

THE MIDLANDS ESSENTIAL ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

MIDLANDS

What's On

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**MICHAEL
MCINTYRE**
BACK IN THE CITY...

INSIDE

Jess Robinson

Dead Ringers star in
Jim Cartwright's musical
interview inside

Geoff Thompson

writer to bare his
soul in his home city
interview inside

Mrs Brown

returns to the Midlands
more inside

THE DEFINITIVE
LISTINGS GUIDE
INCLUDING
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WOLVERHAMPTON
WALSALL
DUDLEY
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MALVERN
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STOKE

MARTINE McCUTCHEON

hosts Style Birmingham LIVE A/W12

What's On

MAGAZINE GROUP

ISSN 1462-7035



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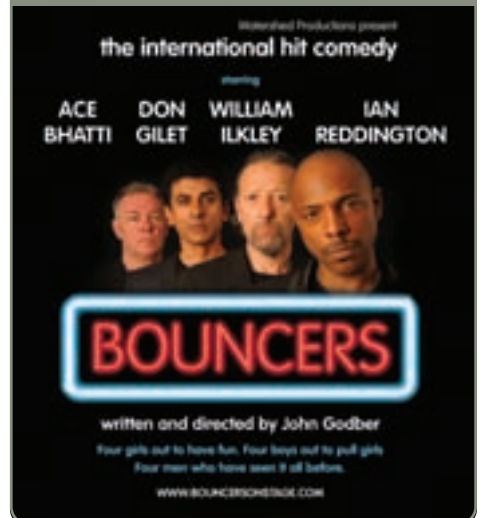
PROFESSIONAL SOLOISTS STAR WITH A CORPS-DE-BALLET OF LOCAL YOUNG DANCERS

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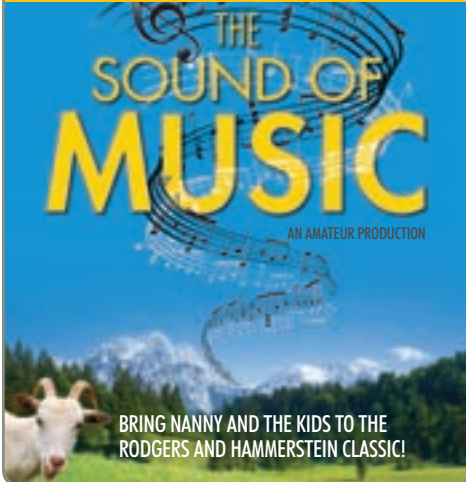
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What's On
MAGAZINE GROUP



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Worcestershire to host its first ever film festival...

Artrix in Bromsgrove is this month hosting a film roadshow in celebration of local film-makers. The one-day event on 29 September forms part of the Worcestershire Film Festival - the county's first ever such event - and features screenings of locally produced films. Organisers of the Bromsgrove Film Roadshow are inviting film-makers from the area to pop along and network, something which it's hoped will result in involvement in future film projects. People who used to work at, or who've visited, the forgotten cinemas of Bromsgrove and Droitwich are also requested to join in and share their memories.

RAF museum launches new website

After nine months in development, the new website of the award-winning Cosford Air Museum is officially ready for take-off. The new site allows visitors to interact with the museum's full collection before visiting the London and Cosford venues. New features include a rolling podcast series that will be linked directly to various aircraft within the museum's collection, virtual tours of signature aircraft, galleries containing behind-the-scenes glimpses of major openings, and a facility allowing visitors to pin pages of interest, comment directly on collections and register their appreciation of favourite aircraft and artefacts.



Cold War Exhibition at RAF, Cosford

Make a pig of yourself for Marie Curie charity treks

Tickets are now available for an English Medieval Pig Roast which has been organised to raise much-needed funds for Marie Curie charity treks in Borneo and the Sahara next year. The treks are in aid of a new hospice for the West Midlands, currently being built in Solihull. The event, which takes place at Ullenhall Village Hall on 27 October, consists of a three-course meal with a medieval theme, and is supported by entertainment from Dave Lewis, a fiddle folk musician from Leamington Spa and local folk trio Where's Mary. Tickets are £12, and are available from jackiebrooks@mariecurie.org.uk, or by calling 0121 254 7800.



Bettrys Jones

Skins actors to appear at RSC

Following on from the success of previous Christmas shows *Matilda The Musical*, *The Heart Of Robin Hood* and *The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe*, the Royal Shakespeare Company has announced that its festive production for 2012/13 will feature two stars from the cult British TV series *Skins*. Daniel Ryan and Bettrys Jones will take the lead roles in Tamsin Oglesby's adaptation of Russell Hoban's *The Mouse And His Child* when it shows at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre from 17 November to 12 January 2013.

An enchanting tale of escape, the search for freedom and reunited families, *The Mouse And His Child* is credited with having inspired all manner of fantastic stories about what really happens in the toy box when nobody's looking, and focuses on the exploits of a clockwork mouse and his child. Discarded by children on Christmas Day, the pair find themselves very lost and feeling very alone, and are desperate to return home to the safety of the toyshop... Directed by Paul Hunter, Co-Artistic Director of *Told By An Idiot*, *The Mouse And His Child* also stars David Charles, Denton, Chikura, Bart Soroczynski, Paapa Essiedu and Calum Finley.

Trust secures artefacts from HM Revenue and Customs

Cast iron Coats of Arms that used to sit above the doors of official customs houses are among a number of items recently acquired by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust.

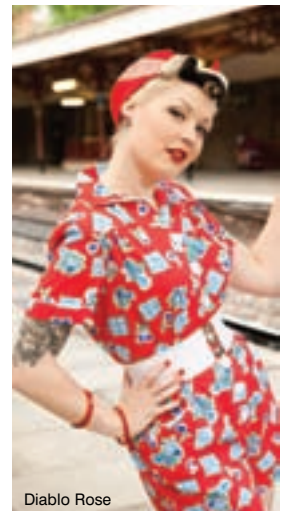
A senior curator from the Trust made a visit to London's Somerset House in order to secure a number of historical artefacts from HM Revenue and Customs, which is looking for new homes for many items previously used at its customs houses throughout the UK. Now in the care of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, the objects - including official weights and measures, stamps and dies - will be used in educational work with the community. They will also feature in displays around Ironbridge's ten museums - including the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, which will be undergoing an extensive refurbishment in the near future.



Coalbrookdale Museum Of Iron

Vintage makeovers at Candy Cabaret

The Vintage Salon in Birmingham's Custard Factory is to host a variety of workshops and makeover sessions this month to enable vintage enthusiasts to become a Burlesque pin-up for a day. Visitors to the 1950s-styled beauty salon and mini-diner can take their pick from a one-hour pin-up modelling class with Diablo Rose or a four-hour Burlesque workshop with either Frankie Lynn or Deadly Nightshade. The Pin-Up Academy takes place on both the 9th and 14th of September. For further information, visit www.lekeux-events.co.uk/



Diablo Rose

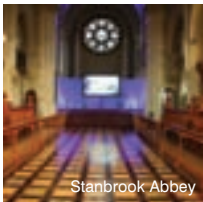
Floating forest to take to Midlands canals...

A mobile artwork conceived by Birmingham Institute of Art & Design fellow Beth Derbyshire is to make its way along the canals of Birmingham and the Black Country, en route broadcasting recorded stories from people affected by the current conflict in Afghanistan. The artwork, entitled *The Rootless Forest*, sees one hundred trees up to three metres tall planted atop a converted canal hopper, with the continual motion of the boat on water representing stories of displacement and relocation. The featured trees - all native to the UK - have been donated by Walsall City Council and will be re-planted in Walsall Arboretum once the project is complete. For further information regarding the project, the route it will take and associated events, visit, www.therootlessforest.com



American greats a first for Worcestershire venue

The beautiful surroundings of a former monastery situated deep in the Worcestershire countryside are to provide the setting for a unique concert featuring four of America's greatest songwriters. The intimate concert at Callow Great Hall of Stanbrook Abbey on 25 September sees Butch Hancock, Rachel Harrington, Krista Detor and Lucy Schwartz come together in a celebratory event marking the end of their respective 2012 tours. The concert will be the first time the magnificent venue, with its Pugin-designed vaulted ceiling and stained glass windows, has been used for such a purpose.



Stanbrook Abbey

New Director of Artistic Programming and Projects announced...

Birmingham's Town Hall and Symphony Hall has announced the appointment of Richard Hawley as Director of Artistic Programming and Projects. Richard, who takes up his new role in November, is currently Director of Arts Administration at London's Southbank Centre. Of his new post, Richard said: "I'm thrilled to be joining Town Hall and Symphony Hall at this exciting time, and I am very much looking forward to working with artists and audiences alike to further develop the vital contribution these two wonderful venues make to Birmingham's cultural life."



Richard Hawley



Brindleyplace at night

Visitor numbers reach a new high...

The city of Birmingham attracted an additional seven hundred-and-forty thousand visitors last year, according to new figures released by industry research body Global Tourism Solutions. The report, which is produced annually to assess the economic impact of visitors to the UK's major cities, also revealed that the amount of money spent by visitors to Birmingham last year hit £4.9 billion, a figure which represented a two percent increase on 2010. Commenting on the increase, Sir Albert Bore, Leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "Birmingham's visitor offer, and its impact on the city's economy, continues to grow. Visitor numbers are at a six year peak, and visitor spend has seen more jobs created in a sector that has become a driver of local - and national - economic growth. "Birmingham is really upping its game as a visitor destination. The figures show that more people are choosing to spend their leisure time here - consistently and year on year. This is due in no small part to continued investment in our infrastructure, transport networks and marketing of our diverse visitor economy around the world."

IN BRIEF

Tasty treats on offer at mac

A new market makes its debut at Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre later this month. The mac Food Market is a new concept for the venue, and is scheduled to take place once a month. Produce available from the market will include homemade cakes, spices, traditional sweets, artisan breads, sausages, deli goods, smoked meats, freshly pressed juices, hand-made chocolates and macaroons. The market takes place on the last Sunday of every month between 10.30am and 3.30pm.



The dark side of comedy...

Comedy with a difference awaits visitors to Birmingham's Electric Cinema next month, when comedians set about entertaining their audience in complete darkness! A unique experience presented by Dave's Leicester Comedy Festival and the Udderbelly Festival, *Comedy In The Dark* features four comedians - on this occasion Mark Olver, Ivo Graham, Joe Lycett and Josh Widdicombe - who'll each take on the challenge of performing without the aid of lighting. Having enjoyed great success at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the event stops off at Birmingham's Electric Cinema on 11 October as part of an eight-date tour.



Josh Widdicombe

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Jess Robinson

on finding her voice in Jim Cartwright's musical...

As one of the voices behind *Dead Ringers*, *Spitting Image*, *Horrible Histories* and numerous radio and TV ads, Jess Robinson has secured herself a fine reputation as a brilliant impressionist. Jess is now about to take on her dream role, playing *Little Voice* in the new touring production of Jim Cartwright's much-heralded musical, which comes to Wolverhampton this month. What's On caught up with her to find out more...

How did your role in *Little Voice* come about?

I was doing a panto last year and heard one of the celebrities being interviewed about *Little Voice*. He was talking to a local journalist about doing the musical, and I heard mention that Jim Cartwright, who wrote *Little Voice*, was directing it. My ears pricked up immediately, and I secretly got on

the phone to my agent and said, "get me seen for this, get me seen for this!". After quite a lot of battling, they managed to get me through the doors so I could do my thing. I got to meet Jim, executive producer Giuliano Crispini and Associate Producer Paul Taylor-Mills, and then I sang, went through a bit of the script and did a bit of improvisation. Jim said, "can you be *Little*

Voice and show me around your room?". So there I was, being this shy girl showing Jim my record collection and describing what the bed was like and what the wallpaper was like. It was something I hadn't done before, and I've since found out that I was the only person they did that with. Giuliano said that Jim couldn't believe how I'd read the script, so wanted to see whether it was too good to

be true. I guess he also wanted to find out a bit more about how I visualised the character.

And was it a musical that you were already familiar with?

Yes, I'd managed to get the role of Little Voice before, when I was working at The Courtyard Theatre in Hereford. It's quite an interesting pattern, really, as I was in a pantomime and I heard the director saying "we're going to do Little Voice." I've always believed that I can do things. If I have an inkling that it's within my ability, then I'll give it a go. On this particular occasion, I just turned around and said, "I can do that!". I'd never done an impression before - apart from my mum and my teachers, that is. And they said, "that's great, Jess, you can come back in ten weeks and audition". So I had ten weeks to learn how to do the impressions. I'd seen the film and knew what I'd be needed to do. I worked really, really hard and managed to get the job, and it was all through me just saying, "I can do that!".

You're obviously very self-motivated...

Yeah, getting that part really started me off. There was someone in the cast who knew the producer of Dead Ringers and Spitting Image, so I sent my voice tape to him, and after a couple of tries I managed to get into Dead Ringers. That then set me up for doing voice-overs. So I guess that I really owe Jim and Little Voice a lot of commission, because if it wasn't for this part, I probably wouldn't have gone down this route.

So what do you class as your first big break, Dead Ringers or Little Voice?

That's a difficult one, but I guess it would have to be Little Voice - even though it was in a tiny little theatre in Hereford, and was only on for about a week. I loved the part so, so much, but hadn't got enough out of it in such a short run. So I've always been absolutely dying to play the role again.

Out of the voices you have to do in Little Voice, which has been the hardest to master?

My own, I suspect. At the end of the show I have to sing in my own voice. Although I've done musical theatre and bits and bobs, I don't quite know what my own voice is, because if it's a jazz song then I'll sing in a kind of jazz voice, and if it's classical then I sing in a classical voice.

Where do you begin when you take on a new character?

YouTube. I find as much footage as I can. I download their album from iTunes, and it's a lot of listening and repeating. I often record a snippet of them, then I'll record a snippet of me, then I'll compare and contrast. It's all a bit anal and painstaking. Some of them are much easier than others. Julie Andrews was quite easy to master. I'd had classical training and I'd done my classical singing exams when I was eighteen, and I guess because I already knew quite a bit about her, I found her quite easy to copy. Edith Piaf was difficult for a while, and Shirley Bassey was certainly hard to begin with, because there's a way of singing called 'belting', which I'd never done before. Basically, this show gave me a quick education on how to do voices, and that's what I've done with my career since, in every sense.

With Dead Ringers, do you get told who you've got to master, or is it a case of you bringing new characters to the table?

It's a bit of both, really. Most of the time, though, you'll be told that they want to do a sketch about Lady Gaga, and asked to make sure that you learn how to do her by the following day. You then go to your bedroom and get on with it. When I've naturally wanted to impersonate people, it's been a distinctive accent or tone of voice that's swung it. It's usually something that makes my ears prick. I always wanted to be, and trained as, a session singer. I got into Bristol University to do a music degree, so I don't think that many other people approach it the same way as me. For me, it's all a tune; I hear it musically, rather like an instrument. I don't think John (Culshaw) or Deborah (Stevenson) approach it in the same way. I'm sure that they've probably got a better way of doing it.

But hasn't their route into the profession been more direct?

Yeah, Deborah's route in was through Opportunity Knocks, whereas I never saw myself as an impressionist or an actress. My family are all performers and arty. My mum's a piano teacher and my dad's an artist, so I'd grown up with people struggling for money; I didn't intend to be an actress, because the lifestyle's too uncertain. But I can't imagine doing anything else now.

Is there anyone you've tried to master and can't?

I tried to do Elvis Costello once, but I couldn't quite get his voice. I'd really like to master some men; maybe someone like Russell Brand. Not just a parody, but I'd like to do some really convincing impressions.

So do impressionists have an expiry date?

I think impressions do, but impressionists don't. You have to keep current, and if you're approaching it from a comedic perspective, you've got to find new things to say about people. I don't know whether I'm a fan of lynching people and saying unkind things about them. I like Little Voice because it's a tribute to all those divas. It tries to recreate how they made the audience feel, and there's a bit of the magic where they hold the audience under their spell for a little while. That's the exciting part of doing it. It's a real tribute, and I think that Little Voice did this out of real love for the characters rather than to mock them.

Your career includes TV, radio, theatre and music. If you had to lose one of those threads, which would it be?

That's so hard and I absolutely couldn't choose. The joy is having the versatility to be able to do all of those different things. Every day is different, even if some of those days are spent sitting on the sofa waiting for the phone to ring.

But surely all the voice-over work is a great buffer.

Yes, absolutely, and I adore doing voice-overs, they're such fun. I did all the voice-overs for Horrible Histories with John Culshaw. It's been very exciting to be involved with, and I've been educated at the same time.

You're also in a band, the Segue Sisters. Can you tell us a bit about your musical trio?

We sing like The Andrews Sisters, with a kind of 1940s vintage style, but perform songs by

Alice Cooper, Nirvana, the Electric Light Orchestra and Lady Gaga. We do all sorts, and kind of mash them up.

So has your involvement in the group been compromised by Little Voice?

We were going to go to Edinburgh this year, and then I got the part of Little Voice. But because the girls started out in musical theatre and they're both actors, they would never stand in the way of something like Little Voice, which is a dream part and regular work and just the most exciting thing. Likewise, if one of the girls got a part, we'd just take a little break. I'm doing gigs with them right up until rehearsals start, then we take a little break and pick it up again at Christmas.

And if Little Voice leads to other big roles, is that going to leave you with a difficult choice to make?

There's never any problem with too much work, and I'll cross that bridge when I come to it. But I'll always have time for 'my sisters'.

So what drives you most as an artist?

To always be better than the last time. Also, to create more work, so one day I'm not going to have to worry about how I'm going to pay the bills. It's a really difficult time, and I feel very honoured to be working during the recession. One of my friends said, "as soon as you become an actor, you're entering a recession!". That's kind of true, but I've noticed that there's even less work to go round than usual at the moment.

What's your proudest moment so far?

I think it's meeting Jim and having the actual writer of my favourite ever play offer me the chance to perform the role again. That makes me feel extremely honoured and proud. I was told that I'd got the part on my birthday, and that was the best birthday present I'd ever had.

Who's been your biggest inspiration professionally?

That's quite a difficult one. Kate Bush played a big role in my life, as she was the first impression that I did that wasn't of my family or friends. I used to entertain people with that. I guess Dawn French, Sarah Silverman and Imelda Staunton have always inspired me, but then so has my mum. She's always given me the confidence to be loud and to put myself out there. She always says, "oh, just ask. If you don't ask, you don't get." My mum has shown me how to be a bit pushy, but in a nice way.

What are your professional hopes for the future?

Sometimes I wish I wasn't an impressionist, as I've often had difficulty getting seen for sitcoms and things because everybody thinks that I just do impressions. So I'm hoping in a roundabout way that being in Little Voice will change that, and that doing impressions this time round is going to serve me in a slightly different way.

Jess Robinson stars in Little Voice at The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton from Mon 24 to Sat 29 September



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HOSTED BY

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A very stylish city...

Home to Harvey Nichols and Selfridges, two of the country's most fashionable department stores, Birmingham is nowadays recognised as one of the country's top shopping destinations. In celebration of the city's fashionable achievements, Style Birmingham this month showcases the very best of what the new season has to offer, with an industry-style catwalk taking place in the prestigious Mailbox - where two very stylish guests will be on hand to offer plenty of advice...

Actress Martine McCutcheon is hosting this year's Style Birmingham LIVE A/W12, the region's biggest fashion and shopping event - and the Love Actually star couldn't be more pleased about it. "I'm a girl who absolutely loves all things fashion, beauty and shopping," says Martine, "so when I was offered the chance to host the show, I snapped it up. No matter what your age or size, it's important to feel comfortable in your own skin and be confident in your own style."

The new-look Style Birmingham LIVE A/W12 takes place at stylish shopping destination The Mailbox, where ticket-holders can enjoy a sure-to-be-stunning 'industry'-style catwalk show featuring the latest autumn/winter styles and collections from across the city's top stores.

There'll also be plenty of store and centre-based fashion and beauty events taking place throughout the weekend, one of which is The Show: Enchanted - a dark, eerie and mysterious fairytale of fashion taking place in the Bullring. Running throughout the weekend in Lower West Mall, the event offers visitors the chance to be whisked away to a land of storybook fashion before

returning to the shops to buy the looks for themselves.

And if you're making a weekend of it, be sure to head to The Mailbox on Friday 28 September, where a team of fashion scouts and photographers will be 'Style Searching' throughout the evening. The most fashion-forward visitor will be given the chance to enjoy a £250 shopping spree at The Mailbox!

As well as hosting the event, Martine, together with stylist Bradley Taylor, will be on hand to answer questions and provide helpful tips and advice.

"These days, I feel comfortable in my own skin," says Martine. "In your thirties, you know who you are, you know what suits you, and I know that my style has evolved. I don't worry about being too cool, too funky, or co-ordinated from head to toe. I like to work a classic look with edgy accessories, or a splash of colour. I have a passion for jewellery, especially silver. I don't feel 'dressed' until I've got the accessories right, even if that means absolutely minimal ones. I'm an instinctive dresser: it has to feel right for me to be happy."

As an actress, Martine is well aware of the

importance of looking good. "It even extends to what perfume I feel like wearing: if I want to be ultra-romantic and classic, I'll wear Chanel; if I want to be sexy, it'll be Tom Ford or Dolce & Gabbana. It all brings out the essence of who I am that day. Most of my style icons are classics. I love Marilyn Monroe, Jane Birkin, Julie Christie, Kate Moss, and the beautiful Monica Bellucci. Making mistakes with your look is part of growing up. I can look back at outfits I wore in the past and laugh about them. When you're in the public eye, you have no choice but to have a sense of humour about these things."

Style Birmingham LIVE A/W12 takes place on Saturday 29 September. Catwalk tickets can be purchased from theticketfactory.com for £10, which includes a seat at the show plus a stylish goody bag. Exclusive VIP tickets are £20 and include a premium catwalk seat at the show, a goody bag, a pre-show glass of bubbly from the Harvey Nichols' Style bar and the opportunity to redeem a £10 Bullring shopping voucher when £30 is spent anywhere in the city centre retail area during the weekend of the show.

“As I get closer, the monster is dispersing. It's so beautiful, and I can't wait for it to come on. I'm very pleased that it's here, and very pleased that it's in Coventry.”



Geoff Thompson

prepares to bare his soul in his home city...

The winner of a BAFTA for his short film *Brown Paper Bag*, writer Geoff Thompson's sheer determination to better himself allowed him to overcome the fears which had dogged him from a young age. Now, those early-years anxieties are set to be laid bare, as he presents his semi-autobiographical play *Fragile* at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre this month. What's On caught up with Geoff to find out about his incredible journey from factory floor sweeper to award-winning writer...

Your skill base includes writing, martial arts teaching and mentoring. What do you consider to be the most important attribute you need to do what you do?

I guess autonomy. You need to have autonomy over your own life. I expect nothing from anybody. When I take nothing, I get assistance from everywhere, but the moment I start expecting things from people, I project my power outwards. So I keep my power close, and I recognise that the universe is quite sensitive to each

individual; so if we act, the universe - or natural energies - will respond. So I take autonomy and I set out to do what I want to do. I do the work and I get lots of assistance along the way. But if I wait for people to drop their hat, give me permission, or give me the money to do it, then nothing ever happens. So I think the most important thing is to have autonomy over your own life, and that's what I teach people. To take their own power back, decide what they want to do, and go out and do it.

When did you decide that that was the route you needed to take in order to make things happen?

When I was younger, I had a massive creative ambition, but I hadn't built an infrastructure to outlet that creative energy. In the culture that I was brought up in, people didn't write books, they didn't become artists. So when I tried to do it, people thought I was above myself, pretentious, or just plain foolhardy. So I had to set up my own template to do it,

but because I had this massive ambition and no outlet, my energy turned in on me, I became root-bound and suffered a lot of depression. I later realised that if I was going to do something with my life, there was no point waiting for permission, or looking for archetypes within my own culture, because I knew I wouldn't find any. So I started to go out and try things, to prove to myself that it could be done. I then decided that I'd write about it, to show other people what I'd done, and to prove that it's possible for an ordinary person to live an extraordinary life.

Was your creativity not identified at school, and were there not people at that level who were able to help you drive it?

Back then, there wasn't the facility for that to happen in the comprehensive system - certainly not at the school I attended. We were still in the post-war 'train kids for the factory' mentality. Cultural norms are very strong, and there's what Freud called the Ego Ideal - we have a set of boundaries within our culture and it's very difficult to break away from them without people attacking you or disowning you. That was the difficulty for me; going against everything that was implicitly taught. There was no conspiracy to make things difficult for Geoff Thompson, or other working-class people, it was just the way it was at that time. But I innately knew that there were other possibilities for me, and I couldn't hang around waiting for other people; I had to go out there and access them myself.

So how did you set about making the change?

First of all I had to expand myself intellectually, to see that it was possible to do other things. Then I had to start using my creative imagination, to see myself in places that I wanted to be. In Islam they call that the three levels of dejean - to intellectually expand the second self; to visually expand it; and then to actually do it. Once you've created this new paradigm, anything becomes possible through that same infrastructure. So when I'd published the first book and proved to myself that I could be an author, I could go on to publish forty books with that same belief. I could do Songs Of Praise, or I could write for The Times. I could then expand with that, because if you can see that you made that one thing happen, then you believe that you can make anything happen. But first of all, you have to break out of that old reality, and that's the most difficult thing. It's not just about changing jobs, it's about changing identity.

Although exciting, moving into the unknown surely creates some level of anxiety...

Yeah, they call it the Jonah Complex, because of the fear of success. Maslow said that 'at the very edge of our vision we are exhilarated by our potential, but at the same time terrified into immobility by our own potential'. It's a real paradox, but you have to break through that. Sometimes, what we imagine is a lot more reassuring than what we have to do. And that's been my life, really - exploring my potential and hopefully helping other people to do the same.

In your book, *Hunting The Shadow*, you offer advice on eliminating fear. So what's the biggest fear that you've ever overcome?

My biggest fear was my own potential. I was

really frightened of the responsibility of success, because I knew that it meant change, and everyone's afraid of change. I had to expand myself, educate myself and accept that change was the only constant. As Ghandi said, 'you must be the change that you want to see in the world'. Success doesn't just affect you, it affects your wife, it affects your children and your peers. It affects everything. So that was the fear. It was 'will my wife like the new me?' and 'how will my children cope with me in this new identity?'. One of the things they say is that when you create a new reality, you have to destroy the old one. I wouldn't say that's entirely true, but when you move out of one reality, a lot of people don't come with you, and that can be very painful. So the fear of change was the thing that I had to embrace, so I learned a technique called 'intercoursing' with my fears. So when they rose up, I would immerse myself into them until the fear dissipated, and I came to realise that fear has no actual existence, other than in my own mind.

Were these all theories with which you were already familiar, or are they something that you've become acquainted with since your success?

They're just things that I did, and then later, when I read about them, I thought 'that's what I did, and it's got a name'. It's good to have names for it because it builds a structure for you to pass on to other people. I just did it blindly, really, because I was fed up of being bullied by my own fears, so I decided to confront them. The poet Rooney called it 'night travelling' - we go out into the night and we hunt down our fears. I've been doing it from a very early age, but reading books has helped me understand why I've done it and how I've done it.

Spirituality obviously plays a major part in your life. Has this always been the case?

I was brought up in Catholicism but I didn't really understand it. Even from an early age, I became aware of the hypocrisies in the way that people practised religions, but it didn't put me off faith, because I always recognised that any kind of religion could be a good infrastructure, and that it could be a good conduit for this kind of divine energy. But by reading all of the different bibles and seeing that there was a common theme, it made me realise that there's a universal God. There are about three hundred-and-fifty-five names for it, and some people are prepared to kill for the name that they believe is true, but for me, when I've experienced God, it's beyond name, it's beyond form, it's beyond religion. It's a benign force that we can use for good or for bad. It's like electricity. If electricity kills someone, we don't call it evil, and if a guy comes round and fixes our light sockets, we don't call him a prophet. He's just someone who knows what he's doing with electricity. So I thought, if this energy's out there, I want to become an electrician, I want to be better at using this energy. So that's my context of God. You would perhaps call it religion, and in the true sense of the word it would be religion, because, in old Greek, religion comes from the word 'ligare', which means 'to reconnect man to God', which is what I want to do. But I'm not a dogmatist, I don't follow any dogma. I can access God through a tree, which is what the old Celts and the Red Indians did. For me, it's just an energy that we're in; it's all around us, and I want to be a better servant to that energy.

What finally inspired you to put pen to paper and write your debut book, *Watch My Back*?

I'd been colonised by my fears and I felt that they were bullying me. I'd had a bad depression, so I decided to sit down and write all the things that I was afraid of. I sat down and wrote them as a pyramid. At the bottom was the least fear and the top represented the worst, and the worst fear was the fear of violent confrontation. So I climbed this pyramid of fears and I eventually became a doorman to overcome them. But because I'd been searching up until that point, and reading in order to understand why I was so afraid, I said that once I'd worked it out, I wanted to write about it and pass on the elixir of what I'd learned. So that's really where *Watch My Back* came from. I was working on the doors, and in the day I was working in a factory as a floor sweeper. During breakfast, I'd tell all the other lads what had happened the night before, and one of the lads said, 'you should write this down, it's really good stuff'. So I got myself a notepad and I sat in the toilets at the factory and wrote it as honestly as I possibly could, with all my own fears and all my own doubts. I stripped away the ostentation, the paraphernalia and the embellishment and just said, 'this is what I saw'. When I went into this place, I saw that everyone was afraid, but that some people had learned to capture their fear, even in very difficult circumstances. Some people allowed their fear to spill and damage people, and I was one of them, and other people took their fear and built great constructs with it. I recognised that it was a universal thing, and that some people were just better at managing it than others.

Was the whole experience a cathartic process?

Yeah, it was great. It was like I was home. I'd wanted to write since I was at junior school. I was a writer with nothing to write about, so actually finding something to write about was great. It just flowed. It came out all on its own, really.

How long did it take?

It took me a couple of months. I was writing it while I was at the factory and doing a couple of hours at a time. My world then was so small that I didn't even know anyone who owned a typewriter. If you owned a typewriter, you were posh. So it took me two years to find someone who could type it out for me. I then had to expand myself again and find out how to get it published. I eventually picked up the Writers And Artists' Yearbook, which tells you everything you need to know about getting into print. I approached a few people and they said, 'thanks for calling, leave your number in the bin!' Then someone said that they really liked it and they published it!

And did your life change almost instantly with that?

There was a transition. I was still working as a doorman when the book came out. I was doing book signings and TV interviews, then, by night, I was working the door. It took a while for me to catch up with myself, but from then on I didn't stop writing. I wrote five books the following year, then I wrote a play and got into the writers' group at the Royal Court. I knew then that everything was possible. It took a while to break away from

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the doors and the factory mentality, but it's just expanded extensively ever since.

How has your interest in martial arts helped you with your writing, and life in general?

I think looking back, okay I was an artist, and I was very connected to that part of my personality, but I didn't have any warrior archetype in place. I was too sensitive. I was getting battered by the slings and arrows of life, and I was too sensitive to criticism. So going on the tours and doing martial arts helped me to develop a side of my personality that protected me against that. Okay, you have to be sensitive to write and make art, but at the same time you can't be so sensitive that you're crushed every time somebody criticises you. You have to build a warrior archetype within yourself, and that's what the martial art has done for me.

You're about to present your play *Fragile* at the Belgrade Theatre. Can you tell us a bit about it?

It's about a man who has an abuse outed upon him when he's twelve, and that abuse sends his life at a right-angle. So instead of following the life he thinks he needs to follow, he ends up becoming crippling insecure. It's about how he reads all the bibles and trains in these killer arts - obviously it's semi-autobiographical - so he can understand and dissolve his fears. He's so traumatised by what happened to him that he can't trust anybody, especially if they love him. He's been told from an early age that if someone loves you, they will harm you. He doesn't even really trust the tape recorder that he's talking into. He's very articulate and he's incredibly cynical, but he still has this huge insecurity. He would like to talk to the person who abused him but he's too scared, and he'd like to talk to the people who love him but he's too fragile. He'd like to talk to God but he's too angry. So through the four acts, and by talking to this tape recorder, he's professing his shame, his guilt, his anger and his rage. Through this, he finds some peace. It's a painful but enlightening process, but it's also beautiful and brutally honest. It's an atonement. He's getting out all the parts that aren't him, and leaving himself with the parts that are. He's finding absolution through a tape recorder.

How important is it to show *Fragile* in your home city?

It's one of those things you want to show in Edinburgh or in America. You want to show it everywhere but home, because when you show it at home, your children are watching, your family is watching and your friends are watching. But the only way to bring light to these things is to let them come home. So it's entirely and exactly where it should be, and I'm absolutely delighted that the Belgrade has got the courage to show it. I'm thrilled that it's here, but also quietly terrified.

So is the tension building as you get nearer to opening night?

No. It's interesting, but as we get closer, the tension has lessened. It's also that, as I get closer, the monster is dispersing. It's so beautiful, and I can't wait for it to come on. I'm very pleased that it's here, and very pleased that it's in Coventry. The people of Coventry have been very good to me. It's my home city, and everything that I write about has its genesis here.

So how did growing up in Coventry lay the foundations for the person that you are today?

It's such a hardy, honest, blunt, beautiful city. There's not a lot of edit here. People say what they see, but there's a great poetry beneath it all which I love, and it's evident in everything that I write, whether it's Brown Paper Bag or Bouncer. They're all about Coventry, and the more I've written about the city, the more I've loved it.

You've got quite a few short films and a feature under your belt. Are there plans for any more?

There are five features in development, and two of them are heavily developed. They're all optioned, two by London companies, and are in the process of being cast. I'm currently writing a film and a play for Michelle Collins, which I'm working on with a couple of directors, and I've written a novel called Red Mist, which is being converted into a feature film. That's being cast at the moment. Also, Romans 12:20 has been written into a feature film, which is being cast in America at the moment and which we intend to shoot in New York. That's getting great feedback right now, and we're attracting an A-list cast. The Belgrade has commissioned me to do a new play as well, called Compilation. We've just finished a half-hour film called Counter Backwards, which is in post-production at the moment. It's set in Coventry in the 1980s and is about a girl called Michelle who's raped at knifepoint. It's about how she survived and went on to capture her rapist. It's quite brutal but very empowering. So I guess there's quite a lot going on at the moment...

So does everything you write have a dark undertone?

Yeah. My wife says I should write a comedy! She says, 'for goodness sake, write something funny!'. I tend to do harsh films that have a certain beauty and poetry to them. I'm hoping at some point I might be able to do some sort of romantic comedy for Jennifer Anniston, but again my wife reckons five minutes in and there'll be a murder or a rape! Yeah, there's a lot of dark humour in the stuff I write, but I feel there's also something beautiful to it, and there's also hope. Without that, it would be too depressing.

If you could choose to cast any actor, who would you choose?

I really like Colin Farrell, and Daniel Day Lewis is probably the guy that I'd like to write something specifically for. Slightly different, I know, but I'd like to write something for Spielberg. I've already got an idea that I'd like to take to him. My aspirations have always been really high. When we wrote Bouncer, we had £10,000 to make it, and they said 'who do you want to sign?'. I said Ray Winstone, and everybody laughed and said, 'we haven't got the money to pay for his lunch, he's on Hollywood fees!' I said, 'let's ask him and see what he says'. So we did, and he ended up doing it for free. It actually cost him money! So I reckon if you aim high, and the material is right, you can get some of the best actors in the world. Again, though, for me, it's about having a specific project for them rather than contriving something especially for them. I'd also like to work with Tom Hardy. He's been interested in some of my previous works, but the timings have always been wrong, so I'd really like to do something specifically for Tom. I'm also a big fan of Daniel Craig, who's

been a pivotal force behind getting Romans to CAA. He took it to his agents and said, 'I love this'. His agent cast it, and it's in America now.

So how do you come back down to earth after hobnobbing with all these A-listers?

It becomes the new normal. You soon come to realise that they're just ordinary, the same as you. I guess I always knew that, but when I was at the BAFTAs, and sat opposite Johnny Depp or behind Thandie Newton, I realised that they're just ordinary people and they're trembling before they go up for their awards. I did have to move my wife's chair so that she couldn't see Johnny Depp, though. I said, 'there's no need to look, you've got your own Johnny Depp here'. She asked me if I could cast Johnny in one of my films. I said, 'not likely, not while he's so good looking!'

Looking back, what's been the highlight of your career so far?

I think getting the first book published was what transformed everything, and that was such an amazing time. But winning the BAFTA has to be the highlight. We'd been nominated two years in a row, and we didn't get it the first time; we were so close.

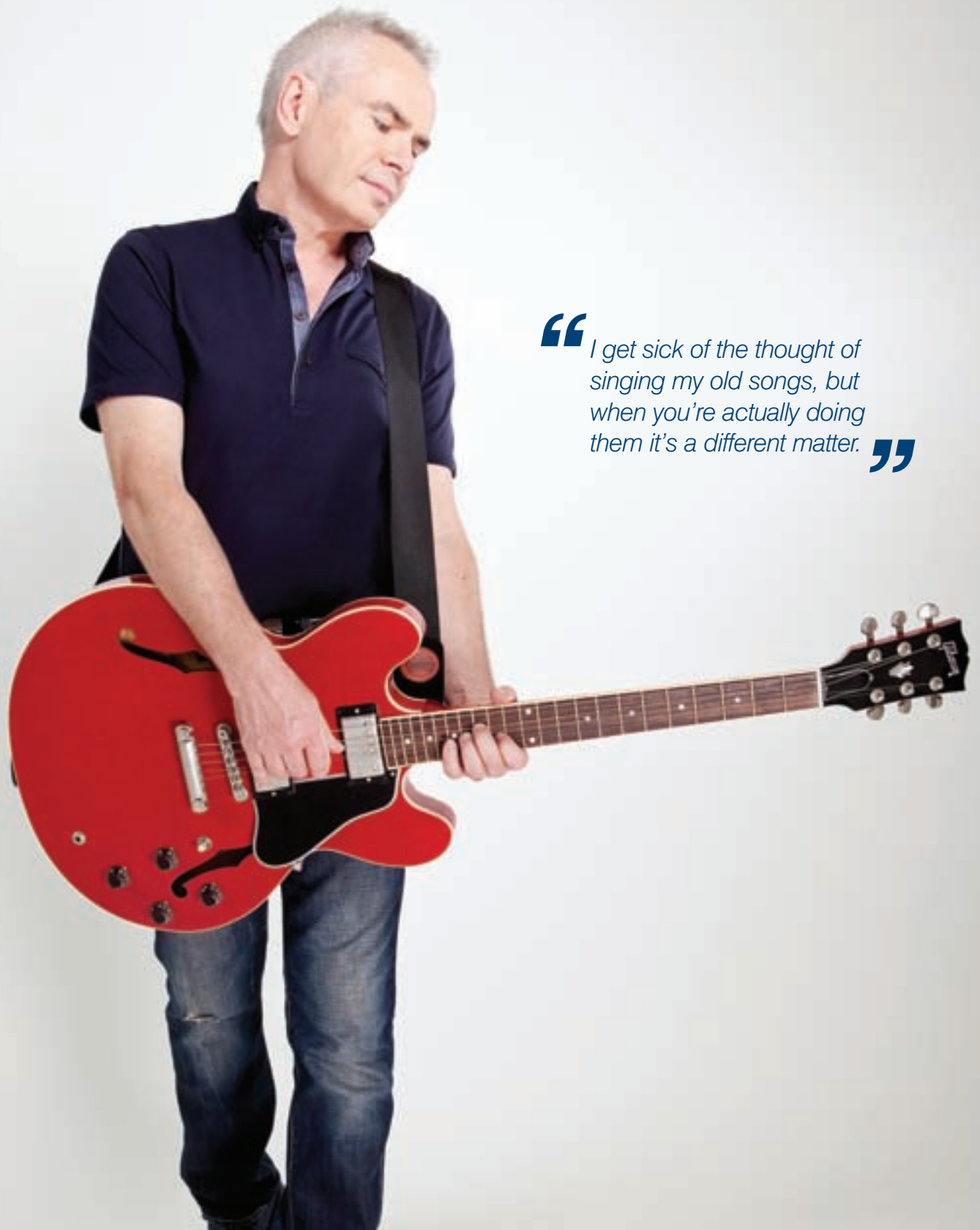
You've obviously got that firm belief that anybody can do anything and become anything. So how do you instill that in others?

You have to instill it intellectually first, and show them evidence of other people like them who've done it. Once they've seen that it's been done by similar types, they start to believe it possible. Next, you try to get them to place themselves visually in that situation, and you show them what the gap is. You also try and get people to follow their natural bias. It may be that they want to be a writer when in fact they're more aligned to becoming a director, or maybe being an artist. For me, going into writing was a natural bias, it was something I've always wanted to do. But for some, the reality of what we want to do isn't quite as reassuring as the fantasy. If you come close to the reality, and you still love it, then you know it's a natural bias. Even then it's about doing the work. Olympians work Olympic hours. The top artists in the world give it their all. They totally immerse themselves, they marinate in it and that's what a lot of people aren't prepared to do.

Finally, what's your long-term goal?

Workwise, I'm aiming for an Oscar. I want to be on that stage and prove to myself that it can be done. That then gives you a platform to tell kids that it's achievable and that it can be done. I took my BAFTA to the Cardinal Wiseman School in Coventry and spoke to the kids. I said, 'listen, I came to this school, my mum cleaned at this school, I lived just opposite this school. What does that mean to you?'. They replied, 'it means that we can do it too'. There's nothing better than showing people what you can achieve and the lineage of that, which says that you're the same as them. In my own self, it's just to get closer to my source, closer to my God. I suppose you could call it absolution, being at one with God. Whether it'll happen in this one lifetime, I just don't know.

Geoff Thompson's *Fragile* shows at Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, from Sat 8 - Sat 22 September.



“ *I get sick of the thought of singing my old songs, but when you're actually doing them it's a different matter.* **”**

Nik Kershaw

talks about the 80's and his new album...

One-time funk guitarist Nik Kershaw spent a record-breaking fifty weeks in the charts in his golden year of 1984, and played his part in Live Aid the following year too. Nik appears in concert in Birmingham this month, so What's On took the chance to catch up with the one-time teen idol...

In your forthcoming concert, you're going to play your first album, *Human Racing*, in its entirety. Where did that idea come from?

Universal, who own the back catalogue to my old record label, MCA, called me at the end of last year and told me that they were re-releasing *Human Racing*, and asked if I wanted to be involved in any way. I was keen to oversee the quality control and make sure it was done properly, so I said yes. The album was re-released at the start of this year. I've also just released a new album, *EI8HT*, so I thought, why not put both albums in a live set. It means it's not just another ordinary gig.

Looking back on the *Human Racing* album, is there a track that means more to you than any of the others?

I guess it would have to be *Wouldn't It Be Good* - that was the first big hit, and it's the one song I've never really messed about with when I play it live. It's pretty much stayed as it was on the record. It got the ball rolling and it's been good to me ever since.

When you think back to the '80s, how do you feel about that time? Is there anything you regret?

My only minor regret was not enjoying it more than I did, as it all went by in such a whirlwind - and a slightly stressful one at that! I look back on it with fondness, and with less embarrassment than I used to. I suppose I'm a little bit embarrassed about what I looked like and how I behaved, but not the music. That came quite naturally to me. It was all the other stuff. If someone stuck a camera in my face, I didn't really know what to do. It's a decade that set me up for life, so I can't look back on it with anything other than respect and fondness.

Do you ever get sick of singing your most well known songs from the 1980s?

I get sick of the thought of singing them, but when you're actually doing them it's a different matter. I've got a respect for those songs, they've been very good to me. People want to hear them. They're great

things to have in your set - they can be like stepping stones. When people's eyes are glazing over, you can chuck an old one in, and they're back in the room again. It's like sharing - and everyone, including me, is transported back twenty-five years or so. Because of the scale of my exposure in the '80s, most people are always going to associate me with those songs, and I don't have a problem with that.

What was it like to be part of *Live Aid*?

It was terrifying. You didn't have a sound check, and you didn't know if your gear was going to be on stage or whether it would be working! Fortunately, mine was - although some people weren't so lucky! Being surrounded by all your peers and your heroes, and the not insignificant matter of two billion people watching on TV, made it really nerve-wracking!

Tell us about the new album, *EI8HT*. Which are your favourite tracks?

About eighteen months ago, I thought it was about time I made a new album. The last one was in 2006. I'm not sure what it is - hormones maybe - but I just got an urge to do something for myself, to make another record. I like the first single, *The Sky's The Limit*, I like *Runaway*, and we've just done a remix of *You're The Best*, which has turned out really well.

Looking at today's music scene, are there any performers that you particularly admire?

I'm guilty of not paying very much attention, I have to be honest! That said, there's some good stuff about. There's a band called *Everything Everything*, and Ed Sheeran is fantastic. I really respect songwriters like Ed, not just people who can sing a bit.

Do you mourn the demise of shows like *Top Of The Pops*?

Well, it's a very different business without it. It was pivotal in my formative years, in my youth, and in my career. Goodness knows how many times I must have done it. And it was the one show and one chart everyone took notice of. Maybe with the exception of *Jools Holland*, I do miss the fact that there isn't really a music show on mainstream TV.

And what do you think about TV talent shows like *The Voice* and *The X Factor*?

I think we've all had enough of them, haven't we? There are so many talented people out there, but all the media wants to talk about is five or six *X Factor* contestants, some of whom are, admittedly, very talented. And yes, *X Factor* has found some great people, who are still making music. It's the monopoly they have on people's attention that I have a problem with. And what happens to the people on these shows that don't make it? What kind of support system do they have for them? Not much of one.

Going back to the concert - as well as *Human Racing* and the new album, are we likely to hear some of your other hits, such as *The Riddle* and *Wide Boy*?

Don't worry, I'll be wheeling out all the big guns - and you might hear some obscure album tracks too. It's going to be a smorgasbord of my career from the last thirty years.

Nik plays Birmingham's O2 Academy on Saturday 22 September. His new album, *EI8HT*, is out now.



“*The theme running through the album is love, the questioning of love, relationships and what the point of it all is.*”



Aiden Grimshaw

talks about X Factor and his forthcoming tour...

It's been a rollercoaster ride for X Factor contestant Aiden Grimshaw. Two years after being voted off the show in ninth place, his debut single entered the charts at number thirty-five, and his first album has just been released. Not only that, but the twenty-year-old boy from Blackpool is soon to hit the road with his first ever tour...



You appeared on the X Factor in 2010. Is singing something you've always wanted to do?

Yeah. I first started singing when I was about seven. The first single I bought was You Say It Best When You Say Nothing At All by Ronan Keating. I used to crack it out in my bedroom, thinking I was Ronan Keating and that it was a surefire way for me to get a hand holding partner.

You also went to Theatre School and have done a bit of acting. Is that something you'd still like to pursue?

Not at the moment. The opportunity I've got at the moment is amazing, so I'd be a fool to write a massive novel and then to start messing with plays. I don't want to be a jack of all trades and master of none.

How was the overall X Factor experience?

It was very good. Well, it was amazing, actually. It was mental, because I used to work at Pizza Hut, and I look on the experience very kindly!

Is it a process you'd do again?

No, I don't think I could do it again. I took my gran to my first audition in Manchester, and it was a fourteen-hour day. I thought she was going to pass out! I was pretty knackered too, to be fair. Plus, you have to do about three pre-auditions before you get to see the judges. I couldn't go through that again, I'd get impatient! I think once is enough.

Is it fair to say you weren't sure which direction you wanted to take musically whilst on the show?

Yeah, I think so. I was eighteen, and as clever as you think you are when you're growing up, or as much as you think you might know, you'll never really be sure at that age. In the two years since X Factor, I've changed so much. I think I've grown up a lot too.

Your debut album, *Misty Eyes*, is out soon. You've written a good many of the tracks. Did you find it a challenge?

No, not at all. It happened so quickly. I met Jared Rodgers, the producer of the album, in November, and we had a finished and mastered album by February. It happened that quickly. If we'd condensed the writing of the tracks into days, we'd probably have had a finished album in a four or five week period. Everything was so fresh. I'd go out one night, have an idea, write it down at about four in the morning and take it into the studio the next day. That's when we'd write the songs. It was pretty easy. Jared would do the beat and I'd do the song. That was it!

Where did the inspiration for the tracks come from? Are they based on life experience?

Yeah, definitely. When you're writing songs, you need to write things that are personal to you. The theme running through the album is love, the questioning of love, relationships and what the point of it all is. It's sort of a generic base to start writing about something. I'm only twenty, and it's kind of the only thing I've done. You want to write about something you can relate to.

What's your favourite track on the album?

That's like asking a parent which is their favourite child! It's weird having your own album out, but I don't think I could pick a particular song. There are four tracks on the album that I really love, and the track that's out at the moment, *Curtain Call*, is my current favourite. I wrote it in my bedroom after a drunken night, using a piano I bought for £50.

Your first single, *Is This Love*, reached the Top Forty. Were you happy with your first attempt at entering the charts?

Certainly! It was only supposed to be a 'remember me' sort of vibe. Nobody in our group expected it to really do anything, it was more a case of putting it out there so that people would think, "oh, that Aiden Grimshaw lad is back". Radio took it and it just kind of happened. It was an amazing response, one

that I wasn't expecting, and now we're just trying to carry that through.

You've got a tour coming up - are you looking forward to it?

Yes! The tour starts in September, and it's going to be slightly different to the X Factor Live tour. I've got a great band around me - three lads who are just amazing musicians - so I'm really looking forward to it.

What can we expect to see on the tour?

Generally speaking, the whole sound of the album is going to be different to what people expect. The live versions should offer a little bit more than the recordings. Like I said, I've got amazing musicians on stage with me, who'll be able to emulate the sounds from the album really well. I won't be doing any of my X Factor tracks. That's all behind me, and, quite frankly, some things are best left alone!

What have you got planned once the tour finishes? Will you be back in the studio working on more material?

I haven't really thought about it yet. I'm writing all the time. I had an idea last night, so I was up until about 5.30am, making weird voice notes on my phone. I'm not always in the mindset of "what's the next song I'm going to write?", but for now I'm just making sure I enjoy every day. I don't really want to plan too far ahead; I've been waiting for two years to be doing this work!

Finally, where would you like to see yourself in five years' time?

I don't really know. Hopefully, I'll get the chance to do another album or another tour. Hopefully I can just carry on doing what I'm doing, because I've been having such a great time. I don't think I could go back to normality now.

Aiden Grimshaw performs at **O2 Academy, Birmingham** on **Wednesday 26 September**.

Music

Jesca Hoop

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Wed 19 September

Releasing third album *The House That Jack Built* on her own label earlier this year, Jesca releases a second song from the album *Hospital (Win Your Love)* two days before she plays Birmingham. Born in Northern California to Mormon parents, the talented singer-songwriter broke away from her family to become a homesteader in the Californian wilderness. Gaining exposure on local radio station KCRW in 2003, she then went on to tour with acts such as Elbow and Polyphonic Spree before moving to Manchester in 2009. Hear songs both old and new at this intimate show.



The Enid

Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, Fri 7 September

Formed in 1973, The Enid started recording at the same time as punk rock emerged from the underground. Despite the timing, and founder member Robert Godfrey's assertion that their ironic takes on classical music were just as anarchic as anything by the Sex Pistols, they didn't quite fit the mould. Latterly labelled as prog rock, they've always enjoyed a crossover with heavier music genres. Currently recording new album *Invicta*, the band's latest show sees them linking up with rockers InMe, with support coming from Joykill.



Twisted Wheel

Kasbah, Coventry, Wed 19 September; O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sun 30 September; The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 1 October

Manchester indie-rockers Twisted Wheel are this autumn making a comeback with a twenty-three-date UK tour. Kicking off in Coventry, the band that Liam Gallagher described as 'a breath of fresh air' once again bring their style of gritty rock'n'roll to the masses. Reminiscent of the early Jam, the boys describe themselves as a mixture of '70s punk and '60s rock and roll, with a pinch of Oasis thrown in for good measure.



Maverick Sabre

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sat 29 September;
The Assembly, Leamington Spa, Mon 1 October

Associated with genres such as soul, reggae fusion, post-dubstep, hip-hop and folk, Irish-English singer-songwriter and rapper Maverick Sabre blends quality guitar playing with eerie vocals to achieve a sound that's very much his own. In a career that's almost as short as his hair, Maverick's already scored numerous successes, including a contribution to the Professor Green club smash *Jungle* and a collaboration with Chase & Status on *Fire In Your Eyes Again*. His 2011 debut EP, *The Lost Words*, marked him out as a talent to watch out for, while his first studio album - this year's *Lonely Are The Brave* - offered ample evidence that he's got what it takes to secure a long-term position for himself in the UK's musical firmament.

Dexys

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 12 September

Rebranded from Dexys Midnight Runners in 2003, Dexys is the brainchild of the famously intense Kevin Rowland, and is a pop band with real soul. They're very much on the comeback trail in 2012 with the release of *One Day I'm Going To Soar*, the first track of which they performed on *Later With Jools Holland* back in May. The new album arrives a staggering twenty-seven years after the release of their previous effort. This homecoming gig sees the Birmingham band playing the new album in its entirety, as well as old favourites such as *Come On Eileen* and *Geno*.



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3pm
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David Essex

Monday 5 November
7.30pm
Symphony Hall
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Jazz, Folk, World & Roots



Catch A Fire A Tribute to Bob Marley and The Wailers

Saturday 13 October
7.30pm
Town Hall
£16.50, £18.50*
Part of the Jazzlines programme



The Old Dance School, Katriona Gilmore & Jamie Roberts and Lady Maisery

Tuesday 30 October 7.30pm
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£15*, £12* for full or part-time students

Classical



The Vienna Boys' Choir

Friday 5 October
7.30pm
Town Hall
£9.50 - £30*



Wayne Shorter Quartet

Thursday 1 November
7.30pm
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Certificate PG

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Music PREVIEW

Dave Stewart

Symphony Hall, Tues 4 September

You know that you've made it big in the rough, tough world of the music industry when the iconic Bob Dylan takes time out from being a legendary troubadour to say a few words about you. Sunderland-born Dave Stewart is a man in just such an enviable position, with Dylan having described him as 'an explosive musician and deft guitar player' who 'innately recognises the genius in other people and puts it into play without being manipulative'...

Enough said, really, but we'll carry on anyway - at least for long enough to mention that Dave is, of course, best known for his electronic pop work with the Eurythmics, and that this particular gig is in support of his latest album, *The Ringmaster General*, released early this month.



Partikel

The Hive, Shrewsbury, Sat 15 September

This London-based trio of young gentlemen - Duncan Eagles (saxophones), Max Luthert (double bass) and Eric Ford (drums) - have certainly caused a stir since the release of their eponymous debut album in late 2010. Honing their skills via Monday night jam sessions at a venue in Streatham, the boys have garnered great praise for the high quality of both their writing and musicianship. They've accompanied numerous famous names, too, as well as receiving tuition from acclaimed talents such as bassist Steve Watts and saxophonists Russell Van Den Berg and Mornington Lockett. The future looks bright...



The Pineapple Thief

The Robin, Bilston, Sun 16 September

Warming up for the release of new album *All The Wars*, The Pineapple Thief will this autumn be busy touring the UK before heading to Europe with InMe in winter. Bruce Soord released three albums before deciding to form a band, recruiting close musical friends Jon Sykes on bass, Wayne Higgins on guitars, Matt O'Leary on keyboards and Keith Harrison on drums. With a positive response



Marillion

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Thurs 13 September

Feted worldwide for the high-energy nature of their live performances, Marillion first came together in the late-1970s, producing four hit albums in their first decade. When original lead singer Fish opted out in 1988, Steve Hogarth took his place, the band continuing to chart well for another ten years or so. They've been more of a cult act since the twenty-first century dawned, swapping the full glare of the limelight for the benefit of having a fanbase so loyal that the boys could probably carry on touring until they're all very old men, if they had a mind to. In 2008, they were ranked thirty-eighth in *Classic Rock's* Fifty Best Live Acts of All Time, and are touring to the Midlands in support of their latest album, *Sounds That Can't Be Made*.

to previous release *Someone Here Is Missing*, the band is now under new management and moving onto bigger and better things, including more tours and an increased number of festival slots. Howard James Kenny supports.



Richard Hawley

HMV Institute, Birmingham, Sat 22 September

Away from his work as a solo artist, Richard Hawley is best known for his time in the Brit-pop band Longpigs, and for spending some time with his mate Jarvis Cocker in Pulp. As a solo performer, the guitarist and singer-songwriter has released seven albums, the latest of which is this year's *Standing At The Sky's Edge*, a work that's been described as 'channeling elements of psychedelia, space rock and ragas with heavy riffs and raw, visceral guitar solos'. Charting at number three - Richard's highest ever entry - and receiving more than its fair share of praise across the board, the album offers irrefutable evidence, were any to be needed, that Hawley is an artist who's very much at the peak of his powers.



Saregama - Celebrating The Legends

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 5 September

Roop Kumar Rathod, the voice behind popular hits *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi*, *Sandese Aate Hain*, *Toh Chalun* and *Maula Mere Maula*, is here joined by his wife Sunali Rathod in a show that pays tribute to the legendary Mohd Rafi, Lata Mangeshkar, Talat Mahmood and Noor Jehan. The concert sees the highly regarded couple perform numerous classics, including *Jo Waada Kiya* (Taj Mahal), *Itna Na Mujhse Tu Pyaar Badha* (Chaaya), *Aawaaz De Kahan Hai* (Anmol Ghadi), *Suhani Raat* (Dulari) and *Madhuban Mein Radhika* (Kohinoor).



Ian McNabb

Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sun 23 September; The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Fri 9 November

Liverpool singer-songwriter Ian McNabb has played with musicians as diverse as Ringo Starr, Crazy Horse, Mike Scott of The Waterboys and Danny Thompson of folk legends Pentangle, but is best known as the frontman and lead songwriter of The Icicle Works, who broke up in 1991. McNabb then revived the band name in 2006 for a series of UK concerts, and now returns to the fray with his ninth album, *Little Episodes*, which he wrote over just a day and a half in November 2011.

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Steffani

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Reviews of Steffani's La Liberté Concerto
 The Independent (2003)

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Tuesday 16 October, 2pm
-  **Greg Davies The Back Of My Murr's Head Tour**
Monday 22 October, 8pm
-  **Ben: Michael Jackson tribute concert**
Thursday 25 October, 3pm **HALF TERM**

Stourbridge Town Hall

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-  **Too Dam Hot Christmas Special**
Tuesday 11 December, 2pm

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B.O.B

HMV Institute, Birmingham,
Mon 24 September

Also known as Bobby Ray Simmons, American rapper, singer-songwriter and record producer B.o.B hit the big time in style with his debut single Nothin' On You, which reached number one in both the United States and the United Kingdom. Second single Airplanes took top spot in the UK as well (it reached number two in the States), while debut album B.o.B Presents: The Adventures Of Bobby Ray took poll position in the US charts. B.o.B's appearance in Birmingham this month comes in support of second album Strange Clouds, seventy-five thousand-plus copies of which were sold in the first week after its Springtime release. Check him out.



Roddy Woomble

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 14 September; The Hive, Shrewsbury, Sun 25 November

Better known to thousands as Scottish rock band Idlewild's front man, Roddy Woomble is also a celebrated solo songwriter and performer. Showcasing his brand of contemporary folk as a solo artist, he released debut album My Secret Is My Silence in 2006. Working with musicians such as Kate Rusby, his wife Ailidh Lennin and Idlewild guitarist Rod Jones, Woomble produced an album that reached the top spot in the UK folk charts. He's currently recording his third solo album, the follow-up to 2008's Before The Ruin, recorded with Drever and McCusker, and is using this tour to test out his new material.



Abandonman

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Thurs 20 September; The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 7 October

With festivals such as Glastonbury, V, Bestival, Latitude, Altitude and Rockness (not to mention appearances at the Brits after-party and Daisy Lowe's twenty-first birthday bash) nicely secured under their belts, it's fair to say Abandonman - comprising frontman Rob Broderick and multi-instrumentalist James



George Michael 'Symphonica'

LG Arena, Birmingham, Sun 16 - Mon 17 September

Linking up with classical orchestras from across Europe to reinterpret not only a selection of his own material but also unexpected cover versions and traditional standards, George Michael's 2011 Symphonica tour was enjoying huge success until a serious bout of pneumonia left the singer in an intensive care unit in an Austrian hospital. Now fully recovered, Michael is back on the road, with these two Birmingham dates replacing the ones he had to cancel last December. Unquestionably one of Britain's best-known and most admired singer-songwriters, he continues to hold sway with a still-adoring public, despite a recent history littered with personal controversy and way too many run-ins with the local constabulary. He's come a long way since his mid-1980s glory days as one half of Wham!, but George has always managed to retain a keen understanding of what his fans want from him, and seems no less able to deliver now than he's ever been.

Hancox - have made the kind of sensational splash it's hard to ignore. Witness the fact that this gig is a complete and total sell-out. The boys' success can hardly be considered a surprise, mind, given how deliciously original and innovative they are. For those not already in the know, the fellas create hilarious musical sketches at lightning speed in front of a live audience, a fact that ensures each and every gig is an impressively unique experience. If you've got tickets for this show, enjoy. If you haven't, catch up with Rob and James as soon as you can.

Smoke Fairies

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham,
Wed 26 September

They may be old school friends from Sussex, but these two artists have a sound that is distinctly American. Having spent a year in New Orleans soaking up the sound of the blues, they returned to England, discovered folk music and scored impressive gigs supporting Bryan Ferry and Richard Hawley. Proving their networking skills, they became the first UK act to release a single on Jack White's label Third Man Records, and were asked to support him on his 2012 solo tour.

Aiden Grimshaw

O2 Academy, Birmingham,
Wed 26 September

One of the best things to come out of Blackpool, X Factor alumnus Aiden Samuel Grimshaw finished ninth on series seven of the hit ITV1 talent show back in 2010. Quickly signed up by RCA Records, he's been biding his time ever since, and finally released his debut single, Is This Love, in June of this year. Having just released his debut album, which he describes as 'intense' and 'a vague narrative around a break-up', Aiden is playing the O2 as part of an eleven-date headlining tour. Read our interview with Aiden at www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Nik Kershaw

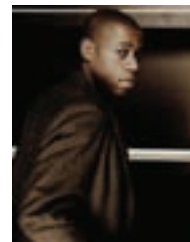
O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sat 22 September

Is it really possible that Nik Kershaw has clocked up a half century and more on Planet Earth? Surely not! It seems like only yesterday that the boy from Bristol was a fresh-faced teen idol, sharing airtime and chart space with the likes of Duran Duran, Wham! and Haircut 100. A one-time funk guitarist, Nik spent a record-breaking fifty weeks in the charts in his golden year of 1984, and played his part in Live Aid the following year too, as well as scoring mega-hits with songs like I Won't Let The Sun Go Down On Me and Wouldn't It Be Good. Oh, and he also wrote the Chesney Hawkes number one The One And Only, just for good measure. Nik appears in Birmingham this month in the company of his band, and is sure to be playing plenty of old 1980s favourites as well as numbers from his latest album, 8. Read our interview with Nik Kershaw at www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Roachford

The Jam House, Birmingham,
Thurs 13 September; The Robin, Bilston,
Thurs 20 September

With his influences including artists such as Curtis Mayfield, Al Green, The Roots, D'Angelo and Jill Scott, Andrew Roachford is the force behind Roachford, the all-British pop/soul group that made their name in the late 1980s with tracks such as Cuddly Toy and Family Man. The first artists to sign a seven-album deal with Columbia Records, the band were the label's biggest-selling UK act for ten years. Their latest album, Addictive, is a powerfully emotive and soulful offering that brilliantly showcases Andrew's unique songwriting style, and is widely considered to be his edgiest sound to date.



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THU 6 SEP
Macao Band
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FRI 7 SEP
DIRTY DC
 THE AC/DC TRIBUTE
 DIAMOND 111

SAT 8 SEP
The Modfathers
 Featuring the hits of Paul Weller
 The Jam & The Style Council

SUN 9 SEP
MAGENTA

TUE 11 SEP
AMY WADGE & PETE RILEY

WED 12 SEP
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SUN 16 SEP
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TUE 18 SEP
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WED 19 SEP
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THU 20 SEP
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FRI 21 SEP
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FRI 28 SEP
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THE COUNTERFEIT STONES

SUN 30 SEP
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Fri 14th £7 **Elvis by Kevin Paul**

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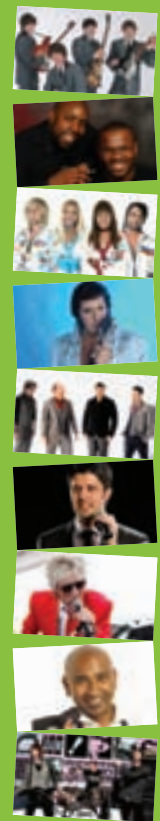
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MOTOWN MAGIC The River Rooms, Stourbridge
TAKING HAYLEY The Ballroom, Birmingham
SILENT FILTER FT. CLAUSTROPHOBIQUE O2 Academy, Birmingham
MANIFEST LIVE FT. CITY LIGHTZ, JIMMY DAVIS, MEZZOTONIC, LUKE TRUTH, BACK TO BACK, COVERT AND ARKWRIGHT FT. BUGZY O2 Academy, Birmingham
DESPERADO The Robin, Bilston
THE QUO Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
GIANTESS The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
CLAUSTROPHOBIQUE, NEW KILLER SHOES, WE WRITERS, RIDOLFI & SEARCHING SKYLINES O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE FAB BEATLES The Range, Essington, Wolverhampton

SUN 2 SEP

COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL Birmingham Botanical Gardens
MOSTLY AUTUMN The Robin, Bilston
THE BURNING CROWS The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
ROWBERRY HILL, ANDY FLYNN, JOE MORTON, LUKE HUNTLEY, KIM LOWINGS & THE GREENWOOD The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham
EMMA SCOTT PRESENTS RED METHOD, CHASING HIGHS, SOMEONE ELSE, FAKE OBSESSION, CAUGHT IN THE MOMENT O2 Academy, Birmingham

MON 3 SEP

ESCAPING VENDETTA The Ballroom, Birmingham
PEARL JEM - TRIBUTE TO PEARL JAM O2 Academy, Birmingham

TUES 4 SEP

DAVE STEWART Symphony Hall, Birmingham
BY LANTERN LIGHT Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avo

WED 5 SEP

SAREGAMA 'CELEBRATING THE LEGENDS' A hand-picked selection of songs to celebrate one hundred years of Bollywood, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
BRUCE COCKBURN The Robin, Bilston
OPM The Ironworks, Oswestry
KEIRAN HALPIN Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

THUR 6 SEP

ULI JON ROTH Warwick Cavern
THE MACCA BAND The Robin, Bilston
THE JELLYBEAN REBELLION The Rainbow, Birmingham
THE SECRET YEAR, CONDUIT, ELEVENMILESBETWEEN, L.O.S.T., TRIVAX O2 Academy, Birmingham

FRI 7 SEP

DIRTY DC - TRIBUTE TO AC/DC The Robin, Bilston
KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS Solihull Arts Complex
RED BARATT TOUR Birmingham Town Hall
MAWA & THE MELO-D Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
THE BILLY FURY YEARS Lichfield Garrick
GYPSY FIRE Lichfield Garrick
'MOTOWN' LEGENDS Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
FROM SABBATH TO HELL Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE ENID & INME Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
THE ESTABLISHMENT Warwick Cavern
ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
DAN SEALEY & ADAM BERRY Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
ULTIMATE MADNESS VS ULTIMATE SPECIALS The River Rooms, Stourbridge
INCENDIA, FRANTIC EMPIRE, INTERNAL CONFLICT, OBSESSED BY CRUELTY AND HUSK The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
DETROIT SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham
MARTYR DE MONA, WRAITH, BLACK WEDNESDAY O2 Academy, Birmingham
XYM (EX MUSICAL YOUTH) The Range, Essington, Wolverhampton



Aiden Grimshaw - O2 Academy, Birmingham

SAT 8 SEP

BRYAN ADAMS EXPERIENCE Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
GYPSY FIRE Lichfield Garrick
ABBA REVIVAL The Range, Essington, Wolverhampton
HARMEET SINGH VIRDEE Symphony Hall, Birmingham
DETROIT SOUL The Jam House
CHARITY ROCK NIGHT WITH INSOMNIA The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THE 7 TEEZ The River Rooms, Stourbridge
A FOREIGNERS JOURNEY The Roadhouse, Birmingham
THE BUDAPEST CAFE ORCHESTRA The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
LEXICOMANE! O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE ROLLIN' CLONES - ROLLING STONES TRIBUTE Band O2 Academy, Birmingham
JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW The Swan Theatre, Worcester
THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
MOTOWN SOUL SPECTACULAR WITH SOLID SOUL The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
THE MODFATHERS - TRIBUTE TO PAUL WELLER The Robin, Bilston
LIGHTHOUSE The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock
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SUN 9 SEP

MAGENTA & SUPPORT FROM ALAN REED The Robin, Bilston
IWRSTLEDABEARONCE O2 Academy, B'ham

PROMENADE CONCERT WITH FLOWERS BAND Stratford Civic Hall
NEOMANTIX PLUS PAPER TIGERS, AMFX, BREAKING SATELLITES The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
BLUE NATION, STUART JONES & FRIENDS, JAMIE CROFT & DAVID GARSIDE The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham
TOM HINGLEY, RORY MCKEE & THE BRIGHTSPARKS O2 Academy, Birmingham
CLAYSON SINGS BREL Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

MON 10 SEP

SLEEPY SUN Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
SUE DENIM O2 Academy, Birmingham

TUE 11 SEP

AMY WADGE & PETE RILEY The Robin, Bilston
WATER TOWER & LINCOLN DURHAM Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE MOONS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

WED 12 SEP

CHRIS DIFFORD The Robin, Bilston
PLAINSONG Birmingham Town Hall
GERRY CROSS THE MERSEY The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
DEXYS Symphony Hall, Birmingham
HUSKY & THE BRONZE MEDAL Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE LAST CARNIVAL & TOM STANFORD O2 Academy, Birmingham

THUR 13 SEP

RAYMOND FROGGATT The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

MARILLION Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
RAT PACK VEGAS SPECTACULAR New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
SAM SALLON Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
ALBERT LEE & HOGAN'S HEROES The Robin, Bilston
GERRY CROSS THE MERSEY Artrix, Bromsgrove
SHAM 69 The Assembly, Leamington Spa
CATE LE BON Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
CHEEK MOUNTAIN THIEF Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
ROACHFORD The Jam House, Birmingham
AEROSMITH UK Warwick Cavern
QUAYSIDE, THE SCRIBERS, ONE NIGHT STAND, CAMPUNAS, INVADE THE ARMADA O2 Academy, Birmingham

FRI 14 SEP

THE ESTABLISHMENT Warwick Cavern
THE TOY HEARTS The Ballroom, Birmingham
BIG UP THE 90'S The River Rooms, Stourbridge
HATS OFF TO LED ZEPPELIN The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
TIM AMANN XTET Symphony Hall, Birmingham
SWORN TO OATH The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
KEVIN PAUL IS ELVIS The Range, Essington, Wolverhampton
OAYSIS & THE TOTAL STONE ROSES The Assembly, Leamington Spa
RODDY WOOMBLE Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
CREAM OF CLAPTON Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
ROCKET The Jam House, Birmingham
AWAKE BY DESIGN WITH SUPPORT FROM AFTER-

MATH The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
RAYMOND FROGGATT Artrix, Bromsgrove
JAMFOLK 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
MAETLOAF The Robin, Bilston
FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
ROCKIT FUEL Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
PIAF: THE CONCERT Birmingham Town Hall
THE FIVE IN ONE SHOW Bedworth Civic Hall
STAKEOUT, KEEP THE CHANGE, SUNSET SKYLINE & EVERYBODY LOOKS FAMOUS O2 Academy, Birmingham
MONEY FOR NOTHING - DIRE STRAITS TRIBUTE Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

SAT 15 SEP

ATOMIC BLONDIE Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
ROCKET The Jam House, Birmingham
THE ELVIS YEARS The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
KINGS OV LEON O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE CULT, THE MISSION & KILLING JOKE O2 Academy, Birmingham
ABSOLUTE PARTY Warwick Castle
MAETLOAF Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
PARTIKEL The Hive, Shrewsbury
HALFWAY TO PARADISE - THE BILLY FURY STORY Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
JOHNNY 2 BAD The Robin, Bilston
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SAT 27th OCTOBER £29.50

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Fri 12th Oct, 8.30pm

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Fri 19th Oct, 8.30pm

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Fri 26th Oct, 8.30pm

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

Buble, Tina Turner and Rod Stewart, Solihull Arts Complex
GENO WASHINGTON Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
KINGS OV LEON & KAISER MONKEY KILLERS The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
FLASH - A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN The Public, West Bromwich
COULD IT BE MAGIC - TAKE THAT TRIBUTE The Range, Essington, Wolverhampton
AARON MOBBERLEY & MARC O'REILLY The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
THE MOONS Kasbah, Coventry
THE FEATURES The Ballroom, Birmingham
THE DECADES BAND The River Rooms, Stourbridge
EL-P The Rainbow Warehouse, Birmingham
BLACK RUSSIAN, THE TENNYSONS, TWELVE CLAY FEET, THE NUCELAR WEASALS, SILICONE DAISY, STORMBORN, SOPHIE BOHANAN & LUKE HUNTLEY O2 Academy, Birmingham

SUN 16 SEP

RAYMOND FROGGATT The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
GEORGE MICHAEL 'SYMPHONICA' LG Arena, Birmingham
WET NUNS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE MAKING, THE SECRET YEAR, DIFFERENT CLASS & JUMP THE SHARK The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THE PINEAPPLE THIEF The Robin, Bilston
VAMM The Hive, Shrewsbury
ARTMAGIC & LOUIS PETIT The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham
ALASDAIR ROBERTS Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

MON 17 SEP

FU MANCHU O2 Academy, Birmingham
GEORGE MICHAEL 'SYMPHONICA' LG Arena, Birmingham
MILLENIUM EAGLE JAZZ BAND The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

TUES 18 SEP

DNTEL DNTEL HMV Institute, Birmingham
JOE BROUGHTON & KEVIN DEMPSEY The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
DYING FETUS O2 Academy, Birmingham

CHRIS SMITH'S 5 STAR SWING BAND Dudley Concert Hall
BEYOND THE BARRICADE Birmingham Town Hall
ROLLING BACK THE YEARS Solihull Arts Complex
LEVI FRENCH TRIO Birmingham Town Hall

WED 19 SEP

ROLLING BACK THE YEARS Solihull Arts Complex
JESCA HOOP The Glee Club, Birmingham
RICHARD STREET Lichfield Garrick
FAT FIGHTERS - TRIBUTE TO THE FOO FIGHTERS The Robin, Bilston
THE MENZINGERS, THE FRONT BOTTOMS AND ABOVE THEM Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
TWISTED WHEEL Kasbah, Coventry
HEY SHOLAY The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham

THUR 20 SEP

SOUL PATCH The Jam House, Birmingham
CRYBABY & SYLVIA Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
ABANDOMAN The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
LARRY MILLER Warwick Cavern
THE MAINE O2 Academy, Birmingham
VOICE OF THE HEART - KAREN CARPENTER Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
MARTIN CARTHY AND DAVE SWARBRICK Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE ULTIMATE OASIS The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
MIDLAND YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA Solihull Arts Complex
GINGER BAKER'S JAZZ CONFUSION Warwick Arts Centre
ROACHFORD The Robin, Bilston
SEALL, DARKNESS IS BLINDING, ENDINGS AND ORIGINS O2 Academy, Birmingham

FRI 21 SEP

STUDIO UNPLUGGED Solihull Arts Complex
TIM EDEY & BRENDEN POWER Lichfield Guildhall
ROXY MAGIC Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
HATS OFF TO LED ZEPHLIN Royal Spa Centre
THE CARPET CRAWLERS Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
FRED ZEPPELIN The Robin, Bilston
HALESTORM O2 Academy, Birmingham

emy, Birmingham
MALEFICE, SILENT SCREAMS & SPLINTER-TONE O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE BLUES BAND The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
THE ESTABLISHMENT Warwick Cavern
FLASH BACK TO THE EIGHTIES The River Rooms, Stourbridge
THE RED LEMONS The Jam House, B'ham
UNDERGROUND HEROES The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
BEYOND BUBLE - JAMES WILLIAMS The Range, Essington, Wolverhampton

SAT 22 SEP

GUNS 2 ROSES Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
60'S BIG NIGHT OUT WITH THE MERSEYBEATS Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
THE FLOWER KINGS The Assembly, Leamington Spa
KID INK HMV Institute, Birmingham
RICHARD HAWLEY HMV Institute, Birmingham
THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE The River Rooms, Stourbridge
QUEEN ALIVE Warwick Cavern
NIK KERSHAW O2 Academy, Birmingham
STEREOTYPICAL BLUES TRAIN, NAKED REMEDY, THE FUNK PUMPKINS & PAUL O'DELL O2 Academy, Birmingham
ROD STEWART BY GARY PEASE The Range, Essington, Wolverhampton
NO JACKET REQUIRED - PHIL COLINS TRIBUTE The Robin, Bilston
RUBY TURNER Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
GORDON GILTRAP & OLIVER WAKEMAN Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE DE LANEROLLE BROTHERS IN CONCERT Solihull Arts Complex
SABRI ENSEMBLE Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
THE DU'MONTTS The Public, West Bromwich

SUN 23 SEP

GUITAR MASTERS ANDY MCKEE, PRESTON REED AND JOHN GOMM The Glee Club, Birmingham
ALSO EDEN, MR SO & SO & CRIMSON SKY The Robin, Bilston
ANNEKE VAN GIERSBERGEN & MOJO FURY O2 Academy, Birmingham
MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK O2 Academy, Birmingham
WRATHCHILD, GYPSY PISTOLEROS & NIGHTBLADE The River Rooms, Stourbridge
THE GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND Theatre



Darren Hayes - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Severn, Shrewsbury
KATHRYN TICKELL Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
IAN MCNABB Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
REBECCA SCHWARZ Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham
BRETT MCLAUGHLAN The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham

MON 24 SEP

B.O.B HMV Institute, Birmingham
JOYCE MANOR The Rainbow, Birmingham
JOE BROWN Solihull Arts Complex
JOYCE MANOR, APOLOGIES, I HAVE NONE, BANGERS & PANDA WATCH The Rainbow, Birmingham

TUES 25 SEP

THEN JERICO O2 Academy, Birmingham
DARREN HAYES Symphony Hall, Birmingham
JOE BROOKS HMV Institute, Birmingham
JIM LOCKEY & THE SOLEMN SUN Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

WED 26 SEP

ALEXANDER O'NEAL The Jam House, Birmingham
WHILE SHE SLEEPS HMV

Institute, Birmingham
KEN VANDERMARK TRIO & STEVE TROMANS QUARTET Birmingham Town Hall
TRACER The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
SMOKE FAIRIES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
PIERRE BENSUSAN Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
ULTRAVOX Symphony Hall, Birmingham
ALBERT LEE & HOGAN'S HEROES Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
AIDEN GRIMSHAW O2 Academy, Birmingham
DAPPY O2 Academy, Birmingham
RAYMOND FROGGATT Solihull Arts Complex
ERJA LYYTINEN & VIRGIL & THE ACCELERATORS The Robin, Bilston
SHABANG! O2 Academy

THUR 27 SEP

UK BEE GEES Solihull Arts Complex
RACHEL SERMANNI The Glee Club, Birmingham
ARE YOU EXPERIENCED - JIMI HENDRIX TRIBUTE The Robin, Bilston
STEVE CRADDOCK Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
MIKILL PANE & URSA HMV Institute, Birmingham
MACHINE GUN Kelly HMV Institute, Birmingham
DEL CAMINO The Jam House, Birmingham
ALBERT LEE & HOGAN'S HEROES Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
STEVE CRADDOCK Hare &

Hounds, Birmingham
OCCOEUR & GLASS BULLET O2 Academy, Birmingham

FRI 28 SEP

JOAN ARMATRADING Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
THE INTENTIONS The Jam House, Birmingham
JODY HAS A HITLIST The Ballroom, Birmingham
ULTRA 90S The River Rooms, Stourbridge
THE SUBTERRANEANS Warwick Cavern
ARTHUR DOHERTY BAND Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
MARC ALMOND Symphony Hall, Birmingham
BEE GEES FEVER The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
THE LAST MASQUERADE O2 Academy, Birmingham
ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS The Swan Theatre, Worcester
THE BOOTLEG SHADOWS Solihull Arts Complex
ETHAN ASH & MATT SHEEHAN The Glee Club, Birmingham
FRED ZEPPELIN Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW AND THE LOW RIDERS The Robin, Bilston
YURIY GALKIN NONET Symphony Hall, Birmingham
VJK The Range, Essington, Wolverhampton

Leamington
MUSIC

AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2012

Friday 5 October, 7:30pm
Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington

Henschel String Quartet

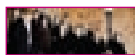
Haydn, Beethoven



Tuesday 9 October, 7:30pm
St Mary's Church, Warwick

Stile Antico

The Rose In Flower



Wednesday 17 October, 7:30pm
Kingsley School Hall, Leamington

Aquinas Piano Trio

Haydn, Saint-Saëns,
Mendelssohn



Tuesday 6 November, 7:30pm
St Mary's Church, Warwick

The York Waits with Deborah Catterall (singer)

Our King went forth



Friday 9 November, 7:30pm
Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington

Maggini

String Quartet

Mozart, Mendelssohn



Thursday 15 November, 7:30pm
Royal Spa Centre Studio Theatre
Leamington

A Blast with Fine Arts Brass



Tuesday 27 November, 7:30pm
Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

Hepplewhite Piano Trio and Chuen-An

Chern (piano)

Haydn, Brahms, Chopin



Friday 30 November, 7:30pm
Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington

The Revolutionary Drawing Room with Colin Lawson (clarinet)

Hummel, Haydn, Mozart



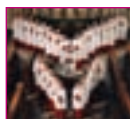
Thursday 6 December, 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church, Leamington

Ex Cathedra Christmas Concert by Candlelight



Tuesday 11 December, 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Warwick

Choir of New College Oxford Christmas Concert



For full programme and to book
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01926 776438 and

www.bridgehousetheatre.co.uk

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Sunday 30 September 2012, CBSO Centre
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Looking to the Heavens*

Friday 7 December 2012, Bramall Music Building
Two 20th century masterpieces - Schoenberg's *Pierrot
Lunaire* and Messiaen's *Quatuor pour la fin du temps*

The Tyranny of Fun

Friday 15 February 2013, CBSO Centre
World premiere of Richard Baker's Sound Investment commission
plus works by Stravinsky, Causton, Cage and Messiaen

Crossing the Atlantic

Sunday 10 March 2013, CBSO Centre
BCMGM/SAM Apprentice Composer-in-Residence
Joanna Lee world premiere and American experimental
music from the 1920s

Into the Little Hill

Sunday 7 April 2013, CBSO Centre
George Benjamin's award-winning opera and world premiere
of David Sawer's *Rumpelstiltskin Suite*

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* Looking to the Heavens concert priced the same as other BCMGM concerts but
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SAT 29 SEP

MAVERICK SABRE O2 Academy, Birmingham
NORTHERN SOUL & MOWTOWN NIGHT Dudley Concert Hall
THE INTENTIONS The Jam House, Birmingham
TEEDRA MOSES O2 Academy, Birmingham
JOAN ARMATRADING Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
NORTHERN SOUL & MOWTOWN NIGHT Dudley Concert Hall

DARK SIDE OF THE WALL Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE COUNTERFEIT STONES The Robin, Bilston
DR TEETH BIG BAND Warwick Cavern
ONE NIGHT OF ELVIS The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
PINK MISS UNDERSTOOD The River Rooms, Stourbridge
ROXY MAGIC Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
SECRET AFFAIR The Assembly, Leamington Spa



Rival Sons - Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
TOM BAXTER HMV Institute, Birmingham
DENIM AND LEATHER The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
AFTERNOON RAGA UNVEILED Symphony Hall, Birmingham
RIVAL SONS Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
MAN LIKE ME & OTHER TRIBE Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
EMMA SCOTT PRESENTS THE GRADES, MY PRESERVER, BLACK STAR NULLET & DELTORA O2 Academy, Birmingham
JAM DRC The Range, Essington, Wolverhampton

SUN 30 SEP

GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
DRAGONFORCE Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
TWISTED WHEEL O2 Academy, Birmingham
KARNATAKA The Robin, Bilston
STEVE KING BIG BAND Solihull Arts Complex
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Thurs 20 Sept Clare Teal & Midland Youth Jazz Orchestra £13 (£12)	Fri 5 Oct Wonderful Day A Tribute to Doris Day £15
Fri 21 Sept Studio Unplugged Live and Acoustic £10 (£8 adv.)	Tues 9 Oct Jamaica 50 The Music & Culture £9 (£7) £5ch
Sat 22 Sept Barnstormers Comedy Night £14 (£12 adv.)	Wed 10 Oct The Bay City Rollers Les McKeown's Story £19.50 (£17.50)
Mon 24 & Tue 25 Sept Joe Brown Multi-instrumentalist £25	Thu 11 Oct Henry Blofeld Shaken Not Stirred £18

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Celebrity Recital: Danielle De Niese

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 30 September

Regarded as 'opera's coolest soprano' by the New York Times Magazine, Australian-born Danielle De Niese's singing prowess first came to prominence in 2005, when she appeared as Cleopatra in *Giulio Cesare* at the Glyndebourne Festival. Since then, Danielle has toured extensively, regularly appearing on some of the world's most prestigious concert and opera stages. This Birmingham International Concert Season performance sees De Niese - accompanied by acclaimed English pianist Julius Drake - present an evening of romantic songs by Dowland, Grieg, Wolf, Poulenc and Bizet.

Orlando Generoso

The Barber Institute, Birmingham, Thurs 27 & Sat 29 - Sun 30 September

In what's believed to be its first staging since the early eighteenth century, Agostino Steffani's *Orlando Generoso* is here performed by The Musical And Amicable Society Baroque Orchestra. Described as a tale of attraction, infatuation, obsession and love, this latest Barber opera follows the noble Orlando as he's driven mad by his feelings and doubts. Mainly set in China, Steffani's opera explores in detail the subject of human frailty, and is set against a poignant score. Countertenor Michal Czerniawski heads up the cast as Orlando, while soprano Elizabeth Cragg performs the role of his love interest, Angelica. Louise Alder, Catarina Sereno, Louise Innes, Marta Fontanais-Simmons, Nicholas Merryweather, Alexander Aldren and Jennifer Harper also star.



Nigel Kennedy

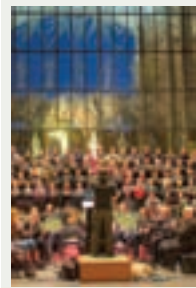
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 10 September

Jazz meets classical in this unique concert, which sees violin virtuoso Nigel Kennedy perform works by Bach and Fats Waller. The world-famous musician begins a homage to the two musical greats with a performance of Bach for solo violin. For his own arrangements of Waller's music, Nigel is joined on stage by Polish acoustic guitarist Jarek Smietana, drummer Krzysztof Dziejdzic and bass player Yaron Stavi.

The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 16 September

In recognition of Karl Jenkins' contribution to British classical music, Midlands concert producers Sing Live UK here team up with renowned performers the Black Dyke Band to present a performance of the composer's highly regarded work.



Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Featuring Ivor Settlefield

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 27 September

Acclaimed English conductor Ivor Settlefield here leads one of the UK's most prestigious orchestras in what promises to be an evening of classical excellence. Settlefield's love of music began at the age of three, when he began learning to play the violin. In his teens, he was awarded scholarships to both the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music, before completing his studies in Siena under the guidance of two of Russia's greatest conductors, Ilya Musin and Valery Gergiev. This concert sees Settlefield direct the RPO - accompanied by Duncan Riddell on violin and Laurence Davies on French Horn - through a programme featuring works by Glinka, Mozart, Boccherini, Bruch and Beethoven.



Classical LISTINGS

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

WENDY WHYTE & BARBARA MARSH (SOPRANOS) Sat 1 Sep, All Saints Church, Allesley Village Hall, Coventry

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH DAVID POULTER Mon 3 Sep, Coventry Cathedral

SIR JAMES GALWAY & THE ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S Featuring John Lubbock (conductor). Programme includes works by Bach, Wed 5 Sep, Malvern Theatres

CRYSTAL CONSORT Wed 5 Sep, Abbey Church, Shrewsbury

ORGAN PROM WITH RAUL RAMIREZ Sat 8 Sep, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

TIM CAMPAIN ORGAN CONCERT Sat 8 Sep, All Saints Church, Allesley Village Hall, Coventry

PROMENADE CONCERT WITH FLOWERS BAND Sun 9 Sep, Stratford Civic Hall

AN EVENING OF FINE CHORAL & ORCHESTRAL MUSIC TO CELEBRATE THE NEW SEASON OF MUSIC & ARTS Sun 9 Sep, Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School

NIGEL KENNEDY: BACH TO FATS WALLER The Brit Award-winning virtuoso presents an evening of back-to-back baroque & jazz, Mon 10 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL WITH MARCUS SEALY Mon 10 Sep, Coventry Cathedral

PARSIFAL: BAYREUTH FESTIVAL Live screening of Wagner's acclaimed opera in three acts which tells the story of the Arthurian Knight Parsifal and his search for the Holy Grail, Tue 11 Sep, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

HOLLIE WHITTLES AND RICHARD WALKER Clarinet and Piano recital, Wed 12 Sep, Abbey Church, Shrewsbury

JIGSAW SOUND Large mixed adult choir with over eighty voices, Thurs 13 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

CBSO OPENING CONCERT: MAHLER'S RESURRECTION Featuring Andris Nelsons (conductor), Sarah Fox (soprano), Mihoko Fujimura (mezzo) & the CBSO Chorus. Programme includes works by Strauss & Mahler, Sat 15 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL NEW ENTRANTS' CONCERT Sat 15 Sep, Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School

KATHERINE SMITH (FLUTE) & ASHLEY KAEDE (PIANO) Sat 15 Sep, All Saints Church, Allesley Village Hall, Coventry

JUBILEE ORGAN CONCERT WITH DAME GILLIAN WEIR Sat 15 Sep, Coventry Cathedral

SING LIVE PERFORM KARL JENKINS - THE ARMED MAN Featuring Sing Live UK, Black Dyke Band, Dr Nicholas J Childs (principal conductor) & Steven Roberts (conductor), Sun 16 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CHANDOS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor). Programme includes works by Copland, Schumann & Shostakovich, Sun 16 Sep, Malvern Theatres

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by JS Bach, Anon, Hindemith, Ad Wammes, Thalben-Ball & Lefebure-Wely, Mon 17 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DON GIOVANNI Co-Opera Co. present a new production of Mozart's tale of lust, revenge, jealousy, murder and deceit, Mon 17 Sep, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH PAUL LEDDINGTON WRIGHT Mon 17 Sep, Coventry Cathedral

THE MAGIC FLUTE Co-Opera Co. bring Mozart's mystical fairy tale to life. Sung in Christopher Cowell's English translation, Tue 18 Sep, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

CBSO THE BIRMINGHAM BEETHOVEN CYCLE Featuring Andris Nelsons (conductor) & Baiba Skride (violin), Wed 19 - Thurs 20 Sep, Symphony Hall, Shrewsbury

PILGRIM VOICES Wed 19 Sep, Abbey Church, Shrewsbury

ENDELLION STRING QUARTET Programme includes works by Beethoven, Bartok & Haydn, Thurs 20 Sep, Malvern Theatre

FIDELIO The New London Players present what's considered to be one of the greatest works for the operatic stage, Sat 22 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

ALEXANDER NORMAN ORGAN CONCERT Sat 22 Sep, All Saints Church, Allesley Village Hall, Coventry

ARTHUR BLISS 'THE BEATITUDES' Presented by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus, and featuring Paul Daniel (conductor) and Allan Clayton (tenor), Sat 22 Sep, Coventry Cathedral



Carducci Quartet

DON GIOVANNI Mid Wales Opera present Mozart's tragic tale of love, lust, betrayal and revenge, Sat 22 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH KERRY BEAUMONT Mon 24 Sep, Coventry Cathedral

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Weber, Bruch & Tchaikovsky, Tues 25 Sep, Cheltenham Town Hall

TOM EDWARDS ORGAN RECITAL Wed 26 Sep, Abbey Church, Shrewsbury

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Ivor Setterfield (conductor), Duncan Riddell (violin) & Laurence Davies (french horn). Programme to include works by Glinka, Mozart, Boccherini, Bruch & Beethoven, Thurs 27 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS Programme includes works by Purcell, Vivaldi & Piazzolla, Thurs 27 Sep, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

CBSO BRUCH'S VIOLIN CONCERTO Featuring Walter Weller (conductor) & Yossif Ivanov (violin). Programme to include works by Weber, Bruch & Tchaikovsky, Thurs 27 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO PLAYERS Thurs 27 Sep, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

ARMONICO CONSORT: BAROQUE AROUND THE CLOCK Old music written into brand new, up-to-date stories in English translation, Thurs 27 Sep, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

ORLANDO GENEROSO The Musical and Amicable Society Baroque Orchestra present Agostino Steffani's poignant opera that explores human frailty, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 Sep, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

CARDUCCI QUARTET Fri 28 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MORRISTON ORPHEUS

CHOIR Charity gala concert supporting Solihull Life Opportunities (SOLO), Sat 29 Sep, Solihull Arts Complex

GOLDEN JUBILEE GALA CONCERT An international evening of well-known music for choir, orchestras, soloists and audience, Sat 29 Sep, Coventry Cathedral

CARLO CURLEY ORGAN CONCERT Sat 29 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

CBSO BRUCH'S VIOLIN CONCERTO Featuring Walter Weller (conductor) & Yossif Ivanov (violin). Programme to include works by Weber, Bruch & Tchaikovsky, Sat 29 Sep, Symphony Hall,

Birmingham

CHAPTER FIVE QUINTET Sat 29 Sep, All Saints Church, Allesley Village Hall, Coventry

BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN: MUSIC BY MICHAEL NYMAN Performed by the Michael Nyman Band, Sun 30 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CELEBRITY RECITAL: DANIELLE DE NIESE One of today's most glamorous operatic stars, Danielle de Niese, makes her first visit to Birmingham. Programme includes works by Dowland, Grieg, Wolf, Poulenc & Bizet, Sun 30 Sep, Birmingham Town Hall

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Comedy

Frankie Boyle

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 September; Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 23 September; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 25 October

Scottish funnyman Frankie has managed to make it big on the telly despite his reputation for peddling material which can often be spectacularly tasteless and incredibly insulting. He managed to cause uproar in the build-up to London 2012, for example, by claiming that Olympic star Rebecca Adlington looked like "someone who's looking at themselves in the back of a spoon". He's also had a pop at Jordan's disabled son Harvey, among other victims, and leaves no stone unturned in his efforts to 'amuse', disgust and shock. Printable jokes include, "It's good they're holding the Olympics in the East End of London.

Means the athletes will have to use extra skill to work out which gunshot is the starting pistol", and "Nobody thought Mel Gibson could play a Scot, but look at him now! Alcoholic and a racist!".



Tony Law

The Place, Oakengates, Telford, Sat 22 September

With a reputation for fresh and innovative comedy, Tony Law is a well-established name on the UK comedy circuit. His act has been described as a blend of 'self-conscious surrealism and booming insanity', and sees him adopting a style which is enjoyably self-deprecatory. Oh, and if all else fails, he's not averse to mimicking a tug-boat horn...

Jim Jeffries

Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 5 September; Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Wed 12 September

Boasting a brash confrontational style that seemingly goes down a treat in all manner of far-flung destinations around the world, Australian-born Jim Jeffries is one of the fastest rising stars on the comedy circuit, charming and delighting his audiences in equal measure.



Michael McIntyre

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Fri 14 - Sat 15 September; Mon 17 - Sat 22 September

For some, the very sight of Michael McIntyre is enough to make their blood pressure soar. For others, included among whom are those who ensure his tours are always a sell-out, he's one of the funniest comedians of the modern era. His TV Comedy Roadshow and appearances as a judge on Britain's Got Talent have ensured that, like him or hate him, there's certainly no getting away from the man - and with DVDs of his stand-up shows having sold in excess of two-and-a-half million copies, it's fair to assume he'll be popping up all over the place for many a year to come.

Kevin Hart

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Thurs 13 September

Philadelphia-born actor and comedian Kevin Hart has been in more movies than some laughter merchants have got original gags, turning up in such cinematic endeavours as Little Fockers, The 40 Year Old Virgin and Scary Movie 4. An example of his line in humour is as follows: "Ever argue with a female and, in the middle of the argument, you no longer feel safe because of her actions? She may start pacing back and forth real fast, breathing out her nose. You know what my girl do? When she get mad, she start talking in the third person. That's scary as hell, because that's her way of telling me that, from this point on, she is not responsible for none of her actions."



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Comedy LISTINGS

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

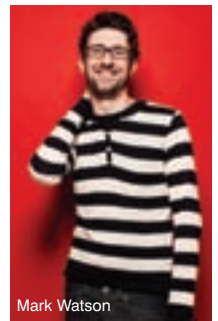
DAVID WARD, TONY BURGESS, MARK MAIER AND ANDREW BIRD Fri 1 Sep, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
DANIEL TOWNES, SUSAN MURRAY AND KEITH FARNAN Sat 1 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham
LAUGHING SOLE COMEDY CLUB FEATURING BARBARA NICE & MANDY MUDEN Wed 5 Sep, The Public, West Bromwich
LAUGHTERHOUSE COMEDY SHOW Featuring Sully O'Sullivan, Joe Lycett, Phil Nichol & Rob Rouse, Thurs 6 Sep, Palace Theatre, Redditch
KILL FOR A SEAT COMEDY CLUB FEATURING JEN BRISTER Fri 7 Sep, mac, Birmingham
THE LAUGHING SOLE FEATURING MANDY MUDEN Wed 5 Sep, The Public, West Bromwich
JIM JEFFRIES Wed 5 Sep, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
LAUGH OUT LOUD COMEDY CLUB FEATURING DAMION LARKIN, DAVE JOHNS, CHRIS STOKES AND RICHARD SANDLING Wed 5 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre,

Telford
FRANKIE BOYLE Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Sep, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
THE BOY WITH TAPE ON HIS FACE Thurs 6 Sep, Artrix, Stourbridge
KUM N AVLOFF COMEDY NIGHT Thurs 6 Sep, Stourbridge Town Hall
THE STROKE COMEDY CLUB FEATURING THE NOISE NEXT DOOR & STEPHEN GRANT Thurs 6 Sep, The George Hotel, Lichfield
KAI HUMPHRIES, NATHAN CATON, ROGER MONKHOUSE, TOM WRIGGLESWORTH Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham
STAND-UP FOR EVESHAM FEATURING DANIEL TOWNES, STUART BLACK, DANNY WARD AND SALLY-ANNE HAYWARD Fri 7 Sep, Evesham Arts Centre
FELIX DEXTER Fri 7 Sep, The Drum, Birmingham
RUDI LICKWOOD, ALEX BOARDMAN, RICHARD MORTON & JOE LYCETT Fri 7 - Sat 8 Sep, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
JIM JEFFRIES Wed 12 Sep, Civic Hall,

Wolverhampton
LAUGHING COWS COMEDY NIGHT HOSTED BY MC MAUREEN YOUNGER Wed 12 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
DANIEL SLOSS, OWEN O'NEILL & PAUL TONKINSON Thurs 13 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JETHRO Thurs 13 Sep, Stratford Civic Hall
KEVIN HART Thurs 13 Sep, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
JETHRO Thurs 14 Sep, Malvern Theatre
JASON BYRNE Fri 14 Sep, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
JOJO SMITH, GARY DELANEY, CHRIS MCCAUSLAND & STUART GOLDSMITH Fri 14 Sep, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
DANIEL SLOSS, OWEN O'NEILL, PAUL TONKINSON AND ANDREW BIRD Fri 14 - Sat 15 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham
MICHAEL MCINTYRE Fri 14 - Sat 15 Sep, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
JOJO SMITH, PAUL GARVEY, GARY DELANEY & STUART GOLDSMITH Sat 15 Sep, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
JUICE COMEDY NIGHT FEATURING ANDY KIND Fri 14 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

JASON BYRNE Sat 15 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
CANNON & BALL Sun 16 Sep, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
MARK WATSON, ANDREW MAXWELL, LUCY PORTER, WENDY WASON, ERIC LAMPAERT & JOEL DOMMETT Sun 16 Sep, Shrewsbury Fields Forever, West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury
MICHAEL MCINTYRE Mon 17 - Sat 22 Sep, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham
BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT Tue 18 Sep, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
JACK DEE Wed 19 Sep, Malvern Theatres
CRAIG HILL, JEN BRISTER & JOSEPH WILSON Thurs 20 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham
FRISKY & MANNISH Thurs 20 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
PHIL COOL Thurs 20 Sep, Palace Theatre, Redditch
GORDON SOUTHERN, OTIZ CANNELLONI, CHRIS MCCAUSLAND & TIERNAN DOUIEB Fri 21 - Sat 22 Sep, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
CRAIG HILL, SILKY, TAYLOR GLENN Fri 21 - Sat 22 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham
ALUN COCHRANE Sat 22 Sep, Theatre Severn,

Shrewsbury
JASON BYRNE Sat 22 Sep, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
BARNSTORMERS COMEDY Sat 22 Sep, Solihull Arts Complex
COMEDY AT THE MET Sat 22 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
TONY LAW The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
FRANKIE BOYLE Sun 23 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL PRESENTS... FEATURING JOSH WIDDICOMBE, HOLLY WALSH AND CHARLIE BAKER Wed 26 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JO CAULFIELD Thurs 27 Sep, mac, Birmingham
ALAN DAVIES Thurs 27 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
MARK NELSON, YIANNI AGISILAOU & BEN NORRIS Thu 27 - Sat 29 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham
BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT Line-up tbc, Fri 28 Sep, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
THE PUBLIC'S COMEDY SHOWCASE Patrick Monahan comperes an evening of comedy featuring Ray Peacock, Kabir Singh and Lovdev Barpaga, Fri 28 Sep, The Public, West Bromwich
ROY 'CHUBBY' BROWN Fri 28 Sep, New Alexandra



Mark Watson

Theatre, Birmingham
FRED MACAULAY Fri 28 Sep, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
PAUL TONKINSON, JONATHAN MAYOR, MAT REED & DAVID WHITNEY Fri 28 - Sat 29 Sep, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS NORMAL... (BUT THERE IS SUCH THING AS ME) A one-woman show fusing conversational banter and quirky sketches, Fri 28 Sep, Lichfield Garrick
THE LICHFIELD GARRICK COMEDY CLUB Sat 29 Sep, Lichfield Garrick
SEANN WALSH AND JOSH WIDDICOMBE Sat 29 Sep, Evesham Arts Centre
PAUL TONKINSON, KAREN BAILEY & RYAN GOUGH Sun 30 Sep, The Granville, Barford, Warwickshire
MARK WATSON Sun 30 Sep, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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<p>Thurs 6th September</p> <p>THE BOY WITH TAPE ON HIS FACE MIME WITH NOISE. STAND-UP WITH NO TALKING.</p>	<p>Sat 8th September</p> <p>VIRGIL & THE ACCELERATORS UP AND COMING BLUES-ROCK BAND FROM BROMSGROVE</p>	<p>Sat 15th September</p> <p>VIVA SANTANA AMAZING TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF CARLOS SANTANA</p>
<p>Sat 22nd September</p> <p>DON GIOVANNI - MID WALES OPERA STUNNING VERSION OF MOZART'S MASTERPIECE</p>	<p>Sun 23rd September</p> <p>KARNATAKA POWERFUL AND HAUNTING ROCK BAND</p>	<p>Wed 26th September</p> <p>DANNY BHOY INTELLIGENT, PERCEPTIVE & VERY FUNNY</p>

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Theatre



Little Voice

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, Mon 24 - Sat 29 September

Featuring songs from some of the world's most iconic divas, including Marilyn Monroe, Shirley Bassey and Judy Garland, this Olivier Award-winning musical tells the story of a shy young girl with an incredible talent for vocal impersonations who suddenly finds herself catapulted into the limelight by a local talent scout. Beverley Callard

(Coronation Street), Ray Quinn (Dirty Dancing, X Factor, Dancing On Ice winner) and Joe McGann (Calendar Girls, The Upper Hand, The Hanging Gale) star, with Jess Robinson as Little Voice and Duggie Brown (The Comedians) as Mr Boo. *Read the interview with Jess Robinson on page 6.*



Chicago

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 17 - Sat 22 September

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.

Mrs Brown Rides Again

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Tues 4 - Sat 8 September

Brendan O'Carroll's back once again with the third part of his original trilogy. This time, Mrs Brown finds herself on the verge of being put in a home by her children. What's the foul-mouthed matriarch to do but display a new lease of life in a desperate attempt to convince her offspring there's life in the old dog yet? That's easier said than done, however - particularly when faced with a son whose gay partner wants to give birth, a neighbour waiting for a heart bypass and a family secret that everybody seems to know except her!



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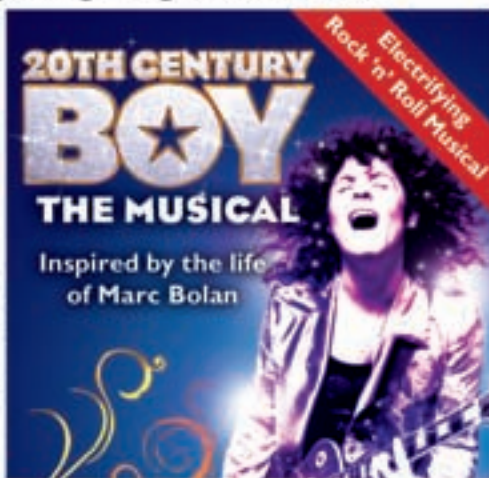
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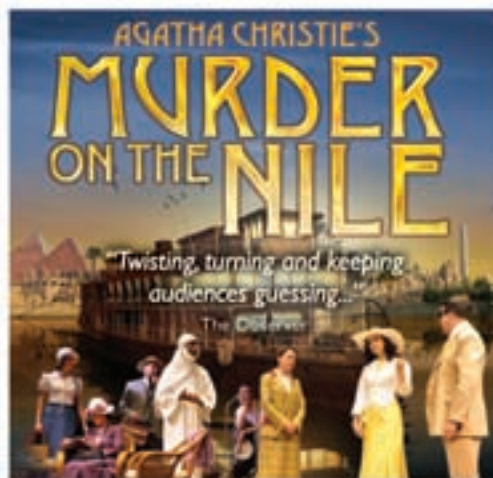
Sat 8 – Sat 22 Sept
£8.50 – £15

20% off



Fri 14 – Sat 29 Sept
£17.75 – £30.25

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Mon 8 – Sat 13 Oct
£15.75 – £30

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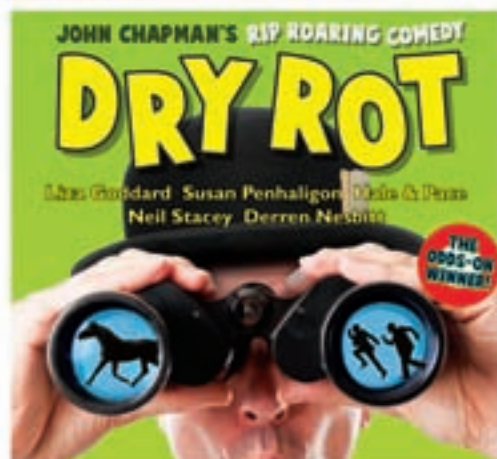


Mon 15 – Sat 20 Oct
£16.75 – £30.75



Sat 20 Oct – Sat 10 Nov
£8.50 – £20

20% off



Mon 22 – Sat 27 Oct
£15.75 – £30

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Mon 29 Oct – Sat 3 Nov
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Thurs 8 – Sat 10 Nov
£8.50 – £20

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

BOOK NOW 024 7655 3055 www.belgrade.co.uk

Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Tues 4 - Sat 8 September

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's classic musical tells the story of a boy driven into slavery by his calculating brothers, who're all envious of his coat of many colours.

Joseph's ability to predict the future from his dreams, however, ultimately frees him and wins him a place among the highest in the land...

This long-time hit show is an ensemble triumph, with terrific energy put in by all concerned.



In The Night Garden Live

Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham,
Sun 9 - Sun 23 September

Take an enjoyable journey into the magical world of In The Night Garden, where full-sized costumed characters, music, puppetry and panoramic projections all come together in a colourful and much talked about show. This new live version has been especially created in an all-weather, purpose-built show dome which recreates the fantasy world inhabited by much-loved children's characters Igglepiggle, Makka Pakka and Upsy Daisy... There's also a chance to come face-to-face with your In The Night Garden favourite, courtesy of a post-show 'meet a character' experience.



A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham,
Thurs 27 September - Sat 6 October

Accessible language, likeable characters, romantic liaisons, magical creatures and a series of comic capers with an ass combine to make this one of the Bard's most popular works. Lysander and Demetrius both fancy Hermia, Helena's sitting on the shelf, Titania and Oberon are up to no good, and Puck's got his finger in more pies than Mr Kipling. Add a group of rude mechanicals and the recipe for success is guaranteed.



20th Century Boy - The Musical

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 14 - Sat 29 September

Marc Bolan was one of glam rock's most iconic superstars until his life was tragically ended in a car crash in the Autumn of 1977. This high-energy musical, exploding onto the stage to coincide with the thirty-fifth anniversary of the T-Rex singer's demise, is packed to the proverbial rafters with the band's classic 1970s hits, including Ride A White Swan, Metal Guru, Get It On, I Love To Boogie, Children Of The Revolution, and, of course, the title track itself.

Sexton Blake Strikes Again!

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 14 September; Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 12 October

Splendid feats of derring-do, last-minute escapes, narrow scrapes and fates worse than death are all present and correct in this affectionate homage to heroes and heroics. When the British League of Underhanded Scoundrels, Traitors, Extortionists And Rascallions holds Edwardian London to ransom, it's time for Sexton Blake, The Prince of the Penny Dreadfuls, to save the day!

Jamaica 50

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
Fri 28 - Sat 29 September

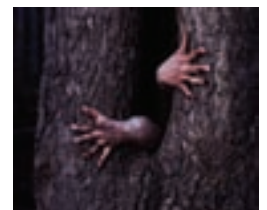
A celebration to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Jamaican independence, Jamaica 50 takes as its theme the story of the nation's evolution, as recounted by its various heroes and heroines. Touring to numerous Midlands venues, the show is being presented by Gazebo Theatre Company, is suitable for people aged eleven and older, and features the music of Bob Marley, the poetry of Miss Lou, the adventures of Mary Seacole and the oratory of Marcus Garvey.



Forests

Old Rep, Birmingham, until Sat 15 September

Performed in Catalan and English with surtitles, Forests sees the Birmingham Repertory Theatre join forces with internationally renowned director Calixto Bieito, Barcelona Internacional Teatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company to present an original play inspired by Shakespeare's references to forests throughout his work. Performed by English and Catalan actors, the production illustrates the way in which plays such as Timon Of Athens, A Midsummer Night's Dream, King Lear, Macbeth and As You Like It have represented forests as places for a getaway, a punishment or a sentence, and sometimes for shelter and redemption too.

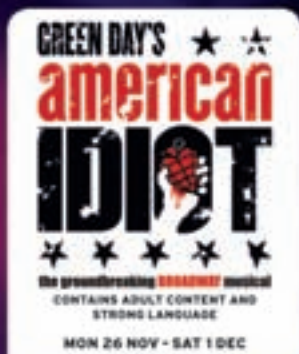
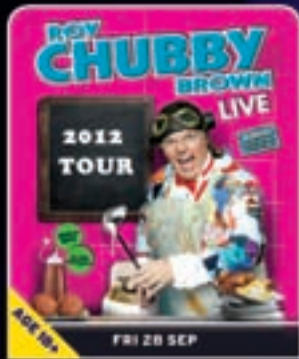


Horrible Histories

Birmingham Town Hall,
Tues 25 - Sat 29 September

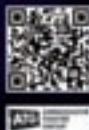
High-energy actors and 3D Bogglevision special effects here combine in another Horrible Histories presentation. This one covers The Terrible Tudors - focusing on the fate of Henry's headless wives and his punch-up with the Pope - and The Vile Victorians, during which audience members get the chance to prepare for the Charge of the Light Brigade!





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Autumn at mac

Jo Caulfield: Better The Devil You Know

Thu 27 Sep, 7.30pm | Tickets £15 (£12)

Expect razor-sharp observations and scandalous one-liners.

Vanley Burke: By the Rivers of Birminam

Sat 22 Sep - Sun 18 Nov | Free Admission

Vanley Burke's images tell the story of a great moment in Birmingham's history.

Tweedy's Lost Property

Sat 20 Oct, 2pm | Tickets £12 (£10) | Age 3+

In this one man, family show, Tweedy illustrates an impressive repertoire of comedic talents.

Saweto Kinch Trio

Sat 20 Oct, 8pm | Tickets £12 (£10)

Join one of the most exciting and versatile musicians in both the British jazz and hip hop scenes.

Knick Knack and Doo Dad

Tue 13 Nov - Sun 2 Dec | Various Times

Tickets £8, Preview Shows £7 | For Ages 3 to 101

Discover the real meaning of the festive season as Knick and Doo show you how to have fun no matter where you are.

The Woods

Sat 1 Dec - Sun 30 Dec | Free Admission

Step into The Woods, an interactive installation inspired by an autumn spent under the trees.

Mark Thomas: Bravo Figaro

Mon 3 - Wed 5 Dec, 7.30pm | Tickets £17.50 (£14.50)

This is a show about love, death and the search for peace in an imperfect world...with some gags thrown in for luck.

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Fragile

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Sat 8 - Sat 22 September

Containing strong language and themes of an adult nature, *Fragile* comprises a series of monologues charting one man's dramatic journey through the horrors of traumatic abuse to a place of self-discovery and ultimate redemption. The play is the work of BAFTA award-winning Coventry writer Geoff Thompson. *Read the interview with Geoff on page 10.*



The Importance Of Being Earnest

Malvern Theatre, Tues 4 - Sat 8 September

This famous Oscar Wilde work is a rightly-adored piece of farce that's stood both the test of time and countless dire amateur productions, rising unscathed to take its place at the very pinnacle of British comic theatre. The story revolves around the attempts of Jack to marry his true love Gwendolen, in spite of the fact that Algernon is masquerading as Jack's wayward brother Earnest in order to see his exquisite ward, Cecily. Add the ingredient of the redoubtable Lady Bracknell, and there's little wonder that disaster looms large on Jack's horizon. This Middle Ground Theatre Company production features Corrinne Wicks, Tom Butcher, Sarah Thomas, Jim Alexander, Sapphire Elia and Dave Gooderson.



There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
Sat 15 September

This production is being advertised as 'the perfect treat for anyone aged four to one hundred-and-four' - and far be it from us to argue! The show brings to life one of the world's best-loved nursery rhymes, in the process offering a feast of first-class games, colourful animal characters and heartwarming family fun.



Our Country's Good

Old Rep, Birmingham, Tues 25 - Sat 29 September

Based on the true story of the first convict colony, the Olivier Award-winning *Our Country's Good* is set in Australia in 1789. It finds an ambitious young lieutenant named Ralph doing his best to direct newly arrived convicts in the Restoration comedy *The Recruiting Officer*. Not surprisingly, the convict cast is somewhat dispirited. Add to that the fact that there are only two copies of the script, there's opposition from sadistic officers and the leading lady faces being hanged, and there's little wonder that Ralph's got more than his fair share of problems to deal with. Casting for *Our Country's Good* includes Damola Adelaja, Helen Bradbury, Laura Dos Santos, John Hollingworth, Lisa Kerr, Matthew Needham, Kathryn O'Reilly, Ciarán Owens, Ian Redford and Dominic Thorburn.

Miss Havisham's Expectations

The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury,
Wed 19 September

Linda Marlowe's new one-woman show features one of Charles Dickens' most iconic female characters - Miss Havisham, from *Great Expectations*. The production draws on the text of the novel and presents a woman who has a real love-hate relationship with her creator, a man who she says liked 'to play God with his female characters but had little understanding of them.'

A Tender Thing

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Thurs 27 September - Sat 20 October

The words of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* are here woven together to tell a touching tale of two lovers. Ben Power's thoughtful production is a celebration of the timelessness of Shakespeare's language. Kathryn Hunter revisits the role that she created for the RSC at Northern Stage in 2009. Helena Kaut-Howson directs.



Elsie And Norm's Macbeth

The Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
Fri 21 September; St Joseph's Community Centre, Rugeley, Sat 22 September; St Michael's Church Hall, Brereton, Staffordshire, Fri 28 September; Moreton Village Hall, Staffordshire, Sat 29 September; Brocton Village Hall, Staffordshire, Fri 9 November

John Christopher Wood's engaging and funny play offers audiences the chance to enjoy a bit of Shakespeare with a very big twist indeed. Set in the living room of the Trivial Pursuit-playing Elsie and Norm, it centres around the couple's attempts to bring a bit of culture into their lives via the staging of their very own version of *Macbeth*. They're assisted in their efforts by a large toy panda in a kilt, who's given the job of playing Banquo, and by Norm's willingness to rewrite a line or two of Shakespeare's script, just to make it that little bit punchier!

Tea At Five

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Fri 14 - Sat 15 September

A four-time Academy Award-winner, Katherine Hepburn was one of the twentieth century's greatest movie stars and the long-time off-screen partner of fellow Hollywood icon Spencer Tracy. This highly regarded one-woman show tells the story of Hepburn's life, from her days as the tomboyish beauty of *Bryn Mawr* through numerous key moments in her glittering career to her more reflective later years, looking back nostalgically on a life well lived... *Tea At Five* was first presented at the 2012 Stratford-upon-Avon Fringe Festival, where it won awards for Best Solo Production and Best Actress.

SEPTEMBER

LUDLOW PHOTOGRAPHIC FESTIVAL 2012

Sat 1 - Fri 28 Sept

Presented by the Ludlow Photographic Club, bringing a wide range of photographic art to all.



THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

Thurs 6 Sept, 7pm

Mark Haddon's celebrated novel adapted for stage by The National Theatre and streamed live to our cinema screen.

Tickets £15 / £14



LUDLOW ASSEMBLY ROOMS BOOK FESTIVAL

Fri 7 - Sun 9 Sept

Come and celebrate the magic of books through our free, food-themed weekend of words.

FREE



THE RECKLESS SHRIMP FESTIVAL

Sat 15 - Sun 16 Sept

A celebration of folk and roots music including sets from Butch Hancock, Krista Detor and Lucy Schwartz.

Tickets £60 (day) / £105 (weekend)

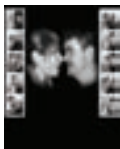


TWO WAY STREET

Thurs 13 Sept, 7.30pm

An evening of hilarious comedy duologues from Ludlow-based theatre company, Appletree.

Tickets £8 / £6



LONDON MOZART PLAYERS

Thurs 27 Sept, 7.30pm

A concert exploring the seasons, directed by Chloe Hanslip. Music by Purcell, Vivaldi and Piazzolla.

Tickets £18.50 / £17.50



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ENTERTAINMENT CANNOCK CHASE

At The Prince of Wales Centre

Sunday 7th October, 7.30pm

ANN BREEN

Listen to her sing a selection of her hits and with Ann's special blend of magic she will have you singing along to your hearts content.



Friday 19th October, 7.30pm

Ballet Theatre UK presents A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Join Ballet Theatre UK on a magical journey to the dark and twisting streets of old Dickensian London.



Thursday 25th October, 7.30pm

HALFWAY TO PARADISE

All lip curling, smouldering sexiness, Billy Fury was the British Elvis and the most complete cool cat Rock 'n' Roller ever!



Friday 26th October, 7.30pm

THE SEARCHERS

This concert includes all their famous hits, plus many of their original album recordings, B-sides and a selection of other well known favourites.



Saturday 27th October, 7.30pm

JULIAN SMITH

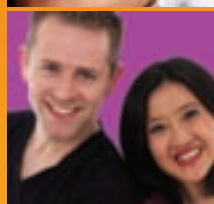
Julian Smith's distinctive soprano saxophone sound has been heard all over the world - Don't miss out on this great evening of music.



Sunday 28th October, 11am & 2pm

CHRIS & PUI

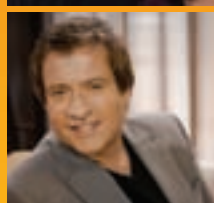
Meet CBeebies' favourite double-act and have a giggle with them too in their fabulous new packed with fantastic songs, games and a few surprises along the way.



Wednesday 31st October, 7.30pm

DOMINIC KIRWAN

Don't miss this fabulous night of music with Dominic, his live band, and all the hits, 'Live and Personal' on stage



Thursday 1st November, 7.30pm

STARS IN YOUR EYES

Barbra Streisand, Michael Buble, Tina Turner and Rod Stewart

A fantastic 2 hour show playing homage to some of the worlds biggest musical stars.



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From
SAT 1 SEP

UNCLE ERIC'S HARD DAY'S NIGHT! Sixties musical that promises comedy, nostalgia and non-stop hits, until Mon 1 Sep, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING The RSC present a vibrant new production that transposes Shakespeare's tale of love and deceit to an Indian setting, until Sat 15 Sep, The Courtyard, Stratford-upon-Avon

RICHARD III Roxana Silber 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

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

TWELFTH NIGHT David Farr directs Shakespeare's tale of mistaken identity, cross-dressing and unrequited love, until Sat 6 Oct, 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 Sat 6 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE TEMPEST David Farr directs a new version of the Bard's final masterpiece, until Sun 7 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS Presented by Blue Orange Arts, until Sat 1 Sep, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL Gareth Gates and Jennifer Ellison star in the multi-award-winning musical, until Sat 1 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

RELATIVELY SPEAKING Felicity Kendall and Jonathan Coy star in Lindsay Posner's production of Alan Ayckbourn's acclaimed drama, until Sat 1 Sep, Malvern Theatres

THE MISSING PIECE Adaptation of Davey Anderson's Blackout,

which takes the audience on a dark journey through schizophrenia and confusion, until Sat 1 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

FORESTS Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Barcelona Internacional Theatre present an original play inspired by Shakespeare's references to forests throughout his work. The production forms part of the World Shakespeare Festival 2012, until Sat 15 Sep, Old Rep, Birmingham

GLEEFEST! Wolverhampton Grand Theatre's Youth Choir present a Glee-inspired musical extravaganza, Sat 1 Sep, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

BUDDY WAKEFIELD An evening of spoken word from the two-time individual World Poetry Slam Champion, Sat 1 Sep, mac, Birmingham

I AM HAMLET Rumchum Theatre Company present a new one-act comedy thriller by Richard James, Sat 1 Sep, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY The People's Theatre Company bring one of the world's best loved nursery rhymes to life, Sat 1 Sep, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN Heartbreak Productions present their award-winning adaptation of E Nesbitt's classic Edwardian tale, Sun 2 Sep, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Chapterhouse Theatre Company present Jane Austen's romantic classic, Sun 2 Sep, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

BACHU NE BAATLIMA UTAARO (IMPOSSIBLE-TO-CONTROL BACHU) Sun 2 Sep, The Drum, Birmingham

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's acclaimed musical, Tue 4 - Sat 8 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MRS BROWN RIDES AGAIN Brendan O'Carroll and Mrs Brown's boys return with a brand new tour, Tue 4 - Sat 8 Sep, National

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Middle Ground Theatre Company presents Oscar Wilde's wonderful comedy of mistaken identity, Tue 4 - Sat 8 Sep, Malvern Theatres

SOUL MAN The Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough, presents Chris Monks' brand new show, which takes Verdi's masterpiece of love, lust and revenge from nineteenth century Italy to 1970s Leeds, Wed 5 - Sat 15 Sep, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme



The Diaries Of Adam And Eve - Shrewsbury School

Indoor Arena, Birmingham

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A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED The Norbury Players present an amateur production of the Agatha Christie classic, Wed 5 - Sat 8 Sep, The Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME A National Theatre Live production that sees Mark Had-don's celebrated, multi-award-winning novel imaginatively adapted into a stage play for the first time, Thurs 6 Sep, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MISS SAIGON (SCHOOL'S EDITION) Wolverhampton Youth Music Theatre present their version of the classic love story, Sat 8 Sep, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

AUSTEN'S WOMEN Thirteen of Jane Austen's most celebrated female characters are brought to life in this bold revisiting of the most exciting moments from Austen's 'two inches of ivory', Sat 8 Sep, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

WHAT THE DICKENS? Cheshire East Youth Theatre members aged five to sixteen present a devised performance based on the life and works of Charles Dickens, Sat 8 Sep, Crewe Lyceum

RUBY MAIHEM BURLESQUE LAUNCH NIGHT Live performances from Miss Rainbow Sparkles, Ava Bonham Garter, Miss Cadillac Arrest, Miss Von Vamp and a stunning headline performance from Kitty Ribbons, Sat 8 Sep, The Public, West Bromwich

FRAGILE Compelling new drama by Geoff Thompson, Sat 8 - Sat 22 Sep, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

JOSEPHINE TEWSON A fun and irreverent evening of chat and memories that reflect the fifty-year career of one of Britain's much-loved comedy actresses, Sat 8 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

CALENDAR GIRLS Presented by The Crescent Theatre Company, Sat 8 - Sat 15 Sep, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

IN THE NIGHT GARDEN LIVE Family-centred theatrical experience presented within a purpose-built touring theatre. Made up of two state-of-the-art show domes, the setting recreates the magical world of the popular BBC children's show, Sun 9 - Sun 23 Sep, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

BORN TO DANCE The Rochelle School of Dance present an evening of song and dance to celebrate the school's twenty-fifth anniversary, Sun 9 Sep, Solihull Arts Complex

STOKE'S TOP TALENT The region's biggest talent search returns! Mon 10 - Sat 15 Sep, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE GHOST WRITER The Nonentities present their version of David Tristram's farcical comedy, Mon 10 - Sat 15 Sep, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

NTI SHOWCASE NIGHT The actors and writers of the NTI Workshop Summer Cycle perform a showcase of their newly-created works, Tues 11 Sep, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

RADIO TIMES Heart-warming and fast-moving musical starring Gary Wilmot and Sara Crowe, Tue 11 - Sat 15 Sep, Malvern Theatres

THE SOUND OF MUSIC Amateur production presented by The Harlequins, Tue 11 - Sat 15 Sep, Palace Theatre, Redditch

DISPLACED WOW Theatre Company present an intimate piece of theatre influenced by their experiences looking at the lives of the homeless, Wed 12 Sep, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

Week Commencing
MON 10 SEP

THE SOUND OF MUSIC Amateur production presented by The Harlequins, Tue 11 - Sat 15 Sep, Palace Theatre, Redditch

TEA AT FIVE Award-winning one-woman play exploring the life of one of Hollywood's greatest stars, Katharine Hepburn, Fri 14 - Sat 15 Sep, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

20TH CENTURY BOY - THE MUSICAL New musical based on the life of Marc Bolan, Fri 14 - Sat 29 Sep, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

HOLMES ALONE A promenade performance presented by the Don't Go Into The Cellar theatre company, Sat 15 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

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SEXTON BLAKE STRIKES AGAIN! The fictional detective returns to save Edwardian London from a league of British scoundrels, traitors and extortionists, Fri 14 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

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Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

JUICE COMEDY

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Fri 14 Sept

Following their previous sell-outs, the Award Winning JUICE Comedy returns to The MET in September! Headlining the show is accomplished comedian Andy Kind



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Thu 20 Sept

Frisky and Mannish, pop experts and "fully blown superstars" (Time Out), have taken their particular brand of pop education all around the world and Now they're coming to Stafford with their bestest bits.

8pm, £15.00, £13.00 concs

MET COMEDY

THE MET STUDIO

Sat 22 Sept

Bringing you the very best in live comedy from around the country, The MET Studio has line ups to rival the biggest comedy clubs in the UK.



8pm, £10.00

RUBY TURNER

GATEHOUSE THEATRE



Sat 22 Sept

Ruby Turner is a national and international treasure, having already been awarded with the prestigious Gold Badge Award, for her contribution to British music.

8.00pm, £17.50

PIERRE BENSUSAN

THE MET STUDIO

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Pierre Bensusan is one of the most highly regarded acoustic guitarist / composers in his field. His unique style has developed on his own terms, never being diluted by the pressure to conform.



8pm, £12, £10 concs

ALBERT LEE AND HOGAN'S HEROES

GATEHOUSE THEATRE



Wed 26 Sept

Albert Lee is one of the world's finest guitar-players and Hogan's Heroes were formed by their namesake Gerry Hogan over 20 years ago, specifically to back Albert. This multi-talented band features some of the top musicians in the UK

8pm, £20

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Starts 7:30pm | £5 advance, £7 on the door

COMEDY

SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER
STEVE HUGHES:
BIG ISSUES TOUR



Australian comic and ex heavy metal drummer, Steve Hughes embarks upon his eagerly-awaited debut tour.

Starts 8pm (bar opens to serve food 6pm) | £14 (£12 concession)

COMEDY

WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER
ALEXEI SAYLE



Alexei Sayle returns to live performances with his first stand-up tour in over 16 years.

Starts 8pm (bar opens to serve food 6pm) | £12 advance, £14 on the door

COMEDY

FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER
PIFF THE MAGIC
DRAGON: JURASSIC
BARK



Piff the Magic Dragon embarks on his first major UK tour accompanied by Mr Piffles the World's First Million Dollar Chihuahua.™

Starts 8pm (bar opens to serve food 6pm) | £12 advance, £14 on the door

FILM

SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER
A FRIGHT TO
REMEMBER!



The return of The Public's Horror film all-nighter!

Have you got what it takes to undertake the ultimate endurance test - five horror movies over the course of one night!

7.30pm - 7.30am | Admission only £17.50 | Admission + Pizza, £20

THEATRE

WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER

KALI THEATRE PRESENTS:
KABADDI, KABADDI,
KABADDI By Satinder Chohan
A co-production with Pursued
By A Bear Productions



A powerful new drama about sport, nationality and belonging, - a haunting love story at its heart.

Starts 7:45pm | £10 (£8 concession)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE LATEST EVENTS

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FUNDED BY Sandwell, European Union, Let's Live and Culture, greetsgreen

Theatre

BIRMINGHAM'S PREMIER PUB THEATRE

Thurs 30 August, 8pm

FOGHORN IMPROV: RIGHT UP YOUR STREET

No scripts, no rehearsals, but plenty of laughs, tears, and leaps into the unknown from Birmingham's latest and loudest improvised comedy sensation: FOGHORN IMPROV!

£7.50

Tue 11 September, 7.30pm

NTI PERFORMANCE SHOWCASE

After a month of slaving away with quill and parchment, the actors and writers of the second NTI Workshop Cycle present their labours in a showcase night of new work.

£5

Fri 14 September, 7.30pm
Sat 15 September, 2.30pm & 7.30pm

TEA AT FIVE

INDEFATIGABLE PRODUCTIONS

The tart-tongued, tomboyish Bryn Mawr beauty - and the venerable stage and screen legend, reflecting on her amazing life. An unforgettable trip down Broadway, Hollywood Boulevard, and memory lane.

£11 / £9

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FREE

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& 0845 680 1926

email:oldjointstocktheatre@fullers.co.uk
www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk
or on-line at: www.oxboffice.com

Theatre LISTINGS

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

Major solo tour from the acclaimed comedian, novelist, actor and broadcaster, Sat 15 Sep, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY A colourful show for children that brings the classic nursery rhyme to life, Sat 15 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre

THE BURLESQUE SHOW A performance of sophisticated tease, comedy, magic and music, Sat 15 Sep, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

SEETA - A SAGA An English dance drama which relates to Ramayana, the popular Indian epic, Sun 16 Sep, Solihull Arts Complex

BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH A performance by one of England's best known performance poets, Sun 16 Sep, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THREE BILLY PIGS New show from Noisy Oyster that blends two much-loved fairytales - The Three Billy Goats Gruff & The Three Little Pigs, Sun 16 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**Week Commencing
MON 17 SEP**

AN AUDIENCE WITH TONY BENN Mon 17 Sep, Birmingham Town Hall

SANDI TOKSVIG LIVE! Mon 17 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

CHICAGO Award-winning musical about the story of two women on Death Row & their lawyer's attempt to get them back in the fast lane, Mon 17 - Sat 22 Sep, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

CRISSY ROCK - FROM BENIDORM TO THE JUNGLE AND BACK An evening with the English actress and comedian. Please note that this show contains adult humour, Mon 17 Sep, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? STAC present an amateur production of Edward Albee's acclaimed play, which explores a marriage dependent on hostile games to survive, Tue 18 - Sat 22 Sep, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

DEAD RINGER Ian Dickens Productions present Charles Ross' witty thriller. Tony Adams, Keith Drinkel, Joanne Heywood & David Cal-

lister star, Tues 18 - Sat 22 Sep, Crewe Lyceum

ME, MY WIFE... AND HER NEXT DOOR! Marital comedy presented by Harmony Productions, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Sep, The Drum, Birmingham

LOST AND FOUND A comedy double-bill featuring two world premiere productions of stand-alone but interconnected plays by two renowned playwrights - Jane Thornton (Lost) and John Godber (Found), Tue 18 - Sat 22 Sep, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

BOUNCERS Watershed Productions present John Godber's hit comedy, Tues 18 - Sat 22 Sep, Malvern Theatre

'ALLO 'ALLO All & Sundry present a stage adaptation of the 'rabble rouser comedy' that became an immediate hit when it appeared on TV screens in 1982, Tues 18 - Sat 22 Sep, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE 39 STEPS Different Animal Theatre Group present a riproaring parody of Alfred Hitchcock's legendary 1935 spy classic, Tue 18 - Sat 22 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

CALENDAR GIRLS Kidderminster Operatic And Dramatic Society present an amateur production of the much-loved story concerning a group of extraordinary women who spark a global phenomenon when they pose seminaked for a charity calendar, Tues 18 - Sat 22 Sep, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

NO SEX PLEASE, WE'RE BRITISH The Highbury Players present Anthony Marriott and Paul Foot's fast-paced comedy, Tues 18 - Sat 29 Sep, Highbury Little Theatre, Sutton Coldfield

ANIMAL FARM Guy Masterson's solo performance of George Orwell's classic satire is brought to the stage aided by nothing more than a wooden box, sound effects and physical and vocal dexterity, Wed 19 Sep, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

MISS HAVISHAM'S EXPECTATIONS Coinciding with Dickens' bicentenary, Linda Marlowe presents a new solo show featuring one of his most iconic female characters, Wed 19 Sep, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT A two-hour show of laughter and song featuring Lizzie Wiggins, Dandy, Giggetty, Ian 'Sludge' Lees & Peter Lee, Fri 21 Sep, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Rock'n'roll spectacular combining music from the '50s, '60s & '70s with wacky comedy routines, Fri 21 Sep, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT A two-hour show of laughter and song featuring Lizzie Wiggins, Dandy, Giggetty, Ian 'Sludge' Lees & Peter Lee, Fri 21 Sep, Solihull Arts Complex

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE Olivier Award-winning comedy written and directed by Jim Cartwright. Beverly Callard, Ray Quinn,



Miss Havisham's Expectations

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY The People's Theatre Company bring one of the world's best loved nursery rhymes to life, Wed 19 Sep, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE DIARIES OF ADAM AND EVE A witty and modern adaptation of Mark Twain's affectionate satire, Wed 19 Sep, Ashton Theatre, Shrewsbury School

STORYTELLING CAFE Christine Mahon performs Goosewing, Wed 19 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham

BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT A two-hour show of laughter and song featuring Lizzie Wiggins, Dandy, Giggetty, Ian 'Sludge' Lees & Peter Lee, Thurs 20 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

DEREK ACORAH One of Britain's best known mediums provides an evening of psychic entertainment, Fri 21 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

ELSIE AND NORM'S MACBETH Fed up with playing Trivial Pursuit and watching television reruns, Elsie and Norm decide to go for a bit of culture and stage some Shakespeare in their living room. Presented by Opus Theatre, Sat 22 Sep, St Joseph's Community Centre, Rugeley, Staffordshire

AN AUDIENCE WITH SALLY MORGAN - PSYCHIC TO THE STARS! Sun 23 Sep, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

KIT & MCCONNELL - A FINE EVENING OF CABARET Post-Edinburgh Fringe programme of new cabaret songs exploring contemporary events, scandals and the extraordinary vagaries of the human heart, Sat 22 Sep, Maidment Auditorium, Shrewsbury School

AN AUDIENCE WITH COLIN FRY Fri 21 Sep, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

BANE 2 & 3: THE BEAST WITHIN & WELCOME TO SUNNYVIEW Follow the eponymous anti-hero as he once again goes about his business on the mean streets of the city, down back alleys and in abandoned warehouses, dealing with foe after foe, Sat 21 Sep, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

AN AUDIENCE WITH COLIN FRY Sat 22 Sep, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

ELSIE AND NORM'S MACBETH Fed up with playing Trivial Pursuit and watching television reruns, Elsie and Norm decide to go for a bit of culture and stage some Shakespeare in their living room. Presented by Opus Theatre, Sat 22 Sep, St Joseph's Community Centre, Rugeley, Staffordshire

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AN AUDIENCE WITH SALLY MORGAN - PSYCHIC TO THE STARS! Sun 23 Sep, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

Joe McGann and Jess Robinson star, Mon 24 - Sat 29 Sep, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

CIRQUE DU CIEL A two-hour extravaganza of acrobatics, modern dance, martial arts and original music, Mon 24 - Wed 26 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

POETRY BITES Featuring local poet and novelist Christine Coleman and Birmingham's Poet Laureate Jan Watts, Tues 25 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS A smash-hit musical comedy presented by Lichfield Garrick Youth Theatre, Tue 25 - Sat 29 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET Futuristic musical presented by the Tudor Musical Comedy Society, Tue 25 - Sat 29 Sep, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD Olivier Award-winning play based on a true story that centres on Australia's first convict colony, Tue 25 - Sat 29 Sep, Old Rep, Birmingham

HORRIBLE HISTORIES Historical figures come to life with two live stage shows for children - The Terrible Tudors and The Vile Victorians, Tue 25 - Sat 29 Sep, Birmingham Town Hall

GREAT EXPECTATIONS Jack Ellis, Paula Wilcox and Chris Ellison star in a new production of the Dickens classic, Tues 25 - Sat 29 Sep, Malvern Theatre

THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE Fusion of comic sketches, music and excerpts from the Bard's works. A show for all ages, Tue 25 Sep, The Swan The-

atre, Worcester

AN EVENING OF MEDIOCRITY WITH PHILIP SOLOMON Tue 25 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER Scene Productions present their version of Edgar Allan Poe's atmospheric tale, Tue 25 Sep, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

DR FAUSTUS Scene Productions present their version of Christopher Marlowe's thought-provoking tale, Wed 26 Sep, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES Based on Eve Ensler's Vagina Interviews. Not suitable for persons under fifteen, Wed 26 Sep, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

BEYOND THE BARRICADE Featuring West End & Broadway favourites, including Miss Saigon, The Lion King, Phantom Of The Opera, Jesus Christ Superstar, Chess & Blood Brothers, Wed 26 Sep, Crewe Lyceum

D-DAY DARLINGS: THE SONGS THAT WON THE WAR Featuring popular and beautiful music from the 1940s, including The White Cliffs Of Dover, We'll Meet Again and Goodnight Sweetheart, Thurs 27 Sep, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Blue Orange Theatre present Shakespeare's magical shape-shifting play, Thurs 27 Sep - Sat 6 Oct, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

JOHN CHALLIS: AN EVENING WITH BOYCIE Enjoy an intimate evening with John Challis, one of the nation's greatest comedy actors, best known as Boycie in BBC One's

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What's on...



Wed 12th September **GERRY CROSS THE MERSEY**

7.30pm. Tickets £19



Thu 27th September **JOHN CHALLIS: AN EVENING WITH BOYCIE**

7.30pm. Tickets £15, / £13 concs



Sat 29th September **LITTLE HOWARD'S BIG SHOW**

2pm. Tickets £10 / £8 concs/
Family of 4 £32



Fri 5th October **THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW**

7.30pm. Tickets £17.50 / £16 concs



Fri 12th October **PSYCHIC & SCIENCE (15+)**

DEREK ACORAH & RICHARD FELIX
7.30pm. Tickets £19.50 / £18.50 concs



Thu 18th October **ROCK 'N' ROLL PARADISE**

7pm. Tickets £17 / £15 concs



Sat 20th October **THE JACKIE GENERATION**

7.30pm. Tickets £15 / £13 concs



Wed 24th - Sat 27th October **TADLOP PRESENTS CALAMITY JANE**

7.30pm, Sat Mat 2.30pm
Tickets £10 - £14



Fri 2nd November **A WHOLE LOTTA LED**

7.30pm. Tickets £13

01952 382382
www.theplacetelford.com



COMING SOON TO THEATRE SEVERN

TUESDAY 4 - SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

SPARKLING FAMILY MUSICAL

starring
KEITH JACK

runner-up in the
hit BBC series
'Any Dream
Will Do'

FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

CREAM OF CLAPTON

CREAM OF CLAPTON is a remarkable and utterly authentic tribute to Eric Clapton, covering the songs from his days in Cream and Derek and the Dominoes, as well as his spectacular solo career.



TUESDAY 18 - WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

SPIRIT of the DANCE

The International smash hit SPIRIT OF THE DANCE is one of the most successful shows ever to come out of Ireland and has been seen by more than twenty five million people in fifteen countries around the world.



MONDAY 24 - WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

**Cirque du Ciel
ShangHi**

The highly awaited and internationally acclaimed, production of 'ShangHi' by Cirque Du Ciel, returns by overwhelming popular demand.

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Theatre LISTINGS

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

Only Fools And Horses, Thurs 27 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
DOUBLE BOOKED Ginny Davis' family comedy, described as 'Bridget Jones meets Outnumbered', Thurs 27 Sep, The Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

METROPOLIS Playbox Theatre's new creation brings Fritz Lang's 1927 masterpiece into the 21st century in an explosive, dynamic and multi-disciplinary remix of the silent movie, Thurs 27 Sep - Sun 7 Oct, The Dream Factory, Warwick

A TENDER THING Ben Powers weaves together the words of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet in a touching story of two older lovers, Thurs 27 Sep - Sat 20 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

A NIGHT OF MUSICALS Michael Courtney sings songs from some of the world's greatest shows, Fri 28 Sep, Palace Theatre, Redditch

ELSIE AND NORM'S MACBETH Fed up with playing Trivial Pursuit and watch-

ing television re-runs, Elsie and Norm decide to go for a bit of culture and stage some Shakespeare in their living room. Presented by Opus Theatre, Fri 28 Sep, St Michael's Church Hall, Brereton
DIRTY DATING New comedy from actress-turned-writer Pauline Flemming, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



Dirty Dating

THE WIDOWING OF MRS HOLROYD DH Lawrence's passionate journey through the final days of a tempestuous marriage, presenting a vivid portrait of life in a Midlands mining village, Fri 28 Sep - Sat 13 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme
THE CANTERBURY TALES

Tacit Theatre's immersive production puts the audience at the heart of Geoffrey Chaucer's classic masterpiece, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Sep, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
JAMAICA 50 Gazebo Theatre Company present a Jamaican story told by the heroes and heroines that lived it. Inspired by the 50th anniversary of Jamaican Independence, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Sep, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
CONFLICT - THE FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE Damari Productions present a new stage play, written by Tre Young and set in South London, which provides an insight into gang culture, teenage violence, infidelity, jealousy and perseverance, Sat 29 Sep, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
EMBRACED BURLESQUE Fusion of Burlesque striptease, comedy and live music, Sat 29 Sep, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton
ELSIE AND NORM'S MACBETH Fed up with playing Trivial Pursuit and watching television re-runs, Elsie and Norm decide to go for a bit of culture and stage some Shakespeare in their living room. Presented by Opus Theatre, Sat 29 Sep, Moreton Village Hall, Moreton, Staffordshire

Theatre Box Office

Birmingham

ALEXANDRA THEATRE
0844 871 3011

BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME
0844 338 5000

BIRMINGHAM REP
0121 236 4455

THE BLUE ORANGE THEATRE
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CRESCENT THEATRE
0121 643 5858

DOVEHOUSE THEATRE
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THE DRUM 0121 333 2444

MAC 0121 446 3232

OLD JOINT STOCK THEATRE
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OLD REP 0121 245 4455

SOLIHULL ARTS COMPLEX
0121 704 6962

Black Country

ARENA THEATRE WOLVERHAMPTON
01902 321321

BLOXWICH THEATRE
01922 653183

DUDLEY CONCERT HALL
01384 812812

FOREST ARTS CENTRE, WALSALL
01922 654555

GRAND THEATRE,
01902 429212

NEWHAMPTON ARTS CENTRE
01902 572090

OLDBURY REP, OLDBURY

0121 552 2761
THE PUBLIC, WEST BROMWICH
0121 533 7161

Shropshire

THE BELFREY, WELLINGTON
01952 222277

THE EDGE ARTS CENTRE, MUCH WENLOCK
01952 728911

THE HIVE
01743 234970

LUDLOW ASSEMBLY ROOMS
01584 878141

THE PLACE, OAKENGATES, TELFORD
01952 382382

THEATRE SEVERN, SHREWSBURY
01743 281281

WEM TOWN HALL, WEM, NORTH SHROPSHIRE
01939 232299

Staffordshire

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01543 412121

NEW VIC 01782 717962

PRINCE OF WALES CENTRE, CANNOCK
01543 578762

REGENT THEATRE, STOKE
0870 060 6649

STAFFORD GATEHOUSE
01785 254653

STOKE REPERTORY THEATRE
01782 209784

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BEDWORTH CIVIC HALL
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BELGRADE THEATRE, COVENTRY
024 7655 3055

BRIDGE HOUSE THEATRE, WARWICK
01926 776438

THE DREAM FACTORY
01926 419555

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
0844 800 1110

ROYAL SPA CENTRE LEAMINGTON
01926 334418

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE COVENTRY
02476 524524

Worcestershire

ARTRIX ARTS CENTRE, BROMSGROVE
01527 577330

THE HIVE
01905 822866

HUNTINGDON HALL, WORCESTER
01905 611427

MALVERN THEATRE
01684 892277

NORBURY THEATRE, DROITWICH
01905 770154

PALACE THEATRE REDDITCH
01527 65203

ROSE THEATRE,
01562 743745

SWAN THEATRE, WORCESTER
01905 611427

SHOWS FOR SEPTEMBER

Fri 14 Sept, 8pm. Tickets: £9, £7 concs



Jamfolk 50th Anniversary Celebration

Jamfolk Performing Company offers a cocktail of songs, stories, drama, skits, music with the HOT and SPICY Mento rhythms of di Caribbean fi we yuh appetite.

Wed 19 Sept, 7.30pm. Tickets: £9, £7 concs

ANIMAL FARM

Guy Masterson

Guy Masterson's magnificent solo performance of Orwell's classic satire has to be seen to be believed.



ARENA THEATRE

Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1SE

Box Office 01902 321 321

www.arenatheatre.info

Fri 22 Sept, 7.30pm. Tickets: £9, £7 concs



SABRI ENSEMBLE

SUDHWANI, SAMPAD AND ARENA THEATRE

FUSING FUNKY JAZZ WITH INDIAN MUSIC.

Tue 25 Sept, 7.30pm. Tickets: £9, £7 concs



THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER

Scene Productions now bring this atmospheric tale to life on the stage.

Wed 26 Sept, 7.30pm. Tickets: £9, £7 concs



Scene Productions present

DR FAUSTUS

Driven by an insatiable thirst for knowledge and unlimited power, Dr Faustus makes a pact with the devil and in turn relinquishes his soul

Theatre REVIEWS

Here are a few of the theatre productions we reviewed from last month. For further theatre reviews, visit, www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Richard III

mac, Birmingham

This was a rollicking Richard III, with David Lee-Jones presenting the character not only as cunning but also quite loveable. He took the audience into his confidence, and it was actually possible to feel real empathy for him as his machiavellian plans went horribly awry. The all-male cast of Tom Midler, Anthony Pinnock, Scott Smith, Giles Stoakley and Martin Tomms played all the other parts with relish, confidence and swift costume changes.

The company has been performing both this production and Twelfth Night in open-air venues, many of which have been rural, providing access to Shakespeare for people who rarely have the opportunity to enjoy the playwright's works.

Performing outside does bring its own problems, though. In Cannon Hill Park, this means having to compete with the sound of geese, planes, and music from inside the adjacent Midlands Arts Centre, but this didn't seem to faze the actors at all.

Their use of space was also commendable. The most important thing in any Shakespeare production has to be the delivery of the lines. We have to believe that these well-known words are being spoken by the actors for the very first time. In this Richard III, we were truly convinced - a fact which, allied to the sure hand of director Michael Dyer, made for a production that was very much accessible to all.

Jan Watts ■■■■■



Much Ado About Nothing

The Courtyard, Stratford-upon-Avon

Arrive early for this production of Much Ado About Nothing, set in contemporary Delhi, so as not to miss Dogberry organising the removal of washing from a tree covered in dodgy electrics - 'health and safety', he mouths to the audience. When a production of Much Ado features Meera Syal as Beatrice, it's fair to assume you're in for a show that will major in humour, and this sparky and imaginative RSC offering does not disappoint. Everyone toys with changing gender - a Shakespearean device used for fine comic effect. However, the shift in story at the wedding of Hero and Claudio is truly stunning. This play is most certainly not about 'nothing', as it's title falsely suggests. India today shares some similar issues with Shakespeare's England, particularly around the issues of gender and social hierarchies, and these are sensitively explored by director Iqbal Khan. This is Khan's debut production for the RSC, with no fewer than fourteen of the show's twenty-one actors also appearing for the company for the first time. Between them, they produce a superb and thoughtful night of truly innovative theatre. Catch it while you can. You're in for a treat. Jan Watts ■■■■■

Blue Orange Arts presents

William Shakespeare

A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Blue Orange Theatre

Thursday 27th September - Saturday 6th October

Box Office 0121 212 2643 Tickets 10/8.50
www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk
 118 Great Hampton Street, Birmingham, B18 6AD

Don't get caught napping, get your seats now!

Jordan Productions for Redditch Borough Council present

Sleeping Beauty

A Traditional Fun-filled Family Pantomime

Monday 3 - Sunday 30 December 2012

Book early to ensure your favourite seat!

Mon 3	Tue 4	Wed 5	Thu 6	Fri 7	Sat 8	Sun 9	Mon 10	Tue 11	Wed 12	Thu 13	Fri 14	Sat 15	Sun 16	Mon 17	Tue 18	Wed 19	Thu 20	Fri 21	Sat 22	Sun 23	Mon 24	Tue 25	Wed 26	Thu 27	Fri 28	Sat 29	Sun 30
£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50

Redditch Palace Theatre

Box Office Red Performances
 01527 65203 Special Ticket rate
 Tickets from up to the
 £10.50 - £17.50 30th Sept
 online booking at www.redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk

Casting announced for world premiere

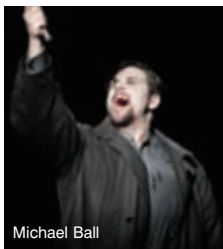
Former Hear'Say member Suzanne Shaw is joined by Nicola Stapleton, Charlie De'ath, Richard Mylan and Dan Walder in the world premiere of *Baggage* when it opens in London this month. Written by John Muirhead and Mike Charlesworth, it's the story of two close male friends who're reunited at a funeral and hope to repair their damaged relationship. *Baggage* shows at London's Art Theatre from 6 September to 6 October.



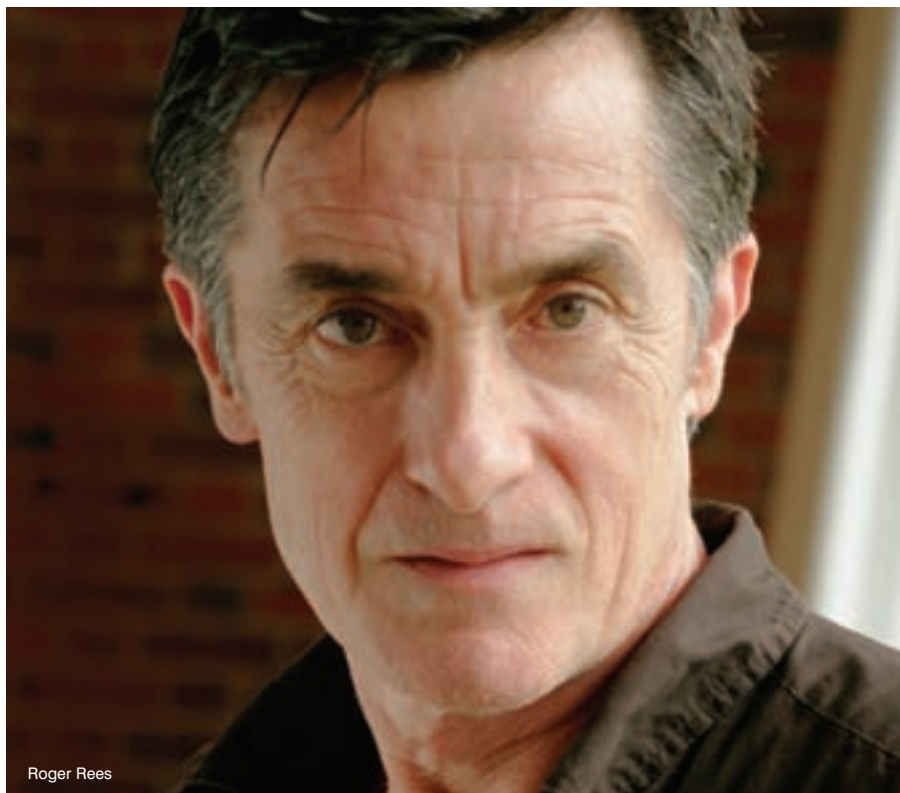
Suzanne Shaw

Final curtain-call for Sweeney Todd

Stephen Sondheim's acclaimed musical *Sweeney Todd* gets its final curtain-call this month, being performed at the Adelphi Theatre for the last time on 22 September. Starring Michael Ball as the Demon Barber, Oscar-nominated actress Imelda Staunton as the devoted Mrs Loving, and under the directorship of Jonathan Kent, this much-heralded production offers a fascinating portrait of a man driven to madness by injustice.



Michael Ball



Roger Rees

One-man's relationship with the Bard unveiled at the Apollo...

A ninety-minute romp through all things Shakespearean is promised in the West End this month, courtesy of Roger Rees' one-man show. *What You Will* sees the multi-award-winning actor draw on his vast experience as a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company to present a monologue about the struggles and amusements of coming face-

to-face with the Bard's works during his formative years as an actor. First performed in Washington in 2007, and resurrected for a brief run in Stratford-upon-Avon in 2010, the show runs at Shaftesbury Avenue's Apollo Theatre for a three-week period from 18 September.

WEST END LISTINGS:

MUSICALS

AMERICAN IDIOT Hammersmith Apollo Theatre, 3 Dec - 16 Dec 2012
BILLY ELLIOT - THE MUSICAL Victoria Palace Theatre, booking until 21 Dec 2013
BLOOD BROTHERS Phoenix Theatre booking until 27 Oct 2012
BODYGUARD Adelphi Theatre 6 Nov 2012 - 27 Apr 2013
CABARET Savoy Theatre 3 Oct 2012 - 19 Jan 2013
CHICAGO Garrick Theatre booking until 1 Sept 2012
DADDY LONG LEGS St James Theatre 31 Oct 2012 - 8 Dec 2012
GHOST THE MUSICAL Apollo Theatre, booking until 6 Oct 2012
IDINA MENZEL IN CONCERT Piccadilly Theatre, booking 8 Oct 2012 - 14 Oct 2012
JERSEY BOYS Prince Edward Theatre, booking until 17 Feb 2013
KISS ME KATE Old Vic Theatre, 20 Nov 2012 - 2 Mar 2013

LES MISÉRABLES Queen's Theatre booking until 27 Apr 2013
LET IT BE Prince Of Wales Theatre 14 Sept 2012 - 19 Jan 2013
LION KING Lyceum Theatre, booking until 14 Apr 2013
MAMMA MIA! Novello Theatre, 6 Sept 2012 - 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 17 Feb 2013
ROOM ON THE BROOM Lyric Theatre, 21 Nov 2012 - 13 Jan 2013
SCROOGE THE MUSICAL London Palladium Theatre, 24 Oct 2012 - 5 Jan 2013
SHREK THE MUSICAL Drury Lane, Theatre Royal, booking until 31 Mar 2013
SINGIN' IN THE RAIN Palace Theatre, booking until 23 Feb 2013
SOUL SISTER Savoy Theatre, booking until 29 Sept 2012

STOMP Ambassadors Theatre, booking until 22 Dec 2013
SWEENEY TODD - THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET Adelphi Theatre, booking until 22 Sept 2012
THRILLER LIVE Lyric Theatre, booking until 3 Mar 2013
TOP HAT Aldwych Theatre, booking until 27 Apr 2013
VIVA FOREVER! Piccadilly Theatre, 27 Nov 2012 - 1 June 2013
WE WILL ROCK YOU Dominion Theatre, booking until 20 Oct 2012
WICKED Apollo Victoria Theatre, booking until 27 Apr 2013

DRAMA

BERENICE Donmar Warehouse, 27 Sept 2012 - 24 Nov 2012
BULLY BOY St James Theatre, 18 Sept 2012 - 27 Oct 2012
CHANGELING Young Vic Theatre, 20 Nov 2012 - 15 Dec 2012
CHARIOTS OF FIRE Gielgud Theatre, booking until 10 Nov 2012
CONSTELLATIONS Duke Of York Theatre, 9 Nov 2012 - 5 Jan 2013

CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME Cottesloe National Theatre, booking until 27 Oct 2012
DAMNED BY DESPAIR Olivier National Theatre, 2 Oct 2012 - 7 Nov 2012
DOCTORS DILEMMA Lyttelton National Theatre, booking until 12 Sept 2012
HEDDA GABLER Old Vic Theatre, 5 Sept 2012 - 10 Nov 2012
JUMPY Duke Of York's Theatre, booking until 3 Nov 2012

MOUSETRAP St Martins Theatre, booking until 21 Dec 2012
PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME! Donmar Warehouse, booking until 22 Sept 2012
WAR HORSE New London Theatre, booking until 26 Oct 2013
WOMAN IN BLACK Fortune Theatre, booking until 14 Dec 2013

COMEDY

39 STEPS Criterion Theatre, booking until 30 Mar 2013

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS Haymarket Theatre Royal, booking until 12 Jan 2013
PAUL MERTON: OUT OF MY HEAD Vaudeville Theatre Royal, booking 1 Oct - 20 Oct 2012
ROGER REES - WHAT YOU WILL Apollo Theatre, 18 Sept 2012 - 6 Oct 2012
TAMING OF THE SHREW Shakespeare Globe Theatre, booking until 13 Oct 2012
TWELFTH NIGHT Apollo Theatre, 2 Nov 2012 - 3 Feb 2013
YES, PRIME MINISTER Trafalgar Studios, booking until - 12 Jan 2013



Matilda The Musical - Cambridge Theatre

Dance



Mandala Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, Fri 7 September

Featuring the music of world-class artists Anoushka Shankar (daughter of Ravi) and Zakir Hussain, this one-off outdoor event brings the Midlands' celebrations for the London 2012 Festival to a close. Presented by Sampad, the event sees Birmingham's Town Hall illuminated with 3D projections and visual effects, while in front of the hall, established dance artist Devika Rao and rising star Aakash Odedra showcase their impressive talents, hopefully initiating some audience participation in the process. In the spirit of the Olympics, Mandala reflects the theme of journeying - not only hoping to awaken a mood of inspiration and celebration, but also to inspire the audience to salute the achievements of the past and renew their collective hopes for the future.



National Dance Theatre Company Of Jamaica

Malvern Theatre, Mon 17 - Tues 18 September; New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 21 - Sat 22 September

To help mark fifty years of Jamaican Independence, this internationally recognised troupe here capture the true spirit of Jamaica with a diverse fusion of athleticism and creativity. The vibrant dance and music traditions of Africa and Europe are brought together in the company's signature piece, Kumin (based on local rituals), while Minutes And Seconds provides a more contemporary example of present-day Jamaica.

Birmingham Royal Ballet: Opposites Attract

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Wed 26 - Sat 29 September

Launching its autumn season to a Midlands audience, Birmingham Royal Ballet here presents three critically acclaimed modern works fusing 'flair, energy and innovation'. First up is Jessica Lang's Lyric Pieces. Commissioned by International Dance Festival Birmingham 2012 and Birmingham Royal Ballet, the piece promises to be one of the company's highlights for 2012. David Bintley's Take Five and Unsquare Dance - a celebration of the choreographer's love of jazz and a homage to his musical hero Dave Brubeck - comes next, while Hans van Manen's Grosse Fuge - a ritualised dance of raw power and sexuality - completes the triple-bill.



BRB - Grosse Fuge



English Youth Ballet: Swan Lake

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton,
Fri 21 - Sat 22 September

Since its formation in 1998, English Youth Ballet has provided a platform for young dancers to perform in a professional environment alongside principal dancers. Each year the young company performs a traditional repertoire to audiences across the UK, and this autumn sees the troupe premiere a new production of Swan Lake to just four UK venues. This latest version puts a particular emphasis on the rivalry between the seductive Black Swan Odile and the vulnerable White Swan Odette, as they compete for the affections of the Prince.

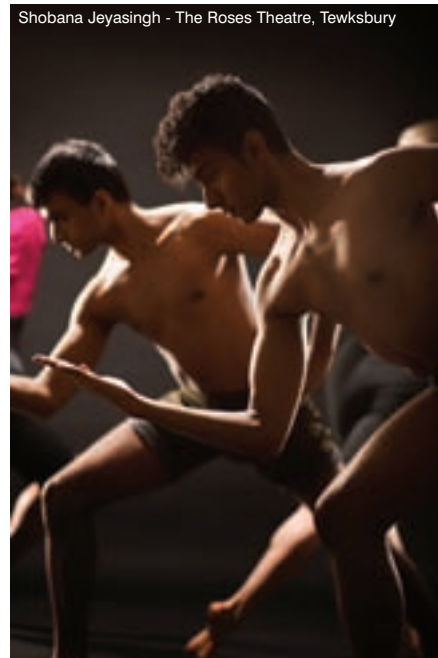
Dance LISTINGS

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

MANDALA Bringing the London 2012 Festival to a close, Sampad present an outdoor performance that showcases the talents of established dance artist Devika Rao and rising star Aakash Odedra, Fri 7 Sep, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham
SPIRIT OF THE DANCE Regarded as one of the most successful shows to come from the Emerald Isle, this award-winning performance fuses Irish dance with Latino rhythms of Flamenco and Salsa, Tue 18 - Wed 19 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
SWAN LAKE English Youth Ballet present a brand new production of the much-loved ballet set to Tchaikovsky's magical score, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Sep, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
NATIONAL DANCE THEATRE COMPANY OF JAMAICA Fri 21 - Sat 22 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
CLASSICAL DANCE BY ANAYA BOLAR Chitrakala

Dance Company present an evening of Bharatanatyam dance, Sun 23 Sep, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
SHOBANA JEYASINGH - CLASSIC CUT A double-bill of breathtaking

dance, Wed 26 Sep, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: OPPOSITES ATTRACT A triple-bill of works, Wed 26 - Sat 29 Sep, Birmingham Hippodrome
URBAN TARAB Open stage night, presented by Pedralta World Fusion Belly Dance, Sat 29 Sep, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



Shobana Jeyasingh - The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

Dance Box Office

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From
FRI 7
SEPT

Anna Karenina CERT tbc

Starring Keira Knightley, Jude Law, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Kelly Macdonald, Matthew Macfadyen, Domhnall Gleeson, Ruth Wilson, Olivia Williams, Emily Watson Directed by Joe Wright (UK)

There's already huge Oscar buzz surrounding this umpteenth adaptation of Tolstoy's political romance, courtesy of scripter Tom Stoppard. The director Joe Wright previously highlighted Keira Knightley in *Pride & Prejudice* and *Atonement*, and the word is that she's sensational here in the title role. There's also talk of Jude Law skewering a third Oscar nomination for his performance as Alexei Karenin. Mr Taylor-Johnson, previously known as Aaron Johnson, changed his name in June after marrying the video artist and filmmaker Sam Taylor-Wood.



From
FRI 7
SEPT

Lawless CERT 18 (116 mins)

Starring Shia LaBeouf, Tom Hardy, Gary Oldman, Mia Wasikowska, Jessica Chastain, Guy Pearce, Noah Taylor Directed by John Hillcoat (USA)

Think moonshine, the Great Depression, Tommy guns, amoral law enforcers and accents as thick as gumbo and you have the tenor of *Lawless*. Adapted from Matt Bondurant's 2008 novel *The Wettest County in the World* – based on the exploits of Bondurant's grandfather and great-uncles – the film is as authentic, gritty and uncompromising as they come. Anybody who's seen John Hillcoat's *The Proposition* or *The Road* will know what to expect: lashings of atmosphere, amazing cinematography and a whole lotta violence. There are also some sterling performances, particularly from Tom Hardy as the stolid alpha male of the Bondurant clan, a sibling gang of moonshine bootleggers. There's also an extraordinary turn from Guy Pearce as a sadistic, perfectly manicured lawyer from Chicago, an individual who chooses his words and methods of enforcement with chilling imagination. The music and screenplay by the Australian singer-songwriter Nick Cave are also ace.

TOP 5

FILM BOX OFFICE

- 1 **Ted** (15)
- 2 **Brave** (3D) (12a)
- 3 **The Dark Knight Rises** (12a)
- 4 **The Watch** (15)
- 5 **The Dark Knight Rises** (12a)



Film NEW RELEASES

Released from Fri 7 Sept

Dredd CERT tbc

Starring Karl Urban, Olivia Thirlby, Lena Headey, Jason Cope, Domhnall Gleeson
Directed by Pete Travis (UK)

Get used to it: comic-book movies are here to stay. This 3D one is a dystopian thriller based on John Wagner and Carlos Ezquerro's 2000 AD title, previously filmed in 1995 with Sylvester Stallone. Dredd himself is a feared dispenser of justice in a future riddled by crime and dodgy new drugs. Dredd this time is played by Karl Urban, the New Zealand actor best known for playing Éomer in *The Lord Of The Rings* and Bones in the new *Star Trek* franchise.



Dredd



That's My Boy

When The Lights Went Out CERT tbc

Starring Kate Ashfield, Steve Waddington, Craig Parkinson, Andrea Lowe, Martin Compston, Gary Lewis
Directed by Pat Holden (UK)

Haunted house movies are becoming as commonplace as flawed comic-book heroes. This one is set in Yorkshire in 1974 and follows the Maynard family as they move into their dream house. Which sounds rather like last year's *Dream House*, with Daniel Craig and Rachel Weisz. Expect poltergeists.

That's My Boy CERT 15 (114 mins)

Starring Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Leighton Meester, Susan Sarandon, James Caan
Directed by Sean Anders (USA)

This time out Adam Sandler plays a former single dad whose parenting skills have not improved with time. When he turns up for his son's wedding, chaos ensues. American critics said that even by Adam Sandler standards this was dire and offensive. That's our Adam.

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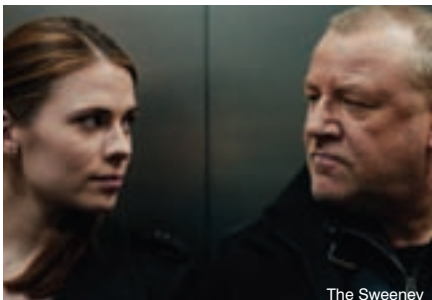
Released from Wed 12 Sept

The Sweeney

CERT 15 (112 mins)

Starring **Ray Winstone, Ben Drew, Hayley Atwell, Steven Mackintosh, Damian Lewis**
Directed by **Nick Love (UK)**

On paper, Ray Winstone would appear to be the perfect actor to resurrect John Thaw's Jack Regan from the 1975 to 1978 TV series of the same name. But much of the charm of the series was the banter between Regan and fellow Flying Squad detective George Carter (Dennis Waterman). In addition, there was even a modicum of plausibility in amongst the car chases and tough guy antics. In the update, Regan has been turned into a foul-mouthed monster who beats up suspects and humps the boss's wife. The casting of Ben Drew (aka the rapper Plan B) as Carter is a mistake, as he has zero presence on screen and zero chemistry with Winstone. One might hope, then, that the plot would make up for these deficits, if only there were one. Instead, there's a series of bullet points and two long, extended action sequences - an improbable shoot-out in Trafalgar Square (in which various monuments make for cheerful target practice) and a car chase round a mobile home lot. London looks pretty at night but there's not a lot of momentum on the streets.



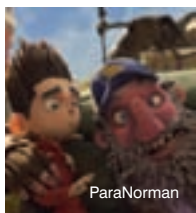
The Sweeney

ParaNorman

CERT PG (93 mins)

Featuring the voices of **Kodi Smit-McPhee, Tucker Albrizzi, Anna Kendrick, Casey Affleck, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Leslie Mann, Elaine Stritch** Directed by **Sam Fell and Chris Butler (USA)**

This stop-motion animated cartoon may be populated with zombies, witches and ghosts, but don't let that stop you in your tracks. It's produced by Laika, the animation studio that brought us *Coraline* (2009), a hypnotic, darkly comic and delightfully macabre entertainment for children. Kids relish these sorts of things (think Roald Dahl), so *ParaNorman* might be something rather special. Oh, and it's in 3D.



ParaNorman

Premium Rush

CERT 12a (91 mins)

Starring **Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Michael Shannon, Dania Ramirez** Directed by **David Koepp (USA)**

Remember *Speed*? Well, replace the bus with a fixie - a fixed-gear bicycle - and you have something that promises to be every bit as dynamic, but with two wheels. Gordon-Levitt (*500 Days Of Summer*, *50/50*, *The Dark Knight Rises*) is the bike messenger chased round New York by a corrupt cop. Director Koepp is better known as a scriptwriter - of *Spider-Man*, *War Of The Worlds* and *Men In Black 3* fame.



To Rome With Love

CERT 12a (112 mins)

Starring **Woody Allen, Alec Baldwin, Roberto Benigni, Penélope Cruz, Jullendy Davis, Jesse Eisenberg, Greta Gerwig, Ellen Page**
Directed by **Woody Allen (USA/Italy/Spain)**

If this romcom is as imaginative and exciting as the title, we could be in trouble. Here, Woody introduces a number of characters and their romantic dilemmas in the Eternal City. Incidentally, the director hasn't starred in one of his own films for six years.



To Rome With Love

Released from Weds 19 Sept

Hysteria

CERT 15 (99 mins)

Starring **Hugh Dancy, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Jonathan Pryce, Felicity Jones, Rupert Everett, Sheridan Smith** Directed by **Tanya Wexler (UK)**

In essence a romantic comedy, *Hysteria* is actually about the invention of the vibrator. The title refers to the name once given to the condition of women suffering from nerves, cramps or insomnia, a mental state treated by doctors with the manual stimulation of the genital area. Set at the end of the nineteenth century, the film certainly promises to be educational, however romantic or funny it might be.

Hope Springs

CERT 12a (100 mins)

Starring **Meryl Streep, Tommy Lee Jones, Steve Carell, Elisabeth Shue**
Directed by **David Frankel (USA)**

Believe it or not, Meryl Streep is being tipped for an Oscar nomination for this. It's from the same director who steered her to commercial success in *The Devil Wears Prada*, and is a romantic comedy about a couple (Streep, Jones) who seek marriage counselling. With Steve Carell as the counsellor, the laughs seem almost guaranteed.

Now Is Good

CERT 12a (103 mins)

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.



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Killing Them Softly

Killing Them Softly CERT 15

Starring Brad Pitt, Richard Jenkins, James Gandolfini, Ray Liotta, Scoot McNairy, Ben Mendelsohn, Sam Shepard
Directed by Andrew Dominik

A crime thriller based on the novel *Cogan's Trade* by George V Higgins, *Killing Them Softly* was entered in the competition at this year's Cannes film festival. Although it came away empty-handed, the movie is already generating Oscar buzz. Pitt and Gandolfini - who appeared together in *The Mexican* - are both being talked about as possible Oscar nominees. Dominik (another hopeful) previously directed Pitt in *The Assassination Of Jesse James*.

Untouchable CERT tbc

Starring François Cluzet, Omar Sy, Audrey Fleurot
Directed by Eric Toledano and Olivier Nakache (France)

Untouchable garnered an impressive nine French Oscar (the Césars) nominations and is proving something of a box-office sensation. In fact, in France, it was voted the cultural event of 2011, with fifty-two percent of the votes. François Cluzet (*Tell No One*, *Little White Lies*) plays a disabled millionaire who befriends a poor black man from the ghetto.



Untouchable

Savages CERT tbc

Starring Taylor Kitsch, Blake Lively, Aaron Johnson, John Travolta, Benicio Del Toro, Salma Hayek
Directed by Oliver Stone (USA)

Best friends Chon (Kitsch) and Ben (Taylor-Johnson) share everything, including their lucrative trade in a strain of potent marijuana and their girlfriend. Then their girlfriend is kidnapped by a vicious Mexican gangster (Del Toro). Expect a lot of sex and brutal violence (after all, Oliver Stone is at the helm).



Savages

The House At The End Of The Street CERT 15 (101 mins)

Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Elisabeth Shue, Max Thieriot, Gil Bellows
Directed by Mark Tonderai (USA)

Beware the house at the end of the street. When a freshly divorced woman (Shue) and her teenage daughter (Lawrence) move into their dream house (another dream house? - see *When The Lights Went Out*), they discover that the abode next door holds a grisly secret. And very odd things start to happen. But before you dismiss this chiller entirely, bear in mind that Jennifer Lawrence (*Winter's Bone*, *The Hunger Games*) is a world-class actress, and the film promises to be a lot more unpredictable than its title might suggest.

Released from Fri 28 Sept

Looper CERT 15 (118 mins)

Starring Bruce Willis, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Emily Blunt, Paul Dano, Jeff Daniels, Piper Perabo
Directed by Rian Johnson (USA)

Haven't seen Emily Blunt for a month? Never mind, the industrious British actress pops up again in this time-travelling sci-fi actioner. Set in 2072, the film is about a mob technique for rubbing out targets by sending them thirty years back in time - where they will meet their executioner. Expect extreme violence.



Looper

Resident Evil: Retribution CERT 12

Starring Milla Jovovich, Michelle Rodriguez, Kevin Durand, Sienna Guillory, Shawn Roberts, Li Bingbing
Directed by Paul W.S. Anderson (USA/Germany)

Once again, the earth is teeming with the flesh-eating Undead. For those who've seen any of the four previous *Resident Evil* titles - adapted from the Capcom survival horror video game - they will know what to expect. There are zombies, plagues, mutant creatures and Milla Jovovich returning as the gun-toting, high-kicking Alice. And like the last one, it's in 3D.

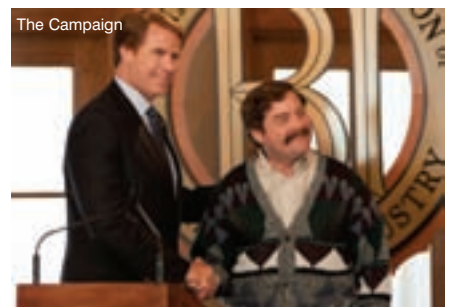


Resident Evil: Retribution

The Campaign CERT 15 (85 mins)

Starring Will Ferrell, Zach Galifianakis, Jason Sudeikis, Dylan McDermott, John Lithgow, Dan Aykroyd, Brian Cox
Directed by Jay Roach (USA)

With the American elections kicking into high gear, this political farce couldn't have wished for a more timely release. Ferrell and Galifianakis play rival candidates for a seat in Congress to represent a minor North Carolina district. The director brought us *Meet The Parents/Fockers* and the *Austin Powers* films, so it could be really funny.



The Campaign

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

360 15

Anthony Hopkins, Jude Law, Rachel Weisz and Ben Law star in Peter Morgan's dramatic thriller which weaves together the various sexual encounters of a number of different couples. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Mon 3 Sept; mac, Birmingham, until Tue 4 Sep; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Wed 5 Sep; OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 14 - Thurs 20 Sep*

A Dangerous Method 15

Michael Fassbender and Keira Knightley star in David Cronenberg's drama/thriller examining the early days of psychotherapy and the relationship between Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Mon 3 Sep*

A Royal Affair 15

Historical romantic drama concerning the relationship between an insane king, his young wife and her physician. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Mon 3 - Tues 4 Sep*

About Ely (Darbareye Ely) tbc

Persian mystery story that offers a revealing look at the Iranian middle-class and how a simple lie can open up a trail of problems. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 28 Sep - Thurs 4 Oct*

Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry 15

Documentary from Alison Klayman depicting her unprecedented access to artist and activist Ai Weiwei. Klayman documents the artist as he prepares for a series of exhibitions and repeatedly clashes with the Chinese authorities. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Wed 5 &*

Thurs 6 Sep

The Amazing Spider-Man 12a

Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Rhys Ifans star in a reboot of the Spider-Man franchise that takes us back to the roots of Peter Parker's existence as an arachnid. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 1 - Mon 3 Sep*

Anna Karenina 18

See Preview Page 45

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The Angel's Share 12a

Comedy drama that sees acclaimed British director Ken Loach tackle Scotland's underclass. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Mon 3 Sept*

Beautiful Boxer 15

Believing he is a girl trapped in a boy's body, a Thai boy sets out to master the lethal, masculine sport of boxing, to earn a living and achieve his ultimate goal of total femininity. Based on the true story of famous Muay Thai champion, model and actress Nong Thoom. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 7 Sep*

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel 12a

Judy Dench, Maggie Smith, Penelope Wilton and 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 Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Wed 5 Sep*

The Bourne Legacy 12a

Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz and Edward Norton star in this latest offering in the 'Bourne' franchise. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 7, Sun 9 - Tues 11 Sep*

Brave PG

Billy Connolly lends his voice to the acclaimed animated action adventure, set in the mysterious and rugged Highlands of Scotland. *On general release*

The Campaign 15

See Preview Page 49

Chariots Of Fire PG

The true story of two British track athletes at the 1924 Summer Olympics. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 4 - Wed 5 Sep*

Circumstance 15

Drama concerning a wealthy Iranian family and their struggles to contain a teenager's growing sexual rebellion and her brother's dangerous obsession. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 14 - Thurs 20 Sep*

The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-time U

National Theatre Live screening based on the best-selling novel by Mark Haddon. Luke Treadaway, Una Stubbs and Nicola Walker star. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire; Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire; mac, Birmingham; The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire*

Damsels In Distress 12a

Whit Stillman's romantic comedy concerning a trio of girls who set out to change the male-dominated environment of the Seven Oaks college campus. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 17 Sep*

The Dark Knight Rises 12a

Christian Bale, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Tom Hardy star in the final film in Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, until Sat 1 Sep; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 14 - Tues 18 Sep*

Departure Lounge

Psychological thriller that uses the true stories of homeless people, some of whom worked on the film, and condenses them into one man's story. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Thurs 27 Sep*

The Discreet Charm Of The Bourgeoisie 15

A surreal comedy which centres on a group of well-heeled socialites who keep trying to have dinner together, but are constantly thwarted by a series of bizarre mishaps, misunderstandings and diversions. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 24 Sep*

Dredd tbc

See Preview Page 45

Eames: The Architect & The Painter 12a

Documentary about American husband and wife team Charles and Ray Eames, considering the furniture they're famous for and exploring their influence on significant events in American life - from the development of modernism to the rise of the computer age. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Wed 19 & Thurs 20 Sep*

F For Fake PG

Orson Welles documentary about fraud and fakery. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sat 29 & Sun 30 Sep*

The Flowers Of War 15

Subtitled historical drama set in Nanjing during the 1937 Sino Japanese war. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 16 - Mon 17 Sep*

Forgiveness Of Blood 12a

Subtitled film concerning an Albanian family torn



The Bourne Legacy

apart by a murder. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 14 - Mon 17 Sep*

Friends With Kids 15

Jennifer Westfield and Maya Rudolph star as best friends who decide to have a child together while keeping their relationship platonic, so they can avoid the toll kids can take on romantic relationships. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Wed 19 - Thurs 20 Sep*

Holy Motors 18

Leos Carax's bizarre metaphysical journey between life, love and death, featuring the extraordinary French actor Denis Lavant in a variety of roles. Kylie Minogue also stars. *On general release.*

Hope Springs 12a

See Preview Page 47

The House At The End Of The Street 15

See Preview Page 49

Hungarian Rhapsody: Queen Live In Budapest 12a

Queen's momentous concert movie comes to cinemas for the first time. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Thurs 20 & Sun 23 Sep*

The Hunter 15

Willem Dafoe stars in Daniel Nettheim's psychological drama that tells the story of a mercenary sent into the Tasmanian wilderness on a hunt for the last Tasmanian Tiger. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 25 - Wed 26 Sep*

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SHOWCASE, COVENTRY 0871 220 1000
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ARTRIX, BROMSGROVE 01527 577330
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VUE, WORCESTER 0871 224 0240

Visit whatsonlive.co.uk for venue website details

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The Last Projectionist 12a

A fascinating history of cinemas and their projectionists. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 29 Sep*

Lawless 18

See Preview Page 45

The Lodger PG

1927 Hitchcock thriller with a new Nitin Sawhney score. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 20 - Fri 21 Sep*

Looper 15

See Preview Page 49

The Lost Boys 15

Bloodsuckers wreak havoc in a sleepy coastal town in this cult 1980s horror comedy, starring Jason Patric and Corey Haim as brothers whose lives are turned upside-down by a gang of vampires. *Showing at Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 14 Sep*

Magic Mike 15

Channing Tatum and Alex Pettyfer star in a comedy drama concerning a male stripper who takes it upon himself to teach a young performer how to party, pick up women and make easy money. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Wed 5 - Thurs 6 Sep*

Marina Abramovic: The Artist Is Present 15

Documentary that follows the Serbian performance artist as she prepares for what may be the most important moment of her life - a major new retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Sep*

Marley 15

Kevin Macdonald's uplifting documentary exploring the life and times of iconic Jamaican musician, Bob Marley. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock*

Nostalgia For The Light 12a

Moving documentary about the driest place on Earth, Chile's Atacama Desert. Screened as part of the West Midlands Human Rights Film Festival 2012. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Wed 26 Sep*

Now Is Good 12a

See Preview Page 47

Oliver PG

Digitally restored version of Lionel Bart's highly acclaimed musical. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Tues 25 - Wed 26 Sep*

ParaNorman PG

See Preview Page 47

Ping Pong PG

Documentary following players as they prepare to compete in the eighty-plus age groups of the World Table Tennis Championships. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Tues 18 Sep*

Premium Rush 12a

See Preview Page 47

Projectionist Pick 18

Re-issue of Michaelangelo Antonioni's classic film based in the cold and foggy industrial city of Ravenna, where a mentally ill housewife, married to the plant manager, begins a relationship with her husband's business associate in an effort to confront her isolation. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Tues 4 & Wed 5 Sep*

Resident Evil: Retribution 12

See Preview Page 49

Samsara 12a

Documentary filmed over a five year period in twenty-five countries on five continents, exploring the varied worlds of sacred grounds, disaster zones, industrial complexes and natural wonders. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 21 - Sun*

23 Sep; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 21 - Thurs 27 Sep

Savages tbc

See Preview Page 49

Searching For Sugar Man 12a

Documentary that follows two South Africans as they set out to discover what happened to their unlikely music hero, the mysterious 1970s rock'n'roller, Rodriguez. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, until Mon 3 Sep & Fri 7 Sep*

Shadow Dancer 15

Andrea Riseborough stars as an informant for M15 who spills the beans in order to protect her son. Clive Owen also stars. *Showing at Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Thurs 6 Sep; mac, Birmingham, Fri 7 - Thurs 13 Sep; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 24 - Tues 25 & Fri 28 Sep*

Shut Up And Play The Hits 15

Witness the visual document of LCD Soundsystem's final ever gig, held at New York's Madison Square Garden on 2 April 2011. *Showing at Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Tues 4 & Wed 6 Sep*

The Sweeney 15

See Preview Page 47

Take This Waltz 15

Michelle Williams and Seth Rogan star in Sarah Polley's romantic comedy which questions how long-term relationships affect love, sex and the way we look at ourselves. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 14 - Mon 17 Sep; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 21 - Thurs 27 Sep*

That's My Boy 15

See Preview Page 46

To Rome With Love 12a

See Preview Page 47

Tortoise In Love u

A feelgood romantic comedy in the tradition of Calendar Girls and Full Monty. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 10 - Wed 12 Sep*

Untouchable tbc

See Preview Page 49

War Horse 12a

Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson and David Thewlis star in Steven Spielberg's acclaimed war drama. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Fri 14 Sep*

WE PG

Madonna's passionate tale, based on the affair

between King Edward VIII and American divorcee Wallis Simpson, follows a contemporary romance between a married woman and a Russian security guard. *Showing at Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Thurs 27 Sep*

The Wedding Video 15

Comedy written by Tim Firth and starring Rufus Hound, Lucy Punch, Robert Webb, Harriet Walter and Miriam Margolyes. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 7 - Thurs 13 Sep; mac, Birmingham, Sat 8 - Thurs 13 Sep; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 28 & Sat 29 Sep*

When The Lights Went Out tbc

See Preview Page 46

Your Sister's Sister 15

Emily Blunt, Rosemarie DeWitt and Mark Duplass star in a comedy-drama that follows an escalating chain of events as they gather a comic momentum that's both fresh and funny. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 4 - Wed 5 Sep; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 12 & Fri 14 Sep*

DVD NEW RELEASES

The Hunger Games 12

Adapted from Suzanne Collins' popular novel of the same name.

Released 3 September



Salmon Fishing In The Yemen 12

Romantic drama starring Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt.

Released 3 September



Albert Nobbs 15

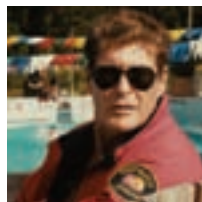
Glenn Close stars as a woman who, in order to scrape together a living in nineteenth century Ireland, poses as a male waiter. Based on the short story by Irish novelist George Moore.

Released 3 September

Piranha 3DD 18

Horror sequel in which a species of violent prehistoric piranha continue to terrify a small town. David Hasselhoff stars.

Released 3 September



American Pie: The Reunion 15

Teen comedy that follows the characters from the original 1999 movie as they meet in their home town for a high school reunion.

Released 10 September

Safe 15

Sci-fi action thriller co-written by Luc Besson and starring Guy Pearce.

Released 10 September



Avengers Assemble 12

Robert Downey Jr, Samuel L Jackson and Chris Hemsworth come together in an ultimate gathering of the superheroes.

Released 10 September

Silent House 15

Husband-and-wife directorial team Chris Kentis and Laura Lau direct this suspense horror remake starring Elizabeth Olsen.

Released 17 September

Jeff Who Lives At Home 15

Jason Segal stars as a thirty-year-old bachelor living at home with his parents whose life is transformed when he's enrolled by his brother to help track down the latter's possibly adulterous wife.

Released 17 September

The Dictator 15

Comedy written by and starring Sacha Baron Cohen following the

dedicated attempts of a dictator to stave off the terrible threat of democracy.

Released 24 September

How I Spent My Summer Vacation 15

Mel Gibson stars as a career criminal who finds himself in a Mexican jail and ends up being helped by a nine-year-old boy. Peter Stormare also stars.

Released 24 September

The Cabin In The Woods 15

Teen horror flick following five college students as they arrive at a remote woodland cabin for a weekend of partying.

Released 24 September



Exhibitions

Mark Power:

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In Conversation

Sunday 8 September, 2pm

Join Mark Power, Emma Chetcuti and Deborah Robinson for an informal tour of the exhibition.

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Good Sport

Until 1 September 2012

Portfolio

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In This Strange House

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Friday 21 September, 10.30-11.30am, 12-1pm, 2-3pm

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Visual Arts

Made In The Middle: Contemporary Craft From Across The Midlands

Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford, Sat 15 September - Sun 28 October

Twenty-seven makers, specially selected by a panel of curators, are here brought together for the Midlands' principal selling exhibition. Held every three years, the show is for the first time showcasing work by artists from both the East and West Midlands, and promotes all disciplines of craftmaking.

Contributing artists include Maggie Smith, Amy Twigger Holroyd, Jannette Mathews, James and Tilla Waters, Anna Collette Hunt and Imogen Luddy. The show is partnered by Craftspace and mac Birmingham.



Maggie Smith: Willow Ware

Arefin And Arefin: The Graphic Design Of Tony Arefin

Ikon, Birmingham, Wed 12 September - Sun 4 November

Emerging in the late 1980s as one of the most important figures in the British art world, Pakistani-born Abed Mohammed Arefi's creativity became hugely evident in the world of magazine publishing. Later changing his name to Tony Arefin, the artist worked for major players The Face, ID magazine and Bomb. As he gravitated more towards the art world, Arefin produced work for numerous institutions, and for seminal YBA exhibitions such as Freeze (1988) and Modern Apprentice (1990), both organised by Damien Hurst. This exhibition, curated by James Langdon, explores the contributions of the late and often overlooked designer, and features works loaned by Arefin's family.



Our Sporting Life: The Science Of Sport Exhibition

Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire, until Sun 9 September

Team GB's gold medal-winning eight rowing boat from the Sydney 2000 Olympics is featured in this fascinating exhibition, which takes a look at how space-age materials and innovative designs play a part in record-breaking performances by the world's greatest athletes. Also on display are world record-breaking running spikes from Olympic athlete David Moorcroft OBE and the banned Speedo high-performance swimming costume.



The Lament For Icarus

Love And Death: Victorian Paintings From The Tate

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Sat 8 September - Sun 13 January, 2013

An exclusive exhibition comprising eleven of the most iconic paintings in the national collection, Love & Death features as its centrepiece John William Waterhouse's *The Lady Of Shalott* (1888), one of Tate's most famous and popular works, which rarely travels outside London. Two other paintings by Waterhouse also feature, alongside classical works by Frederic Leighton and Lawrence Alma-Tadema which serve to illustrate the Victorian fascination with re-imagining life in Greece and Rome.

Function III

Lady Barber Gallery, Birmingham, 7 September - 25 November

The urban landscape provides the theme for this, the third photographic competition to be held at Birmingham's Barber Institute. A collaboration with Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, Function III provides a platform for students to showcase their creative talent. Taking inspiration from the museum's Cityscapes exhibition, students have drawn from the exquisite designs on the sixteenth and seventeenth century European coins and medals on display at the Barber in order to create larger, photographic and panoramic views of Birmingham. Winners of the competition will be announced in October.

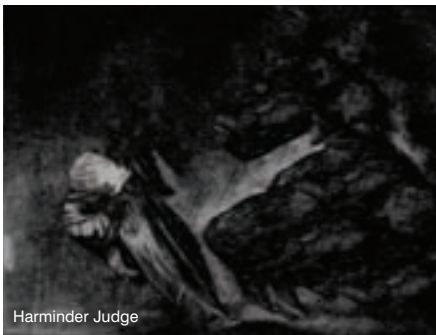


Ongoing exhibitions

Harminder Judge: In This Strange House

New Art Gallery, Walsall, Sat 8 September - Sun 25 November

Religious iconography and occultism, Indian culture and popular Western culture are just a few of the prominent influences evident in the works of award-winning contemporary artist Harminder Judge. This presentation, comprising film, digital prints and sculptural installation, draws on Odilon Redon's illustrations for an Edward Bulwer-Lytton ghost story, a work which inspired Judge to co-create a storyboard with writer and fellow artist Edward Wakefield.



Harminder Judge

Journey Into The Light

Coventry Cathedral, Sat 1 September - Sun 28 October

Exploring the inspirational journey of some of the artists responsible for Coventry Cathedral's famous art treasures, Journey Into The Light features sketches, models and design studies from the likes of Epstein, Sutherland and Piper. These are displayed alongside the masterpieces they represent, many of which are now recognised as high points in twentieth century art.

Vanley Burke: By The Rivers Of Birminam

mac, Birmingham, Sat 22 September - Sun 18 November

Having photographed Handsworth's Jamaican community since the mid-1960s, Vanley Burke is well-placed to tell the story of how lives and perceptions have changed during the last half-century.

Presented with his first camera at the age of ten, Vanley creates images which reveal a great compassion for his 'own people', as illustrated by his photograph of the Africa Liberation Day crowds gathered in Handsworth Park in 1977 (pictured).



Vanley Burke

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

CRAFTSENSE Exhibition that celebrates the links between eighteenth century industry and modern craft practices, until Sat 1 Sep, Bilston Craft Gallery

GOOD SPORT Paintings, photographs, memorabilia and installations are here brought together in a display that celebrates the passion and sense of community often associated with sport, until Sat 1 Sep, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

EXHIBITION BY BRONIA SAWYER Carefully crafted works made from paper that explore the artist's struggle with dyslexia and her obsession with being creative, until Sat 1 Sep, Solihull Arts Complex

STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD: DARK AGE DISCOVERY This exhibition, featuring over one hundred specially chosen artefacts from the Staffordshire Hoard, provides a unique opportunity to find out about the world famous discovery, until Sun 1 Sep, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

SUMMER SHOWCASE Featuring vibrant jewellery by Michael Petit and bold ceramics by Maria Wojdat, until Sat 1 Sep, Bilston Craft Gallery

INTERNATIONAL GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR Showcase of photographs of gardens, plants, flowers and botany from the winning and finalist photographers from the fourth IGPTY competition, until Sat 1 Sep, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge

FORMER GLORY The grandeur of buildings, the faded beauty of clothing and personal items is the source of inspiration for this group

of artists, working in textiles, film and mixed media, until Sun 2 Sep, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

FEMININITY IN VOGUE-DENISE RUSSELL Exhibition that showcases the vanity of the female form, until Sun 2 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

STYLE AFRICA Exhibition that explores the changing traditions of woven, embroidered, printed and dyed clothing and textiles, from the early twentieth century through to 2011, until Sun 2 Sep, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

WAY OF THE WARRIOR: THE SAMURAI Hands-on exhibits and Samurai artefacts provide an insight into the world of the revered Japanese warriors, until Mon 3 Sep, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

CLOUD NYLON Retrospective exhibition featuring works by Nora Fok, until Wed 5 Sep, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

ISABEL RAWSTHORNE: MOVING BODIES Series of abstract portraits that explore dance and movement, many of which were painted in the rehearsal rooms at Covent Garden, until Sat 8 Sep, The New Arts Gallery, Walsall

GROWING UP IN THE NEW AGE Autobiographical project by Marjolaine Ryley that explores the alternative world of free school education and counter-culture, until Sat 8 Sep, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

MAN OF NOTE Exhibition that celebrates Harry Eccleston's legacy as an artist and printmaker, until Sat 8 Sep, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

BOYD & EVANS First major survey exhibition from artist-couple Boyd & Evans, until Sun 9 Sep, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

GODS, GREEKS AND GORGONS Discover some of the greatest stories ever told in an exhibition that explores how different societies interpret Greek cultures, until Sun 9 Sep, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

GOLD, SILVER & BRONZE Featuring an array of works in a variety of materials, all inspired by the colours gold, silver and bronze, until Sun 9 Sep, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

THE PLAYMAKER: KOSUGE 1-16 Debut presentation from Japanese artists Kosuge1-16 which draws on mac's history to create an interactive exhibition that fuses sculpture and puppetry, until Sun 9 Sep, mac, Birmingham

MONSTERS OF THE DEEP A unique CGI prehistoric aquarium that shows the reptiles which swam the Earth's seas millions of years ago, when dinosaurs roamed the land, until Sun 9 September, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

OUR GAMES STORY Exhibition that celebrates Staffordshire Olympians of the past, present and future, until Sun 9 Sep, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

ALLOTMENT An innovative programme that sees mac's Arena Gallery divided into plots tended by independent curators and artists, until Sun 9 Sep, mac, Birmingham

CURIOUS VISITORS: THE ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION Featuring contemporary sculpture, paintings and photography, until Sun 9 Sep, Aston Hall, Birmingham

LIVING WALLS New exhibition commissioned for the World

Shakespeare Festival, until Sun 9 Sep, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

MARK POWER: BLACK COUNTRY STORIES Multistory exhibition that questions perceptions of beauty and the importance of looking good, until Sat 15 Sep, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

TRANSIENT NATURE Exhibition inspired by the British environment & the natural world, until Sat 15 Sep, Willow Gallery, Oswestry, Shropshire

MARK VEALE: STILLHEADS Exhibition of ephemeral mixed media drawings captured in print, until Sat 15 Sep, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

STREET Exhibition that provides a glimpse into the darker side of the urban environment, until Sat 15 Sep, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

MARION RICHARDSON EXHIBITION The former Dudley Girl's School art mistress showcases some of the outstanding work that she's produced with children over the years, until Sat 22 Sep, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

DRAWN TO CRAFT Exhibition that showcases how the drawn line has inspired contemporary craftspeople, until Sat 22 Sep, Bilston Craft Gallery

MAUD AND THE DRAGON Exhibition exploring the local legend that tells of a girl befriended by a dragon. This exhibition is supported by various family-friendly 'dragon activities' throughout the summer holidays, until Sat 22 Sep, Worcester City Art Gallery

A JUDITH KERR RETROSPECTIVE Exhibition of original artwork from The Tiger Who Came To Tea, until Sat 29 Sep, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

CORE - A DIGITAL ART INSTALLATION Kurt Hentschlagler's installation provides an

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THE NEW ART GALLERY WALSALL 01922 654400
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SHIREHALL GALLERY STAFFORD 01785 278345

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Warwickshire

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HERBERT ART GALLERY COVENTRY 02476 832386
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ROYAL PUMP ROOMS 01926 742700

Worcestershire

WORCESTER CITY ART GALLERY 01905 25371
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VisualArts LISTINGS

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

insight into a weightless world of virtual aquariums, until Sun 30 Sep, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire

FLIGHT AND THE ARTISTIC IMAGINATION Major exhibition exploring man's instinctive desire to fly. Works from Leonardo de Vinci, Francisco Goya, Paul Nash, Peter Lanyon & Hiraki Sawa all feature, until Sun 30 Sep, Compton Verney Gallery, Warwickshire

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

JAMAICA 50 A partnership between the Birmingham Kingsway Project, the Drum Arts Centre and Birmingham Archives, until Sun 7 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

21ST CENTURY ENGRAVED GLASS A national exhibition of contemporary

and traditional glass engraving by members of the Guild of Glass Engravers. This exhibition forms part of the International Festival of Glass 2011, until Sun 7 Oct, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

STAFFORDSHIRE & BEYOND A new exhibition of original artwork by Stafford couple Eleanor and John Cathcart, until Fri 12 Oct, Museum of Cannock Chase, Staffordshire

GEOLOCATION A series of photographs by Nate Larson and Marni Shindelman representing locations from where a number of selected tweets were sent, until Fri 12 Oct, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton

PEDALS TO MEDALS A new exhibition celebrating the history and heroes of all kinds of competitive cycling, until Sun 14 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum

PHARAOH: KING OF EGYPT National touring exhibition from the British

Museum that features more than one hundred-and-thirty objects not previously displayed outside of London, until Sun 14 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

WOLVERHAMPTON RIOTS ONE YEAR ON Images from CCTV, newspapers and social media provide the basis for Sally Payen's exhibition that charts the violence and disorder that erupted on Wolverhampton's streets during the summer of 2011, until Fri 19 Oct, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

BROUGHT TO MIND An exhibition of work by artists Margaret Jarvis and Richard Randall presenting interpretations of the theme 'brought to mind', until Fri 19 Oct, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

GRAND DESIGNS A chance to view some of the museum's rarely seen masterpieces, until Sat 20 Oct, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

CELEBRATION A display of costumes in the Servants' Quarters Costume Gallery, until Sun 28 Oct, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

ANTONY DONALDSON Exhibition featuring

early works from the '60s & '70s alongside more recent pieces, until Sat 3 Nov, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

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

LIVING CITY Sarah Taylor Silverwood's works examine the relationship between humans and architecture through a series of drawings and text-based pieces, until Sun 2 Dec, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

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

DEAR SHAKESPEARE New display that showcases a small but rare collection of letters written by famous authors, from Oscar Wilde to

Bram Stoker, until Mon 31 Dec, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

DINOSAURS UNCOVERED Unique exhibition featuring life-size dinosaurs, real and replica fossils and holographic video presentations by wildlife expert Chris Packham, until Sun 6 Jan, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

BACK TO THE FUTURE Exhibition that explores the world-renowned glass collections and archives in the Dudley Borough, demonstrating their importance to the region's contemporary glass-makers and designers, until Sun 27 Jan, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Kingswinford

ANGELA SCOTT EXHIBITION Talented watercolourist and oil painter Angela Scott showcase her landscapes, Sat 1 - Sun 30 Sep, Weston Park, Staffordshire

PAUL KI-KYDD EXHIBITION Featuring new and old works using graphite, pastels and charcoal, Sat 1 - Sun 30 Sep, Artifex Gallery, Sutton Coldfield

MICHAELA BROWN EXHIBITION Series of abstract works from the Solihull-born artist, Wed

5 Sep - Sun 7 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex

ORIENTATION Textile exhibition inspired by the culture of the Far East, Fri 7 Sep - Sun 21 Oct, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

PORTFOLIO Exhibition by Shelly Perkins featuring an eclectic array of works which come together to provide an insight into the magic of a child's imagination, the secrets of elusive British wildlife and the artist's charming interpretations of local towns and villages, Sat 8 - Sat 29 Sep, Iapetus Gallery, Leamington Spa

WREKIN ARTS PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB EXHIBITION Mon 10 Sep - Mon 15 Oct, The Place, Oakengates, Telford, Shropshire

Yael Bartana Exhibition Trilogy of films based on the activities of the Jewish Renaissance Movement in Poland, Tues 18 Sep - Sun 4 November

THE OLYMPICS Exhibition of paintings, sculpture, ceramics and textiles, all inspired by the Olympic Games and the Olympic Torch Parade, Mon 24 Sep - Sat 30 Nov, The Willow Gallery, Oswestry, North Shropshire

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Reckless Shrimp Festival

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FEATURING FROM THE USA.....



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15 & 16 SEPTEMBER

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TICKETS: SATURDAY £60 . SUNDAY £60 . WEEKEND £105

WeGotTickets <http://www.wegottickets.com/f/4994>



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Festivals

The Reckless Shrimp Festival

Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire,
Sat 15 - Sun 16 September

Thirty talented acts from both sides of the Atlantic are promised at this brand new two-day indoor festival in the beautiful South Shropshire town of Ludlow. The event, which supports the Alzheimer's Society, boasts an eclectic line-up, including the legendary Butch Hancock of Flatliners fame and acclaimed country singer Rachel Harrington, both of whom appear on both days. Among the many other notable acts performing over the weekend are Kritsta Detor, Jim Moray, Martin Simpson, Amy Rainbow, Sean Taylor and Lucy Schwartz, the latter of whom has chosen Ludlow to make her first UK appearance.

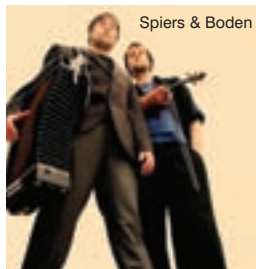


Lucy Schwartz

Bromyard Folk Festival

Broadbridge Site, Bromyard, Herefordshire,
Fri 7 - Sun 9 September

This festival of traditional music annually offers a line-up of outstanding local, national and international traditional folk musicians, performing in concerts, ceilidhs and displays. Featuring over one hundred-and-seventy hours of entertainment in just one weekend of traditional music, song and dance, the event's organisers proudly describe it as 'the best folk festival/cultural event in the Welsh Border area'. The line-up for 2012 features Spiers & Boden, The Mighty Doonans, The Copper Family and Vin Garbutt.



Spiers & Boden

Moseley Folk Festival

Moseley Park & Pool, Birmingham,
Fri 31 August - Sun 2 September

This genre-hopping festival sees some of folk's best-loved musicians perform alongside lesser known contemporaries within the stunning setting of Moseley Park. Post-punk rockers Echo And The Bunnymen headline the opening night, and are joined by the Guillemots and Beth Jeans Houghton & The Hooves Of Destiny. Other notable acts over the weekend include 'troubadour of the folk world' Roy Harper, Julian Cope, Goodnight Lenin, Cara Dillon and folk legends Steeleye Span, who close the festival on the Sunday evening.



Cara Dillon



Headliners
The Wombats
Ms Dynamite and
Ocean Colour
Scene duo

Shrewsbury Fields Forever

West Midland Showground, Fri 14 - Sun 16 September

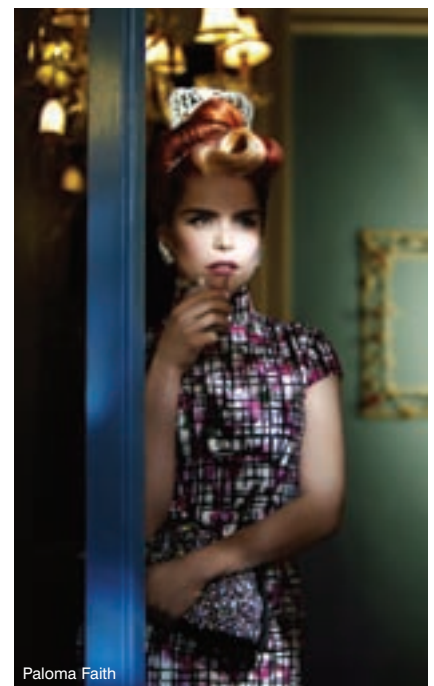
Returning for a second year, this three-day festival presents an eclectic mix of musical entertainment, with lovers of indie, rock, alternative, electronic, dance and popular music all catered for. Amongst sixty-plus acts booked to appear over the weekend are headliners The Wombats, Ms Dynamite, The Sunshine Underground, and Simon and Oscar from Birmingham band Ocean Colour Scene. Sunday's Festival event, meanwhile, promises to be a big barrel of laughs, and features performances from Mark Watson, Andrew Maxwell, Lucy Porter, Eric Lampaert and Joel Dommett.

Carfest

Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire,
Sat 8 - Sun 9 September

Radio Two DJ and One Show presenter Chris Evans is the man behind this unique concept - one which he believes will fulfill his dream of 'providing the perfect family festival'. Bringing together Chris's passions for cars and music, Carfest features a hill climb, numerous displays and an auction for motoring enthusiasts. Music fans are also in for a treat, with Texas, Razorlight, Paloma Faith, The Magic Numbers and The Proclaimers all confirmed to appear.

And if all that's not enough, the event also offers an abundance of sideline shows to keep you entertained, including air displays, arena shows, kid zones, RAF hot air balloons, the Segway Racers, dancing JCB diggers, a jousting display from Knights Of The Damned, welly walling and ice cream making. So much activity is sure to build up an appetite, and there'll be no shortage of cuisine on offer, with all dietary requirements catered for.



Paloma Faith

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Stratford upon Avon foodfestival

SAT 22ND & SUN 23RD SEPTEMBER



HEADLINE ACT:
The Fabulous Baker Brothers
seen on Channel 4

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Over 12,000 people visited our first festival last year and we plan to make this year even bigger and better.



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www.midlandsveganfestival.org.uk

Royal Leamington Spa

FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

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SEPTEMBER 2012

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Food Festivals

Ludlow Food Festival

Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire,
Fri 7 - Sun 9 September

The historic town of Ludlow provides a perfect setting for this annual event, which showcases the diversity and quality of the area's gastronomic delights. Launched in 1995, the food festival fast became established as one of the country's foremost events of its kind, allowing visitors to indulge in an array of fine food and drink, enjoy demonstrations and talks from a host of professionals, and take part in some now-famous activities - including the challenge of following the Ludlow Sausage Trail, the Festival Loaf Trail and a Real Ale Trail.



Leamington Food And Drink Festival

Royal Leamington Spa, Sat 8 - Sun 9 September

Returning to the Pump Room Gardens for a fifth year, this popular celebration of the region's culinary offerings brings together an abundance of food-themed attractions for all ages to enjoy. A free event, the festival features over one hundred-and-thirty exhibitors, as well as plenty of live entertainment and demonstrations. New for 2012 is the Live Cookery Theatre from the Love Food Roadshow, and a Kids Make And Bake Cookery School, where youngsters can learn the art of making cupcakes and scones. The ever-popular Taste Trail makes a welcome return too, allowing visitors to eat at one of many of the town's allocated restaurants for as little as £1. A Coffee Trail, along which visitors can sample a free coffee with any purchase at a participating coffee house, is a further new addition to the festival.



Welshpool Food Festival

Glansevern Hall, Berriew, Welshpool,
Sat 1 - Sun 2 September

The visual splendour of Glansevern Hall makes it the perfect setting for this annual two-day festival - a celebration of what's best about food and drink in Mid Wales and the borders. Now in its seventh year, the family-friendly event sees some of the region's best known culinary experts taking part in demonstrations and masterclasses, while entertainment is provided by Four Tissimo and Appalachian step dancers Kickin' Alice.

The Fabulous Baker Brothers



Stratford Food And Drink Festival

Various locations, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 22 - Sun 23 September

Taking place in the streets of Shakespeare's birthplace, the Stratford Food Festival 2012 promises a treasure trove of good things to eat and drink, as local producers, together with others from further afield, showcase a diverse range of culinary delights - including organic meat and vegetables, locally brewed ales, beers and ciders, artisan cheeses and award-winning ice creams. The Fabulous Baker Brothers feature too, alongside fellow celebrity chefs Alan Coxon, Ben Bartlett and Franck Pontais.

Abergavenny Food And Drink Festival

Various locations in and around Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, Sat 15 - Sun 16 September

More than two hundred exhibitors from Wales, The Marches and further afield are expected at this well-regarded culinary festival. The packed programme of events kicks off with a masterclass on how to make the perfect pastry from ace baker Richard Bertinet, while a taste of Israel is on the menu courtesy of creative duo Yotam Ottolenghi and Samu Tamimi - the team behind the acclaimed Ottolenghi restaurants and the authors of a brand new Jerusalem cookbook. A fusion of Indian spices is promised by Anand George from the award-winning Cardiff eatery Purple Poppadom. Together with his team, Anand will recreate some of the restaurant's specialities in a pop-up eatery. The festival talks programme includes food anthropologist Claudia Roden discussing with Andalucian-based travel writer Michael Jacobs her five-year immersion in the regional cuisines of Spain, and Michelin-starred chef Pierre Koffmann chatting with influential food writer Matthew Fort about the heights of haute cuisine and his lifetime love of rustic country cooking.

Other notable attractions during the two-day festival include a Primo Grill Stage, featuring street-food chef cook-offs, Rude Health rants at Speakers' Corner, the Children's Food Academy, a rolling programming of musical performance in The Dome, a wild and magical Party At The Castle, wine and beer tastings, and plenty of forays and walks.





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Events



A Place In The Sun NEC, Birmingham, Fri 28 - Sun 30 September

The official exhibition show of Channel Four's popular overseas travel series returns to the Midlands this month, complete with presenters Amanda Lamb, Jasmine Harman and Jonnie Irwin, all of whom will be on hand to share their experience and offer advice on buying a property abroad. Whether it's Spain, France, Portugal or further afield that you're interested in, A Place In The Sun is a perfect starting

point. Catering for a variety of budgets, the three-day show features properties from as little as £20,000 through to over £1 million. And if you've ever fancied being on TV yourself, or are serious about buying a home abroad, why not take the screen test with the team from Freeform Productions? You never know, you might well find yourself appearing in the next series of the programme...

Artsfest

**Various locations in Birmingham,
Fri 7 - Sun 9 September**

Birmingham's annual arts festival returns this month to showcase an array of artistic talent from the multitude of different genres on offer in the West Midlands. The weekend-long cultural event brings artists into the city to perform at some of the region's best-known venues and landmarks, including Centenary Square, Victoria Square, Symphony Hall, Birmingham Town Hall, Birmingham Cathedral, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Highlight Comedy Club, mac, the CBSO Centre, the Crescent Theatre, the Old Joint Stock Theatre, and a host of pubs, restaurants and public spaces.



Netherton Victorian Olympian Day

Northfield Rd, Netherton, Wolverhampton, Sat 8 September

Thirty market stalls, street performers, live music and theatre await visitors to Netherton's fifth annual Victorianna Day. More than three thousand people attended last year's one-day event, and it's hoped that 2012's packed programme will attract an even larger crowd, with morris dancers, glass-blowing demonstrations, Olympic displays and a Victorian funfair all on the agenda. The Eccentric Gents are set to provide plenty of amusement as they ride their penny farthings, take to their grounded hot air balloon and perform various Olympic scenes, while Queen Victoria and her lady-in-waiting will be on hand to greet visitors, strolling through the streets before taking up residency in a decorated throne room at Netherton Arts Centre.

archive image

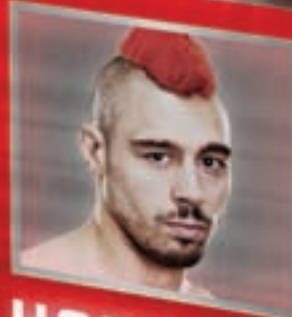


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ticketmaster

Events PREVIEW

Battle Of Britain Weekend

RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton,
Sat 15 - Sun 16 September

Marking the most important event in Royal Airforce history, The Battle Of Britain Weekend offers a series of themed activities and demonstrations for aviation and World War Two enthusiasts to enjoy. Attractions include real-life working Merlin and Griffon engine demonstrations, a chance to see how a World War Two Emergency Operations Room functioned, wartime classroom sessions, children's workshops and film showings, military vehicle displays and a Battle Of Britain Veteran Guests Q&A session. All of this, together with the museum's static display of seventy historic aircraft, ensures the weekend offers plenty to keep visitors of all ages entertained.



Malvern Autumn Show

Three Counties Showground, Malvern,
Sat 29 - Sun 30 September

Celebrating the very best that autumn has to offer, this annual event boasts something for all tastes and ages. For food lovers, Michelin-starred chef Jean-Christophe Novelli will be cooking up some delicious dishes (as well as offering top tips and advice), while the Great British Bake Off commemorates the Diamond Jubilee by featuring recipes from each decade of HRH's reign. The RHS Flower Show, Edible Gardens, Harvest Pavilion and various displays are sure to prove popular with gardening enthusiasts, while youngsters are certain to be entertained via arena events and the numerous activities and workshops available in the Discovery Zone.



Superheroes Weekend

Cadbury World, Birmingham,
Sat 15 - Sun 16 September

One of Cadbury World's special themed events for September, the Superheroes Weekend encourages visitors to follow in the footsteps of the venue's staff and dress as their favourite superhero - or, alternatively, to



International Netball: England Vs Jamaica

LG Arena, Birmingham, Fri 21 September

As the UK continues to bask in the glory of its third-place finish at the London 2012 Olympics, the England netball team return to Birmingham's LG Arena in a bid to retain their third-place world-ranking. Kicking off the first of a three-match series, they face fourth-ranked Jamaica. Nicknamed The Sunshine Girls, the Caribbean team are set to give England a real run for their money. In recent years there's been a healthy rivalry between the two teams, with vital matches at the Delhi Commonwealth Games 2010 and the Singapore World Netball Championships 2011 both going England's way, victories which on both occasions allowed head coach Anne Mayes' side to secure bronze medals.

create their very own alter-ego. Each day will see the best-dressed caped crusader awarded with a box of Cadbury's Heroes. The superhero event follows the return of the venue's popular Heritage Weekend on 8 & 9 September, this year featuring various themed activities and providing visitors with the chance to have their photo taken with a John Cadbury lookalike. Oh, and weather permitting, there's also the opportunity to enjoy a heritage walk-and-talk around the historic Bournville Village.



Treasure Days

Shugborough, Staffordshire,
Sat 8 - Sun 9 September

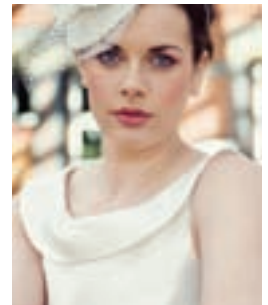
Explore parts of the late Earl Of Lichfield's ancestral home which are not usually open to the public, and take a look at some of the property's most prized artefacts, brought out of storage for visitors to view. Themed treasure hunts, quizzes and craft activities should ensure there's plenty to keep the children entertained and engaged.



Designer Marquee Bridal Show

Westfield Merry Hill, Dudley,
Saturday 22 - Sunday 23 September

This unique two-day event sees more than eighty exhibitors showcasing the latest styles and trends associated with wedding planning. Cakes, flowers, marquees, chairs, suit hire and mother-of-the-bride, cars, entertainment and favours are all included. A fashion show featuring the very latest designs is sure to inspire brides-to-be, while a chance to win your very own designer dress from one of the Midlands' top boutiques is a huge incentive to make your way to Merry Hill. Admission to the show costs £5 and provides entry to the competition. Tickets are available by calling 01384 484602, or visit www.weddingconnectionsuk.co.uk



Beginners Burlesque Workshop

The Public, West Bromwich,
Sun 30 September

With the interest in Burlesque and vintage at an all-time high, this day-long workshop provides a perfect opportunity for enthusiasts to strut their stuff with the Triple M Dance Academy. No previous experience is necessary for this regular event, which brings together traditional and modern burlesque dance routines. These women-only workshops are suitable for persons over eighteen, and cost £27.50 for the day.



SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

September 9th 2012, 7.30pm
 Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School
An Evening of Fine Choral and Orchestral music
 to celebrate the new Season of Music & Arts
 FREE Admission



September 15th 2012, 6.30pm
 Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School
New Entrants Concert
 FREE Admission



September 19th 2012, 7.30pm
 Ashton Theatre, Shrewsbury School
 A Dyad Production
The Diaries of Adam and Eve
 Adapted from Mark Twain
 by Elton Townend Jones
 Tickets £8/£7 Concessions from
 Darren Wood on 01743 280810

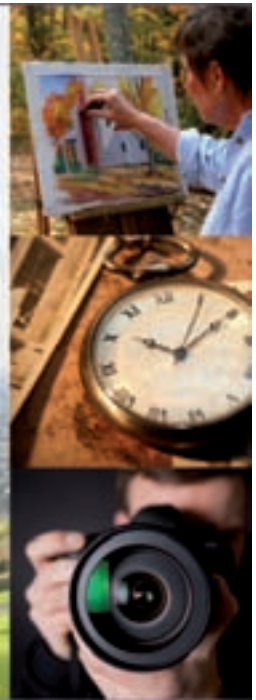


September 22nd 2012, 7.30pm
 Maidment Auditorium, Shrewsbury School
Kit & McConnel
(formerly Kit & the Widow)
 An Evening of fine comedy
 cabaret and theatre songs
 Tickets £10 from Darren Wood on 01743 280810
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Shrewsbury School, The Schools, Shrewsbury SY3 7BA
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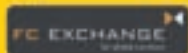
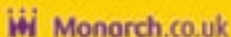
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Events PREVIEW

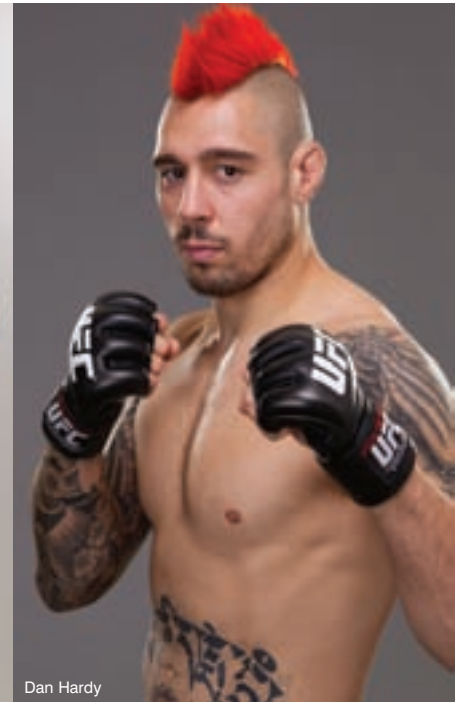
Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Festival

Ironbridge, Shropshire, Sat 22 September

Every year, thousands of visitors descend on beautiful and historic Ironbridge to visit its award-winning tourist attractions - including Blists Hill, Enginuity, Coalport China Museum and Jackfield Tile Museum - and this week-long annual event is designed to celebrate the Gorge's status as a World Heritage Site. This year's festival features numerous activities suitable for all ages and tastes, including street performers, an outdoor market selling local crafts and produce, walks, talks, and music from local bands (including Jackfield band The Telfordaires, who are one of the top ten barbershop choruses in the UK). A Heritage And Craft event at the Maws Craft Centre brings festivities to a close, and includes portable steam engines, traditional craft demonstrations, family activities and a sure-to-be-spectacular firework display.



Brad Pickett



Dan Hardy

Ultimate Fighting Championship

Capital FM Arena, Nottingham, Sat 29 September

A first for Nottingham, the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) makes a welcome return to the UK this month, bringing with it a British bantamweight contender and a recent Ultimate Fighter Live contestant, along with numerous other participants. Newcastle's Andy Ogle meets fellow TUF alumnus Akira Corassani of Sweden in a featherweight bout, while English bantamweight contender and two-time UFC Fight Of The Night winner Brad Pickett squares up to contender Yves Jabouin.

The world's premier mixed martial arts organisation, the UFC annually stages more than thirty live events across the world, and regards its UK fans as its most passionate supporters.

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Netherton Victorian-Olympics Day

Saturday 8th September 2012

Northfield Road, Netherton, 9.30am to 6pm

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- Victorian Fun Fair and Street Market
- Carousel & Big Wheel ■ Kiddies Rides
- Eccentric Gents ■ Morris Dancers
- Street Entertainers
- Black Country Fayre
- Olympics Displays and lots more...



Stalls cost £25. to book a stall / get involved or for more info contact Netherton Arts Centre **01384 813943** The Savoy Centre **01384 818156**
Event organised on behalf of **The Netherton Regeneration Group**

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MANDALA

Free outdoor event!
Friday 7 September 2012

- ◆ Live British Asian dance: classical styles, edgy contemporary attitude
- ◆ LIVE performance by TALVIN SINGH
- ◆ Soundtrack featuring world-class artists ANOUSHKA SHANKAR & ZAKIR HUSSAIN
- ◆ Spectacular 3D light projections!

6.30pm - seriously funky dhol'n'brass from RED BARAAT
8.30pm - main performance of MANDALA, repeated at 9.30pm

Chamberlain Square, Town Hall, Birmingham City Centre
Watch the trailer at www.mandala2012.co.uk

Logos: sampad, seaper, Dancing in the Streets, THSH, AsianArtsAgency, artsfest, Birmingham City Council, Lottery Funded.

Events LISTINGS

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

Week Commencing SAT 1 SEP

BRITAIN'S ULTIMATE SUMMER Take a journey back in time and discover jousting, heroes and horror, until Sun 2 Sep, Warwick Castle

T-FEST Y Occupy, Voice It and The Roses present a jam-packed festival full of local British music, an independent youth film festival and workshops, until Sun 2 Sep, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

SHREWSBURY INTERNATIONAL STREET THEATRE FESTIVAL Held on four stage or circle areas in and around the town centre, each hosting six shows per day, the festival's performers have been carefully selected from a worldwide roster, until Sun 2 Sep, various locations around Shrewsbury

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CHAMPIONSHIP DOG SHOW until Sun 2 Sep, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

RSPB NEST BOX WORKSHOP Make a home for your feathered friends, until Sun 2 Sep, Trentham Monkey Forest, Stoke-on-Trent

VW ACTION Witness all things VW, with racing, RWYB, show'n'shine, and much more... until Sun 2 Sep, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

BRIDGNORTH MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL until Sun 2 Sep, Various Locations in Bridgnorth, Shropshire

SUMMER HOLIDAY GAMES & ENTERTAINMENT until Sun 2 Sep, Cadbury World, Birmingham

SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN Daily family activities throughout the school holidays, until Sun 2 Sep, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire

MARVELLOUS MECHANISMS! Summer Holiday activities. Follow the family discovery trail around the museum and explore some of history's greatest mechanisms, until Sun 2 Sep, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

SPACE RACE Design and build a vehicle to navigate a rugged 'Martian' landscape, and enjoy interactive shows all about space, until Sun 2 Sep, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire

LONDON 2012 TRAIL Follow the trail to find

the different sports around the museum, until Tue 4 Sep, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Kingswinford & Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

KALABORATION A series of visual arts workshops, exhibitions and lectures to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Jamaican Independence, until Sun 9 Sep, The Drum, Birmingham

TEA TIME TOURS An exclusive tour of the hall with a costumed guide, followed by tea and cake in the tea-room. This event is suitable for parties of eight or more, and must be pre-booked, until Sun 28 Oct, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

TITANIC TRAIL Follow the Titanic 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 Morbid spells and the darkest witchcraft games create an atmosphere so malevolent and chilling that even seasoned scare-mongers will be terrified, 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

SHAKESPEARE'S STORIES Explore themes of home and identity on a journey through the work of international storyteller Jan Blake, until Mon 31 Dec, Hall's Croft, Royal Shakespeare Theatre & Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon

DEAR SHAKESPEARE New display showcasing a small but rare collection of letters written by famous authors, from Oscar Wilde to Bram Stoker, until Mon 31 Dec, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

RUN WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC TRACK DAY Sat 1 Sep, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

WEM CARNIVAL Family day featuring parades and afternoon fun in the carnival field, Sat 1 Sep, Wem, North Shropshire

BEYOND THE MOMENT OF CAPTURE An illustrated talk and demonstration

by one of the country's most creative photographers, Brian Beaney, Sat 1 Sep, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

WALK AND TALK AT WEOLEY Discover more about this ruined medieval manor house, Sat 1 Sep, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

EVENING SCENIC SPECIALS A scenic evening ride with the added option of traditional fish and chips, Sat 1 Sep, Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

FORSALL FARM'S BEER & MUSIC FESTIVAL Family-friendly event featuring twelve hours of music from local artists, a selection of real ales and delicious local food, Sat 1 Sep, Fordhall Farm, Market Drayton, Shropshire

QUARRY FEST Four hours of live music in aid of Hope House Hospice, Sat 1 Sep, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

NEWPORT NOCTURNE Britain's original floodlit bike race returns to the streets of Newport. It's expected that this event will see several Team GB members turn up to compete, Sat 1 Sep, Newport High Street, Shropshire

THE WRITING SQUAD: FOR YOUNG WRITERS IN WALSALL A writing group for people aged eight to twelve who're interested in writing poems, plays, stories or songs, Sat 1 Sep, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

THE DRAGON WHISPERER IS IN TOWN! Live story performances and puppet-making with Agent Green, Sat 1 Sep, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

UNWRAPPED An onstage discussion and practical demonstration that takes a peek into the rehearsal room with members of the acting company and creative team, Sat 1 Sep, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

BIRMINGHAM MIDLAND PASTEL SOCIETY DEMONSTRATION Learn about working in pastels, Sat 1 Sep, Royal Birmingham Society Of Artists

SHAPESHIFTERS SCULPTURE GROUP DEMONSTRATION Watch Shapeshifters as they demonstrate their stone-carving skills in St Paul's Square, Sat 1 Sep, Royal Birmingham Society Of Artists

CELEBRITY CHEF DEMONSTRATION WITH ANTHONY WORRALL THOMPSON Sat 1 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER Sat 1 Sep, Shugborough Historic Working Estate,



Newport Nocturne

Staffordshire

TIGER TEA PARTY Take along a picnic and your favourite toy to enjoy tea with 'Hungry Tiger' before taking part in a variety of themed craft activities, Sat 1 Sep, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

GALLERY TOUR An informal tour of the gallery, where visitors can find out about the history of the building and Wolverhampton's world-renowned collections, Sat 1 Sep, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

DEER PARK RIDES Sat 1 - Sun 2 Sep, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

CROOME HARE KRISHNA FESTIVAL Food, dance, music, theatre, culture come together in a family day of discovery, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Sep, Croome Park, Worcestershire

1940S WEEKEND A chance for visitors to explore vintage clothes, listen to 1940s music and take part in various 1940s activities and events, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Sep, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

SHEEP STEEPLECHASE Watch the lean, mean racing machines as they compete to win a rosette, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Sep, Hoo Farm Animal Kingdom, Telford, Shropshire

HERITAGE WEEKEND Sat 1 - Sun 2 Sep, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

FOR ONE WEEK ONLY See Attingham from a differ-

ent perspective, with themed events throughout the week, Sat 1 - Fri 7 Sep, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

ALL THINGS DAMSON A two-week celebration of damsons at Brockhampton, including damson-picking, jams and pudding-making, walks and more... Sat 1 - Fri 14 Sep, Brockhampton Estate, Worcester

EMMA VERNON - COMING HOME TO HANBURY HALL Discover more about Emma Vernon (1755-1818) and her life in Portugal with her second husband, William Sneyd, Sat 1 - Sun 30 Sep, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich

ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR Sun 2 Sep, Castle Square, Ludlow, South Shropshire

TOY COLLECTORS FAIR Sun 2 Sep, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern

COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL Sun 2 Sep, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

DAHLIA SHOW Big, bold and beautiful dahlias, in association with Birmingham Dahlia Society, Sun 2 Sep, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

SUMMER SUNDAY: FAMILY WORKSHOP Suitable for under-eighteens, Sun 2 Sep, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

BLING YOUR BIKE SESSIONS Go home with the coolest bike on the block!, Sun 2 Sep, Coventry Transport

Museum

TABLETOP SALE Hassle-free way to sell surplus items and unwanted gifts at this monthly indoor sale, Sun 2 Sep, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

CELEBRITY CHEF DEMONSTRATION WITH JOHN TORODE As part of the Lichfield Food Festival, John demonstrates some of his favourite dishes before taking questions from the audience, Sun 2 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

CLASSIC VEHICLE SHOW From motorcycles to buses and cars to trucks, this one-day event features displays of hundreds of classic vehicles, Sun 2 Sep, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

SUMMER SUNDAY FUN Try the Valley Lawn zip wire, play traditional lawn games or walk the nature and tree trail. All this in addition to the site's regular attractions of the Knight's Maze, adventure playground & junior assault course, lakeside walk and, new for 2012!, Burma Bridge treetop walkway and turret slide, Sun 2 Sep, Eastnor Park, Herefordshire

PEAK PERFORMANCE TEST & TUNE DAY RWYB with maximum track time, fully prepped track for serious enthusiasts, Sun 2 Sep, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

1805 HIRING FAYRE Recreation of the tradi-

Events LISTINGS

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

tional selling and buying of servants. On this occasion, Shugborough will be on the lookout for housemaids, dairy-maids, footmen and labourers, Sun 2 Sep, Shugborough, Staffordshire

Week Commencing MON 3 SEP

CONSERVATION TOUR OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD Wed 5 Sep, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
PRO RACER TEST & TUNE DAY Wed 5 Sep, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
CELLAR TOURS Guided tours of Aston's cellars, which are usually closed to the public, Wed 5 Sep, Aston Hall, Birmingham
GUIDED TOUR OF BORDESLEY ABBEY Learn more about the history and destruction of this historical venue, Thurs 6 Sep, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch
FOOD & CRAFT MARKET Thurs 6 Sep, Castle Square, Ludlow, South Shropshire
ORCHARD WALK Enjoy a ramble through Paradise Wood, Thurs 6 Sep, Brockhampton Estate, Worcester
MEET THE MILLER Find out how wheat turns into flour using the waterwheel and millstones, Thurs 6 Sep, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Free costumed guided tours, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Sep, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham
BRIDGNORTH BEER FESTIVAL Organised by Bridgnorth CAMRA, this annual event is a firm favourite with real ale fans, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Sep, Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
FIA EUROPEAN FINALS Santa Pod's flagship championship event, attracting over two hundred-and-fifty of Europe's top drag racing teams, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 Sep, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton
HERITAGE OPEN DAYS GUIDED TOUR A specialist guided tour enabling visitors to discover Weoley, the mason's marks, and find how the building was constructed, Fri 7 Sep, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

BUSFEST Full three-day themed event featuring Bus Fest Roadshow, Cooking In A Camper contest, a show'n'shine competition, funfair, circus skills workshops, and much more... Fri 7 - Sun 9 Sep, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern
MUCH WENLOCK WALKING WEEKEND A debut event celebrating the recent Walker Are Welcome award, taking in much of the area's stunning countryside, Fri 7 - Mon 10 Sep, In and around Much Wenlock, South Shropshire www.much-wenlockguide.info
BOULTON'S BRUM - WALK AND TALK Discover the secrets of the Soho area, Sat 8 Sep, Soho House, Birmingham
EVENING SCENIC SPECIALS A scenic evening ride with the added option of traditional fish and chips, Sat 8 Sep, Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Sat 8 Sep, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Sat 8 Sep, Packwood House, Solihull
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Sat 8 Sep, Croome Park, Worcestershire
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Sat 8 Sep, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Sat 8 Sep, Croft Castle, Nr Leominster
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Sat 8 Sep, Berrington Hall, Nr Leominster
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Sat 8 Sep, Sunnycroft, Shropshire
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Sat 8 Sep, The Greyfriars, Worcester
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Sat 8 Sep, Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Featuring a guided tour of the council chamber and an opportunity to see the mayoral badge, chain and mace, 8 Sep, Dudley Council House
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Sat 8 Sep, Stourbridge Town Hall
HERITAGE OPEN DAY A day to celebrate local heritage, organised by the Redditch Local History Society, Sat 8 Sep, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Sat 8 Sep, Brockhampton Estate, Worcester
ORIGINS OF MIDDLE EARTH WALK Sat 8 Sep, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham
RAG RUG MAKING FOR BEGINNERS A unique



Heritage Open Day - Dudley

opportunity to learn the traditional skill of rag rug making, Sat 8 Sep, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire
SHAPESHIFTERS SCULPTURE GROUP DEMONSTRATION Watch Shapeshifters as they demonstrate their stone-carving skills in St Paul's Square, Sat 8 Sep, Royal Birmingham Society Of Artists
BIRMINGHAM MIDLAND PASTEL SOCIETY DEMONSTRATION Learn about working in pastels, Sat 8 Sep, Royal Birmingham Society Of Artists
IN CONVERSATION: MARK POWER Join Mark Power with Emma Chetcuti from Multistory and Deborah Robinson from The New Art Gallery for an informal tour of the Black Country Stories exhibition, Sat 8 Sep, The New Art Gallery, Walsall
DESIGNER DISHES ADULT WORKSHOP Join designer-maker Anna Lorenz to design and make your own contemporary dish or bowl using metals, recycled materials and traditional craft techniques, Sat 8 Sep, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham
BOULTON'S BRUM - WALK & TALK Discover the secrets of the Soho area with a walking tour of Soho followed by a late lunch at The Black Eagle. This event forms part of Heritage Open Days 2012, Sat 8 Sep, Soho House, Birmingham
LEATHER JEWELLERY WORKSHOP WITH JOLENE SMITH This one-day event sees local silver-smith Jolene Smith turn her hand to all things leather, helping participants to mould and create their own jewellery, including brooches, necklaces

and hair decorations, Sat 8 Sep, Walsall Leather Museum
SCOOTER JAM BMX & skate event, Sat 8 Sep, Redditch Skate Park
TOLKIEN GUIDED TOUR Discover the childhood playground of Tolkien and learn about the people and places who influenced his later writing, Sat 8 Sep, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham
THE BIRMINGHAM HONEY SHOW Find out about the art of beekeeping, make candles from beeswax and buy locally produced honey, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, Martineau Gardens, Birmingham
HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - STEAMING EVENT Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, Etruria Industrial Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
HERITAGE WEEKEND Delve into local history and culture, meet dozens of specialist local history groups and enjoy a range of events, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry
HERITAGE WEEKEND Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, Cadbury World, Birmingham
GARDEN AND ALLIOTMENT FESTIVAL Featuring expert horticultural advice, craft demonstrations, food stalls, and Shakespeare-inspired entertainment, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon
WYCHAVON OIL ENGINE PRESERVATION SOCIETY RALLY Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove
HERITAGE OPEN WEEKEND Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, Museum of Cannock Chase
INTERNATIONAL N GAUGE SHOW A show for the railway modeller, with twenty-seven layouts on display, together with thirty specialist

trade suppliers, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre
ARTSFEST Free arts festival, taking place in and around Birmingham city centre and featuring an eclectic array of performances, including musicians, dancers, actors and comedians. An annual event, Artsfest also includes numerous workshops and demonstrations suitable for all ages, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, Birmingham City Centre
ELEPHANT APPRECIATION WEEKEND Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster
MIND, BODY & SPIRIT WEEKEND Talks, demos and tasters showcasing a range of complementary and alternative therapies and 'tools' to bring 'balance' into your life, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, Broadmeadow Holistic Centre, Church Stretton, South Shropshire
TREASURE DAYS A special weekend enabling visitors to admire some of the estate's hidden treasures, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire
GALA BALL Organised in partnership by the RAF Benevolent Fund and the RAF Museum, with support from RAF Cosford, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton
AMULET ANTIQUE FAIR Featuring a variety of collectables, from gold and silver to coins and stamps, postcards and books, antique jewellery, glass, ephemera, porcelain, orientals, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sep, Oswestry Showground, North Shropshire
CARRIAGE PARADE AND HEAVY HORSE DEMONSTRATION Sun 9

Sep, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury
1940S ROOM: OPEN DAYS Look around the site's 1940s room and find out about life during wartime, Sun 9 Sep, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton
ON THE BUSES A display of historic commercial vehicles, as well as vintage bus rides and trade stands at the station, Sun 9 Sep, Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster
MAD HATTER'S SPONSORED ABSEIL Fun for the whole family, with entertainers, face-painting, bouncy castle, morris dancing and lots more... Sun 9 Sep, Dudley Zoological Gardens
SUNBEAM LOTUS DAY Gathering of Talbot Sunbeam Lotus owners & enthusiasts, with Concours D'elegance, AGM & Engine Seminar, Sun 9 Sep, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire
HERITAGE OPEN DAY Sun 9 Sep, Ford Green Hall, Stoke-on-Trent
WORLDS APART: PARALLEL LIVES Celebrate Aston Hall and its links with the Taj Mahal in a day full of crafts, food and more, Sun 9 Sep, Aston Hall, Birmingham
VILLAGE LACEMAKERS Craft demonstration, Sun 9 Sep, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton
AMERICAN STYLE WRESTLING Sun 9 Sep, The River Rooms, Stourbridge
ARMOUR DAY Sun 9 Sep, Eastnor Castle, Warwickshire
CANDY CABARET PRES- ENT PIN UP ACADEMY Become a burlesque pin up in a day, Sun 9 Sep, The Vintage Salon, Custard Factory, Birmingham

Week Commencing
MON 10 SEP

INDIAN SUMMER BAZAAR

A selection of vintage-inspired stalls, crafts and jewellery, as well as acoustic music and the best of local independent traders, Sun 9 Sep, The Hive, Shrewsbury

AUTUMN TEA DANCE An afternoon of ballroom and sequence dancing in the studio, followed by high tea, Mon 10 Sep, Solihull Arts Complex

LV=CC1 SOMERSET VS WORCESTERSHIRE Tues 11 Sep, Worcestershire County Cricket Club, Worcester

GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY A rare opportunity to hear artist Val Corbett talk about her work, her approach and techniques, Tue 11 Sep, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

NATIONAL HUNT AFTERNOON RACING Tues 11 Sep, Worcester Racecourse

JOHN GOODWIN AUCTION Tue 11 - Wed 12 Sep, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern

BRIGHTWELLS FESTIVAL OF THE HORSE Great Britain's biggest show and sale of proven and potential sport and performance horses, Wed 12 Sep, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern

CIVIC SOCIETY LECTURE Wed 12 Sep, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET Thurs 13 Sep, Castle Square, Ludlow, South Shropshire

APF EXHIBITION The UK's largest exhibition for the woodland, forestry, arboriculture and fencing industries, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 Sep, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

RAG - RUGGING: ADULT WORKSHOP No previous skills required, Fri 14 Sep, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Kingswinford

CANDY CABARET PRESENT PIN UP ACADEMY Become a burlesque pin up in a day, Fri 14 Sep, The Vintage Salon, Custard Factory, Birmingham

RUN WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC TRACK DAY Sat 15 Sep, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

EVENING SCENIC SPECIALS A scenic evening ride with the added option of traditional fish and chips, Sat 15 Sep, Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster

MIDNIGHT WALK 10km walk through the streets of Birmingham to raise funds for

Acorns Children's Hospice, Birmingham, Sat 15 Sep, Birmingham City Centre

SCOUTS AND GUIDES CAMPOVER

Step back in time and enjoy this unique overnight experience, Sat 15 Sep, Warwick Castle

WOLVERHAMPTON ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS FAIR

Featuring over fifty craftmakers showcasing their wares, including glassmakers, jewellers, wood workers and sculptors, Sat 15 Sep, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

IF YOU GO DOWN IN THE WOODS...

Afternoon of fun activities designed for families to do together, Sat 15 Sep, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

EVESHAM PIE & ALE FESTIVAL

Sat 15 Sep, Evesham Town Centre

THE RECKLESS SHRIMP FESTIVAL

Weekend line-up includes Butch Hancock, Fay Hield & The Hurricane Party, Martin Simpson, Jim Moray, Rachel Harrington and many more... Sat 15 - Sun 16 Sep, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, South Shropshire

FOOD FAIR Featuring local quality produce, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Sep, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

MIDLAND GAME FAIR Something for everyone with world-class clay pigeon shooting, gundog competitions, falconry displays, antiques, and over six hundred trade stands, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Sep, Weston Park, Staffordshire

SUPERHEROES WEEKEND Sat 15 - Sun 16 Sep, Cadbury World, Birmingham

BATTLE OF BRITAIN WEEKEND Join RAF Cosford for a special weekend to mark this important event in Royal Air Force history, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Sep, RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton

CHEESE AND PICKLE FESTIVAL Sat 15 - Sun 16 Sep, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

ABERGAUVENNY FOOD FESTIVAL Over two hundred stalls, masterclasses, tutored tastings, talks, walks and forays, a true taste trail, children's food academy, free chef demonstrations and much more... Sat 15 - Sun 16 Sep, Abergavenny Town Centre

ANTIQUÉ & COLLECTORS FAIR Sun 16 Sep, Castle Square, Ludlow

WEDDING FAYRE A chance to see the Great Hall set up for a wedding ceremony. This one-day event features a bridal fashion show, exhibits from a range of wedding sup-

pliers, canapes and fizz, Sun 16 Sep, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

BMW SHOW Featuring modern, classic and modified BMWs, including the new mini, Sun 16 Sep, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

RETRO TRUCK SHOW Family day featuring trucks from 1965 to 1995, trade stands and displays, food stands, a children's fun area and a model show inside the museum, Sun 16 Sep, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

FALCONRY DAY JRCS Falconry return to Charlecote to show their amazing collection of birds of prey, Sun 16 Sep, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire

BONSAI DEMONSTRATION With help and advice from the experts, Sun 16 Sep, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

1940S ROOM: OPEN DAYS Look around the site's 1940s room and find out about life during wartime Britain, Sun 16 Sep, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton



Midland Game Fair

SUMMER SUNDAY FUN Try the Valley Lawn zip wire, play traditional lawn games or walk the nature and tree trail in addition to the site's regular attractions of the Knight's Maze, adventure playground junior assault course and lakeside walk. New for 2012 is the Burma Bridge treetop walkway and turret slide, Sun 16 Sep, Eastnor Park, Herefordshire

MON 17 SEP, Bromsgrove Rugby Club

AN EVENING WITH JONATHAN AND ANGIE SCOTT Lichfield Camera Club present Jonathan and Angie Scott as they return from their home in Kenya, Africa, with superb images and stories of their photographic expeditions and life with the Marsh Lions, Tue 18 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

RAMBLE ON THE RESERVE Not suitable for pushchairs or young children, Tue 18 Sep, Smetsow Valley, Wolverhampton

DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC DRIFT DAY Wed 19 Sep, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

FELT HATS WORKSHOP Learn how to make a seamless felt hat with experienced feltmaker Chris Ryder, Wed 19 Sep, Bilston Craft Gallery

TASTE OF INDIA AND AFRO CARIBBEAN EVENING Wed 19 Sep, Highbury Hall, Birmingham

SPOTLIGHT Take along your treasured items and get them valued by the museum's experts, Wed 19 Sep, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

BAT WALK Enjoy looking out for bats with a bat specialist, Wed 19 Sep, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

ARTFORUM SUMMER SPECIAL The gallery's group for fourteen to twenty-five-year-olds with an interest in art, creativity and galleries, Wed 19 Sep, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

WILDFLOWER COURSE - USES OF PLANTS Led by Assistant Ranger Nick Robinson, Wed 19 Sep, Carding Mill Valley & The Shropshire Hills

ASTON HALL EXCLUSIVE An access-all-areas

tour of the site with the Aston Hall managers, Wed 19 Sep, Aston Hall, Birmingham

FOOD & CRAFT MARKET Thurs 20 Sep, Castle Square, Ludlow, South Shropshire

MEET AUTHORS: JUDITH CUTLER AND EDWARD MARSTON Join husband and wife team Judith and Edward as they present a lively, informal synopsis of their works. Thurs 20 Sep, The Drop Forge, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

THE OLYMPIC MURDER MYSTERY EVENING An evening of murder and hilarity, Fri 21 Sep, Walsall Leather Museum

2ND ANNUAL BEER FESTIVAL Sat 22 Sep, The National Brewery Centre, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire

INTERNATIONAL NETBALL: ENGLAND VS JAMAICA The England netball team return to the LG Arena in a bid to maintain their number three world ranking against a Jamaican side who currently reside fourth in the most recent IFNA standings, Fri 21 Sep, LG Arena, Birmingham

PEAK PERFORMANCE TEST & TUNE DAY RWYB with maximum track time and prepped track for serious enthusiasts, Fri 21 Sep, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

APPLE DAY Chance to buy home-grown apples from the orchards and talk to the experts, Sat 22 Sep, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich

JEWELS ON THE CUT - GUIDED WALKS A leisurely stroll along the towpath, examining the history of glassmaking and the waterways, Sat 22 Sep, Broadfield House Glass Museum,

MAGICAL MINERALS AND FOSSIL FAIR This event, aimed at collectors, offers a chance for enthusiasts to meet some of the country's leading fossil dealers and purchase from an amazing array of mineral specimens, Sat 22 Sep, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

OPEN COCKPITS EVENING A selection of cockpits will be open for close viewing, including the Jet Provost, Belfast and Buccaneer, Sat 22 Sep, RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton

CHRIS UPTON'S MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR Birmingham Historian Chris Upton leads a mystery tour around Birmingham, revealing hidden facts and tales about the city, Sat 22 Sep, Aston Hall, Birmingham

THE STORY GARDEN Introduce your family to the stories of Shakespeare in a fun and lively way where everyone gets involved, Sat 22 Sep, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

GHOST HUNT Paranormal evening that brings to life the history and hauntings of the historic Dudley monument, Sat 22 Sep, Dudley Zoo & Castle

BOOK & CRAFT FAIR Sun 23 Sep, Castle Square, Ludlow, South Shropshire

1940S ROOM: OPEN DAYS Look around the site's 1940s room and find out about life during wartime Britain, Sun 23 Sep, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

FLEA FAIR Sun 23 Sep, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern

HARVEST FESTIVAL The annual harvest will be celebrated in traditional fashion with a display of produce and a thanksgiving service,

Week Commencing
MON 17 SEP

BROMSGROVE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY'S MONTHLY MEET Featuring guest speaker Dr Steve Barrett,

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Events LISTINGS

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

Sun 23 Sep, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire
CYCLAMEN SHOW A colourful autumn display, before winter sets in, Sun 23 Sep, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

TOY COLLECTORS' FAIR Sun 23 Sep, NEC, Birmingham

PHOTOGRAPHIC FESTIVAL BEGINNERS COURSE

Learn how to use your digital camera to take great photographs, create digital images, and explore composition and image enhancement, Sun 23 Sep, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

FITFEST AND RACE Sun 23 Sep, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

ORCHARD DAY Sun 23 Sep, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth

GAYDON AUTUMN CREAM TEA RUN The last gathering for the season offers a scenic local drive culminating in a cream tea at the museum's cafe, Sun 23 Sep, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

INVITED CHAMPIONSHIPS END OF SEASON MEETING Sun 23 Sep, Shelsley Walsh, Worcestershire

SPOT AND STOP THAT ROT! Find out about the conservation of Soho House... Sun 23 Sep, Soho House, Birmingham

ASHES & APPLES See cooking in the Victorian kitchen and the pressing of apples grown on site, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Sep, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire

HARVEST WEEKEND Sat 22 - Sun 23 Sep, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire

MINIATURA - THE INTERNATIONAL DOLL'S HOUSE SHOW Featuring over two hundred-and-fifty selected exhibitors, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Sep, NEC, Birmingham

PHOTOGRAPHING THE CITY WEEKEND Take inspiration from the urban environment to create panoramic views and detailed close-ups of the city in this weekend workshop with photographer Tom Flathers, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Sep, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

THE VP RACING FUELS NATIONAL FINALS National drag racing championship finals, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Sep, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

MICHAELMAS FAIR Celebrate the changing tastes and colours of

autumn, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Sep, Sunnycroft, Wellington, Shropshire

WALSALL QUEEN'S JUBILEE RUN Walsall Rotary Club's annual run, raising funds for local charities, Sun 23 Sep, Walsall Arboretum

CYCLETTA WARWICKSHIRE 2012 The UK's leading series of women-only bike rides, hosted by family-friendly venues, Sun 23 Sep, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

EXPLORE THE ARBORETUM Explore the beautiful collection of trees within the Eastnor grounds on a guided trail, Sun 23 Sep, Eastnor Castle, Warwickshire

Week Commencing MON 24 SEP

LIVING SHAKESPEARE Four-day course exploring King John, Richard III and Twelfth Night, through lectures, performance and discussion, Tue 25 - Fri 28 Sep, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE LUDLOW PUDDING EXPERIENCE A great day out for Foodies!, Wed 26 Sep, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

JOHN CHALLIS: AN EVENING WITH BOYCIE Enjoy an intimate evening with John Challis, one of the nation's greatest comedy actors, best known as Boycie in BBC One's Only Fools and Horses, Thurs 27 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

VALUATION DAY: FINE ART & ANTIQUES Fielding Auctioneers will be on hand to value your collectables, including ceramics, jewellery, clocks and watches Thurs 27 Sep, Bantock House & Museum, Wolverhampton

LUDLOW LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET Thurs 27 Sep, Castle Square, Ludlow, South Shropshire

CYCLE SHOW A series of spectacular features, including test tracks, aerial stunt displays and an indoor triathlon, to celebrate cycling as both a serious sport and a pastime for all to enjoy, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 Sep, NEC, Birmingham

BONNETS UP DAYS An opportunity for the technically minded to get under the bonnets

of three of the Heritage Motor Centre's cars, Fri 28 Sep, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

ABSEIL FOR ACORNS Join Acorns Children's Hospice and raise money for a good cause, Fri 28 Sep, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

NATIONAL HUNT AFTERNOON RACING Fri 28 Sep, Worcester Racecourse

BOWMAN ANTIQUES FAIR Quality three-day event featuring thousands of antiques and collectable items for purchase, as decoration, investment, or as a unique gift, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Sep, Bingley Hall, Stafford

A PLACE IN THE SUN LIVE Described as 'the world's biggest overseas property exhibition', Fri 28 - Sun 30 Sep, NEC, Birmingham

WARWICK WORDS FESTIVAL Annual celebration of literature and the spoken word. This year's event will feature appearances from Alan Titchmarsh, Adharanand Finn & Roger McGough, Fri 28 Sep - Sun 7 Oct, various locations in and around Warwick

SLAPSTICK AND PANTOMIME CLASS Led by an experienced drama practitioner, these workshops - run over ten consecutive Saturdays - focus on the skills needed to be a pantomime star, Sat 29 Sep - Sat 8 Dec, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

RUN WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC TRACK DAY Sat 29 Sep, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

APPLE DAYS Listen to and observe traditional music and dancing as you learn all about the English apple, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Sep, Mary Arden Farm, Stratford-



Falconry Day - Weoley Castle, Birmingham

upon-Avon

CHAUCER'S TALES After his great success touring with Beowulf, Peter Carrington-Porter returns with his version of Chaucer's Tales, Sat 29 Sep, The Greyfriars, Worcester

HARVEST FAIR & APPLE WEEKEND See the apple press working and buy freshly pressed juice from Attingham's orchard, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Sep, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

FAMILY PRODUCE SHOW Old-fashioned flower and produce show in the site's walled garden, Sat 29 Sep, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

MALVERN AUTUMN SHOW A celebration of food, countryside, gardening and nostalgia. Jean-Christophe Novelli will be in the Good Life Pavillion cooking up delicious dishes and offering top tips and advice, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Sep, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern

FEEL GOOD - YOGA & MEDITATION WORKSHOP Workshop with experienced teachers Adam Dacey and Gary

Tranter, Sat 29 Sep, The Public, West Bromwich

BEGINNERS BURLESQUE WORKSHOP A unique day-long workshop to learn more about the art of burlesque, Sun 30 Sep, The Public, West Bromwich

ART & CRAFT MARKET Sun 30 Sep, Castle Square, Ludlow, South Shropshire

SEVERN HOSPICE CHARITY ZIP LINE This special event will see participants ziplining from the roof of the National Cold War Exhibition, Sun 30 Sep, RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton

FALCONRY DAY See hawks, falcons and owls take to the skies over Weoley Castle, Sun 30 Sep, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

ARCHITECTURE AT SOHO HOUSE Event to celebrate World Architecture Day, Sun 30 Sep, Soho House, Birmingham

1940S ROOM: OPEN DAYS Look around the site's 1940s room and find out about life during wartime Britain, Sun 30 Sep, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

JAPSHOW FINALE The finale event of the year for Japanese car enthusiasts, featuring Jap drag series and more, Sun 30 Sep, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

MY HAPPY EVER AFTER WEDDING... One-day event featuring all aspects of wedding planning, with guest speakers, the latest trends, live music and the chance for brides to win some amazing prizes... Sun 30 Sep, Crowne Plaza Hotel, NEC Complex, Birmingham

HERITAGE RUN Witness 'history on the move' as one hundred Land Rover vehicles, including classic and present-day models, take part in a special run from Solihull to Gaydon, Sun 30 Sep, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

1940'S CABARET An evening of entertainment featuring music and humour 1940s-style, Sat 30 Sep, Bantock House & Museum, Wolverhampton

RAGLEY HALL WEDDING SHOW Sun 30 Sep, Ragley Hall, Warks

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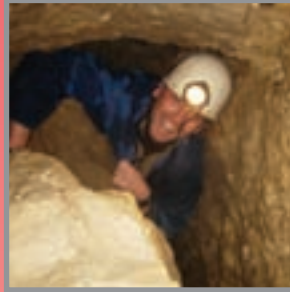
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Autumn Classic - Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon

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places you've always wanted to go. Events take place at locations across the West Midlands. Lots of our members are single and come along on there own, but we also welcome couples and groups of friends. There's no hidden agenda – we're just one happy family of friends. Members are all ages (18–80!) and from all walks of life.

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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 **September 2012**

Saturday 1st September

- Antony Worrall Thompson - Live
- Ballroom Dance Masterclass - Waltz!
- Bike Adventure with Bike and BBQ!
- Climbing the Longstone Pinnacle
- Field Archery Day
- Lichfield Proms + Chorley Easy Ramble
- Rally Driving Lesson
- Rally Driving Stage - Behind The Scenes
- River Severn Paddling and Camping Weekend
- Scuba Taster Morning Experience
- Western Style Rifle Shooting Afternoon

Sunday 2nd September

- Boogie Woogie, Real Ale and Supper Cruise
- Get What You Want - Assertively
- John Torode - Live
- Midlands 3 Peaks Challenge for RSPCA
- Navigation - in Four Simple Steps!
- Picnic with Nel Gwyne at Tutbury Castle
- SWAT Training Mission
- Segway Intro and Woodland Race at Garlands
- Walk with Wolves - Bedford

Monday 3rd September

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Spice Book Club

Tuesday 4th September

- Ten Pin Bowling (Broadway Plaza)

Wednesday 5th September

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Badminton at NIA
- Beer and Skittles Night in Tamworth
- Tamworth and Lichfield Pub Night

Thursday 6th September

- Earlswood Twilight Ramble + Supper
- Hadrians Wall Coast to Coast Cycling Break
- Halesowen and Quinton Pub Night
- TV Dance Shows - Behind the Scenes
- Unihoc (Mixed Indoor Hockey)

Friday 7th September

- Beeches Bar and Grill Dinner Shuffle
- Camping Afloat - The Lapworth Ring
- Zumba Dance Weekend - Isle of Wight

Saturday 8th September

- BBC Birmingham Behind the Scenes
- Cupcake Decorating Workshop
- Early Morning At Dudley Zoo
- Flirting for Fun (at Lea Marston Hotel)
- Symonds Yat Adventure Mission
- White Water Rafting at Balu

Sunday 9th September

- Beginners Horse Trek
- Clay Pigeon Shooting
- Croquet Party
- Go Ape in Cannock
- Golf - Learn to Play in a Day (Warwickshire)
- Henley in Arden Figure of 8 Ramble
- Intro to EFT and Energy Connections
- Introduction to Watercolour Painting Day
- Posh Picnic and Polo
- Tandem Skydive from 12,000ft

Monday 10th September

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Preview Evening (MAC)

Tuesday 11th September

- Drumming Experience for Beginners

- New Members Mix and Mingle
- Solihull Pub Night

Wednesday 12th September

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Badminton at NIA
- Shootout and Party Food at the Kiddies Playcentre!
- Sutton Pub Night

Thursday 13th September

- Assay Office Tour
- Elizabeth I at Tutbury Castle
- Knowle Sound and Vision Quiz and Curry
- Roachford at the Jam House

Friday 14th September

- An Evening Of Bat and Moth Delight
- Center Parcs Longleat Weekend
- Chill Out Bike Amble Weekend
- Jane Austen in Bath Weekend
- Murder Mystery Evening and Buffet
- Passion Banquet Evening!
- Sailing Weekend from Poole - Jurassic Coast and Weymouth
- Sea Kayaking with the Seals
- Suffolk Coast and Villages Walking Weekend
- Summer Camping Pods Walking Weekend

Saturday 15th September

- Alvecote Marina Easy Ramble
- Birmingham By Boat - Soho Loop
- Calendar Girls
- Caving at the Symonds Yat Caves
- Indoor Skydiving
- Orient Express to Harrogate Autumn Flower Show
- Orient Express to Harrogate and The Royal Pump Rooms
- Saturday Cycle - North Warwickshire Cycleway
- Saxophone for Beginners
- Silver Jewellery Making Taster Course

Sunday 16th September

- Brocton and the Haywoods Moderate Ramble
- Charity Duck Race and Bird Walk
- Comedy Night At The Studio
- Dance Routine to "I Gotta Feeling!"
- Hanggliding - Tandem Experience by Air Tow
- Ironbridge Walk
- Learn to Horse Ride in a Day
- Microlighting Experience Flight
- Outdoor Lazer Combat
- Paragliding - Tandem Experience
- Paragliding Day Course
- Ten Things Everyone Should Know About DIY
- Wing Walking Experience

Monday 17th September

- Bromsgrove Pub Night

Tuesday 18th September

- Indoor Climbing at Redpoint
- Kings Heath Pub Night

Wednesday 19th September

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Badminton at NIA
- Magic for Beginners
- Sutton Park Twilight Ramble

Thursday 20th September

- Italian Dining with Chefs Demo at Filini
- Warwick / Leamington Pub Night

Friday 21st September

- Barn Dance and Supper
- Buxton Walking and Social Wending
- Long Mynd and Wrekin Walking Weekend
- Sailing Weekend around Malta and Gozo
- Spice Hits Town at the Jam House

Saturday 22nd September

- Adventure Activities Camping Weekend
- Climbing the Longstone Pinnacle
- Dinner at Wolverhampton Races
- Golf - Learn to Play in a Day
- Helicopter Lesson
- Pasta and Bread Making Workshop

Sunday 23rd September

- Birmingham Museum - Tour of the Hoard
- Burlesque/Fan Dance Afternoon!
- Caricature Drawing for Beginners
- Chatsworth Behind the Scenes
- Glass Art Workshop
- Hatton Easy Ramble
- Shatterford and Upper Arley Ramble
- Teamworks Karting and Burger
- The Big Abseil - 200 Feet Straight Down

Monday 24th September

- Preview Evening (Sutton)
- Stadium Tour Warwickshire County Cricket Ground

Tuesday 25th September

- Soirée Gastronomique in Leamington

Wednesday 26th September

- Alexander O'Neal at the Jam House
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Badminton at NIA
- Quiz

Thursday 27th September

- Alan Davies - Life is a Pain
- Red House Cone By Candlelight
- Unihoc (Mixed Indoor Hockey)

Friday 28th September

- A Midsummers Night Dream
- Creative Clay Weekend
- Drawing and Watercolour Weekend
- Eastbourne and Beachy Head Walking Weekend
- Fort Belan Social Weekend and Rib Ride
- Mid Wales Cycle Weekend
- Sailing Weekend around the Solent

Saturday 29th September

- Abseiling for the Terrified
- Acting for Beginners Workshop
- Jewellery Making with Beads (Was Bead Loft)
- Knowle Locks Easy Ramble
- Truffle Making Workshop at The Venue
- Wing Walking Experience

Sunday 30th September

- Adventure Trekking Day
- Amazing No11 by Double Decker
- Bewdley + Arley Moderate Ramble
- Charity Spice Cake Club
- Horse Archery
- How to Sell Anything on Ebay
- Inkberrow and the Lenches Ramble
- Rock Climbing for the Terrified
- Sailing - 5 Day Competent Crew or Day Skipper Course
- Trafford Centre Tower Abseil
- Twycross Zoo Tour and Sunday Lunch
- Ukulele for Fun

...and meet lots of people you wouldn't otherwise meet". **Jamie, Spice member**

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02 ACADEMY 16-18 Horsefair, Bristol St, B1 1DB Tel: 0121 622 8250

REFLEX 36-37 Broad St, B1 2DY Tel: 0121 643 0444

SNOBS NIGHTCLUB 29 Paradise Circus, Queensway, B1 2BJ Tel: 0121 643 5551

BLACK COUNTRY

OCEANA WOLVERHAMPTON Bilston Rd, Wolverhampton Tel: 0845 402 5290

SHROPSHIRE

C:21 NIGHTCLUB 21 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE Tel: 01743 271821

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

PUSSYCATS NIGHT CLUB 17 Tan Bank, Wellington, TF2 6EJ Tel: 01952 224260

SPIRIT NIGHTCLUB 18 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE Tel: 01743 355055

STAFFORDSHIRE

COURTURE & NOIRE ET BLANC 139 Newport Rd, Stafford, ST16 2EZ Tel: 01785 244755

LIQUID Brunswick St, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DR Tel: 01782 284333

REFLEX 3-5 Brockley Square, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 5LY Tel: 01782 206170

TRINITY NIGHTCLUB Spinning School Lane, Tamworth, ST1 1DR Tel: 01827 58772

WARWICKSHIRE

CAREYS NIGHTCLUB Hereford Place, Coventry CV1 3JZ Tel: 02476 227 397

EVOLVE NIGHTCLUB 2 Spencer Street, Leamington Spa, Coventry CV31 3NF Tel: 01926 881449

JJ'S Skydome Leisure Park, Croft Rd, Coventry CV1 3AZ. Tel: 02476 555913

LIQUID & ENVY Leicester Road, Nuneaton CV11 4B. Tel: 02476 344216

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The Loveable Rogues

Historic Buttermarket Club to relaunch

Howard Street, Shrewsbury - Fri 21 September

The Buttermarket in Shropshire's county town of Shrewsbury is set to open all of its three floors in September following a £2 million refurbishment. The historic grade 2 listed building is set to play host to some high profile DJs, as well as, providing a much needed live music offer. Full details of the VIP launch of The Buttermarket's main floors are still being finalised but will include a live performance by The Loveable Rogues on Friday 21st September. The group have recently been signed to Simon Cowell's record label Syco Music following a storming performance on this year's Britain's Got Talent. On Saturday 22nd September dance duo **Booty Luv** will be performing live featuring some of their hits including 'Boogie 2Nite' and their new single.

For further info or tickets visit www.thebuttermarket.co.uk



Little Mix to perform at the Nightingale

Nightingale Club, Birmingham, Sat 29 September

Former X Factor favourites Little Mix are bringing their brand of high-energy pop to Birmingham's gay village late this month when they perform at the Nightingale Club. The British four-piece, comprising Perrie Edwards, Jesy Nelson, Leigh-Anne Pinnoch and Jade Thirlwall, shot to stardom last year when they became the first group to win The X Factor in the hit ITV1 show's eight-year history. The girls are performing at the Nightingale having recently released their new single, Wings.



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RAINBOWS Short St, Coventry CV1. Tel: 02476 551738

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VELVET CLUB Angel Row, Worcester, WR1 3QN Tel: 01905 20218

Victoria Pendleton: Between The Lines

By Victoria Pendleton and Donald McRae

As Olympic champion Victoria Pendleton prepares to make her exit from the competitive world of the velodrome, readers are here provided with an insight into the life of one of Team GB's greatest female successes. In 2005 Victoria became the first British woman in forty years to win gold at the cycling World Championships. This was followed by a gold at the Commonwealth Games in 2006, and another World Championship in 2008. The pinnacle of her career came at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, where she took another gold. *Between The Lines* sees Victoria recalling the highs and lows of her fascinating career, and is widely considered to be the most honest and emotional book ever to be written by an Olympian.



In The Pleasure Groove Love, Death & Duran Duran

By John Taylor

As bass guitarist for one of the biggest bands ever to come out of the Midlands, John Taylor boasted the ultimate 'rock star' lifestyle, enjoying fast cars, Vogue models and the company of some of the biggest names of the time, including David Bowie, Bob Dylan and Andy Warhol, to name but a few. But along with the high-profile lifestyle came numerous problems which brought John to the very brink of self-destruction. This revealing autobiography is the

story of those times - a tale of dreams fulfilled, lessons learned and demons conquered. Told with humour and enormous honesty, it presents a candid account of what life was really like as a 1980s superstar.

Scary Monsters And Super Creeps: In Search Of The World's Most Hideous Beasts

By Dom Joly

This book is the result of comedian Dom Joly's latest adventure, and this time it's not in the Australian jungle! Since being given a copy of Arthur C Clarke's *Mysterious World* for his ninth birthday, Joly has developed an obsession with monster-hunting, and his latest travels have seen him take in various worldwide destinations to investigate alleged 'creature sightings'. The book contains tales of Joly's time in Redwood Curtain in North Carolina, searching for the Sasquatch, of his journey to Canada's Lake Okanagan, where he hoped to catch a glimpse of a thirty-foot snake-like creature called a Ogoopogo, and of his visit to Hiroshima in Japan, where he enlisted help in trying to track down a Hibagon - a smelly caveman ape.

TOP 5 BOOKS

- 1 **Fifty Shades Of Grey**
EL James
- 2 **Fifty Shades Darker**
EL James
- 3 **Fifty Shades Freed**
EL James
- 4 **Bared To You**
Sylvia Day
- 5 **Haven Of Obedience**
Marina Anderson



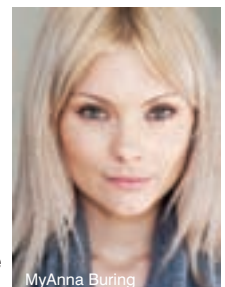
Jason Byrne

BBC commissions Jason Byrne comedy

Comedian Jason Byrne has confirmed that he's been commissioned to write and appear in a new post-watershed comedy called *Father Figure*. The BBC in-house production will go into filming in early 2013, after having already received much acclaim as a comedy series on BBC Radio Two. Jason will play Tom, a married father of two who's battling to be the best dad he can possibly be. Speaking about the show, Jason said: "I'm delighted to finally announce that we'll be making a pilot of my sitcom, *Father Figure*. It's been a big dream of mine, but I never thought I'd get the chance to join the ranks of the television sitcom world!" Jason's co-stars will include Pauline McLynn (*Father Ted*), Michael Smiley (*Luther*) and Dermot Crowley (*Bleak House*).

New psychological thriller for ITV

Two sixty-minute episodes of a new drama entitled *The Poison Tree* have been commissioned by ITV. Based on Erin Kelly's captivating novel of the same name, *The Poison Tree* tells the story of translator Karen Clarke, a woman whose life is haunted by past desires, betrayal and deception as she battles to protect her family. Up-and-coming actress MyAnna Buring (*The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn*) plays Karen. Ophelia Lovibond (*Mr Popper's Penguins*) and Matthew Goode (*A Single Man*) also star.



MyAnna Buring

Second series of Unzipped announced for the autumn

BBC Three has announced that it's commissioned a second series of *Unzipped* - the chat show without boundaries that has real appeal for young adults. Radio One DJ Greg James and comedian Russell Kane will once again host proceedings, chatting to weekly guests to try and uncover who the weirdest celebrity in Britain really is - a title won by Holly Willoughby in series one. Other guests from the first series included Christine Bleakley, Emily Attack, Kimberley Wyatt, Charlie Brookes and Chelsea Healey. The second series of *Unzipped* comprises eight forty-five minute shows and is scheduled to air later this year.

Eating Out

Restaurant honours Olympic Champion...

Not only did sporting legend Usain Bolt 'big up' Birmingham during his recent stay in the city, he also inspired the Imran Restaurant to rename and revamp its signature Balti dish in his honour! The restaurant, located in the city's world famous Balti Triangle, has created the 'Birmingham Bolti' in recognition of the fastest man in the world. Commenting on his new creation, Imran's head chef said: "We wanted to honour the Jamaican team's achievements with this dish. Essentially, it's a Balti with a distinctively Jamaican twist - jerk chicken, rice and peas form the basis of this hot and spicy dish. We would love to welcome the team back to Birmingham to try it out sometime!" One of Birmingham's most popular Caribbean food producers has also got in on the act, creating a giant pattie measuring fifty inches in diameter in celebration of the Jamaican team's achievements.



Imran's Mohammed Afzal Butt, head chef Talib Butt and Emma Gray from Marketing Birmingham

A taste of France arrives in Birmingham's Southside

A Parisian brasserie for a new generation has opened on the corner of the Arcadian, near to the Birmingham Hippodrome. With an interior that fuses modern with traditional and boasts a sweeping zinc bar, the independently-owned Le Truc offers a selection of cocktails, craft beers and carefully selected wines, as well as a traditional French-inspired menu.

Speciality back on the menu...

Gourmet speciality the Coventry Godcake is to make a re-appearance on the menu at the city's Transport Museum, having not featured regularly for many years. The triangular pastry parcel, filled with a special sweet mincemeat, is being made to a traditional two hundred-year-old recipe by baker Leigh Waite, and features a number of secret ingredients. The Transport Museum is providing the first outlet for Leigh's gourmet offering, supplying the cakes via its coffee house, Esquires.



Esquire's Steven Prime, Leigh Waite, Lord Mayor of Coventry Tim Sawdon, Coventry Transport Museum Chief Executive Gary Hall



Bar Brasserie strikes gold

REVIEW

Hogarth's Hotel is this great place in the Warwickshire countryside, a stone's throw from Junction Three off the M42. It's a beautiful country house surrounded by thirty acres of parkland, and comes complete with a sweeping drive that has cute bunny rabbits bouncing around it! The venue has struck gold by hiring Martin Blunos as its new Culinary Director. Double-starred by Michelin, two times over, Martin is a charming superstar chef with absolutely no ego who is revelling in the experience of creating a brasserie menu for the 8 Bar and his own fine dining restaurant, due to open in the autumn. If you visit - and you must - set aside three hours to appreciate everything Hogarth's has to offer. No visit would be complete without a walk around its English gardens. During our time there, couples were strolling around the gardens and ornamental lakes, and through the patio doors into the contemporary brasserie. The greenery and beauty of the outdoors is reflected in the decor and furnishings within the hotel. The brasserie is bright and airy, looking out over the terrace, with floor-to-ceiling windows giving it a light and bright feel. Lots of seating, too - the lime and

grey curved booths beckoned to us. Over a glass of orange bellini, we looked at the 'something to nibble on' menu. Trouble is, we wanted to nibble on everything. So we did. At £2 each (or five for £9), it's great value. Our highlights were the potato frittata with tomato jam; the cutest mini vintage cheddar rarebit; tomato flavour potato straws which were like potato chips; and an inventive crispy yam ball with a light pepperdew, honey & sour cream dip. Wherever possible, the team source their ingredients locally, and you can't get more local than Solihull honey. Chef Blunos wanted to surprise us with the mains. What arrived were some wonderful lemon sole goujons, sitting on the plate like giant quavers, sailing on the most beautifully flavoured bean fraicaise. We were also served some spicy 'balti' sausages, presented in a Yorkshire pudding - a dish that showcases Blunos' desire not only to be inventive but also to reflect the Midlands' culinary landscape. We were then offered something off the menu - a tin of sardines! A shiny retro-style tin of sardines placed on a slate board, with the sardines on display and boasting a crisp Provençale topping. So wonderfully cool, it had us whipping out our camera

phones. We were spoilt for choice when we saw the dessert menu. I had the roast peach - two halves of fresh peach topped with a crunchy biscotti crumb and accompanied by a side of the most delightful amaretto cream. My companion had the fresh egg custard tart with jammy stewed rhubarb. So good, I had to wrestle her for a bite. Our meal, on a sunny Wednesday evening, was a truly memorable experience. Everything we ate was cooked to a mouthwatering standard and served in the style that's synonymous with Blunos' talent. The most astounding thing were the prices. Haute cuisine dishes from a Michelin chef at brasserie prices. It's overwhelmingly good value for money. I just wish we'd had a chance to try more dishes, and the wine list too. So on that note, I shall be returning to Hogarth's and falling back, like Alice, into a veritable Wonderland (of culinary delights) - with cute bunny rabbits to welcome me to boot... *Anita Champaneri*

Food:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Service:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Ambience:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Overall value	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
OVERALL	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Hogarth's Hotel
4 Ashes Rd
West Midlands
Solihull, B93 8QE
Tel: 01564 779988

A hidden gem in Kinver

Dunsley Hall Hotel is situated on the outskirts of the quaint village of Kinver. It regards itself as a luxury romantic hideaway, where customers can experience total relaxation - and I must say, I completely agree. We were welcomed into the hallway of the building by head waiter Tom - who proved to be very helpful throughout the evening - and shown into one of the elegant yet cosy lounges for a pre-meal drink. I could quite easily have sat there all night, as I felt extremely relaxed sipping my chilled pinto grigio.

Our delightful waitress Rosie showed us through to the dining room, a space that was both elegant and in keeping with the period of the house. The restaurant was nicely full for a midweek evening, creating a really lovely atmosphere.

To start, I opted for the pork and chicken terrine with a fruity chutney, which was absolutely delicious - chunky pieces of meat with whole peppercorns that were simply bursting with flavour. The soft brioche bread that accompanied the terrine concluded the dish perfectly. My partner had the tomato, red pepper and pesto soup, which, again, was simply delightful - full of flavour and not too heavy.

The main course that followed didn't disappoint either; my dish of grilled chicken on a bed of Mediterranean vegetables was beautiful. The chicken was soft and moist, and easily the best cooked chicken I've ever had in a restaurant. The whole dish was served with a light sauce that complemented the food perfectly. My partner had ordered the confit of duck with fondant potato and red cabbage. Uncharacteristically (he doesn't normally share food), he allowed me to sample the duck, which was deliciously moist and positively melted in my mouth. Both main courses were excellent. We ordered two side dishes of glazed carrots and minted new potatoes. Both were fresh, well cooked and flavoursome.

For dessert, I chose the chocolate torte, with a thick chocolate mouse with orange and mint segments. The base was made of crushed biscuits and nuts, which complemented the smoothness of the chocolate really well. I devoured it. My partner chose



the vanilla panna cotta with a strawberry salad. The light, creamy and beautifully presented pudding was the perfect way to end a three-course meal.

As we didn't really want to leave, we then ordered a tea and coffee. They came accompanied by a homemade fudge that was so amazing I think Dunsley Hall should package and sell it! The cost of the meal was £16.95 for three courses (two courses would've been £13.95), an absolute steal for food of this standard. A full a la carte menu is also available Thursday to Saturday. *Vicky Price*

Food: ■■■■■
 Service: ■■■■■
 Ambience: ■■■■■
 Overall value: ■■■■■
OVERALL ■■■■■

Dunsley Hall Hotel
 39 Dunsley Road
 Kinver
 South Staffordshire
 DY7 6LU
 Tel : 01384 877077

Selfridges' latest addition makes a mighty fine pitstop

Newly opened in Selfridges Food Hall, Itihaas Brasserie is entrepreneur Raj Rana's second restaurant. The eatery offers a more casual dining experience, as well as Mumbai street food and lighter South Indian dishes. We let our waiter take the reins and order for us. We started off with dahi puri (£4.99); small crispy wheat shells filled with chickpeas, potatoes and a sweet yoghurt and tamarind gravy. The warm spices of the dish were offset by the refreshing yoghurt. Next, a lamb tikka (£8.49), which, although spicy, went exceedingly well with the cool mint dip. The star of the show followed - a tandoori half chicken, which was presented, wait for it, hanging! My companion, although not a paneer fan, was won over by the fragrant makhani paneer, whilst my main of lamb rogan josh was buttery and rich. Both were £12.49 and served with rice and garlic naan.

By some miracle, we managed to squeeze in the trio of kulfi ice cream for dessert - the malai flavour was divine! Excellent service and a bar-like atmosphere make this a great pitstop for lunch or a light bite. *Alev Dervish*

Food: ■■■■■
 Service: ■■■■■
 Ambience: ■■■■■
 Overall value: ■■■■■
OVERALL ■■■■■

Itihaas Brasserie
 Selfridges Food Hall
 Bullring
 Birmingham
 B5 4BP
 0121 212 3383 (Itihaas' main restaurant along Fleet Street, Birmingham)

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

Birmingham

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

AL FRASH 186 Ladypool Road, Sparkbrook, B12 8JS 0121 753 3120

THE ASQUITH 11 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 3NY 0121 200 1588

ASHA'S 12-22 Newhall Street, B3 3LX 0121 200 2767

AZZARI TOO 204 Lightwoods Rd, B67 5AZ 0121 429 6621

BANK 4 Brindleyplace, B1 2JB 0121 633 4466

BAR EPERNAY 171-172 Wharfside Street, The Mailbox, B1 1RL 0121 632 1430

BAR ESTILO 10-114 Wharfside St, The Mailbox, B11RF 0121 643 3443

BARNT GREEN INN Kendal End Rd, Rednal B45 8PZ 0121 445 4949

BARAJEE 265 Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 643 6700

BELLA ITALIA 102 New St, B2 4HQ 0121 6431548

THE BERLOIZ Burlington Arcade, New St, B2 4JQ 0121 633 1737

BLUE MANGO Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 633 4422

BLUE GINGER 32 Poplar Road, Kings Heath, B14 7AD 0121 444 0999

BLUU Fleet St, Summer Row, B3 1JH 0121 236 9013

BUONISSIMO 1 Albany Rd, Harborne, B17 9JX 0121 426 2444

BRANDED BULL STEAKHOUSE 175 Broad Street, B15 1DT. 0121 643 5968

BYZANTIUM 11 York Road, Kings Heath, B14 7SA 0121 444 5444

CAFE IKON 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2HS 0121 248 3226

CAFE ROUGE Brindleyplace, Broad Street, B1 2HJ 0121 643 6556

CAFE SOYA Unit 2, Upper Dean Street B5 4SG 0121 622 3888

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

CELEBRITY INDIAN 44 Broad St, B1 2HP 0121 643 8969

THE CHAMELEON

1 Victoria Square, B1 1BD 0121 643 2233

CHEZ JULES 5a Ethel St, B2 4BG 0121 633 4664

CHI 61 Newhall St, B3 3RB 0121 233 3150

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

CHUNG YING GARDEN 17 Thorpe St, B5 4AT 0121 666 6622

CITY CAFE GRILL Hylton Garden Inn, 1 Brunswick Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2HW 0121 643 1003

CIELO 6 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2JB 0121 632 6882

COFFEE ROOM BAR & BISTRO Hurst St, B5 4TD 0121 605 4343

COTE The Mailbox, B1 1RX 0121 631 1587

RABBEAN 17 Thorp Street, B5 4AT 0121 622 5573

CUCINA RUSTICA 24 Ludgate Hill, B3 1DX 0121 233 2277

DEOLALI BAR RESTAURANT 23A St Mary's Row, Moseley B13 8HW 0121 442 2222

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

DUET CUISINE Unit 1, Fort Dunlop B24 9FD. 0121 748 1234

EDMUNDS 6 Brindley place, B1 2 JB 0121 633 4944

HARJEES SPICES 512 Stratford Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, B11 4AH 0121 773 6130

THE HORSESHOE BAR & RESTAURANT 1214 Stratford Road, B28 9BH 0121 777 2340

ITHAAS 18 Fleet St, B3 1JL 0121 212 3383

JAMIES ITALIAN Middle Mall Bullring Shopping Centre, B5 4BE 0121 270 3610

THE JUNCTION 212 High Street, Harborne, B17 9PT 0121 428 2635

JUJU'S Canal Square, B16 8EH 0121 456 3384

JIMMY SPICES Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121643 2111

JIMMY SPICES 64-66 Station Rd, Solihull, B91 3RX 0121 709 2111

KINNAREE THAI
22 Waterfront Walk, B1
1SN. 0121 665 6568

LA BASTILLE 220
Corporation St, B4 6QP
0121 236 1171

LASAN 3-4 Dakota
Buildings James St, St
Paul's Square, B3 1SD
0121 212 3664

LAS IGUANAS
Arcadian Centre, Hurst
St, B5 4TD 0121 622
4466

LA TASCA Regency
Wharf, B1 2DS 0121
643 9888

THE LOFT LOUNGE
143 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG 0121 622 2444

LOVES The
Glasshouse, Browning
St, B16 8FL 0121 454
5151

MANIC ORGANIC
46 Poplar Road, B14
7AG 0121 441 3802

MAHARAJA 23/25
Hurst St, B5 4AS
0121 622 2641

MECHU 47 - 59
Summer Row, B3 1JJ
0121 212 1661

METRO BAR 7 GRILL
73 Cornwall St, B3 2 DF
0121 200 1911

MILLER & CARTER
178-180 Wharfedale St,
The Mailbox, B1 1RN
0121 643 7738

MINT Yew Tree Retail
Park, Stoney Lane
Yardley, B25 8YP
Tel: 0121 789 8908

MIRAGE FUSION
Broadway Casino,
Broadway Plaza
Ladywood Middleway,
B16 8LP. 0121 456 5557

MOUNT FUJI The
Bullring, B5 4BH
0121 633 9853

OLD SPECKLED HEN
Mere Green Road,
Sutton Coldfield. B75
5BL 0121 308 9410

OLD JOINTSTOCK
PUB 4 Temple Row, B2
5NY 0121 200 1892

OPUS 54 Cornwall St,
B3 2DE 0121 200 2323

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

PASTA DE PIAZZA 11
Brook Street, St Paul's
Square, B3 1SA
0121 236 5858

PEACHY KEENS 1741
Coventry Road, Yardley
B26 1DS. 0121 764
5519

PENNY BLACKS The
Mailbox, 132-134
Wharfedale St, B1 1XL
0121 632 1460

PICCOLINO 9
Brindleyplace, B1 2HS
0121 634 3055

PONTE DI LEGNO 44-
44a Woodbridge Rd,
Moseley, B13 8EJ
0121 449 8064

PUNJABI HAVELI 1558
Stratford Rd, Hall
Green, B28 9HA
0121 745 3636

PURNELL'S 55
Cornwall St, B3 2DH.
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 PEPPERS 117
Wharfedale 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,
Oldbury B69 4RR
0121 552 1752

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

SHAH'S Unit 16, 1160
Warwick Road, Acocks
Green B27 6BP. 0121
707 8297

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

SHOGUN
TEPPANYAKI The
Mailbox, 27 - 29
Wharfedale St, B1 1RD
0121 632 1253

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

SPICE EXCHANGE,
1845 Pershore Rd
Kings Norton, B30 3DJ
0121 451 1007

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

SYRIANA
1 Constitution Hill, B19
3LG 0121 2369444

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

TIN TIN CANTONESE,
The Waters Edge,
Brindleyplace, B1 2HL
0121 633 0888

THE VAULTS Newhall
Place, Newhall Hill, B1
3JH 0121 212 9837

VMF - ASTON VILLA
FOOTBALL CLUB Villa
Park, Trinity Rd, B6
6HE 0121 326 1570

ULYSSES 42a Bristol
Street, B5 7AA 0121
622 3159

THE WAREHOUSE
CAFE 54-57 Allison
Street, Digbeth, B5
5TH
0121 633 0261

WING WAH 278
Thimblemill Lane, B7
5HD 0121 327 7879

WOKTASTIC Paradise
Place, B3 3HJ 0121
236 3130

WONGS 5-11 Fleet St,
B3 1JP 0121 212 1888

YO! SUSHI Bullring,
Birmingham B5 4BP.
0121 600 6712

ZIZZI 183 High St,
Harborne B17 9QE
0121 428 4228 also at
The Mailbox B1 1RL
0121 632 1333.

10 Poplar Rd, Solihull,
B91 3AB 0121 704
5030



Fumo, Birmingham

Black Country

BELLA 82 Chapel Ash,
Wolverhampton, 01902
427555

BILASH 2 Cheapside,
Wolverhampton, WV1
1TU 01902 427762

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

BRAVACCIOUS
4 Upper Green,
Wolverhampton WV6
8QQ 01902 756052

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE FAIRLAWNS AT
ALDRIDGE 178 Little
Aston Road, Aldridge,
Walsall WS9 0NU 01922
455122

FIVE RIVERS Vicarage
Place, Walsall WS1 3NA
01922 646164

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

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

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

FRENCH HEN
Bromsgrove Rd, Clent,
Stourbridge DY9 9PY

01562 883040

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

KAMRAN BALTI'S 34
High Street, Lye, Stour-
bridge DY9 8LF
01384 893030

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

MALABAR 7 Anchor
Rd, Walsall WS9 8PT
01922 944 482

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE WOODMAN
Claverley, Staffordshire,
Wolverhampton WV5
7DG 01746 710 553

Shropshire

AFTAB 25 High St,
Ironbridge TF8 7AD
01952 432055

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

BUTLERS Park St,
Shifnal, TF11 9BA
01952 460662

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

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

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

CROMWELLS 11
Dogpole, Shrewsbury
SY1 1EN
01743 361440

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

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

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

FENNELS 8 Market
Place, Shifnal TF11
9AZ 01952 463020

THE FEATHERS
Brockton, Much
Wenlock TF13 6JR
01746 785202

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

FRANK CAFE BAR
165-167 Frankwell,
Shrewsbury SY3 8LG
01743 354422

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

THE GOLDEN
MOMENTS 50 Broad
St, Ludlow SY8 1NH
Tel: 01584 878488

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

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

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

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

01743 353107
KING & THAI Avenue
Rd, Broseley, Telford
TF12 5DL 01952
882004

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

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

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

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

MAD JACKS 15 St
Mary's St, Shrewsbury,
SY1 1EQ 01743 358870

THE MALTHOUSE
The Wharfage,
Ironbridge TF8 7NH.
01902 433712

THE MEADOW INN
Buildwas Road,
Ironbridge TF8 7BJ
01952 433193

MINH'S CHINESE
20 Bradford St, Shifnal
TF11 8AU 01952
463323

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

MORGANS
1 Bellstone, Shrewsbury
SY1 1HU 01743 239114

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

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

Restaurant LISTINGS

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

PARKWAY Unit 6 Corve St, Ludlow SY8 2PG 01584 873 130

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

THE POUND AT LEE-BOTWOOD Leebotwood, Nr Church Stretton SY6 6ND 01694 751477

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

ROMOLO Victoria Avenue, Shrewsbury SY1 1HH 01743 233244
ROYAL BENGAL TANDOORI 32-34 The Broadway, Shifnal TF11 8AZ 01952 460522

SARACENS Shrewsbury Rd, SY4 4AG 01939 210877

SEBASTIANS 45 Willow St, Oswestry SY11 1AQ 01691 655444

TIN TINS Wellington Road, Telford TF2 8AJ 01952 608688

TRAITORS GATE Castle St, Water Lane, Shrewsbury SY1 2BX 01743 249152

THE WALLS Welsh Walls, Oswestry SY11 1AW 01691 670970

Staffordshire

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOUR SEASONS Swinfen Hall Lichfield, WS14 9RE 01543 481494

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

JASMINE PEKING 21 High St, Eccleshall, Stafford ST21 6BW 01785 851200

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

LODGE BALTI 71 Birmingham Road, Lichfield WS14 0LQ 01543 483334

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE PEARL 18 Market St, Kids Grove, ST7 4AB 01782 788887

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

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

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

THE SWAN HOTEL 46 Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2JA 01785 258142

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

WOLSELEY ARMS Wolseley Bridge, Stafford ST17 0XS 01889 883179

Warwickshire

BLUE BISTRO 21 Spon St, Coventry, CV1 3BA 024 7622 9274

7 SQUARE 7 Old Square, Warwick CV34 4RA 01926 411 755

NO. 9 CHURCH STREET Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6HB 01789 415522

ART KITCHEN 7 Swan St, Warwick CV34 4BJ 01926 494303

AUBERGINE 32 Smith St, Warwick CV34 4HS 01926 400 086

THE ALMANACK Abbey End North, Kenilworth CV8 1QJ 01926 353637

THE BLUEBELL 93 High Street, Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, B95 5AT 01564 793049

BROWNS Earl St, Coventry CV1 5RU 0247 622 1100

CARLUCCIOS 13 Waterside, Stratford-Upon-Avon CV37 6BA 01789 267424

CASTLE BALTI 11-13 St. Johns, Warwick CV34 4NE 01926 493007

CATALAN 6 Jury St, Warwick CV34 4EW 01926 498 930

THE CHURCH STREET TOWN-HOUSE 16 Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6HB 01789 262222

EGO 29 The Square, Kenilworth, CV8 1EF 01926 864463

FIVE RIVERS 20-22 Victoria Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV31 3AB 01926 431999

GEORGETOWN 23 Sheep St, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6EF 01789 204445

THE GRANVILLE 52, Wellesbourne Rd, Barford, CV35 8DS 01926 624236

THE LORD LEYCES-TER 17-19 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EJ 01926 491481

MERCHANTS Swan Street, Warwick CV34 4BJ 01926 403833

NAILCOTE HALL Nailcote Lane, Berkswell, Coventry, CV7 7DE 02476 466174

NICOLINIS 14 The Parade, Leamington Spa, CV32 4DW 01926 421620

QUEANS RESTAURANT 15 Dormer Place, Leamington Spa CV32 5AA 01926 315522

THE ONE ELM 1 Guild St, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6QZ 01789 404919

OSCARS 39 Chandos St, Leamington Spa, CV32 4RL 01926 452807

PEEL'S Hampton Manor, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull, B92 0EN 01675 446080

PREZZO 1-3 High St, Warwick CV34 4AP 01926 475867

RAFFLES 57 Warwick Rd, Kenilworth, CV8 1HN 01926 864 300

THE RED LION Station Rd, Warwick CV35 8PE 01926 842291

RESTAURANT 23 34 Hamilton Terrace, Holly Walk Leamington Spa, CV32 4LY 01926 422422

ROBBIES 74 Smith St, Warwick CV34 4HU 01926 400470

ROSE & CROWN 30 Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SH 01926 411117



Raffles, Warwickshire

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BB 01789 403449

SAFFRON GOLD Market St, Westgate House, Warwick CV34 4DE 01926 402061

THE SAXON MILL Coventry Rd, Guys Cliffe, Warwick CV34 5YN 01926 492 255

SIGNATURES AT THE BELGRADE Belgrade Theatre, Belgrade Square, Coventry, CV1 1GS 02476 846762

TAILORS 22 Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SL 01926 410590

THAI ELEPHANT 20 Regent St, Leamington Spa, Warwick CV32 5HQ 01926 886882

THE TREVELYAN Warwick Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0NR 01789 295252

WARWICK SPICE 24 Smith St, Warwick CV34 4HS 01926 491736

THE VINE INN 86 - 88 West St, Warwick CV34 6AW 07873 219005

ZIZZI 29 The Square, Kenilworth, CV8 1EF 01926 852980

Worcestershire

ANAKARI 47 The Tythings, Worcester. WR1 1JT 01905 21412

ANGEL CHEF 1 Angel St, Worcester WR1 3QT 01905 731131

ASHLEYS 11 The Tything, Worcester WR1 1HD 01905 611747

BENEDICTOS 34 Sidbury, Worcester WR1 2HZ 01905 21444

THE BEAR AND RAGGED STAFF Station Rd, Worcester WR6 5JH 01886 833399

BINDLES 55 Sidbury, Worcester WR1 2HU 01905 611120

BRAMBLINGS Hither Green Lane, Redditch, B98 9BE 01527 406600

BROWNS 24 Quay St, Worcester WR1 2JJ 01905 26263

CHESTERS 51 New St, Worcester, WR1 2DL 01905 611638

CROWN & SANDYS Main Rd, Ombersley, WR9 0EW 01905 620252

FARTHINGS Bransford, Gt Malvern WR6 5JD 01886 833551

THE FIG TREE 99 Church Street, Gt Malvern WR14 2AE 01684 569909

FOUR SEASONS 61 Lowesmoor, Worcester WR1 2RS 01905 2702

FUSION BRASSERIE Hawbridge, Stoultou, Worcester WR7 4RJ 01905 840647

THE INN AT STONE-HALL Stonehall Common, Worcester, WR5 3QG 01905 820462

KING CHARLES II King Charles House, New St, Worcester WR1 2D 01905 22449

LITTLE VENICE 1 - 3 St Nicholas St, Worcester WR1 1UW 01905 726126

MASSALLA LOUNGE 35 Broad St, Worcester WR1 3NH 01905 729955

MONSOON 35 Foregate St, Worcester, WR1 1EE 01905 726333

MUG HOUSE Claines Lane, Worcester WR3 7RN 01905 456649

OLD RECTIFYING HOUSE North Parade, Worcester WR1 3NN 01905 619622

THE OLD RECTORY Ipsley, Redditch, B98 0AP 01527 517003

PUCCINI'S, 12 Friar St, Worcester WR12LZ 01905 27770

RILEY'S The Quadrant, Redditch B98 8AE 01527 60544

ROSADOS'S 2 Finstall Rd, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove. B60 2DZ 01527 889948

ROSEANNAS St. Andrews Drive, Droitwich, WR9 8AL 01905 779677

SAFFRONS 15 New St, Worcester WR1 2DP 01905 610505

SINGAPORE 29 Friar St, Worcester WR1 2NA 01905 613005

SPICE CUISINE 39-41 Bromyard Terrace, Worcester WR2 5BW 01905 429786

SPICE FUSION 17 St Andrews St, Droitwich, WR9 8DY 01905 794188

THAI GALLERY 26-32 Friar St, Worcester WR1 2LZ 01905 25451

VALENTINO'S 43 Foregate St, Worcester WR1 1EE 01905 617773

THE WILDMOOR OAK Top Road, Wildmoor, Bromsgrove B61 0RB 0121 453 2696

WYCH WAY INN Worcester Rd, Wychbold, WR9 7PA 01527 860130

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The Financial Times



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Steptoe & Son

Tue 23 - Sat 27 Oct

Two lives knitted together as
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Random Dance

Entity

Tue 16 & Wed 17 Oct

Music by Jon Hopkins (Coldplay/
Massive Attack) and Joby Talbot
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The Coming Storm

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Arun Ghosh, Bollywood
Brass Band and Rafaqat
Ali Khan, Susanna, Sons of
Kemet, Field Music, Grizzly
Bear, Joan Armatrading
and Efterklang & Northern
Sinfonia.

Plus Ginger Baker on 20 Sep.



Comedy in Oct

Danny Bhoj, Jason Byrne,
Jack Dee, Festival of the
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Tim Key, Greg Davies,
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