall, Leicestershire

**PARKLIFE WEEKENDER** Line-up includes The Flaming Lips, Dizzee Rascal & Noah & The Whale, Sat 9 - Sun 10 Jun, Platt Fields Park, Manchester

**CHELTHENHAM SCIENCE** Tues 12 - Sun 17 Jun, Various locations throughout Cheltenham

**BEACH BREAK LIVE** Line-up includes: Chase and Status, Dizzee Rascal, Friendly Fires & Maverick Sabre, Thur 14 - Mon 18 Jun, Pembrey Country Park, South Wales

**VIVE LE ROCK** Line-up includes The Selector, Dr Feelgood, Hazel O'Connor & Gundogs, Fri 15 - Sat 16 Jun, The Workhouse, Llanfyllin, Powys

**LICHFIELD FOLK** Fri 15 - Sun 17 Jun, Various locations throughout Lichfield

**ALCESTER SUMMER FOLK** Fri 15 - Sun 17 Jun, Various locations in and around Alcester, Warwickshire

**BURTFEST** Line-up includes The Selector, InMe, Max Raptor & The Wurzels, Fri 15 - Sun 17 Jun, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire

**GREGYNOG** The oldest classical music festival in Wales, Fri 15 - Sun 24 Jun, Gregynog Hall, Nr Welshpool, Powys

**THE BIG SESSION** Highlights include Oysterband, DJ Peter Lawrence, Show of Hands, Eddi Reader & Chumbawumba, Fri 15 - Sun 17 Jun, Catton Hall, Derbyshire

**LEAMINGTON PEACE** Free festival featuring entertainment areas, children's tent & workshop area, Sat 16 - Sun 17 Jun, various locations in and around Leamington Spa

**ISLE OF WIGHT** Line-up includes Elbow, Example, Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band & Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, Thurs 21 - Sun 24 Jun, Isle Of Wight

**LUDLOW FESTIVAL** Highlights include a production of Much Ado About Nothing & performances from the Glenn Miller Orchestra & Bjorn Again, Sat 23 June - Sun 8 Jul, Ludlow Castle & various other locations in and around Ludlow, South Shropshire

**STAFFORD FESTIVAL SHAKESPEARE** Featuring a performance of Romeo & Juliet, Thurs 28 June - Sat 14 July, Stafford Castle

**CORNBURY FESTIVAL** Highlights include James Morrison, Elvis Costello, Jools Holland, Will Young & Pixie Lott, Seaside Steve, Stooche, Hugh Laurie and many more... Fri 29 June - Sun 1 Jul, Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire

**GODIVA FESTIVAL** Sun 1 Jul, War Memorial Park, Coventry

**MOSTLY JAZZ** Line-up includes Birmingham Jazz Ensemble, The Steve Ajao Band, Miles Levin Band and Husk, Fri 29 Jun - Sun 1 Jul, Moseley Park & Pool, Birmingham

**CHESTER ROCKS** Sat 30 Jun - Sun 1 Jul, Chester Racecourse

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON RIVER** Festival that brings together the boating fraternity and local community to enjoy river-based entertainment and activities, Sat 30 Jun - Sun 1 Jul, Stratford upon Avon

## JULY

**CHELTHENHAM INTERNATIONAL MUSIC** Highlights include Nigel Kennedy & Benjamin Grosvenor, Wed 4 - Sun 15 Jul, Various locations throughout Cheltenham

**LICHFIELD FESTIVAL** Wed 4 - Sun 15 Jul, Various locations throughout Lichfield

**NAPTON MUSIC** Line-up includes Toploader, Guns2Roses & Total Stone Roses, Fri 6 - Sat 7 Jul, Napton on the Hill Centre, Warwickshire

**FUSE** Line-up includes State Of Undress, Bleeding Hearts & Kaleidoscope, Fri 6 - Sun 8 Jul, Beacon Park, Lichfield

**WAKESTOCK** Line-up includes Calvin Harris, Dizzee Rascal & Ed Sheeran, Fri 6 - Sun 8 Jul, Cardigan Bay, South Wales

**BUXTON** Line-up includes Piano 4 Hands, Flanders and Swann, Give Me Your Hand & The Fairey Band, Sat 7 - Wed 25

Jul, Buxton Opera House

**LUNANZA** Family fun festival, Sat 7 - Sun 8 Jul, West Midland Showground, Shropshire

**BLUES AT THE FOLD** Line-up includes Earl Green & The Right Of Time, Sat 7 Jul, The Fold, Worcestershire

**LATITUDE** Line-up includes Jez Iver, Elbow, Paul Weller & Metronomy, Thurs 12 - Sun 15 Jul, Henham Park, Suffolk

**BROMSGROVE FOLK** Line-up includes Jez Lowe and the Big Bad Pennies, Josh Tams and Barry Coupe, Mike Silver and Jonny Coppin and many more, Fri 13 - Sun 15 Jul, The Bowling Green, Shaw Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Line-up includes Counterfeit Stones, T-RexTacy & Are You Experienced, Sat 14 - Sun 15 Jul, Hopton Court, between Ludlow & Kidderminster

**L FEST** Fri 13 - Mon 16 Jul, West Midland Showground, Shropshire

**WOLVESTOCK** Country music festival, Sat 21 - Sun 22 Jul, East Park, Birmingham

**SPLENDOUR** Highlights include Dizzee Rascal, Katy B, Razorlight and The Levellers, Sat 21 Jul, Wollaton Park, Nottingham

**CHURCH STRETTON ARTS FESTIVAL** A two-week celebration of the arts, Sat 22 July - Sat 4 Aug, Church Stretton, South Shropshire

**WARWICK FOLK** Line-up includes Eddi Reader, Tickled Pink, Edward II & Michael McGoldrick, Thu 26 - Sun 29 Jul, Warwick

**OFF THE CUFF** Fri 27 - Sun 29 Jul, The Flapper, Birmingham

**GLOBAL GATHERING** Highlights include Tinie Tempah, Afrojack & Labrinth, Fri 27 - Sat 28 Jul, Long Marston Airfield, Stratford-upon-Avon

## AUGUST

**BLUES FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Ricky Cool and the Hoola Boola Boys, TBelly, Mojo Hooker, Steiny's Blues & Mumbo-Jumbo, Sat 4 Aug, The Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Redditch

**WILDERNESS** Line-up includes, Rodrigo y Gabriela, Wilco, Spiritualized, Cloud Control & Lianne La Havas, Fri 10 - Sun 12 Aug, Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire

**FARMER PHILS** Line-up

includes Dreadzone, The Undercover Hippy & Rodney Branigan, Fri 10 - Sun 12 Aug, Rattlinghope, Shrewsbury

**V FESTIVAL** Highlights include The Stone Roses, The Killers, Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds & Snow Patrol, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Aug, Weston Park, Staffordshire

**SHREWSBURY FOLK** Highlights include KT Tunstall, Richard Thompson, & Show of Hands, Fri 24 - Mon 27 Aug, West Midland Showground, Shrewsbury

**CREAMFIELDS** Line-up includes Avicii, David Guetta & Example, Fri 24 - Sun 26 Aug, Daresbury, Cheshire

**BRIDGNORTH MUSIC & ARTS** Fri 24 Aug - Sun 2 Sep, Various Locations in Bridgnorth, Shropshire

**UPTON INTERNATIONAL MUSIC** Line-up includes The Stylistics, The Drifters, The Selecter & The Beat, Fri 24 - Sun 26 Aug, Upton Waterside, Upton-on-Severn, Worcestershire

**LEEDS** Line-up includes The Foo Fighters, The Cure, Kasabian, The Black Keys & Florence and the Machine, Fri 24 - Sun 26 Aug, Bramham Park, Leeds

**READING** Line-up The Foo Fighters, The Cure, Kasabian, The Black Keys & Florence and the Machine, Fri 24 - Sun 26 Aug, Richfield Avenue, Reading

**SHREWSBURY INTERNATIONAL STREET THEATRE** Fri 31 August - Sun 2 Sep, Shrewsbury Town Centre

**OFF THE TRACKS SUMMER** Line-up includes Peatbog Faeries, The Selecter, Dhol Fountain & Martin Carthy, Fri 31 Aug - Sun 2 Sep, Donington Park Farmhouse, Donnington

**MOSELEY FOLK** Line-up includes Steeleye Span, Roy Harper, Echo & The Bunnymen & Julian Cope, Fri 31 Aug - Sun 2 Sep, Moseley Park & Pool, Birmingham

## SEPTEMBER

**BESTIVAL** Line-up includes Stevie Wonder, New Order, The XX & Emeli Sande, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 Sep, Robin Hill Country Park, Isle Of Wight

**BROMYARD FOLK** Line-up includes Spiers & Boden, The Mighty Doonans & Vin Garbutt, Fri 7 - Sun 9 Sep, Bromyard, Herefordshire



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OLIVER CROMWELL

# Upton-upon-Severn Jazz Festival



FRI 22ND/SAT 23RD/SUN 24TH  
JUNE 2012

Featuring winners  
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**BRITISH JAZZ  
AWARDS 2011**



**Alto Sax – 1st  
Clarinet – 1st  
Alan Barnes**  
Alan Barnes Quintet  
Saturday 6.30pm



**Piano – 1st  
David Newton**  
Alan Barnes Quintet  
Saturday 6.30pm



**Rising Star – 1st  
Amy Roberts**  
Big Chris Barber  
Band  
Saturday 9.15pm



**Drums – 1st  
Steve Brown**  
Dan Block Quartet  
Friday 5.00pm  
Alan Barnes Quintet  
Saturday 6.30pm



**Rising Star – 2nd  
Jamie Brownfield**  
Brownfield/Byrne  
Quintet  
Friday 5.15pm



**Tenor Sax – 2nd  
Karen Sharp**  
Karen Sharp/Robert  
Fowler Quintet  
Saturday 9.30pm

**MUSIC DURING WEEKEND  
FROM OVER FORTY BANDS  
INCLUDING:**

The Big Chris Barber Band • Dan Block (USA) with John Pearce, Dave Green, Steve Brown • Alan Barnes with Art Themen, David Newton, Andy Cleynert, Steve Brown • Karen Sharp/Robert Fowler Quintet • 'Sir' Alan's Hot Groovers Inc. James Evans and Ben Holder • John Pettars Swing Band • Pete Allen Jazz Band • Tipitina • Tom Kincaid Trio • Lamarotte (Holland) • Ben Holder 'Djongology' • New Orleans Heat • Tad Newton's Jazz Friends • Fat Sam's Band • Storyville Jassband (Holland) • Bob Kerr & His Whoopee Band • Carl Sinclair Boogie Band • Strumpit • John Shillito's Select Six • Brownfield/Byrne Quintet • Spats Langham Hot Fingers • Bennett Brothers Fantabulous Sheepwash Playboys • 52 Skidoo • Mike Burney Quartet

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Credit card bookings available at Festival Office.

For advance bookings (price from 30th April in brackets) Weekend £60 (£70),  
Friday £20 (£25), Saturday £30 (£35), Sunday £25 (£30), Camping/Caravans  
£20 per person. Evening only ticket £15 on the day subject to availability.  
**N.B. ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE TO 29th APRIL 2012.**

Camping/Caravan Site & Free Parking for ticketholders on Fish Meadow  
Children 14 and under free (accompanied by jazz ticketholder).

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**2012**

2 - 24 JUNE



MUCH WENLOCK  
FESTIVAL



Highlights

**FESTIVAL FAIR**  
Saturday 2 June  
10am - 5pm

Fun and entertainment for all  
throughout the day, plus craft  
and food stalls



**FESTIVAL JUBILEE CELEBRATION**  
Sunday 3 June  
2pm onwards

Bring your Big Lunch picnics to  
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**THE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT**  
Saturday 9 June  
6pm - 10pm

Show-time descends on the  
magical setting of the Priory Ruins  
for an evening of music and songs  
from the West End performed by  
top international stars



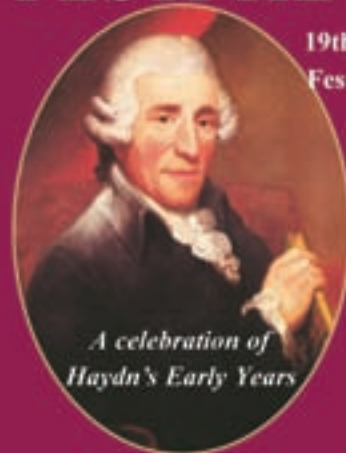
**SECRETS AND INSPIRATIONS**  
Saturday 17 June  
7.30pm - 9.30pm

A stellar cast, including Wenlock's  
own Gabrielle Drake and local  
actor John Challis, present an  
entertaining and insightful evening  
of prose, poetry and music



[www.muchwenlockfestival.co.uk](http://www.muchwenlockfestival.co.uk)

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HAYDN  
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Anthony Halstead

**Soloists:**  
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violin  
Pavel Serbin  
violoncello  
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The Eroica  
String Quartet  
The English  
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Haydn, J.C. Bach,  
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# Events



## International Dance Festival Family Weekend Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, Sat 5 - Sun 7 May

May Bank Holiday Weekend sees Birmingham's Cannon Hill Park transformed into a cultural hub, courtesy of performances by award-winning dance companies, participatory workshops and an abundance of craft activities. In conjunction with International Dance Festival Birmingham 2012, this family weekend offers something for all ages, with Spanish dance company Aracaladanza - renowned for their work with young audiences - returning to the city to present two highly entertaining fantasy pieces. In the production *Clouds* - suitable for children aged four and above - dancers create a magical world of

moving objects, marionettes and dream-like imagery. New show *Cucuco*, meanwhile, is designed specifically for babies and toddlers, and fuses music and dance with umbrellas, spinning chairs, puppets and balloons.

Australian choreographer Shaun Parkes takes over the park's playground on the Sunday and Monday with his world premiere of *Spill* - a production that combines quirky and dynamic dance with high-energy street gymnastics, making good use of the site's swings, slides and roundabouts as props.

## Museums At Night

Various locations throughout the Midlands,  
Fri 18 - Sun 20 May

This annual after-hours celebration of arts, history and heritage sees hundreds of museums and galleries across the UK opening late and hosting special events - from pyjama parties to star-gazing! The Midlands boasts a host of themed events, with highlights including Kenilworth Castle's hosting of spooky family sleepovers on the 19th, and Thinktank's Planetarium presenting a three hundred-and-sixty degree voyage across the solar system, set to Gustav Holst's *The Planets*. In Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust has organised an event which offers budding writers the chance to pen their own work and have it performed by in-house acting company *Shakespeare Aloud!*.

For a full run-down on events taking place in your area, visit [www.museumsatnight.org.uk](http://www.museumsatnight.org.uk)



## Middle Earth Weekend

Sarehole Mill, Birmingham,  
Sat 19 - Sun 20 May

Promising to be bigger and better than before - and celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the first publication of JRR Tolkien's *The Hobbit* - this annual two-day event provides plenty of interest for fans of orcs, elves and goblins. Encouraged to attend dressed in *Lord Of The Rings* and *Hobbit* costumes, visitors can take part in an array of activities inspired by the author's well-known stories. A barefoot walk, a climbing wall, guided walks, dragon puppetry, archery, battle re-enactments and medieval craft displays are all available to enjoy, while Sarehole Mill's recently opened *Signposts To Middle-earth* exhibition enables visitors to discover Tolkien's connections to the mill and explore how the wider Birmingham area influenced his writing.

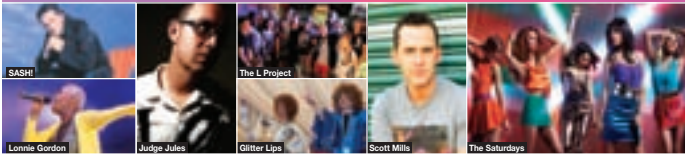


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## British Falconry Fair

Althorp House, Northampton,  
Sun 6 & Mon 7 May

Long established as the UK's leading falconry and hawking event, the British Falconry Fair provides a perfect environment for enthusiasts and experts to indulge their passion. As well as showcasing some of the biggest names in the sport - including trusted stalwart Jemima Parry - the two-day fair features arena events, exhibitions, a shopping area, a licenced bar and a children's area. And for those interested in having a go, there's the chance to enjoy hands-on pursuits such as clay shooting, archery, airgunning and flycasting.



## Ludlow Spring Festival

Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire,  
Sat 12 & Sun 13 May

Ludlow is one of the country's most reputable foodie towns, and this year's Spring Festival looks set to offer visitors a real taste of gourmet heaven. More than one hundred-and-forty beers from over fifty local brewers are featured, while in excess of sixty food stalls and vendors offer everything from artisan flours to charcuterie, award-winning cakes, gourmet sausage rolls and local cheeses. As well as demonstrations, a cookery school and other food-related events, the Ludlow Spring Festival offers a wealth of local music, with The Carrivick Sisters and The Toy Hearts amongst the acts booked to appear this year. And if all that isn't enough to keep you entertained, The Marches Transport Festival, with its displays of classic cars and vintage vehicles, provides an added attraction.



## Grass Roots Football Show

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 25 - Sun 27 May

Designed to appeal to football enthusiasts young and old, this three-day event - the biggest of its kind in Europe - features inter-



## M21: From The Medieval To The Twenty First Century

Priory Hall, Bull Ring, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, Sat 5 - Sun 6 May

Shropshire's quaint market town of Much Wenlock is set to come alive early month when the streets and surrounding areas are filled with an eclectic array of off-the-wall live arts events facilitated by a renowned group of disabled artists.

Much Wenlock's Mayor Lesley Durbin opens proceedings on Saturday morning and, proving to be a good sport, will have her portrait painted at the town's Priory Hall on the Sunday morning. Saturday evening's proceeding will see 3D mapping projections displayed by artist Simon McKeowan on the side of Holy Trinity Church, with vocal accompaniment provided by opera singer Denise Leigh, while other weekend highlights include a wacky one-man human baton relay race, performance poetry, unique theatre pieces and exhibitions.

active football activities, coaching sessions with elite coaches, theatre sessions and an exhibition and retail area. Sky Sports News favourite Charlotte Jackson makes a welcome return to the event, and is just one of a number of high-profile celebrities expected to put in an appearance at the show.



## Sandwell Historic Vehicle Show

Sandwell Valley Country Park, Sun 13 May

Marking its thirty-third anniversary, the organisers of the popular Sandwell Historic Vehicle Show are inviting visitors to join in the celebrations and make this year's event the best ever. Attracting more than fifty thousand visitors annually, this one-day attraction showcases impressive exhibits of vintage and classic cars, more than forty club displays and a large autojumble. There are trade stands in evidence too, along with a toy collector's fayre marquee, a funfair, a fire engine display, and arena action from the Piston Ring Youth Motorcycle Team.

## Victorian Weekend

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster, Sat 19 - Sun 20 May

Step back in time with a weekend of themed entertainment in celebration of the one hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the opening

of the Severn Valley line. In the presence of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, visitors can indulge in some traditional entertainment, with music provided by Highley Brass. The two-day event also features a reconstructed Victorian beach at Arley, complete with a nineteenth century Punch & Judy show, a cavalcade of working steam locomotives, a photographic display that charts the history of the line, and a Victorian classroom.

## Shropshire Truck Show

Oswestry Showground, North Shropshire,  
Sat 19 - Sun 20 May

Following on from last year's successful event, during which more than fifteen thousand visitors passed through the gates, the Shropshire Truck Show this month returns to the Oswestry Showground and promises to be bigger and better. As well as hundreds of trucks on display, the 2012 event features a crash rescue demonstration, the James Dylan's motorbike stunt show, a funfair, and many more high-energy events in the action arena. Hollyoaks and Two Pints Of Lager And A Packet Of Crisps star Will Mellor brings an added attraction to proceedings when he stops off at the show on Sunday to meet fans and sign autographs.





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Claude Monet, *The Palazzo Davia* © National Museum of Wales

## West Park

**Su 1 May • 10am - 5pm**  
**VAISAKHI FESTIVAL 2012**



Entertainment for all the family including a fun fair and stalls. Displays of wrestling, karate and Bhangra will take place as well as performances by local and national Asian musicians. Enjoy a cultural and historic exhibition and speeches by MEP's, MP's, Council leaders and various religious leaders. At the City marquee a services fair will take place and free food, a distinctive feature of the Sikh Religion, will be served throughout the day.

West Park, Wolverhampton • Admission is free.

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## THROCKMORTON AIRSHOW

### Saturday 16 June 2012



Join the action  
between 10am  
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Illustration by Tim O'Brien-Davis  
[www.throckmortonairshow.com](http://www.throckmortonairshow.com)

**In support of:**





**Throckmorton Airfield,**  
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**TICKETS:**  
£25 donation per car on the day  
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**HURRY!**  
Limited tickets available.

Free Pkcs Tickets are non-refundable or transferable.  
Disabled Access Available



## Jubilee Jaunt

Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, Sat 19 May  
Diamond Jubilee celebrations get under way in Stourbridge this month when Mary Stevens Park - decked with union jack flags and bunting - hosts a new family event which it's hoped will raise much-needed funds for the Mary Stevens Hospice. With fingers crossed for good weather, families are invited to take along a picnic and listen to the sounds of the Crown Phoenix Big Band. A bouncy castle, face-painting, balloon-modelling and magic are sure to keep younger visitors entertained. Then, as the clock strikes 6pm, the main event - a 5k sponsored walk around the park - will commence. Interested in taking part and doing your bit for a good cause? Contact the fundraising team on 01384 377778 to register.



## Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival

Various locations in and around Ironbridge, Shropshire, Sat 5 - Sun 13 May

With more than thirty guided scenic walks available, this annual event allows participants to enjoy some of the very best of Shropshire's beautiful countryside. Including challenging full-day outings for hardy walkers, offered alongside family adventures, historic trails and wildlife walks, the Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival caters for a range of abilities. New for 2012 is a twelve mile walk from the Toll House in Ironbridge to the historic town of Much Wenlock, with a chance to visit the local museum and follow the Olympian trail.



## Pirate Weekend

Cadbury World, Birmingham, Sat 5 - Mon 7 May

Set sail for some swashbuckling fun at Cadbury World, as the venue is transformed for a Bank Holiday weekend by a series of seafaring activities. In addition to an abundance of pirate entertainment in the on-site marquee, the popular visitor attraction is pro-



## The Baby Show

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 18 - Sun 20 May

The UK's most popular parenting event returns to the NEC this month, providing a perfect opportunity for new parents, parents-to-be and grandparents to shop for the latest maternity and baby products. With more than two hundred-and-fifty top brands available - including Mamas & Papas, Britax, Fisher-Price, Tommee Tippee, Vtech and Philips Avent - visitors can 'try before they buy', with great savings to be made on many items. And, for those looking for an opportunity to show off their little cherubs, the show is hosting a Face Of The Baby Show competition, with professional photographers on hand to find a special face for next year's Baby Show marketing campaign.

viding its very own climbing wall to test the most ardent of Jolly Rogers. And, when you're feeling a little bit peckish, the site's restaurant will be only too happy to help you fill that gap, courtesy of an assortment of hearty pirate grub. Attend dressed as a pirate and you'll be in with a chance of winning yourself a veritable treasure trove of chocolate booty in the Best Dressed Pirate competition.



## The Witches Of Warwick

Warwick Castle, until Mon 31 December

Warwick's latest spinechilling addition promises to deliver a new level of fright in the Castle Dungeon's final room. On a journey that's not for the fainthearted, visitors can wander through hag history and hear horrid tales of black magic and shocking truths from the castle's past. Featuring scary spells and witchcraft games - and even a vexed hag! - The Witches Of Warwick attraction reveals the castle's dark history, recounting tales of the scandals and shenanigans of generations of Warwick warmongers, wayward wives and witches.

## Meccanuity

Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire, Sat 5 - Mon 7 May

The popular event, facilitated by the Telford and Ironbridge Meccano Society, features an impressive array of large and small models for enthusiasts young and old. Alongside displays of giant cranes, steam engines and astronomical models, visitors will be able to construct their own wonders using the abundance of Meccano parts available. The three-day event also hosts a competition where modellers are challenged to produce something out of the ordinary, with this year's Olympic-inspired challenge to build a vehicle which will travel a curved path.

## Medieval Melee

Kenilworth Castle, Sun 6 - Mon 7 May

Witness at first hand how people lived in medieval England, as one of the Midlands' finest castles is brought to life this month. As well as watching armoured knights battle for victory in dramatic arena shows, visitors over the Bank Holiday weekend can observe folk from the past going about their daily lives in a specially reconstructed medieval encampment.





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\*2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN



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# Events LISTINGS

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

## Week Commencing TUES 1 MAY

**TITANIC TRAIL** Follow the trail around the museum and discover the city's links with the doomed ocean liner, until Mon 31 Dec, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE WITCHES OF WARWICK** A promise of morbid spells and witchcraft games to terrify even the most seasoned of scaremongers, until Mon 31 Dec, Warwick Castle

**WEB OF LIFE** A rare opportunity to see previously hidden treasures from the museum collection, until Mon 31 Dec, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

**DIG FOR SHAKESPEARE** Watch archaeologists unearth exciting relics and try your hand at helping sieve the spoils in the special mar-quees, until Sun 4 Nov, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE FAMOUS SHEEP STEEPLECHASE** Watch

the lean, mean, racing machines compete to win a rosette. Choose which woolly wonder you think will win then cheer them on, until Sun 2 Sep, Hoo Farm Animal Kingdom, Telford

**HIDDEN HIMLEY** A guided walk around the Himley Estate to explore some of the venue's fascinating history, including the ice house, the dog cemetery and the ancient woodland, Tue 1 May, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**VINTAGE FAIR** Featuring fashion, accessories, jewellery, crafts, cupcakes & live music, Tues 1 May, Moor St Station, Birmingham

**LUNCHTIME TALK: THE LISTED PUBS OF WOLVERHAMPTON** Tues 1 May, Bantock House, Wolverhampton

**WOLVES CHARITY FASHION SHOW** Tues 1 May, Molineaux Stadium, Wolverhampton

**VAISAKHI FESTIVAL** Sun 1 May, West Park, Wolverhampton

**CONSERVATION TOUR OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD** Wed 2 May, Birmingham Museum &



King and Queen of May - Mary Arden's House, Stratford-upon-Avon

Art Gallery

**60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMET'S FIRST PASSENGER** Wed 2 May, RAF Cosford, Staffordshire

**EASY ACCESS TRAIL** A general interest trail around Himley Park to explore the site's history and beauty, Thurs 3 May, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**A WALK THROUGH TIME** Led by Graham Worton - Keeper of Geology @ Dudley Museums Service, Thurs 3 May,

Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**2012 PREMIER LEAGUE DARTS** A chance to see eight of the UK's best darts players in action, Thurs 3 May, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

**GUIDED TOUR OF BORDESLEY ABBEY** Learn more about the history and destruction of Bordesley Abbey, Thurs 3 May, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

**HISTORY ON YOUR**

**DOORSTEP** Exclusive Soho house tours, Thurs 3 May, Soho House, Birmingham

**SPRING WALK** Chance to explore Capability Brown's Pleasure Grounds with head gardener Martin Gee, Fri 4 May, Weston Park, Staffordshire

**SOUTH STAFFS EXPLORER** A 10km walk encompassing Himley and Baggeridge Parks together with the South Staffs Railway Walk, Fri 4 May, Himley Hall &

Park, Dudley

**HORRIBLE HISTORIES WORKSHOP** With illustrator Martin Brown, Fri 4 May, Prestfelde School, Shrewsbury

**ANTIQUE VALUATION DAY** Get a free valuation with Bamford Auctioneers, Fri 4 May, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

**SHREWSBURY BOOKFEST** Annual children's literary event, Fri 4 - Mon 7 May, various locations in and around Shrewsbury

## MAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

**VINTAGE & CRAFT FAYRE** Sat 5 May, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**IT'S A GAS!** Chance to watch volunteers as they bring the gas engines to life in the Cinema Power House and the Trap Shop, Sat 5 May, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**KORKY PAUL REED & DRAW WORKSHOP** Fun-filled reading aloud workshop with the Winnie The Witch illustrator, Sat 5 May, The Hive, Shrewsbury

**A TUDOR MURDER MYSTERY** Sat 5 May, Tamworth Castle

**BEGINNERS ORIENTEERING** Sat 5 May, Walsall Arboretum

**SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL** Public track day with RWYB all day. Jet Car plus evening entertainment and camping, Sat 5 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**GROW YOUR OWN** Displays & advice on growing your own, together with themed trails and activities for children, Sat 5 - Sun 7 May, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

**TUG BOAT GATHERING** Opportunity to mess about on the water as

tug boats pull a train of joeys along the cut. Traditional canal crafts and street games also available, Sat 5 - Mon 7 May, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**PIRATE WEEKEND** Sat 5 - Mon 7 May, Cadbury World, Birmingham

**FAMILY WEEKEND** Three-day mini festival featuring interactive workshops and craft activities for all ages, Sat 5 - Mon 7 May, mac, Birmingham

**X FEST EXTREME SPORTS** Festival with contests for BMX, scooters, inline skate and mountain bikes, Sat 5 - Mon 7 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**ROMAN FAMILY FUN TRAIL** The Roman soldiers have taken leave of their post and gone missing, and it's your job to hunt down the clues and find them, Sat 5 - Mon 7 May, Wroxeter Roman City, Shropshire

**MEDIAEVAL RE-ENACTMENT** Annual Historia Normannis event, Sat 5 - Mon 7 May, Whittington Castle, Oswestry, North Shropshire

**PIRATES WEEKEND**

Swashbuckling fun for all the family, Sat 5 - Mon 7 May, Cadbury World, Birmingham

**MECCANUITY** Created by Telford and Ironbridge Meccano Society, Meccanuity provides an added bonus for families visiting Enginuity during the early May Bank Holiday weekend, Sat 5 - Mon 7 May, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Telford

**IRONBRIDGE GORGE WALKING FESTIVAL** Featuring around thirty free guided walks covering a range of interests and abilities, Sat 5 - Sun 13 May, Various locations in and around Ironbridge

**RUN WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC TRACK DAY** Sun 6 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**MEET THE MILLER** Sun 6 May, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

**BRITISH MINI DAY** An opportunity to see examples and variations of the iconic car made famous by The Italian Job, Sun 6 May, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**FROM DINOSAURS TO MEERKAT MADNESS** Sun 6 May, The Gateway,

Shrewsbury

**KING AND QUEEN OF MAY** Tudor May Day celebration where visitors can have a go at making a May Day garland or dance around the Maypole and see who's crowned May King and Queen, Sun 6 May, Mary Arden House, Stratford-upon-Avon

**KING & QUEEN OF MAY** Tudor May Day celebrations, Sun 6 May, Mary Ardens Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon

**TAGORE** Shakespeare Aloud and the Chatterjee family will read Tagore's works, followed by Bengali singing and dancing, Sun 6 May, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon

**BBC RADIO 4: I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T A CLUE** The multi-award-winning antidote to panel games will be recording part of its 57th series at Warwick Arts Centre as part of the Stratford Literary Festival, Sun 6 May, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**BIG BRUM OPEN TOP MUSEUM BUS** Sun 6 May, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**BLUEBELL WALKS** Sun 6 May, Weston Park, Staffordshire

**MINIATURE RAILWAY GALA WEEKEND** Weston Rail's popular gala weekend returns for 2012 with a wide variety of steam and diesel engines on display, Sun 6 - Mon 7 May, Weston Park, Staffordshire

**SPRING PLANT FAIR** Sun 6 - Mon 7 May, Weston Park, Staffordshire

**STEAM IN MINIATURE** A celebration of the power that drove the Victorian world, Sun 6 - Mon 7 May, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**MEDIAEVAL MELEE** Show support for your favourite armoured knight as he battles for victory in a dramatic arena show, Sun 6 - Mon 7 May, Kenilworth Castle

**FAMILY WEEKEND: SPILL - A PLAYGROUND OF DANCE** Sun 6 - Mon 7 May, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

**KIT CAR SHOW** The world's biggest show of its kind, Sun 6 - Mon 7 May, Stonleigh Park, Warwickshire

**MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS** Traditional celebrations including Maypole

dancing, Mon 7 May, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**SOUTH SHROPSHIRE HUNT POINT TO POINT** Mon 7 May, Eytton-on-Severn, Wroxeter, Shrewsbury

**MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS** Traditional Bank Holiday entertainment, Mon 7 May, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire

**MAY BANK HOLIDAY HOBBY HORSE RACE** Mon 7 May, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

**BRIDGNORTH MAY FAIR** Mon 7 May, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

**BANK HOLIDAY MARKET** Mon 7 May, Penkridge Market, Staffordshire

**RUN WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC TRACK DAY** Mon 7 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**MAY DAY GUIDED TOURS** Mon 7 May, Tamworth Castle

**TRADITIONAL MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS** Mon 7 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**BIT OF A DO FAMILY FUN DAY** Mon 7 May, Bantock House, Wolverhampton



# Events LISTINGS

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

## Week Commencing TUES 8 MAY

### BEEBLE DRIVE

Fundraising event, Tue 8 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**MEET THE AUTHOR WITH COMEDIAN RUSSELL KANE** Tues 8 May, Waterstones, New Street, Birmingham

**CERAMIC GALLERY TALKS** Two short talks by members of the Northern Ceramic Society that highlight Staffordshire Figures, Tues 8 May, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC DRIFT DAY** Wed 9 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**MEET THE AUTHOR WITH OWEN JONES** Author of Chavs: The Demonization of the Working Class, Wed 9 May, Waterstones, New Street, Birmingham

**CIVIC SOCIETY LECTURES** Wed 9 May, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**TODDLER THURSDAYS** Creative learning sessions for the under-fives, Thurs 10 May, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

**SPRING GARDENING SHOW** Spend time meandering around the stunning RHS-judged show gardens, pick up tips and advice in the Landscaping Live area and shop till you drop... Thurs 10 - Sun 13 May, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**OUTSIDE IN ARTISTIC WORKSHOP** Providing a platform for artists who find it difficult to access the art world due to disabilities, Fri 11 May, The Public, West Bromwich

**SPIN TO CURE DIABETES** Charity fundraising event, Fri 11 May, Brindley Place, Birmingham

**BIG DADDY VS GIANT HAYSTACKS** A British Heavyweight Champion Comedy Drama, Fri 11 May, The Public, West Bromwich

**LUDLOW SPRING FESTIVAL** Featuring more than one hundred-and-forty draught real ales, an array of local produce, display of classic cars and live music within the grounds of Ludlow Castle, Fri 11 - Sun 13 May, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**BBL PLAYOFF FINAL**

British basketball's biggest annual event, Sat 12 May, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

**BEADS DAY** Featuring bead-making demonstrations by members of Glass Beadmakers UK, as well as a wide range of beads for sale, Sat 12 May, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Dudley

**LEARN TO KNIT DAY** A chance to try your hand at knitting during adult learner's week, Sat 12 May, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

**UNWRAPPED** An onstage discussion and practical demonstration that takes a peek into the rehearsal room, Sat 12 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**WRITING WORKSHOP WITH DEJANI CHATTERJEE** Sat 12 May, Blakenhall Community & Healthy Living Centre, Wolverhampton

**A TUDOR MURDER MYSTERY** Sat 12 May, Tamworth Castle

**ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RACING DAY** Alternative fuel and electric drag racing showcase, Sat 12 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**OPEN STORE DAY & COVENTRY CORPORATION TRANSPORT CENTENARY BUS DISPLAY** Sat 12 May, Coventry Transport Museum

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S DAY: COLLAGE PARTY!** Get along and start a collage revolution with artist Liz Rowe, Sat 12 May, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

**STICKY SATURDAY** Crafty workshops where visitors can have a go at being messy and getting sticky!, Sat 12 May, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

**BUSY LIZZY** Meet Busy Lizzy as she journeys on through the garden of life, Sat 12 May, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**LUDLOW FOOD & MARCHES TRANSPORT FESTIVAL** Beer, bangers, breads and buskers, Sat 12 - Sun 13 May, Ludlow Castle

**CRAFT MARKET** Sat 12 - Sun 13 May, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

**THE MARTIAL ARTS SHOW** Featuring some of the most diverse and professional individuals, groups, clubs, organisations, suppliers & manufacturers of martial arts equipment, Sat 12 - Sun 13 May, NEC, Birmingham



Treasure Days - Shugborough, Staffordshire

**SNOOKER LEGENDS** Join Jimmy White, Dennis Taylor, John Parrott, John Virgo, Cliff Thorburn and Michaela Tabb for an evening of snooker, laughter and nostalgia, Sat 12 - Sun 13 May, Bedworth Civic Hall

**'TREASURE DAYS'** A weekend to admire some of Shugborough's hidden treasures, Sat 12 - Sun 13 May, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

**MILLS WEEKEND: A VICTORIAN CELEBRATION** See the scouring mill brought to life by Redditch Amateur Theatre before admiring the onsite Victorian fashion display and have a go at some Victorian ice cream making, Sat 12 - Sun 13 May, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

**NATIONAL OPEN MILLS WEEKEND** See the museum's windmill and perry mill in action and hear about their histories, Sat 12 - Sun 13 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**STREET NATIONALS HEADS UP** Run What Ya Brung competition to find the fastest street car, Sat 12 - Sun 13 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**SPRING CLASSIC & CREAM TEA RUN** The Gaydon spring classic is a popular gathering for all vehicles over twenty years old, with an added opportunity to join in the 2012 Spring Cream Tea Run, Sun 13 May, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

**CHARITY CAR BOOT-BOOT 4 BEN** Sun 13 May, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

**AMERICAN STYLE WRESTLING** High energy family fun featuring

wrestlers from the Venom Federation, Sun 13 May, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**BIRMINGHAM MILES FOR MACMILLAN WALK** A walk suitable for all fitness levels where all the family can get involved, Sun 13 May, Perry Park, Birmingham

**GREEN FAIR** Themed event filled with environmental exhibitors, Sun 13 May, Whittington Castle, Oswestry, Shropshire

**GREEK ARCHITECTURE** A series of short talks on the Greek revival architecture and ideas, Sun 13 May, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

**PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON** Opportunity to attend a service at the Museum's historic Darby Hand Chapel and become part of living history, Sun 13 May, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**MEET THE AUTHOR WITH RACHEL CAINE** Author of Black Dawn: The Morganville Vampires 12, Sun 13 May, Waterstones, New Street, Birmingham

**NATIONAL VINTAGE COMMUNICATIONS FAIR** Sun 13 May, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre

## Week Commencing MON 14 MAY

**GRANTA LAUNCH: IN CONVERSATION WITH ELLAH ALLFREY & JIM CRACE** Tues 15 May, Waterstones, New Street, Birmingham

**SNOOKER LEGENDS** Join Jimmy White, Dennis Taylor, John Parrott, John Virgo, Cliff Thorburn and Michaela Tabb for an evening of snooker, laughter and nostalgia, Wed 16 May, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**STORYTELLING CAFE FOR ADULTS** Wed 16 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

**SPOTLIGHT** Put your own object under the spotlight, Wed 16 May, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**A VISITOR'S COMPANION TO TUDOR ENGLAND** Introduction to the key characters, stories and events of the Tudor Age, Thurs 17 May, Kenilworth Castle

**HISTORY ON YOUR DOORSTEP** Exclusive Soho House tours, Thurs 17 May, Soho House, Birmingham

**QUILTS UK** Open competition for the patchwork and quilting industry featuring trade stands and a display of more than five hundred quilts, Thurs 17 - Sun 20 May, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**MUSEUMS AT NIGHT** Fri 18 May, Museum of Cannonock Chase

**BODY POWER** The country's leading health, fitness and nutrition expo, Fri 18 - Sun 20 May, NEC, Birmingham

**GRASS ROOTS FOOTBALL SHOW** Prestigious family event, Fri 18 - Sun 20 May, NEC, Birmingham

**MUSEUMS AT NIGHT: THE RAVEN & OTHER STORIES** Fri 18 - Sun 20 May, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

**THE BABY SHOW** A three-day event dedicated to pregnancy, birth, babies and toddlers that offers the chance to try and buy all the essentials you need, as well as accessing expert information and advice, Fri 18 - Sun 20 May, NEC, Birmingham

**MURDER MYSTERY DINNER** An evening of tongue-in-cheek suspense & drama, accompanied by a three-course dinner & glass of wine, Sat 19

May, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

**FAMILY SLEEPOVERS** As part of Museums at Night 2012, enjoy an exclusive overnight stay at one of English Heritage's historic properties, especially for families, Sat 19 May, Kenilworth Castle

**OPEN COCKPITS EVENING** A selection of cockpits for close viewing, including the Jet Provost, Belfast and Buccaneer, Sat 19 May, RAF Cosford, Staffordshire

**A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM** Enjoy an evening of traditional entertainment as the museum throws open its doors after hours - part of the European 'Nuit des Musees' celebrations, Sat 19 May, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**MAKING SHAKESPEARE DAY** Sat 19 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE STORY GARDEN** Introduce your family to the stories of Shakespeare in a fun and lively way where everyone gets involved, Sat 19 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC DRIFT DAY** Sat 19 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**100 YEARS OF THE AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE** In celebration of one of the most important inventions, BT volunteers will demonstrate one of the first automatic telephone exchanges, Sat 19 May, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**MAKE AN OLYMPIC TORCH WORKSHOP** Sat 19 May, Qube Gallery, Oswestry

**SHROPSHIRE COUNTY HORSE SHOW** Sat 19 May, The West Mid Showground,



Shrewsbury  
**STICKY SATURDAY** Crafty workshops where visitors can have a go at being messy and getting sticky! Sat 19 May, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge  
**IN THE MOOD: TEA DANCE** Sat 19 May, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury  
**DANCE WEEKEND** Sat 19 - Sun 20 May, Cadbury World, Birmingham  
**CELEBRATE 50 YEARS!** The National Trust celebrates fifty years at Moseley Old Hall with a choir & golden trail for children, Sat 19 - Sun 20 May, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton  
**1862 - A VICTORIAN WEEKEND** A celebration of the one hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Severn Valley line between Worcester and Shrewsbury in February 1862, Sat 19 - Sun 20 May, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley  
**SHROPSHIRE TRUCK SHOW** Featuring a Monster Truck Showdown, crash rescue demonstration & James Dylan's motor-bike stunt show, Sat 19 - Sun 20 May, Oswestry Showground, North Shropshire  
**DANCE WEEKEND** Featuring a variety of dance acts & three daily family dance shows in the marquee, Sat 19 - Sun 20 May, Cadbury World, Birmingham  
**UK SLOT CAR FESTIVAL** Featuring all models of slot cars, including Scalextric, Carrera & Slotting, Sun 20 May, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire  
**MILITARIA & AVIATION FAIR** Sun 20 May, Stratford-upon-Avon Armouries  
**RUN WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC TRACK DAY** Sun 20 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton  
**SUPERHERO ABSEIL** Superhero supporters of Acorns Children's Hospice prepare to abseil 120ft down the House of Fraser building on Corporation Street Birmingham to raise much-needed funds, Sun 20 May, Birmingham City Centre  
**PALACE TO PALACE** Participants, including Prince's Trust ambassador Dion Dublin, will embark on a stunning forty-five-mile route, starting and ending at Warwick Castle. For more information, visit, [www.princes-trust.org.uk/palace](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/palace), Sun 20 May, Warwick Castle  
**DRAGON BOAT RACING** All-action event which sees teams battling it out in Chinese dragon boats on the site's Great Pool, Sun 20 May, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley  
**NATIONAL SERVICE RAF**

**PARADE** The Museum once again hosts the National Service (Royal Air Force) parade and reunion, Sun 20 May, RAF Cosford, Staffordshire  
**STORYTELLING IN THE GARDENS WITH XANTHE GRESHAM** Sun 20 May, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford  
**BONSAI DEMONSTRATION** Sun 20 May, Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
**PLANT HUNTER'S FAIR** Sun 20 May, Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
**RHODODENDRON WALK** with head gardener Martin Gee, Sun 20 May, Weston Park, Staffordshire

**Week Commencing  
 MON 21 MAY**

**SHAKESPEARE & LOVE** Readings and discussions based around five of the Bard's works, Mon 21 - Sat 26 May, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield  
**FLORAL DEMONSTRATION** Tue 22 May, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield  
**POETRY BITES WITH CLARE BEST** Tue 22 May, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham  
**JEWELLERY WITH NORA FOK** Adult workshop where you can make a ring and a knotted necklace using nylon, beads and varied plastic materials, Thurs 24 May, Bilston Craft Gallery  
**2012 UCI BMX WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS** Two thousand riders from forty countries compete for the world titles in what promises to be the most spectacular world championships ever, Thurs 24 - Sun 27 May, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham  
**BONNETS UP DAYS** An opportunity for technically minded types to get under the bonnets of three of the Heritage Motor Centre's cars, Fri 25 May, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire  
**RUN WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC TRACK DAY** Sat 26 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton  
**UNWRAPPED** An onstage discussion and practical demonstration that takes a peek into the RSC's rehearsal room, Sat 26 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**BASKET MAKING WORKSHOP** A relaxing day-long workshop for adults who'd like to learn a new skill and make a beautiful wicker basket, Sat 26 May, The Roses Theatre,



Shropshire County Show, West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury

Tewksbury  
**SHROPSHIRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SHOW** Featuring some of the finest livestock competing against each other, dozens of traders, and a fabulous food hall, Sat 26 May, West Midland Showground, Shrewsbury  
**WILDLIFE OF THE VALLEY** Sat 26 May, Smetstow Park, Wolverhampton  
**BLUEBELL FUN DAY** Sponsored walk to raise funds for St Giles Hospice, Sat 26 May, Arboretum Park, Walsall  
**EDWARDIAN FETE** Step back in time with themed food, fun, frivolity and festivity, Sat 26 May, Winterbourne House & Gardens, Birmingham  
**HERITAGE WEEKEND** Chance to learn about George & Richard Cadbury's vision, Sat

26 - Sun 27 May, Cadbury World, Birmingham  
**MIDNIGHT WALK** Ever-popular ladies-only event which raises funds for Shrewsbury's Severn Hospice, Sat 26 - Sun 27 May, Telford College of Arts & Technology, Shropshire  
**CACTUS SHOW** Sun 27 May, Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
**ACORNS CHARITY DOG WALK** Participants can choose from a scenic 3km or 6km course, giving dogs young or old the opportunity to take part, Sun 27 May, Sutton Park National Nature Reserve, Birmingham  
**CLASSIC FORD SHOW** The UK's premier classic Ford event featuring drag strip action, huge club car displays and more... Sun 27 May,

Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton  
**COVENTRY FUN RUN** Sun 27 May, War Memorial Park, Coventry  
**THE WALSALL MELA** Family-orientated days of Asian & British sports & culture, Sun 27 May, Palfrey Park, Walsall  
**20TH CLASSIC CAR & TRANSPORT SHOW** Sun 27 May, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

**Week Commencing  
 MON 28 MAY**

**TODDLER TUESDAYS** Crafty sessions for the under-fives, Tues 29 May, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent  
**CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE** All proceeds to benefit the Mayor's

chosen charities, Tues 29 May, Mayoral Suite, Civic Centre, Wolverhampton  
**JUBILEE TEA DANCE** Event includes a cup of tea and slice of cake as well as music and support from Fiona Bennett, Wed 30 May, Dudley Concert Hall  
**PRO RACER TEST & TUNE DAY** Thurs 31 May, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton  
**HISTORY ON YOUR DOORSTEP** Exclusive Soho house tours Thurs 31 May, Soho House, Birmingham  
**THE DIRECTOR TALKS** An onstage event that provides a chance to join the director for a fascinating insight into the process of creating a performance, Thurs 31 May, RSC, Stratford-upon-Avon

  
**West Midlands for 2012**

Travelling for seventy days between 19 May and 27 July, it's said that the iconic Olympic Torch will come within ten miles of 95% of people in the UK, the Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey. After leaving Land's End on 19 May, the torch will make its way north via the West Country, reaching its first Midlands destination - Cheltenham Racecourse - at 6.40pm on 23 May. We've listed all the areas in the Midlands through which the torch will pass in May. Hope you're able to catch a glimpse... Find out more by visiting, [www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com)

<p><b>THURSDAY 24 MAY</b>          Ledbury          Bartestree          Lugwardine          Hereford          Leominster          Ludlow          Cleehill          Cleobury Mortimer          Far Forest          Callow Hill          Bewdley</p>	<p>Kidderminster          Droitwich Spa          Fernhill Heath          Worcester (Evening celebration)  <b>FRIDAY 25 MAY</b>          Worcester          Powick          Malvern          Malvern Wells          Ross on Wye</p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY 30 MAY</b>          Oswestry          Pant          Llanymynech          Shrewsbury          Cressage          Much Wenlock          Benthall          Broseley          Ironbridge          Telford          Newport</p>	<p>Gnosall          Haughton          Stafford          Shelton          Stoke-on-Trent (Evening celebration)  <b>THURSDAY 31 MAY</b>          Stoke-on-Trent          Cobridge          Burslem          Middleport</p>
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**Jubilee Jaunt**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012**  
Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge

**Picnic in the park - From 4.00pm**  
Jubilee Jaunt (5k sponsored walk) - 6.00pm

The Crown Phoenix Big Band, Balloon Race,  
Children's Entertainer, Face Painter,  
Children's Ride & Bouncy Castle

Adult £5 Child £2.50  
Family (2 Adults, up to 4 children) £12

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(2-5 June) help them celebrate the  
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# Diamond Jubilee EVENTS

## SUMMER OUTFIT

Birmingham's much-loved bull gets his very own Bostin outfit for the summer, Tue 1 May, Birmingham Bullring  
**ROYALTY ON THE ROAD**  
 Exhibition of vehicles used by the British monarchy past and present, Fri 1 May - Sun 10 Jun, Coventry Transport Museum  
**DRAMA QUEENS TO CELEBRATE THE DIAMOND JUBILEE**  
 Exhibition of period costumes from the world of film and television, Sat 1 May - Sun 17 Jun, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

## PAMPERING TREATMENTS

Beauty event that offers the chance to have your photo taken with a Queen lookalike, Thurs 3 May, Birmingham Bullring

## BOSTIN JUBILEE MASTERPIECE

Jubilee-themed street art, Sat 5 May, Birmingham Bullring

## JUBILEE: EXHIBITION

A selection of photographs of HRH The Queen taken by Patrick Lichfield will be displayed throughout the mansion house, along with the magnificent robes worn by his grandparents at the Queen's coronation, Fri 25 May - Sat 30 June, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

## WE'LL MEET AGAIN DIAMOND JUBILEE SHOW

Featuring West End star Marilyn Hill Smith and an all-star cast, including comedian Adam Daye, Mon 28 May, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

## CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Concert featuring the Marston singers. Proceeds will benefit the Mayor's Chosen Charities, Tue 29 May, Wolverhampton Civic Centre.

## JUBILEE TEA DANCE

Music and support from Fiona Bennett, Wed 30 May, Dudley Concert Hall

## SHROPSHIRE JUBILEE PROMS AND FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

Led by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, this family event culminates in a spectacular fireworks display. Attractions include a children's fun-fair, various food stalls and onsite bars, Fri 1 June, Oswestry Showground

## CBSO FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSICS: DIAMOND JUBILATIONS

Programme includes works by Walton, Desplat, Coates, Elgar, Bliss, Britten, Arnold & Parry, Fri 1 Jun, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## HM THE QUEEN AND THE PAPAZZI

Look out for 'HM The Queen's' lookalike who'll be making a surprise appearance, Fri 1 June, The Trentham Estate, Stoke-on-Trent

## DIAMOND JUBILATIONS

Programme to include: Elgar: Coronation March 10', Walton: Crown Imperial 7', Desplat: The Queen 5' and many more... Fri 1 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## DIAMOND JUBILEE STREET PARTY

Sat 2 Jun, Penn Library, Wolverhampton

## THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Sat 2 June, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

## DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Sat 2 June, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

## BIRMINGHAM PRIDE

The jubilee provides the theme for much of this year's event, Sat 2 June, Victoria Square & Birmingham's Gay Village

## HANDEL'S ROYAL MUSIC: CELEBRATING THE DIAMOND JUBILEE

Sat 2 June, Symphony

Hall, Birmingham

## SPRING FESTIVAL

Arts, crafts and nature trails, arena activities and 1950s-themed entertainments, Sat 2 - Sun 3 June, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

## JUBILEE WEEKEND

Retro bike ride plus entertainment from local morris dancers, Sat 2 - Mon 4 June, Curchend Brewery, Ridge Lane, Warwickshire

## A ROYAL JUBILEE CELEBRATION

A weekend of Jubilee-inspired celebrations. Sat 2 - Tue 5 June, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

## HALF TERM DIAMOND ACTIVITIES

Become a royal by making and decorating your very own crown, Sat 2 - Sun 10 Jun, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

## LET THE GAMES BEGIN WEEK & JUBILEE FUN

Sat 2 - Sun 10 June, Cadbury World, Birmingham

## ROYAL CARS 'JUBILEE' EXHIBITION

Sat 2 - Sun 10 June, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

## HALF-TERM FUN

A Jubilee week of celebrations with activities for all the family. Sat 2 - Sun 10 Jun, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

## "JUBILEE" FAMILY FUN

Packed with all things red white and blue and featuring special Jubilee craft days, Sat 2 - Sun 10 June, Heritage Motor Centre

## DIAMOND JUBILEE AND ROYAL JOUSTING

Celebrate the Queen's 60th year on the throne, with the Warwick Castle 'Royal Joust' that features a host of characters from throughout history, Sat 2 - Sun 10 June, Warwick Castle

## JUBILEE PRAISE AND PICNIC

Morning of jubilee

praise with hymns and thanksgiving. Those attending will be treated to an afternoon picnic, Sun 3 June, St Martin's Church, Birmingham

## RUSSELL WATSON - A TRIBUTE TO THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Sun 3 Jun, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## SHREWSBURY RIVER FESTIVAL

Free family fun in the Quarry and on the river. Jubilee Boat Flotilla. Check out the music, bar, food, stilt-walkers, jugglers, fire-eaters and craft stands, Sun 3 Jun, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

## JUBILEE BIG LUNCH

Sun 3 June, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

## DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Entertainment, dance and exhibition of local memories, Sun 3 June, Bilston Town Hall

## DIAMOND JUBILEE COURTYARD PARTY

Sun 3 June, Emma Bridgewater Factory, Stoke-on-Trent

## TIME TRAVELLERS GO ROYAL

Games and crafts fit for a king or queen, plus a chance to meet some royal characters of times gone by, Sun 3 - Tue 5 Jun, Kenilworth Castle

## JUBILEE BEACON LIGHTING

Mon 4 June, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon,

## JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Chance to feed this year's baby lambs and kid goats. Other animal events include meeting the small animals, collecting eggs and hand-feeding deer. Mon 4 June, Hoo Farm Animal Kingdom, Telford, Shropshire

## GIANT JUBILEE STREET PARTY

The Quarry will be laid out with 'streets' of tables and chairs with street communities able to rent a 'street' for a small fee and join in the fun collectively. Mon 4 June, The Quarry

Park, Shrewsbury

## THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE TRIBUTE

A summertime bonfire party with live acts. Mon 4 June, West Park, Wolverhampton

## LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

The annual welcome of the new Lord Mayor. Featuring live musical and dance performances and children's entertainment, Mon 4 June, Birmingham City Centre

## BIG SCREEN

1950s music and concert from Buckingham Palace, Mon 4 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham

## ROYAL FAMILY DAY

Range of royal-themed activities, including union jack crafts, organic gardening and much more... Mon 4 June, Coventry Transport Museum

## VINTAGE FASHION SHOW

Fashion design students from Birmingham City University demonstrate 1950s-style fashion and jewellery, Mon 4 June, Bullring, Birmingham

## JUBILEE JAMBOREE

Story and craft sessions to celebrate the Jubilee, Mon 4 - Fri 8 Jun, Museum of Cannock Chase

## DIAMOND JUBILEE FAMILY FUN DAY

Celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a traditional garden party, Tue 5 June, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

## DIAMOND JUBILEE STREET PARTY

Celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a family street party that includes entertainment and nostalgic food.

Themed Diamond Jubilee costumes are very much encouraged... Tue 5 June, Solihull Arts Complex

## JUBILEE DAY

Dress as a prince, princess, king or queen and make a crown and enjoy the celebrations, Tue 5 June, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

## DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Join in as the museum celebrates HRH the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a traditional street party, Tue 5 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

## DIAMOND JUBILEE GARDEN PARTY

Mon 4 June, The Quarry

Traditional food and games, Tue 5 Jun,

Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

## WOLVERHAMPTON STREET PARTY

Indoor party for adults and children, Tue 5 June, Bilston Baptist Church, Wolverhampton.

## JUBILEE HATS

Celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by making your own party hat or crown, Wed 6 Jun, Bilston Craft Gallery

## AFTERNOON TEA WITH THE QUEEN

Afternoon tea and cakes, music from the Senior Citizens Orchestra and a showing of 'The Queen Is Crowned', Wed 6 Jun, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

## THE STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY SHOW

Falling in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee bank holiday week, is a show that offers something for everyone, Wed 6 - Thu 7 Jun, Staffordshire County Showground

## SENIOR CITIZENS ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Jubilee-themed concert, Thurs 7 Jun, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

## PETER PAN

Disney classics released in the decade of the coronation, Fri 8 Jun, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

## ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Disney classics released in the decade of the coronation, Fri 8 Jun, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

## GUY DAY'S HINTS AND TIPS - JUBILEE CLASSICS

Guy looks at how our approach to food has evolved over the last sixty years, Wed 13 - Thu 14 June, Weston Park, Staffordshire

## TIME TO REMEMBER

A show that recreates the sounds and atmosphere of the war years, Thurs 14 Jun, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

## JUBILEE PROMS CONCERT

Featuring the Darwin Ensemble Chamber Orchestra and City Concert Orchestra, Sat 16 June, Lichfield Garrick

## QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE: CLASSIC WOMEN

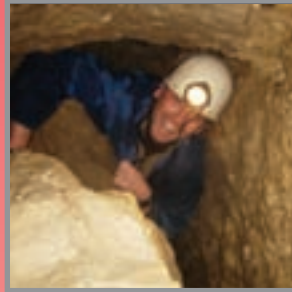
Starring Lesley Garrett, Sat 30 Jun, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



picture courtesy of Coventry Transport Museum

Variety is the

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**So what will you be doing tomorrow?**



**“It's an opportunity to get to do lots of things you wouldn't otherwise do**



# What our members are up to in **May 2012**

## Tuesday 1st May

- Ten Pin Bowling (Broadway Plaza)

## Wednesday 2nd May

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Tamworth and Lichfield Pub Night

## Thursday 3rd May

- Halesowen and Quinton Pub Night
- Plough and Harrow Dinner Shuffle

## Friday 4th May

- Adrenaline Cocktail Weekend
- Ben Nevis Weekend
- Ennerdale Lake District Walking Break
- Hadrian's Wall Bank Holiday Walking Weekend
- Pembrokeshire Coast Walking Break
- Sailing Weekend around Malta and Gozo
- Sailing: Cross Channel Gosport- Cherbourg Peninsula
- Scottish Borders Mountain Bike Weekend
- Welsh 3000's - The Ultimate Mountain Challenge
- Welsh Camping Long Weekend
- Whitby Bank Holiday Walking and Social Weekend

## Saturday 5th May

- Abseiling for the Terrified
- BBC Birmingham Behind the Scenes
- Crossbow and Pistol Shooting at Garlands
- Helicopter Lesson
- Quad and Honda Pilot Racing
- Rally Driving Lesson
- Western Style Rifle Shooting Afternoon

## Sunday 6th May

- Birmingham Museum Tea and Tour Come Dine
- Coughton Court Easy Ramble
- Fly with a Spitfire
- Golf - Learn to Play in a Day (Staffordshire)
- Introduction to Watercolour Painting Day
- Rare Breeds Farmer for The Day and Lunch
- Rock Climbing for the Terrified
- Walk with Wolves - Bedford

## Monday 7th May

- Dovedale Moderate Ramble
- Hartshill Hayes Country Park + Bluebell Ramble
- Warwick VIP Race Day with Meal and Tour

## Tuesday 8th May

- Preview Evening (Sutton)
- Solihull Pub Night

## Wednesday 9th May

- Bodega South American Dining Experience
- Gliding Evening at Needwood
- Run in the Park
- Shenstone Evening Ramble
- Sutton Pub Night

## Thursday 10th May

- Cheese Tasting Evening in Droitwich
- Curry and Quiz - Solihull
- Indoor Climbing at Redpoint
- Unihoc (Mixed Indoor Hockey)

## Friday 11th May

- Poker Night at Lea Marston

## Saturday 12th May

- Bat Appreciation Walk at Wolseley
- Birmingham Photo Treasure Hunt
- Field Archery Day
- Hattersall Hill Ramble
- Laser Tournament
- Medieval Medicine at the Museum
- Merengue Fun Dance Workshop
- Performance Combat Workshop
- Silver Jewellery Making Taster Course
- Stafford Moderate/Easy Cycle
- Ten Things Everyone Should Know About DIY
- Vulcan Bomber Restoration Experience
- What to Wear Workshop
- White Water Rafting at Bala

## Sunday 13th May

- Bosworth Battlefield Easy Ramble
- Bridge Abseil and Ladder Climb
- Cambridge Day by Coach
- Cornden Hill/ Mitchells Fold Stone Circle Ramble
- Hangliding - Tandem Experience by Air Tow
- Hermits and Hidden Gems - Shugborough Walk
- Microlighting Experience Flight
- Paragliding - Tandem Experience
- Paragliding Day Course
- TV Drama Props/ SFX Experience

## Monday 14th May

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Spice Book Club

## Tuesday 15th May

- Badminton at NIA
- Kings Heath Pub Night
- Lasan Indian Banquet

## Wednesday 16th May

- Gliding Evening at Stratford
- Run in the Park

## Thursday 17th May

- Henry VIII at Tutbury Castle
- Warwick / Leamington Pub Night

## Friday 18th May

- Barn Dance and Supper
- Cabaret and Buffet at The Leather Museum
- Drawing and Watercolour Weekend
- Sailing Weekend from Poole - Jurassic Coast and Weymouth

## Saturday 19th May

- Avoncroft Easy Ramble + Madhatters Tea Party
- Caving at the Symonds Yat Caves
- Dinghy Sailing
- Hippodrome Back Stage Tour
- Ledbury to Malvern Ramble and Train
- Llama, Camel + Mule Trekking with Lunch
- Magical Mystery Madhatters Tea Party
- Rally Driving Lesson
- Tile Decorating Experience and Tour
- Turkish Bath and Swim
- Wing Walking Experience

## Sunday 20th May

- Birmingham Museum - Tour of the Hoard

- Bridgenorth + Severn Way Ramble
- Burlesque/Fan Dance Afternoon!
- Bushcraft for Beginners
- Crown Green Bowling Afternoon
- Discover Gourmet Living Food
- Glass Art Workshop
- Hovercraft Racing
- Ryton Pools Easy Ramble
- Scottish Walking Week - Scotland's 4000ft Peaks
- Stand Up Paddle Boarding

## Monday 21st May

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Bromsgrove Pub Night

## Tuesday 22nd May

- Meriden Evening Ramble
- Wonderful Town

## Wednesday 23rd May

- Chinese Meal and Quiz - Sutton Coldfield

## Thursday 24th May

- Run in the Park
- St Nicolas Place Evening Tour

## Friday 25th May

- Camping Afloat - Slow Boats to Warwickshire
- Rolls Royce Heritage Trust Visit
- Spice Hits Town at the Jam House
- Spice Jamboree

## Saturday 26th May

- Acting for Beginners Workshop
- Bollywood Party Night
- Canadian Canoe Adventure
- Derbyshire Edges Ramble - Part 1
- Jewellery Making with Beads (Was Bead Loft)
- Sailing Taster Day on the Solent
- Saxophone for Beginners
- Scottish Walking Week - Strathpeffer and Gairloch
- Solihull Easy Cycle Ride

## Sunday 27th May

- Aromatherapy For Beginners Workshop
- Balloon Flight
- Beginners Horse Trek
- Don't Diet - Change the way you Eat
- Jazz, Real Ale and Supper Cruise
- Tenbury Ramble
- The Big Abseil - 200 Feet Straight Down

## Monday 28th May

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Gliding Evening at Needwood
- Preview Evening (Arden Hotel)

## Wednesday 30th May

- Quiz
- Sounds of The Supremes at the Jam House

## Thursday 31st May

- Badminton at NIA
- Run in the Park

For future listings visit:  
[www.spicebham.com](http://www.spicebham.com)



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# classifieds



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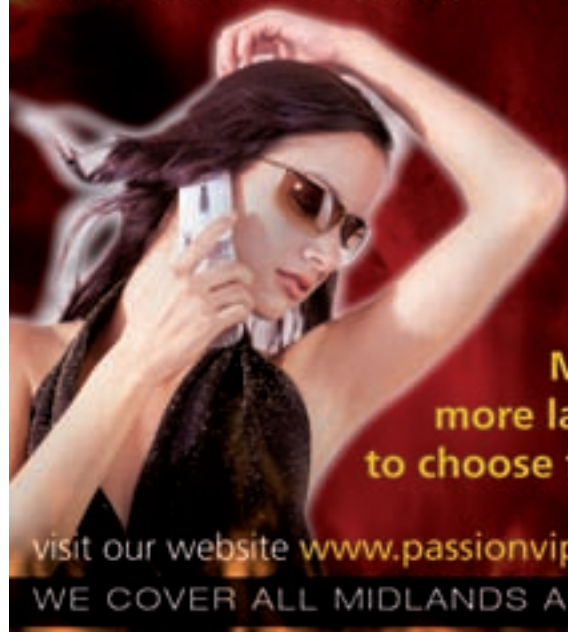
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# Clubbing



## Dutch elite to appear in Birmingham

Gatecrasher, Birmingham, Sun 6 May

Following on from the success of a sell-out Boxing Day event which saw Birmingham's Gatecrasher transformed into a white oasis, The White Party returns to provide yet another clubbing spectacular. Headlined by Dutch musical elite - including global superstar Laid Back Luke, Hardwel, Nicky Romero, Sunnery James and Ryan Marciano - The White Party features state-of-the-art computer wizardry and visual stimulation to provide pure clubbing perfection.

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**BUTTERMARKET** Howard Street, Shrewsbury Tel: 01743 281712

**VELVET** 13 Castle Foregate, Shrewsbury SY1 2DJ Tel: 01743 281712

**FEVER** 19 - 21 Hills Lane, Shrewsbury SY1 1QU Tel: 01743 247508

**THE OFFICE** 27a Market Street, Oakengates TF2 6EN Tel: 01952 616536

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**SPIRIT NIGHTCLUB** 18 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE Tel: 01743 355055

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**REFLEX** Church St, Nuneaton, CV11 4BW Tel: 02476 344216

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**TRAMPS** Angel Place, Worcester WR1 3QN Tel: 019905 26936

**VELVET LOUNGE** Angel Place, Worcester WR1 3QN. Tel: 01905 619966

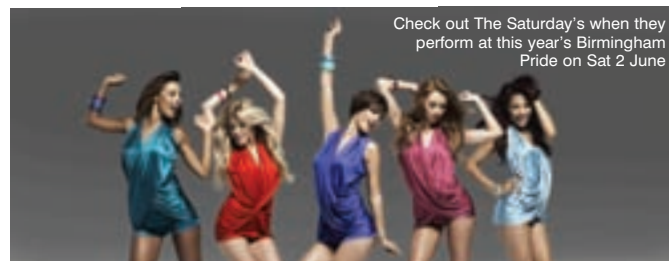
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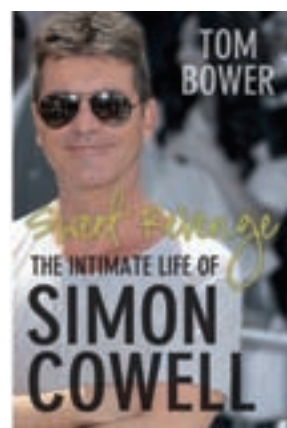
### WORCESTERSHIRE

**VELVET CLUB** Angel Row, Worcester, WR1 3QN Tel: 01905 20218

## Fibber In The Heat

By Miles Jupp

Award-winning comedian, writer and actor Miles Jupp is fanatical about cricket. As a matter of fact, he'd do anything to see his heroes play - including bluffing his way into the elite press corps during an England Test series in India. Claiming to be a correspondent for BBC Scotland, Miles acquired a press pass that allowed him the opportunity to meet cricketing legends David Gower and Nasser Hussain, and swap stories with the Test Match Special team. Reality soon caught up with Miles, though, his guilty secret becoming a real burden as he bumbled his way through a series of disasters... *Fibber In The Heat* is a wonderfully narrated tale for overzealous cricketing fans that's sure to delight both followers and non-followers of the game.



## Sweet Revenge: The Intimate Life Of Simon Cowell

By Tom Bower

The private life of the world's best known entertainment mogul is laid bare in this authorised account of the rise to fame of Simon Cowell. In an unprecedented move, the X Factor creator has provided author Tom Bower with access to his innermost secrets, including the highs and lows of a career in the spotlight, and the rivalries and bitchiness of the women reputed to have been a part of his life. *Sweet Revenge* is packed with juicy details, exclusive interviews and never-before-revealed facts, and includes stories of spats with Louis and

Sharon, Simon's affair with Dannii Minogue and his lustful move on Cheryl Cole.

## The Humorist

By Russell Kane

Making his debut in the literary world, funnyman Russell Kane has used his experience of the comedy industry to devise a story that centres around a critic who lacks any form of human empathy. *The Humorist* is the tale of Benjamin Davids White, blessed since infancy with an extraordinary gift to understand humour at all levels. However, poor old Benjamin is cursed - unable to laugh or even raise a smile. One thing he does have going for him, however, is the ability to construct the most profoundly effective of jokes - one that has a real killing power...



## TOP 5 BOOKS

- 1 **Inheritance**  
Christopher Paolini
- 2 **Steve Jobs: The Exclusive Biography**  
Walter Isaacson
- 3 **Diary Of A Wimpy Kid**  
Jeff Kinney
- 4 **Before I Go To Sleep**  
S J Watson
- 5 **The House Of Silk**  
Anthony Horowitz



## Silk to return for second series

Acclaimed actress Maxine Peake is once again set to don her gown and wig for a second series of *Silk* - the hugely popular court drama which follows the day-to-day lives of modern-day barristers. This time round, Martha Costello (Peake) appears at the Old Bailey, where she's dealing with a range of hardcore cases, from a gangland murder to honour killings, heroin importations and an unlawful death in Afghanistan. *Silk* writer Peter Moffat says of the new series: "The pressure is on. I was thrilled to get the chance to write more about this particular set of characters - the barristers and the clerks' room. The politics gets meatier, more complex and more dangerous, there's more sex, and one great big personal story looks like it might change Shoe Lane forever."

## Stephen Fry to star in Ian Rankin adaptation

ITV has announced a new commission based on Ian Rankin's witty novel, *Doors Open*. Currently filming in Edinburgh, the two-hour drama sees Stephen Fry star alongside Dougie Henshall (*Collision*, *Primeval*, *The Silence*) in a story concerning a self-made millionaire, an art professor and a banker who come together to undertake an audacious art heist. Comedian/presenter Sandi Toksvig and screenwriter James Mavor are responsible for adapting the book for the screen, while Sprout Pictures - the company founded by Stephen Fry - takes on production responsibilities.



## C4 comedy drama in running for a BAFTA

It's been announced that C4's smash-hit student comedy *Fresh Meat* has been nominated for the YouTube Audience Award at the forthcoming BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) Awards, taking place on 27 May. The first series - penned by Peep Show creators Sam Bain and Jesse Armstrong - followed a group of six students about to embark on life at university. Casting saw comedian Jack Whitehall take on his first dramatic role alongside *Inbetweeners* actor Joe Thomas, Kimberley Nixon, Greg McHugh, Zawe Ashton and Charlotte Ritchie. A second eight-part series will be screened on C4 later this year.





# Eating Out

## Relocation for Malaysian eatery

Raffles Malaysian, one of Warwickshire's most popular restaurants, has just completed a £100,000 expansion project which has seen the eatery relocate to bigger premises a few metres along the road. Recognised as the UK's first colonial Malaysian restaurant - specialising in the culinary delights of Malaysian Malays, Mandarin Chinese and Tamil Indians - Raffles has proven so popular that it's outgrown its former premises. Its new home, on the ground floor of the Grand Hotel, has enabled its owners to increase the dining area by fifty percent, and also to provide a larger bar area, gardens and a conservatory.



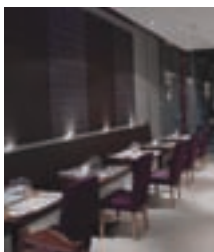
## Del Villaggio tempts cheese lovers to stop off for a nibble...

Following on from the success of its recent Taste of Med wine and cheese event, Italian restaurant Del Villaggio has decided to do it all again this month - and not once, but twice! Situated near to Birmingham's Bullring, Del Villaggio is regarded as one of the best authentic Italian restaurants in the city. Hosted by the venue's supplier, Mediter Food, the two forthcoming events - to be hosted on 4 and 26 May - offer visitors the chance to sample the best of Italy, with a glass of wine and some authentic Italian cheeses available for just £5. No need to book, just drop in when you're passing!



## Tempting tapas and cocktails...

Bindles Brasserie in Worcester has announced two great deals for its customers to enjoy during May. The city's newest brasserie and bar, Bindles is offering three plates of selected tapas and a bottle of wine for £20 on Thursdays throughout the month. Meanwhile, a Friday deal of 'buy one, get one free' on selected cocktails is a great way to celebrate the arrival of the weekend.



## A Turner classic...

### REVIEW

Turners of Harborne is one of those 'must visit' places, forming part of the triumvirate of Michelin-starred establishments in Birmingham. Chef Richard Turner opened the restaurant in 2007, and won his star in 2009. It's a bijoux place, more like a classy hotel living-room, with about thirty seats, elegant and minimalistic soft furnishings, and wall-to-wall mirrors with 'Turners' etched in them.

The staff are suited and booted, ever so polite, and even offer you a cushion to rest your handbag on! The problem with intimate, high-calibre places is that you feel that you have to whisper when you enter. Going into a place of such acclaim can be quite daunting - and believe me, the hype is justified. Chef Turner's dishes make him the Versace of cooking, and I was amazed to discover that he's been largely self-taught. Although many top chefs repeat the mantra of fresh local/ best seasonal ingredients, I don't always buy it. But Richard's dishes are impressively evident of this fact. The taste and textures are first class, and to a lay person are unique. One of my favourite things about fine dining restaurants is the complimentary

amuse bouche. The anticipation of this little surprise gift always leaves me warmly satisfied. Today was no exception. We had a light and creamy veloute of Jerusalem artichoke, topped with wild rice. My starter was a beautifully presented pannacotta of garden peas (yes, pannacotta as a starter) with a slow-cooked pheasant egg, new season asparagus and pancetta. How I marvelled at the presentation of the dish, not to mention the tastes and textures. My other half's dish looked just as divine; a fillet of mackerel wrapped in a cucumber cannelloni - how unusual. The avocado purée, wasabi mayonnaise on a disc of bright red soya jelly, had Masterchef written all over it; beautifully crafted and boasting a great balance of sharp and sweet. For mains, I decided on the duck. Juicy and full of flavour, it was served with a bon bon of potato and bacon - which basically looked like a crispy ball of wool. I love my potatoes, and this was a great way to serve them. The most surprising part of this dish was the orange segments in the sweet-and-sour duck jus. I've never tasted a slice of orange so sweet. Just where does he get them from? Or what does he do to them to make them taste like little

slices of heaven? This dish was matched with a very fine glass of New Zealand Syrah. My partner's main was the pavé of sea bream with shellfish tortellini. Another class act. After another dessert gift, I decided on the chocolate tart with caramel pannacotta and peanut oil ice cream. Michelin-starred chefs do desserts so unbelievably well. This was beautifully crafted - the perfect oval ice cream nestled on a caramel spear, with some gold leaf on the chocolate tart. I thought the ice cream was too icy, but apparently that's so it retains its shape. If you hanker for a star quality meal, then look no further than Turners. The lunch menu is an absolute steal at three courses for £27 plus two mini ones. I suspect a meal such as this in a top London hotel would set you back £100 per person. This one is under £30. I can't think of a better way to spend your money. *Anita Champaneri*

Food: ■■■■■  
 Service: ■■■■■  
 Ambience: ■■■■■  
 Overall value ■■■■■  
**OVERALL** ■■■■■

**Turners Restaurant**  
 69 High Street  
 Harborne, Birmingham  
 B17 9NS  
 Tel: 0121 426 4440

## Bustling Thai eatery well worth a visit...

The newly opened Chaophraya in Birmingham is situated in a prime location just outside the Bullring. Set over two floors and boasting an extensive al fresco terrace, the restaurant is very busy on a midweek night, packed with shoppers and people who've just finished work in the city. My partner and I were shown to a table situated right in front of a huge jellyfish tank set in the wall. Our waitress suggested we try an authentic Thai non-alcoholic cocktail, Mai Mao, which contained mango juice and lychee juice muddled with fresh raspberries, blackberries and strawberries (£4.50). It proved to be the most refreshing drink I've ever tasted. We also ordered two alcoholic cocktails: a Red Devil - raspberry vodka, Midori, cranberry juice and chillies (£7.50) - and a traditional Cosmopolitan (£7.50). We decided to go for the Set Menu B for our meal, which cost £35.50 per person. The starters included prawn toast, crab, prawn and chicken dumplings, deep-fried marinated pork, Thai chicken pieces and chicken satay. Three dipping sauces accompanied the dishes; crunchy peanut sauce, sweet chilli, and soy and plum sauce. All the dishes were excellent, and the dumplings positively outstanding. The main dishes included massaman lamb curry, sweet-and-sour chicken, beef in black pepper sauce and fresh ginger prawns,



served with egg-fried rice. The creamy lamb dish was particularly good. The sweet-and-sour chicken was bursting with flavours, including fresh grape and pomegranate. Other dishes on the menu included the traditional Thai green curry (£9.95), king prawn jungle curry (£14.95), lamb in red curry sauce (£9.95) and pan-fried sea bass with chilli (£14.95). There were options for vegetarians, too, with a whole side of the menu dedicated to meat-free dishes, including chilli and basil tofu (£9), barbecued mushrooms (£6.95), and papaya salad (6.95). Although Chaophraya is quite a pricey night out, you simply can't knock the quality and service - I would certainly recommend giving it a try. *Eva Easthope*

Food:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Service:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Ambience:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Overall value	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
<b>OVERALL</b>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**Chaophraya**  
Spiceal Street, Bullring  
Birmingham, B5 4BH  
Tel: 0121 643 2424

## Impeccable service at refurbished restaurant...

Situated next to the picturesque Hatton Locks, The Hatton Arms has recently reopened following an extensive refurbishment. Both a pub and restaurant, the interior is a pleasant mix of the old and new, featuring lots of wood and mirrors, and deliberately mismatched furniture. This all results in a relaxing, welcoming atmosphere. On the night my dining partner and I visited, the restaurant was buzzing with couples and families. To start, I tried warm goat's cheese (£5.65), presented with a suitably piquant beetroot and apple accompaniment. Personally, I would have preferred more of the raspberry vinaigrette mentioned in the menu, and the cheese itself could have been a little bit warmer, but nonetheless a good dish. My friend opted for the oyster, chestnut and chanterelle mushroom medley (£6.25). Served on toasted brioche with a creamy garlic and white wine sauce and a poached egg, this generously portioned starter very much hit the spot. Mains include a good selection of meat and fish options. If you're vegetarian, though, you'll struggle, as there seems to be only the one choice - vegetable lasagne. I plumped for English chicken marinated in herbs, coconut and chilli cream sauce with coriander sticky rice (£12.95). This was perfectly pleasant, but I think a good sized breast of chicken, rather than strips, would have improved the dish. My friend's sea bass (£15.95) was apparently delicious, as was the pesto it was served with. The vegetables the fish came with were less impressive; he



thought the vegetables we ordered as a side dish were much better. To end, we sampled green tea crème brulee with lemon shortbread, and citrus lemon tart with fresh raspberries, both £5. Rather bizarrely, the filling on top of the tart's base tasted suspiciously like the crème brulee! It wasn't like any lemon tart I've ever eaten, so was probably the most disappointing part of the meal. Service throughout was impeccable, although the food didn't always live up to expectations. That said, with the promise of an alfresco dining option in the summer months, The Hatton Arms looks set to be a hit. *Jack Rolfe*

Food:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Service:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Ambience:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Overall value	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
<b>OVERALL</b>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**The Hatton Arms**  
Birmingham Road  
Hatton  
Warwick  
CV35 7JJ  
Tel: 01926 492427

For full listing information on restaurants, including opening times and type of cuisine, visit:  
[www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

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

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**COTE** The Mailbox, B1 1RX 0121 631 1587

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**CUCINA RUSTICA** 24 Ludgate Hill, B3 1DX 0121 233 2277

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**JIMMY SPICES** 64-66 Station Rd, Solihull, B91 3RX 0121 709 2111

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**LASAN** 3-4 Dakota Buildings James St, St Paul's Square, B3 1SD 0121 212 3664



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St, B5 4TD 0121 622  
4466

**LA TASCA** Regency  
Wharf, B1 2DS 0121  
643 9888

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Green Road, Sutton  
Coldfield, B75 5BL  
0121 308 9410

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143 Bromsgrove St,  
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St, B16 8FL 0121 454  
5151

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0121 622 2641

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Row, B3 1JJ 0121 710  
4233

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5519

**PENNY BLACKS** The  
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Wharfside St, B1 1XL  
0121 632 1460

**PEPPERS** 5a Broad St,  
B15 0121 633 4411

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0121 634 3055

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Moseley, B13 8EJ  
0121 449 8064

**PUNJABI HAVELI** 1558  
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Green, B28 9HA  
0121 745 3636

**PURNELL'S** 55  
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0121 212 9799

**PUSHKAR** 245 Broad  
St, B1 2HQ. 0121 643  
7978

**THE RECTORY** 50-54  
St Paul's Sq, B3 1QS  
0121 605 1001

**RED** 4 Temple St, B2  
5BN 0121 643 0194

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

**ROSE MURREE** 94 -96  
Hagley Rd, Edgbaston,  
B16 8LU 0121 456  
4500

**SABAI SABAI** 25  
Woodbridge Rd,  
Moseley, B13 8EH  
0121 4494498

**SAFFRON** 909  
Wolverhampton Road,  
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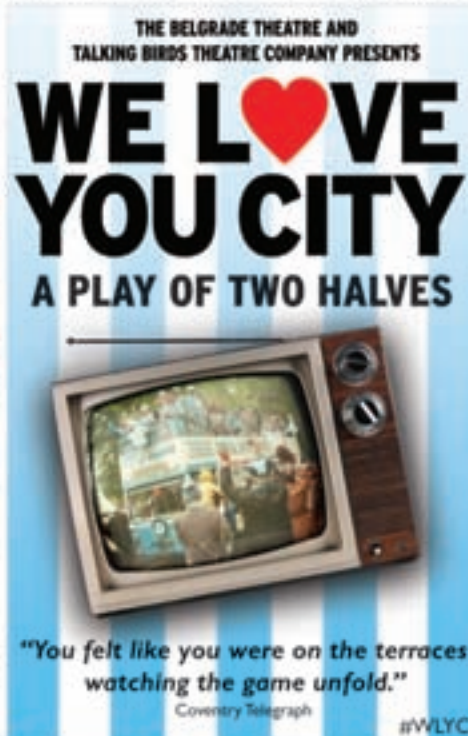
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