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What's On

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Dudley-born Josie Lawrence headlines Birmingham's first improv festival

Birmingham is hosting its first Improv Festival this month. The brand new three-day event, comprising 10 shows and eight workshops, sees Dudley-born actress and 'improv queen' Josie Lawrence making a welcome return to the Midlands.

Presented in the intimate setting of the Jewellery Quarter's Blue Orange Theatre - from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 October - the festival features plays, musicals, sketches, puppets and costume dramas.

Commenting on the event, its director, Jon Trevor, said: "This is a unique opportunity for people to be part of the first festival of its kind in what I believe to be a great festival city. Audiences can expect the unexpected, with lots of twists and turns. In fact, nobody knows how each performance will pan out - it really is relying on audience participation. I want people to immerse themselves and just have a really memorable and fun night out."

The festival culminates in a special charity showcase in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital.



Phillip and Holly to bring This Morning to the Midlands

A lifestyle show inspired by ITV1's This Morning programme will make its debut at Birmingham's NEC next spring.

Featuring live appearances by Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby - the presenters of the popular daytime television series - the event will also feature numerous lifestyle elements, including fashion & style, food & drink, home, gardening, pets, beauty, and health & wellbeing.

Commenting on the new four-day show, Emma Gormley, ITV Daytime Managing Director, said: "This Morning is one of ITV's most loved and iconic brands. With our fantastic presenting talent and the wonderful mix of content that we'll be taking on the road, this event promises to delight fans of the show across the country."

This Morning Live takes place at the NEC from 18 to 21 May.

Kara Tointon to star in Gaslight at the New Alex

Former EastEnders favourite Kara Tointon, Merlin actor Rupert Young and one-time hellraiser Keith Allen visit the Midlands next year in a revival of Patrick Hamilton's 1938 psychological thriller, Gaslight.

West End leading lady Kara, whose career has also seen her win Strictly Come Dancing, will take the part of Bella Manningham, the role memorably played by Ingrid Bergman in the classic 1944 film adaptation.

The UK tour of Gaslight begins at the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, where it plays from 6 to 14 January.



Celebrating 25 years of contemporary music in the city...

A concert celebrating the 25th anniversary of Birmingham Contemporary Music Group's (BCMG) Sound Investment crowdfunding scheme is one of the highlights of the ensemble's recently announced 2016/17 season.

The Thomas Adès-conducted concert, taking place on Saturday 10 December at the CBSO Centre, will feature several Sound Investment pieces and the world premiere of a new work by Francisco Coll.

Other new-season highlights include world premieres by Colin Matthews, Kevin Volans and Helen Grime, as well as numerous family concerts and composing workshops for children.

Commenting on the forthcoming programme, the ensemble's new artistic director, Stephan Meier, said: "The season celebrates the extraordinary contribution that BCMG, and its many Sound Investors, have made to creating the music of today, for the audiences of now and tomorrow.

"It's invigorating to lead into the future an ensemble that, by its nature, sails in uncharted waters, and I'm very much looking forward to navigating further BCMG adventures alongside international composers, musicians and audiences of all ages."

To find out more about BCMG and its new season, visit bcmg.co.uk

Sing your heart out in Yardley

A free singalong event described as 'a fusion of The Dubliners and Mr Bill's Beer Keller' is taking place in Birmingham this month.

Singing Your Heart Out sees a dozen folk musicians performing a dozen traditional tunes from around the British Isles, with the songs' lyrics projected onto a big screen so that the audience can join in.

The event takes place at Our Lady of Lourdes church in Trittiford Road, Yardley Wood, on Friday 14 October, starting at 8pm.

Although Singing Your Heart Out is free to attend, interested parties are requested to book their tickets online, so that the organisers have an idea of how many people will be attending. The event's website is singingyourheartout.webs.com

A fashionable show indeed!



The Midlands Fashion Awards take place in Birmingham this month. Now in its ninth year, the event offers a platform for local designers to showcase their collection to fashion industry professionals. "We've seen so many previous winners go on to develop their own careers," says show founder Jenny Eason. "We're giving creatives a chance to excel in their field as well as on their home turf. Often the pressure for designers and creatives to move to London is overwhelming, but there are so many potential opportunities right here in the Midlands. An event like this proves that there's a melting pot of talented individuals just waiting for their chance to shine."

The event takes place at the CBSO Centre on Friday 7 October. Tickets are available from midlands-fashionawards.co.uk

Hippodrome highlights...

West End favourite Sheridan Smith starring in *Funny Girl*, a new tour of Sir Cameron Mackintosh's legendary musical *Miss Saigon*, and the first UK production of *The Addams Family* are among the highlights of Birmingham Hippodrome's 2016/17 season.

The forthcoming months also see Matthew Bourne making a return to the venue with a new production of *The Red Shoes* and Welsh National Opera performing Cole Porter's *Kiss Me Kate*.

There's an eclectic selection of dance works to enjoy as well, including *Material Men* - a virtuoso piece bringing together classical Indian dance and hip-hop - and the return of *Dance Sampled*, an opportunity for audiences to check out a mixture of dance styles.

For the theatre's complete line-up of shows and to book tickets, visit birminghamhippodrome.com. Tickets can also be booked on 0844 338 5000.



The Bear that gives...

A Midlands arts venue is asking people to 'give the gift of theatre this Christmas'.

mac Birmingham is seeking donations to fund tickets for local children in challenging circumstances to see its Christmas production of the Raymond Briggs story, *The Bear*.

All donations will be matched by a generous legacy from a mac supporter, to ensure the opportunity can be enjoyed by as many young people as possible. Donations can be made when booking tickets, or online at the venue's Just Giving page.



High Street art to make you smile

A free, family-friendly local arts festival in the Birmingham suburb of Harborne is this month making a welcome return.

Organised by local arts group Artscoop Central, the Harborne Artsmile is an annual event which sees talented local artists set themselves up in various shops along Harborne High Street. Previous Artsmile festivals have showcased doll-making in vintage furniture shops, photography in opticians, chair embellishing in pizzerias, painting in pubs, storytelling in cafes, sculpture-making in restaurants and youth quartets performing outside coffee houses.

The event takes place on Saturday 22 October from 12pm to 4pm.

For full programme details, visit artsmile.org.uk



Arts groups and organisations urged to bid for new project funding

Birmingham's council and Arts Council England (ACE) have joined together to offer funding for art & culture projects in the Aston and Newtown areas of the city.

Until recently, the districts were served by The Drum arts centre, but following the venue's closure earlier this year, the city council, ACE and local stakeholders have been working to identify priorities for cultural development in both areas.

Arts groups and organisations - either new or established - wishing to engage with residents in Aston and Newtown can now apply for grants from a £500,000 funding pot. Applications must be made by 10 October. All applicants must be able to demonstrate a 20 percent contribution from other sources and satisfy the criteria for funding.

For further information, visit birminghamculture.org

First Word

TV favourites to star in *The Exorcist*

Popular television and theatre actors Jenny Seagrove and Peter Bowles will star in this month's production of *The Exorcist* at Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

Seagrove is perhaps best known as QC Jo Mills in the television series *Judge John Deed*, while Bowles has enjoyed starring roles in numerous TV shows, including *To The Manor Born*, *The Irish RM*, *The Bounder*, *Rumpole Of The Bailey* and *Only When I Laugh*.

The Exorcist is receiving its UK premiere at The REP, where it shows from Friday 21 October to Saturday 5 November.

Tickets can be booked by ringing 0121 236 4455 or online at birmingham-rep.co.uk



Birmingham celebrates Black History Month...

With its international reputation as one of the UK's most diverse cities, Birmingham is once again seizing the opportunity to acknowledge the cultural contributions of its many communities by celebrating Black History Month. Following the recent deaths of Prince and A Tribe Called Quest's Phife Dawg, events and performances across the city will this year tie in with the theme of black music icons, with full listings and details available at birmingham-blackhistorymonth.co.uk. Poetry, theatre, dance, cinema screenings and more is being funded by Birmingham City Council, and led and produced by Birmingham Blackstory Partnership, a passionate collective of organisations and individuals including Inspiring A New Generation, Strawberry Words Ltd, Paulette Francis Green and mac Birmingham.

Here are just a few of our highlights...

Family Awareness Day & Cultural Market

mac, Birmingham, Sat 1 Oct
Enjoy a free exhibition, arts and crafts for children, poetry, a craft market and a screening of *Black Britain On Film* to celebrate the start of Black History Month

Rosa Parks: The Hidden Journey

mac, Birmingham, Sat 1 – Sun 2 Oct
Celebrating the 60th anniversary of Rosa Parks' defiance on the Montgomery bus, Jude Freeman's thought-provoking play is back by popular demand after sell-out performances in 2015. Directed by Lorna Laidlaw, this new production has been extended and adapted, making it even more vibrant.

National Poetry Day Gala with Jean 'Binta' Breeze

Birmingham REP, Thurs 6 Oct
Previously described as a 'one-woman festival', the acclaimed Jean 'Binta' Breeze brings her powerfully personal and political work to Birmingham REP. Breeze will read selections from her eight books of poems and stories, including her latest collection, *The Verandah Poems*.

Beatfreeks present Poetry Jam

Java Lounge, Colmore Row, Thurs 6 Oct
Pop along and jam with a community of young creative minds at Beatfreeks' monthly open mic session, themed around Black History Month for October. All kinds of poetry, rap and spoken word are welcome. Arrive early to sign up for a slot.

946: The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips

Birmingham REP, Thurs 6 – Sat 15 Oct
From the acclaimed Kneehigh Theatre comes an enchanting stage adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's much-loved *World War Two* novel. This poignant tale of the courage and love of one young girl and her adventurous cat is brought to life on stage with music and puppetry.

BEX LIVE Enterprise And Lifestyle Expo

Holiday Inn, Sun 9 Oct
Explore a marketplace packed with over 70 different exhibitors at the UK's premier event championing the creativity and entrepreneurship of people of colour. This vibrant event features companies in areas ranging from fashion & beauty to health and wealth creation. Live stage shows and competitions take place throughout the day, while an interactive kids' area keeps little ones entertained.

Malcolm X Youth Conference

Birmingham City University, Sat 15 Oct
For its second annual youth conference, the Organisation of Black Unity commemorates the legacy of Malcolm X and the 50th anniversary of the Black Panther Party with an afternoon of teaching, performance and discussion.

Homelands Showcase

The Old Rep, Tues 18 Oct
Homelands explores the heritage of four contemporary, black, UK-based music artists through film and music. The Homelands tour followed journeys to the motherlands of grime artist MC Sankilla (Senegal), Mercury-nominated R'n'B star Terri Walker (Jamaica), producer Diztortion (Suriname) and MOBO award-winning singer Shakka (Dominica), documenting them in films that will be screened alongside performances of specially commissioned tracks.

Nubyond and Inspiring A New Generation Black History Family Day

Nubyond Universal Creativity, Unit 4 The Square, Broad Street, Sat 29 Oct
Mark the end of Black History Month with this city centre family fun day, featuring craft stalls, performances, music, an arts auction, free arts & crafts for children, refreshments and more.



Jean 'Binta' Breeze



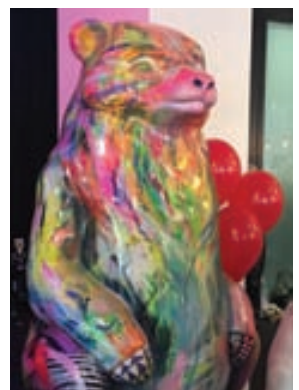
First celebrity Bear announced for Big Sleuth

Bear Grylls will be making a contribution to Birmingham's Big Sleuth trail of bear sculptures next summer.

The popular explorer has teamed up with Retail Birmingham, the organisation which represents retailers in the city centre, to design one of the 165cm-tall sculptures.

The sculpture-trail initiative is a collaboration between Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity and creative producers Wild In Art. The organisations previously teamed up to present *The Big Hoot*, a trail of owl sculptures that inspired residents and tourists to uncover Birmingham's cultural gems and discover areas of the city they may not have explored before.

The sun bear sculptures are intended to serve the same purpose.



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Jean-Michel Jarre

The godfather and pioneer of electronic music this month stops off in Birmingham as part of his world tour. What's On recently caught up with the music icon to find out more...



You're bringing your tour to Barclaycard Arena this month, Jean-Michel. What can your Birmingham audience expect from your upcoming show?

I've spent a lot of time working on what I believe to be an exciting stage design. I've always been involved in the visual aspect of my work. It's very important nowadays, with technology allowing us to push the boundaries even more than when I started out. It's a very exciting challenge to be able to explore different directions. On this new production, I want to share with the audience a totally different experience from what I've done in the past, and also, hopefully, a totally different experience from a usual electronic or rock music show. I want to immerse the audience in my music and performance. I'm going to do my best to deliver a show that will satisfy them beyond their expectations. I know how big their expectations are, so I'm going to try not to disappoint them.

This is your first live show for six years. Why the break?

Quite simply, I've spent the last few years in the studio and travelling the world to compose and produce my double *Electronica* album, with over 30 collaborators from the electronic music scene who are legends and/or newcomers, and with whom I share a common music DNA. Believe me, it was far from a break! The *Electronica* project took over my life these past few years, and I'm delighted to have worked with so many wonderful musicians and to have made great friends along the way.

“ *I’m addicted to making and performing my music - it consumes my life daily* ”

Your recent releases, *Electronica 1: The Time Machine* and *Electronica 2: The Heart Of Noise*, have seen you collaborate with an eclectic mix of artists, including Hans Zimmer, Moby, Massive Attack, Pet Shop Boys and Edward Snowden. Can you tell us a bit about how that came about?

The project came from an idea I started some time ago, gathering around me musicians, artists and collaborators who’ve been and who are an ongoing source of inspiration to me - linked, directly or indirectly, to technology and electronic music covering different generations. Because everyone said yes, the project became much bigger than I had imagined, and I decided to divide *Electronica* into two separate albums. Volume one was released in October 2015, and volume two in May 2016 with another bunch of great collaborators. The essence of the double album was to physically travel to meet with those artists I’d invited on board, spending time in their working environment and sharing a creative process physically - merging our DNA through a piece of music. I composed the first demo for every artist with my fantasy of their music and touch in mind, to start from something as a platform, while leaving enough space for him or her to add their part.

Electronic music festival Sónar saw the world premiere of your new show back in June this year. Why Sonar?

Sónar is one of the most renowned electronic music festivals in the world, and they kindly invited me to headline this year’s edition, showcasing my new music and kicking off my brand new stage production.

You’re the pioneer of electronic music and were the first to create the experi-

ence of the multimedia concert as we know it today. What was the original inspiration behind the idea?

With electronic music, you are not confined to the acoustics of a concert hall, and that inspired me to bring my music performance outdoors. Also, I’ve always been inspired by architecture and how we perceive our environment, whether man-made or natural. That’s where the idea initially came from for my *Cities In Concert* concept - hijacking a public space for a night and deploying all the tools available to me to create a unique sound-and-vision spectacle and experience.

Before your professional career, you studied classical musical composition and fronted punk act The Dustbins. Classical, electronic and rock/punk are all completely different sounds. Why did you choose to go down the electronic music route?

I am an explorer, a sound-hunter. I love all genres of music, but with technology, I discovered that I could also create something new sound-wise. My classical education was a great foundation to compose with sounds I could record from nature, voices and other means, creating my own notes and personal sound.

You’ve played a countless number of concerts throughout your four-decade career. Can you name some particularly memorable shows and venues?

That’s not easy to answer for me, as all of my concerts and shows are quite singular and memorable, but this year is the 30th anniversary of the Houston concert which I did with NASA in front of the amazing downtown skyline of skyscrapers. The London Docklands concerts were also a most memorable moment, as was Millennium Night at

the Great Pyramids. Now Birmingham hopefully will be another great moment!

Your album, *Oxygène*, was released by a French independent label, having previously been turned down by every major record label. What were their reasons for rejecting it?

At the time, *Oxygène* was considered a totally ‘far out’ concept. What was ‘in’ at the time was disco, hard rock and the early days of punk. And moreover, *Oxygène* was instrumental. And I was French!

The album has since gone on to sell 12 million copies and was presumably one of the pinnacle moments of your career...

Oxygène was the meteorite that indeed launched my career, and this year is its 40th anniversary, for which I have plans to celebrate, but cannot say more at this moment. Watch this space!

You’ve compared music to a ‘hard drug’. Can you explain what you mean by this?

I’m addicted to making and performing my music - it consumes my life daily.

Your live concert is something spectacular, featuring synthesizers and large-scale audio-visual shows. Are there any plans to evolve it further?

I invite you to see the evolution on this tour!

And finally, what does the future hold for Jean-Michel Jarre?

The future is here and now.

.....
Jean-Michel Jarre plays Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, on Saturday 8 October.

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Old Joint Stock Pub voted one of the best...

A Birmingham pub which hosts theatrical performances in its upstairs room has been voted one of the West Midlands' top hostelrys.

The Old Joint Stock on Temple Row West is the only Birmingham pub to be included in The Good Pub Guide 2017.

Commenting on the success, Jonathon Swaine, Managing Director of Fuller's Inns, which owns the pub, said: "This is an amazing accolade for The Old Joint Stock. Being crowned one of the best pubs in the country is fantastic, but to be the only Birmingham pub to be recognised demonstrates just how much hard work, enthusiasm and passion the team have put into ensuring that the pub is a cut above its competitors."



REVIEW: Zen Metro, Cornwall Street, Birmingham Restaurant ticks all the right boxes...



Metro Bar & Grill has had a facelift, and the result is not what you might expect. This long-established after-work restaurant has been a stalwart of Birmingham's business district for years, the place for solicitors, property developers and financiers to chow down on steaks and forge deals. Now, surprisingly, they've come over all Buddhist. Well, that's what the website says anyway: Metro Zen, as it's now known, is inspired by the Zen Buddhism Ensō: 'a circle drawn with one continuous brush stroke to express a particular moment in time that is as individual as the person that

created it'. Hmm.

The reality is that the restaurant has had a welcome lick of paint, a blossoming tree has been planted in the dining room, and whilst the lunch menu remains European, the dinner menu has become Thai, which is a good choice. There are very few places doing this kind of food in this part of town.

There aren't many surprises on the menu, but what they are doing, they are doing well. If we measure value for money in terms of 'pounds spent' against 'points on the Scoville scale', then the Som tum (£5.95) would come out very well indeed. This

is the classic raw papaya and peanut salad, and be warned - it is hot. Lip-swelling, tongue-sizzling, oesophagus-burning hot. Which is just as it should be. Som tum is never a salad for the chilli-dodger. Just one bite made me lurch onto the deliciously gooey garlic & chilli chicken (£5.95) just to cool down a little.

The mains are less fiery. There's a good selection of lighter, fish-based dishes, but greedy as we are, we opted for the rich, indulgent massaman curry (£14.95). It's made with lamb rather than the more usual beef, with fantastic depth of flavour from the wealth of slow-cooked spices

and coconut cream. The Pad Thai (£8.95) is great value for money, a huge mound of noodles stir-fried with tofu, eggs and tamarind - at once sticky, rich and filling.

The white chocolate & raspberry cheesecake (£5.95) finished my bloke off. Good as it was, he should've gone for the fried banana with coconut ice cream, served in a dainty brandy-snap basket. If I'm being picky, though, I would've liked it to have been drowned in syrup. After all the coconut cream in this meal, what's a little extra sugar?

A word about our waitress; she was brilliant. Friendly, attentive, enthusiastic about the menu, and all in a second language (she's Polish). This woman deserves a pay rise.

The new Zen Metro is smart and welcoming, with solid cooking and speedy service - just the place to head to for that crucial business dinner. The word 'stalwart' will doubtless follow it around for many years to come.
Helen Stallard

Food:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Service:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Ambience:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Overall value	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
OVERALL	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

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Glynn Purnell to become 'Secret Chef'

Michelin-starred Birmingham chef Glynn Purnell will host his own television show on ITV1 next year. Secret Chef will see Glynn teaching a complete novice how to cook and prepare a lavish meal for their family and friends, entirely from scratch. "This was probably the most difficult TV job I've had," says Glynn. "I've taught my children to chop vegetables and help out in the kitchen - and they are better cooks than the person I was teaching! I had six weeks to teach this person to cook. At the end of it, he had to surprise his friends and family with a meal they thought that I'd cooked!"

As well as his new TV show, Glynn is making a welcome return to BBC's Saturday Kitchen next month. He's also published a new cookery book, Rib Ticklers And Choux-Ins - available now, priced £19.99.



A vegan's delight in Wolverhampton

The ninth annual West Midlands Vegan Festival takes place at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall this month (Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 October).

The two-day event will feature 120-plus stalls offering hot and raw food, cakes, confectionery, footwear, clothing, cosmetics and toiletries.

The festival also includes 10 cookery demonstrations, 40 talks, a selection of live, on-stage entertainment throughout the weekend, a vegan bar, alternative therapies and numerous kids' activities.

For more information, visit midlandsveganfestival.org.uk

Spanish venue wins Best Restaurant title at prestigious Birmingham Awards ceremony

Spanish eatery El Borracho de Oro has scooped the Best Restaurant title at this year's Birmingham Awards.

Held recently at the city's Vox Conference Centre, the awards aim to bring the pride of Birmingham together under one roof, recognising everything from small businesses to the best restaurants and also including categories such as Excellence In Media.

Commenting on the Edgbaston venue's win, owner Emma Yufera-Ruiz said: "We're absolutely delighted and thrilled. I would like to thank all of the hard-working team at El Borracho de Oro, most especially our General Manager, Leo, and our Head Chef, Ignacio."



Marco's New York Italian launches new menu

Marco Pierre White's restaurant at Birmingham Airport's Holiday Inn has launched a new menu.

Alongside old favourites such as Baked New York Italian Meatballs and Lasagne Bolognese Al Forno, diners at Marco's New York Italian can now enjoy a selection of new dishes. These include Chicken Milanese Burger, New Orleans Seafood Kebab, Classic Spaghetti Napoletana, Seared Seabream with Caponata and The Long Island Seafood Platter.

"If I had to choose only one cuisine to eat for the rest of my life, it would be Italian," says Marco. "My mother was Italian, and I spent a lot of time in Italy with her when I was a boy. My New York Italian is all about creating a comfortable environment for friends and family to relax and enjoy some of my favourite Italian and American foods." For more information, visit mpwrestaurants.co.uk/restaurants/birmingham-airport

Great Gusto! New Brum restaurant and cocktail bar opens for business

Contemporary Italian restaurant group Gusto has opened a new restaurant in Birmingham.

The 130-cover eatery is located on the ground floor of the iconic Grand Hotel development in the Cathedral Quarter of the city.

Commenting on the new restaurant, Gusto's managing director, Sue Crimes, said: "We've had our sights set on Birmingham for some time and are excited to be spearheading the ongoing food and drink renaissance of the area. We're thrilled to have this opportunity to further expand into one of the fastest developing cities in the UK."



The Sunshine Underground

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Thurs 20 October

It's 10 years since Shropshire band The Sunshine Underground released their debut album, *Raise The Alarm*.

Although both that and second album *Nobody's Coming To Save You* showcased an indie rock sound, the boys took a different direction a couple of years back and focused on their first love - electronic music.

Following the release of their fourth (and last) album, *Luminescent*, the band is this month embarking on their farewell tour.

Commenting on the split, lead singer Craig Wellington said: "Musically, we've become a very different band to the one we started out as, and 10 years since the debut album felt like the right time to say 'that was a good progression from album one to four, and now it's time to do something different'."

Read the full interview at whatsonlive.co.uk



Jamie T

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sat 1 October



One of the most distinctive voices in British music, Jamie T released his debut album, *Panic Prevention*, in 2007 to great critical acclaim.

Best known for singles such as *If You Got The Money, Sheila and Sticks'n'Stones*, the London-born singer-songwriter has since released a further three albums - *Kings & Queens* (2009), *Carry On The Grudge* (2014) and this year's *Trick*, a highly praised fusion of rock, punk, reggae, rap and pop, in support of which he's playing this gig and touring the UK.

MØ

The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham, Sat 15 October

Danish singer-songwriter Karen Marie Ørsted - or MØ, as she's more commonly known in the music world - released debut album *No Mythologies To Follow* back in 2014. Its unique blend of soul, punk, electro, R&B and pop harmonies was greatly praised by the critics, launching a career that's since seen her collaborating with artists such as Iggy Azalea and winning over festival crowds and pop fans alike.

The co-writer and voice of worldwide hit *Lean On* by Major Lazer, MØ visits the Midlands as part of a new world tour, taking place ahead of the release of her highly anticipated second album.



Nickelback

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Fri 14 October

Comprising guitarist and lead vocalist Chad Kroeger, guitarist, keyboardist and backing vocalist Ryan Peake, bassist Mike Kroeger and drummer Daniel Adair, multi-platinum-selling Canadian rock band Nickelback bring their *No Fixed Address* world tour to Birmingham.

The band were originally due to play the city last November but were forced to cancel due to Chad needing an extended period of vocal rest following voicebox surgery.

Having sold more than 50 million albums worldwide and notched up the fourth best-selling song of the 21st century's first decade - 2001's *How You Remind Me* - the fellas are a must-see experience for any rock fan.

Backbeat Sound System

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham,
Mon 17 October



Backbeat Sound System are an uptempo reggae band from Cornwall who take their influences from genres including funk, ska, pop and dub to create a fun and original sound. They're a well-known name on the UK festival circuit and, since forming in 2008, have appeared at many of the more high-profile summertime get-togethers, including Glastonbury, Boomtown Fair, Beautiful Days and Secret Garden Party. The band visit Birmingham's Hare & Hounds this month for what promises to be an explosive, high-energy show.

Nell Bryden

The Glee Club, Birmingham,
Sun 9 October; Huntingdon Hall,
Worcester, Fri 14 October

In 2012, Brooklyn-born singer-songwriter Nell Bryden released *Sirens* - a song based on her experiences of living in New York in the aftermath of 9/11. The track caught the attention of many an artist - Gary Barlow, Jools Holland and Counting Crows, to name but a few. Nell has since become a Radio Two listeners' favourite, gaining plenty of acclaim for her powerful, soaring vocals and accomplished songwriting.



Level 42

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
Tues 11 October

To say '80s pop legends Level 42 have had a successful career would be an understatement. The band have released 27 albums, had 18 top-40 singles, sold out Wembley

Arena for 21 nights and sold over 30 million albums worldwide. This month's Birmingham gig comes in support of their recently released EP, *Sirens II*, and showcases new material alongside a selection of their greatest hits.

Poliça

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Thurs 20 October



Pop-soul outfit Poliça play the Midlands in support of their latest album, *United Crushers*, following a triumphant performance at the BBC Radio 6 Music Festival last month.

The band, which comprises Channy Leaneagh, dual drummers Drew Christopherson and Ben Ivascu, Chris Beirden on bass and producer Ryan Olson, collectively wrote the album in Minneapolis in the winter of 2015, during their first true break from touring in two long years. The new album builds on Poliça's signature synthesizer and percussion-heavy sounds with more complex arrangements and a bigger, crisper, hi-fi punch.

Heidi Talbot

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 8 October

Former singer of Irish-American musical group Cherish The Ladies, Heidi Talbot is a well-known name in the folk world. She's currently touring her new LP, *Here We Go, 1, 2, 3*, for which she was joined by a host of musicians and co-writers, including Louis Abbott (Admiral Fallow), Duke Special and Boo Hewerdine.



Buzzcocks

The Copper Rooms, Coventry,
Tues 18 October

Forming, along with the Sex Pistols and the Clash, the original holy trinity of British punk, Buzzcocks are genuine, twenty-four carat punk rock royalty. Superstar groups such as REM, Nirvana and Green Day have all been happy to acknowledge the influence which the Bolton-originated band had on their music. Influential in terms of both the independent record movement and the Manchester music scene, the band were once hailed 'the Beatles of punk', their sound being described as a fusion of pop craftsmanship and rapid-fire punk energy. They stop off in Coventry as part of their 40th Anniversary World Tour.



CBSO: Symphonie fantastique

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 19 October

Norwegian classical violinist Vilde Frang (pictured) lends her sublime talent to this Nicholas Collon-conducted CBSO performance of *Symphonie fantastique*, a piece written by an opium-fuelled Hector Berlioz as a reaction to a deeply affecting romantic failure. The evening's programme also features Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* - each movement of which is dedicated to the memory of a friend lost during the Great War - and Erich Wolfgang Korngold's *Violin Concerto*, a work influenced by the music which the composer had previously written for Hollywood movies.

Tamsin Waley-Cohen In Recital

Birmingham Town Hall, Mon 3 October



In a glittering career, acclaimed violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen has performed with some of the UK's most esteemed orchestras, including the Royal Philharmonic and the London Concert Orchestra. She's well known in this neck of the woods for her work with the Stratford-based Orchestra of the Swan, with whom she's been associate artist. Tamsin performs in Birmingham this month with her regular partner, pianist Huw Watkins, presenting the following programme: Beethoven's *Violin Sonata No 5, Spring*; Elgar's *Violin Sonata in E minor*; Ravel's *Violin Sonata No 2 in G major*; and a selection from Gershwin's *Porgy And Bess* (arr. Heifetz).

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

The Bramall, Birmingham University, Sun 16 October

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra's latest concert features three works selected by its music director, Michael Lloyd. The rousing overture from Wagner's comic opera, *The Mastersingers Of Nuremberg*, is presented alongside a selection of French folk songs arranged for soprano voice by Joseph Canteloube. Bartók's masterful and nostalgic *Concerto For Orchestra* completes the programme.

The Philharmonic is joined by Dublin-born soprano Alison Roddy, whose impressive CV features a performance of Handel's *Messiah* with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.



Max Reger Festival

Various venues including Birmingham Conservatoire, Fri 14 - Tues 18 October

Although Max Reger's output was prolific during what proved to be a tragically short life - he died of a heart attack at the age of 43 - relatively few of his compositions have seen the light of day in the 21st century.

This five-day celebration of the last of the great German organ masters is taking place to mark the centenary of his death. Distinguished contributors include Thomas Trotter, Johannes Goritzki and Ulrich Walther (pictured).

The festival sees Reger's organ works being placed in the wider context of his chamber and solo music, and focuses on different aspects of his compositions.



Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet

The Barber Institute, Birmingham, Wed 19 October



It took over 100 years for the Berlin Philharmonic to establish its first permanent wind quintet. Since coming into being in 1988, during Herbert von Karajan's time as musical director of the orchestra, the quintet have cemented their position as a major player on the world stage.

They're here making their debut at the Barber with an eclectic programme for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn. The evening features Mozart's *Fantasy For A Mechanical Organ KV 594*, Kalevi Aho's *Wind Quintet No. 2*, Tomasi's *Cinq dances Profanes et Sacrées*, and Paul Taffanel's *Quintette*.

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Aneckxander

DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre,
Birmingham Hippodrome,
Fri 7 October

Cartwheels and nudity combine in this solo performance by Belgian dancer and circus artist Alexander Vantournhout.

"Aneckxander questions the way in which identity can be reduced to physical characteristics," explains Vantournhout. "I have two short legs, two short arms and a long neck, and it's these disproportions that I make use of to provide a creative answer to the reduction of identity."

The piece sees Vantournhout performing all manner of gymnastics as a means of conveying the way in which the body exposes itself to prying eyes; eyes from which it also tries to escape...



Jasmin Vardimon: Pinocchio

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 29 October



"I find unique curiosity in rediscovering this original 1883 classic tale," says Jasmin Vardimon in speaking about Carlo Collodi's famous story of Pinocchio. "The original novel allows us to critically examine the assumptions of ourselves and others about what it means to be human."

Jasmin's company here combines physical theatre and quirky characterisation with innovative technologies, text and dance to create a hugely accessible work.

"We have so many audience members telling us it's the first time they've ever seen dance, and that they didn't realise they'd enjoy it so much," says Jasmin. "You can see that they're emotionally attached or intellectually engaged and want to speak and talk about it more. And that's exactly what I always hope to do with my art. I want to make people think and ask questions; I don't want to give answers. At the end of the day, I see myself as a storyteller and communicator about things that are important to me."

Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company: Inter_rupted

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Sun 30 October

"For kathak dance to be appealing to new audiences and young people," explains Indian dance revolutionary Aditi Mangaldas, "it's essential that their minds and their pre-conceived notions of classicism are challenged."

Mangaldas' latest kathak work is an exploration of 'fragility, disintegration and renewal'. Featuring seven dancers, it perfectly exemplifies the choreographer's ongoing commitment to the task of infusing traditional dance with modern sensibilities, combining 21st century sound, rhythm and light with an art form that's existed since at least 400 BCE.

"New audiences, young audiences, need to be drawn into a world of imagination," Aditi continues, "a world which engages them and demands their immediate attention. Dance is different from a book, a painting or a piece of music in that it's intangible - it's presented and then it's over and finished with. That's why it's so important to transport young viewers and transform their minds. One of the best ways to do that is to refashion a traditional dance form like kathak by producing contemporary work which is based upon it."



Romeo And Juliet

Albany Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 20 October;
Palace Theatre, Redditch, Sat 22 October;
The Core Theatre, Solihull, Wed 26 October;
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Thurs 27
October; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 9
November; Crescent Theatre, Birmingham,
Thurs 19 January



Innovation is definitely the name of the game for Leicestershire dance company Ballet Theatre UK. The ensemble draw their inspiration from classical dance, theatre, popular culture and literature, all of which feed into their critically acclaimed productions of timeless ballets.

The company is this season joining the year-long celebrations to mark four centuries of Shakespeare's legacy by presenting this brand new version of Romeo And Juliet. Expect exquisite dancing, stunning costumes and imaginatively designed stage sets.

MICHAEL MORPURGO

talks about *Adolphus Tips*, the story of how 946 American soldiers lost their lives during World War Two...



At first glance *Adolphus Tips* seems a pretty grim story for a family audience. What made you choose it?

At first glance you're right. One of the great challenges of writing about serious subjects for young people is to find a way of telling the story without patronising, and without sentimentalising. In this case, I came across the story of a cat called Adolphus Tips who was owned by a farmer's daughter at Slapton. This cat had to be left behind when the family, along with hundreds and thousands of others, were moved from their homes and farms and villages so that the Americans could practise life-like landings from the sea on the beach at Slapton sands. The true story is that the families were gone from their houses over a year, and all that time Adolphus Tips, the family cat, was left in a live exercise area with bombs falling all around. The cat survived and was found again by the family when they came home after the D-Day landings, after all the American soldiers were gone. During these exercises, the US soldiers and local people got to know one another and to like one another, and it was during that year of exercises that Operation Tiger happened, during which German e-boats surprised the American ships and landed craft at sea and attacked them. Nine hundred-and-forty-six died, and this event was hushed up by the US and the British for a long time. So yes, a grim story, but on the other hand, a time when people from different lands and different cultures got to know one another well and when friendships were made. I concentrated my story on that family and the relationship between them and two black American GIs and their search for the missing cat, for the farmer's daughter. It was a way into telling the story, I felt, maintaining the seriousness of what happened, about the loss, but also about the love and the triumph of love over loss.



Michael Morpurgo



The story's about displaced people. Given the current situation regarding migrants and refugees, is there any significant message within Adolphus Tips that we may do well to heed in 2016?

Everyone in the story of Adolphus Tips is, for one reason or other, obliged to leave home. The Americans over here, thousands of miles from home and family. The farming families expelled from their houses and the evacuee children finding refuge in the village. So everyone in the story is in one sense a migrant, and everyone is supporting everyone else. Is there a message in that? I hope so.

Why Kneehigh?

What I love about Kneehigh is their wonderful inventiveness and the way they weave together wonderful acting and glorious music and song. And terrific dance, and a script that never puts a foot wrong.

Are the techniques and devices you use to engage a young reader different from the ones used to engage a young theatre-goer?

No difference. When you write or make a play for whatever audience, all that's important is that you mean it and that you write and act with total commitment, that you never talk down to any audience and treat them with the respect and sensitivity they deserve.

Earlier this year, Adolphus Tips was the first ever family-friendly production to be staged at the Globe, a theatre more usually associated with Shakespeare plays. What prompted the venue to choose the story for its first foray into family entertainment?

Emma Rice created the play last year for at

the Asylum at the wonderful Heligan Gardens in Cornwall, where Kneehigh put on some of their shows. It was a huge hit there, wonderfully received and universally acclaimed. Shortly afterwards, she was appointed as artistic director at the Globe, and I believe felt it important to reach out to a wider audience at that theatre, a brave and important decision. There will be many families who saw 946 at the Globe and loved the spirit and energy of it and will no doubt be back to see Shakespeare there.

For people who loved the stage version of War Horse and might be hoping that Adolphus Tips is a similar experience, in what ways will the production satisfy their desire?

In every way, but it is significantly different as a show, smaller in scale, more intimate, funnier, but like War Horse deals with serious issues. In War Horse, the puppets took centre stage and were huge. In 946, the puppets were important but not so significant in the production. They were also infinitely smaller, especially the sheep and the mice!

As with Adolphus Tips, you feature animals in a number of your stories. What do you feel they bring to your books?

I think for many children, an animal helps them go to places they would otherwise not venture into. With a dog, horse or cat as a companion, a young reader can empathise more readily, and so for a writer it does allow me to engage with subjects that might otherwise be too difficult or traumatic for younger readers. Also, I am fascinated by the relationship between animals and humans and how it affects us. How we can give and receive affection and trust.

Which of your books is your favourite?

All my books are special to me - they are all my babies if you like. Often it's the latest one that I've written that's my favourite. I'd been dreaming it for so long, living and breathing its story, so that when it finally arrives as a newly published book, smelling wonderful and fresh out of the box, there is nothing like it. However, if I was to mention some favourites, War Horse would be up there, and the prequel to War Horse - Farm Boy - and Private Peaceful. War Horse is my wife's favourite too and that means a lot.

Is there a children's book that you wish you'd written?

I wish I'd written The Iron Man, which I admire because of its epic quality, its economy of writing and the beauty of the language.

What advice would you give to a would-be writer of children's stories?

Write from the heart and get it down, without worrying too much. Settle on an idea that you care about, that you're really passionate about, then research around it and dream it out in your mind. Don't plan out the plot too much, rather let it emerge as you write. Try and live inside your story, hear and feel it all around you and become the characters.

.....

946: The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips is at Birmingham Rep from Thursday 6 until Saturday 15 October and Warwick Arts Centre from Tuesday 8 until Saturday 12 November

Dane Baptiste

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 8 October;
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 30 October

With a new sitcom hitting TV screens recently and this touring show enjoying a positive response from critics and audiences alike, it's fair to say 2016 is working out well for Dane Baptiste.

It's certainly been a whirlwind couple of years for the London-born funnyman. In 2014, he became the first ever black comedian to be nominated for the Foster's Best Newcomer Award at the Edinburgh Fringe, a success achieved with his debut solo show, *Citizen Dane*.

"This is my second show," says Baptiste of the currently touring *Reasonable Doubt*, "so essentially it's like my second album. And the pressure's cranked up because the first show did so well. I've pretty much always wanted to be a comic, so there's no alternative for me - I've got to make sure this goes well..."



Six of the best...

Kerry Godliman

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 8 October; The Glee Club, Birmingham, Fri 14 October

Comedian and actress Kerry Godliman's new touring show, *Stick Or Twist*, zeroes in on why people take certain decisions and make particular choices - especially when it comes to that potentially life-transforming (or ruining) moment when they start to think about moving house, city or country.

"I was prompted by whether I should move out of London with my family," explains Kerry, "but it opens up beyond that to why people live where they live. Some people choose it, others are forced to stay where they are or forced to move. Whether I'm happy where I live is the \$64million question."

Kerry's TV work includes the Ricky Gervais comedies *Extras*, *Life's Too Short* and *Derek*. She appeared in the latter as care home manager Hannah.



Sam Simmons

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 14 October

Junkie seagulls, cherry tomatoes on a train station platform and the heavily medicated years of Brian Wilson featured among the subjects visited by Aussie funnyman Sam Simmons when he performed his latest show, *Not A People Person*, in Edinburgh this summer.

Having last year bagged the Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Award and the Barry Award at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, great things were understandably expected at the 2016 Fringe - although the show did prompt a surprisingly mixed bag of reactions.

Sam's style of comedy is off the wall, to say the least. If you've enjoyed him before, this Midlands gig is an event not to miss; if you're a first-timer, get yourself along, take a suitably open mind with you and, in accordance with Sam's motto, embrace the chaos.



Miles Jupp

Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 29 October

Once described by the *Evening Standard* as having the distracted air of bewilderment you might expect of a man 'who'd fallen asleep in the 1950s to the sound of cricket on the village green and had only very recently woken up', Miles Jupp wears tweeds and is posh. He's also a hugely popular stand-up comedian, entertaining his audience with a style of presentation that's disarmingly polite (given which fact, it's perhaps a little surprising that one of his best chums on the circuit is the bile-spewing Frankie Boyle!). Miles is visiting the Midlands with his latest touring show, *Songs Of Freedom*. Expect ungainly attempts at being laddish and opinions on all manner of subjects, from astronauts and poo to lost stuff and other stuff.



Rich Hall

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme; Mon 3 October; The Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 4 October; William Aston Hall, Wrexham, Thurs 6 October; Theatr Hafren, Newtown, Powys, Fri 7 October; The Place, Telford, Shropshire; Thurs 13 October; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 21 October

His official biography somewhat less than modestly describes American funnyman Rich Hall as 'a comic genius', albeit a 'grouchy, deadpan' one. It also explains that he 'quit his job as a hurricane-namer for the United States meteorological service' more than two decades ago - since which time, it's fair to say, the sun has been smiling rather warmly on the hugely talented Virginian.

With much of his comedy centring on making fun of life across the pond in his homeland, Rich is perhaps best known for his creation of Otis Lee Crenshaw, a bourbon-swilling red-neck jailbird from Tennessee whose many wives have all been named Brenda.

Rich's jokes include: "A hotel mini-bar allows you to see into the future and find out what a can of Pepsi will cost in 2020".



Mark Watson

Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent, Fri 7 October; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 13 October

A regular contributor to the

Edinburgh Fringe, Mark Watson has the curious distinction of having performed stand-up shows which have lasted for a period in excess of 24 hours.

"Comedy is certainly a time-consuming element of my life," he admits, "but then while I'm out touring and on stage, I'm not having to do the far less glamorous things at home. There have certainly been times when I've been very happy to say, 'Of course I'd like to stay and help out with that plumbing crisis, but Burton awaits!'"



Zoe Lyons

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 27 October

High on confidence and blessed with a razor-sharp wit, Zoe Lyons creates funny routines based on astute observation of life's absurdities.

Her latest show, titled Little Misfit, looks back on her experiences as the 'awkward gay kid at school' whose feeling of being different was heightened by a severe bout of alopecia and, consequently, a less-than-attractive comb-over. She also harboured secret desires for Charlie's Angels - "The blonde one mostly," she admits, "but with a comb-over, who can afford to be fussy? Described by one reviewer as 'Alan Bennett on speed', Zoe's jokes include: 'The old blind fisherman liked nothing more than coming home and putting on a pair of his favourite kippers.'"



Joel Dommett

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Fri 21 October; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 29 October

"I absolutely love performing in small, intimate

spaces," says Joel Dommett, once the face of MTV - until he was sacked at the age of 27 for being 'too old'. "I'd far rather do a small gig in front of 50 people, but be doing new stuff, than do old stuff in front of 5,000 people."

Joe's extremely committed to the business of keeping his act fresh. "I'm working on material pretty much all the time," explains the one-time warm-up act for Justin Bieber whose television work includes Skins, Live In Chelsea and Impractical Jokers UK. "In fact, I try to put in something new every time I go on stage. If there's something new in there, it brightens up the whole set and gives it more energy and excitement."



Omid Djalili

talks about being a **Schmuck For A Night**



Award-winning funnyman Omid Djalili is probably one of the most subversive comedians currently doing the rounds on the UK comedy circuit. An actor as well as a comic, Omid has appeared in numerous box office blockbusters, including *Gladiator*, *The Mummy*, *Sex And The City 2* and the James Bond movie, *The World Is Not Enough*. He visits the Midlands this month with his brand new stand-up show, *Schmuck For A Night*. What's On met up with him to find out more...

Your new show's called *Schmuck For A Night*. Why *Schmuck*?

I like the word 'schmuck'. It means 'fool' or buffoon. You have to be a schmuck to do comedy in today's climate. I'm embracing the schmuck in me to take on the big issues of our day. Plus, it's a word that ends with 'uck', which can only be a good thing.

The show is mellower than your other tours. Is that fair to say?

I've become less frenetic. I used to dance every two minutes in between the stand-up. I can't even remember why. It was mentioned to me that when I danced, audiences were laughing at me, not with me. So it was either stop dancing or ban my manager from the gigs.

You touch on Brexit, ISIS and Trump in the show. It's a long tour - will the show change while you're on the road?

I think the show will change even while I'm on stage. It'll be so current sometimes that audiences won't laugh until they get home and turn on the TV.

Are you looking forward to that challenge?

Of course - although my main challenge is getting the audience in a good mood again after my support act, Boothby Graffoe, has been on. Sometimes people haven't finished booing until a few minutes into my act!

You produced a show known as the Iraq Out & Loud Project at the Edinburgh Fringe, which involved reading the Chilcot report in full, 24 hours a day. How did the idea come about?

I was on the phone to Boothby in July and said, "We should do a show at next year's Edinburgh Festival where we just read the Chilcot report 24 hours a day." He mentioned it to a promoter called Bob Slayer, rang me back and said, "There's a guy called Bob who's mad enough to do it this year." So while Bob was building a shed to stage it in, we were contacting all our friends in comedy to read it and kick the idea off. It took 285 hours and 1,444 people to read it. I read too. It was a truly one-off experience.

It was a great idea. The Edinburgh Comedy Awards judges certainly thought so, awarding it the Panel Prize.

At my age, winning an award! What a pleasant surprise - although I've found that when an idea is really good, it's no longer your idea. The idea belongs to the collaborators. In fact, the idea felt like it belonged to the comedy industry. Comics do nutty things all the time at the festival. Sometimes it's a 24-hour show, sometimes mad benefit gigs, but sometimes an idea really captures the zeitgeist. Comedians are very adept at smelling bs - by which I mean sensing when we're being fobbed off - so it was important to us that the readings were a simple, non-political, people-powered public service.

Did you find anything funny in such a serious report?

Yes. It was in the final moments of the readings, after 285 hours and 1,444 people. The very last paragraph of the Chilcot report is: 'How to read the Chilcot report!' It was a great punchline.

You were involved as executive producer on another project about similar subject

matter. The documentary We Are Many was about the 2003 protests against the war in Iraq. Are you proud of the film?

It's not a comedy, but you could easily say it's my crowning achievement so far. I've worked on the project for the last five years - countless edits, screenings, meetings, discussions. The fact that Universal Pictures bought it, that it's been so well received and hit number one on iTunes in about 10 different countries, you could say I'm very proud of it. A film promoting worldwide public opinion as a 'second superpower' has got to be doing good.

Will the film and the Chilcot report reading make a difference, do you think?

You can never quantify the impact of such things, but certainly it felt like they were important projects to be part of. In this life you're either a problem or a solution. I'd like to think these projects - which raise more questions than answers - are firmly entrenched in the solution camp. Or at least trying to be!

Your stand-up isn't particularly political or agenda-based, though...

Well, yes and no. I'm not party political, if that's what you mean. I have no party political agenda. But I'll talk about what's going on around us, trying to contribute to the discourse. In fact, that's what the show should have been called: Schmuck Talks About What's Going On Around Him, Trying To Contribute To The Discourse.

You've just been cast in The Nutcracker with Morgan Freeman and Keira Knightley. How's it going to feel, filming and then showing up at a theatre to do stand-up?

You'd think it'd be weird, but it has never fazed me. Once, in Barnet years ago, I was late, so didn't change and came straight to the theatre from the set of The Mummy at

Shepperton Studios. I walked straight on stage in my film costume. I went on stage in full 1930s Egyptian prison warden garb. I even heard an audience member say, "Well at least he's making an effort."

Away from stand-up, you have an impressive acting CV, having worked with Russell Crowe, Brad Pitt, Robert Redford, Johnny Depp, Mike Myers and Sarah Jessica Parker. Who's been the most fun to work with?

That's a tough one. I'd say - and anyone who's worked with him as an actor would agree - that Keith Richards from the Rolling Stones was probably the most extraordinary. He played the father of Captain Jack Sparrow - Johnny Depp - in Pirates Of The Caribbean 3. His character shoots and kills my character for no reason. This seemed to bother him. In fact, he shot me about 14 times, and after each take he'd come up to me and say, "Listen, you do know I don't mean this?" After every take. It was almost like a joke, but it wasn't. Bang! and he'd shuffle up and say, "Nothing personal mate, I hope you realise." Then, after another take, with the same sincerity and intensity, "It's all acting. You know that? You're not upset with me, are you?" On one occasion he shot me and just said, "Forgive them, Lord, they know not what they do." The final time he shot me, he just stood over me and mumbled, "We've all got issues. It's all about mummy, innit?" How right he was.

.....
Omid Djalili brings his Schmuck For A Night tour to Civic Hall, Wolverhampton on Sat 22 October; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa on Sat 29 October; Palace Theatre, Redditch on Fri 4 November and Huntingdon Hall, Worcester on Tues 15 November.

More dates at whatsonlive.co.uk

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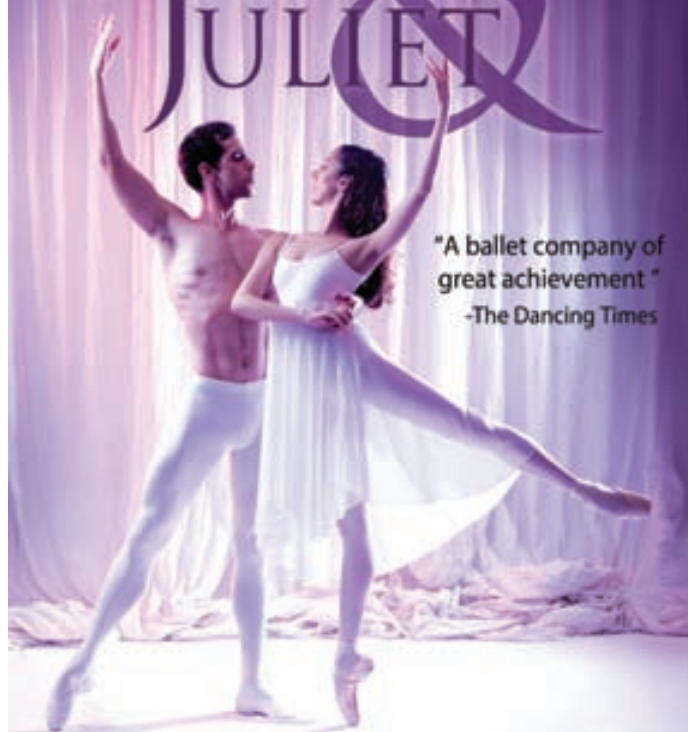
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Birmingham Comedy Festival

Tickling the ribs of Midlanders since 2001, this annual event is one of the longest-running comedy festivals in the UK. Previous contributors include Peter Kay, Lee Evans, Michael McIntyre, Lenny Henry, John Bishop, Miranda Hart and Jimmy Carr. The festival returns this month to provide another 10 days of marvellous mirth across the city, and features performances by Justin Moorhouse, Simon Munnery, Kerry Godliman, Tony Law, Jason Byrne and many more... Birmingham Comedy Festival runs from 7 to 16 October at various venues across the city.

Here are just a few of our festival favourites. For full listings visit whatsonlive.co.uk

Birmingham Comedy Festival Breaking Talent Award

The Glee Club,
Fri 7 October

Birmingham comedy legend Jasper Carrott is among the judges running the rule over a hand-picked selection of emerging acts from across the West Midlands. The competitors have been selected for their 'gag-writing skills, observational chops, deft delivery and potential to break out'.



STAND-UP

Barry Bling, Mr Velvet And The Orchestra Of Chaos

The Spotted Dog,
Digbeth, Fri 7 October

Local lads Barry Bling (on keyboards) and Mr Velvet, pictured, (on drums) are the rather small Orchestra Of Chaos, presenting an act that's often been described as 'Pulp Fiction meets Phoenix Nights'. Their Birmingham Comedy Festival appearance sees the boys performing their first ever musical odyssey, from the Swinging '60s to the 21st century.



MUSICAL ODYSSEY

Rough Works

The Glee Club,
Sun 9 October

A presentation of new material from Midlands comics, Rough Works is curated by Birmingham's very own Jo Enright. Alongside her stand-up career, Jo's also an actor, appearing in television comedy series including Phoenix Nights, I'm Alan Partridge and Life's Too Short.



STAND-UP

Neighbourhood Watch

Cherry Reds,
Tues 11 October

The official publicity for Neighbourhood Watch carries the warning that 'this show will make you laugh out loud a lot!' Described as 'an eccentric, madcap, character comedy show', the production features Brassy Brenda, the Bumsville villagers, bingo, songs and ample opportunities for audience participation.



COMIC THEATRE

LoveHard: Murdered By Murder

The Victoria,
Tues 11 October

No strangers to the Birmingham Comedy Festival, madcap double-act LoveHard make a welcome return with a 1930s-set tale of a murder-mystery party that goes horribly wrong. Expect an absorbing night of laughter-inducing mayhem.



COMIC THEATRE

Simon Munnery

The Victoria,
Tues 11 October

Simon Munnery's latest show features 'an opening to die for, seven wry observations, a tone poem, four fresh skits and two new commandments'. His bag of gags include: "Beware the smile of a waiter. It means he's pissed in your soup," and "In love, as in fighting, the winner has an eight-foot pole".



STAND-UP

Atomic Magic

The Electric Cinema,
Thurs 13 October

Thom Peterson's alter ego of The Amazing Guy isn't to be confused with your common-or-garden superhero. There's no catching of speeding bullets in his bare hands. What there is, however, is a level of mind-twisting, wow-factor magic that's seen him become a regular performer at Hollywood's world famous Magic Castle. And this being the BCF, you can expect plenty of 'uproarious comedy' too.



STAND-UP

Croft And Pearce

Old Joint Stock
Theatre,
Sat 15 October

Hannah Croft and Fiona Pearce are certainly creating a splash in the sketch-show world at the moment. Much admired at the Edinburgh Fringe, the duo last year won the BBC Audio Drama Award for Best Scripted Comedy after participating in Radio Four's Sketchorama, a success that earned them their very own show.



SKETCH SHOW

Tony Law

The Station Pub,
Suttoncoldfield,
Fri 14 October

Zany alternative comedy is Canadian funnyman Tony Law's stock-in-trade, a fact which means his audience is guaranteed an evening of truly off-the-wall, boundary-defying stand-up. Jokes include: "My kid was looking at me with doey eyes - we'd been baking that morning".



STAND-UP

Memories Are Made Of This

Million Dollar Quartet, the Vegas, West End and Broadway hit, arrives in the Midlands

The fourth of December 1956. Record producer Sam Phillips makes musical history by uniting four rock'n'roll icons at his Sun Records Studio in Memphis, Tennessee.

Inspired by an astonishing real-life event, Million Dollar Quartet brings to life on stage the legends that are Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins.

Following successful runs in Vegas, the West End and on Broadway, this smash-hit musical is visiting Malvern Theatres and Birmingham Hippodrome this month as part of a new UK tour directed by Ian Talbot. We spoke to Talbot to find out more.

"What I've tried to do with this version is make it less like a concert and more like a play with music," he says. "In previous productions on Broadway and in the West End, they've had stand mics down the front, which they'd go to every time they came to do a number. They don't do that in this version - it's more about exploring the relationships between the four singers and Sam Phillips. One of our cast members has been in the show in Vegas for four years, and our Musical Director, John Mayer, worked on it in London, and they both say that this production is entirely different."

By placing the relationships between the characters centre stage, Talbot is able to explore each one individually in greater depth, drawing out the personalities behind the public personae.

"What I've tried to cultivate is distinct personalities. Carl is kind of the moody one, Johnny is the silent one, Jerry is really

bumptious and never shuts up, and at this point in his career, Elvis is still an extremely polite, shy young man. It's almost hard to believe it when you think of all those pictures of him at the end of his career, bloated and addled with drugs and so on. But that's what he was like at this point. Sam Phillips I see as quite a grisly, tough guy who wants to control them all. He's very possessive."

It might create moments of inspiration or even genius, but to some extent, putting four megastars together in one room is bound to lead to clashes. For the most part, this is a laid-back jamming session where all of the musicians get their chance to shine, but it's certainly not without its tensions.

"I actually didn't know until I came to direct the play that Blue Suede Shoes was originally written and recorded by Carl Perkins, and that he'd already had a hit with it before Elvis did. One day, when Carl was on his way to perform the song on The Perry Como Show, he got caught in a really bad car accident. Later, while he was still lying in hospital, he was watching television and up came Elvis singing Blue Suede Shoes on The Ed Sullivan Show. Pretty much from then on, whenever Carl sang it, everybody thought he was covering Elvis. So there's quite a bit of animosity between them."

Nevertheless, if there's one thing to unite people, it's a common grievance, and even Carl and Elvis are brought together by their mutual irritation with another member of the quartet.

"I think all of them would quite like to



bump Jerry Lee Lewis on the head,” laughs Talbot. “He’s just so cocky - any opportunity, he’ll pop up and say, ‘Oh, shall I play you another song?’ or ‘I’ve done this...’ or ‘I’m gonna be the best!’ And indeed he was, but he creates quite a lot of the humour in the piece.”

Nicknamed ‘The Killer’, Lewis was once described as ‘rock & roll’s first great wild man’ and is widely acknowledged to be one of popular music’s most influential pianists. At the age of 80, he’s now the one surviving member of the quartet, and remains musically active to this day.

“Apparently he’s still as erratic as ever. I think he’s cultivated that. From what I hear, he’s quite deaf, and when he’s waiting to give a performance he just sits in a corner quietly, until somebody comes and says, ‘Okay Jerry, you’re on’. Then suddenly this miracle happens and he leaps to the floor, plays the piano and then scuffles back and sits in his corner again.”

Lewis might ruffle a few feathers in his way, but there’s deeper trouble brewing at Sun Records. As an independent producer with relatively limited resources, Sam Phillips made himself the envy of the big guns like RCA and Colombia with his talent-spotting ability. Unfortunately, his work was such a soaring success that it wasn’t long before his boys became too big for him.

“The story really revolves around how Sam Phillips built Sun Records. At this point, he’s hoping to get Johnny Cash to renew his contract, but what he doesn’t know is that both Cash and Perkins are going off to Colombia

Of course, we also know that Elvis left Sun Records too, at which point the Colonel took over his career, and he started making what many people see as pretty awful movies - a lot of people would say that he sold out.

“Sun Records is very small in comparison with RCA and Colombia, but Phillips hangs on to it like a terrier with a bone. He really did discover all these stars, and during the play he also mentions that he’s just signed up a guy called Roy Orbison, so he obviously had this great knack for spotting people. All the big record companies want to know how he does it, and of course he won’t tell them, which amuses him no end.”

In addition to the five men, there’s also a sixth, female character - Elvis’ girlfriend who, within the context of the show at least, is a singer called Dyanne.

“Dyanne has come with Elvis because she’s going to meet his parents, and my take on her is that she’s the most sensible of the lot of them. When you get these five men together, there’s an element of them all behaving like overgrown schoolboys, whereas she’s got a wise head on her shoulders. It’s her that’s able to get Sam Phillips to calm down, and when Jerry Lee tries to come on to her, she gives him this withering put-down and he immediately sits down and feels rather silly. But she’s still ‘one of the boys’ in the sense that she’s got a fantastic voice, and she sings two hit numbers, Fever and I Hear You Knocking.”

This isn’t strictly true to life. In reality, the girlfriend Elvis brought with him to the recording session was a dancer from Vegas

called Marilyn Evans.

“I think she was probably more of a showgirl than the play indicates, but she stayed very quiet and never used the publicity. There’s an iconic photograph of her sitting on the piano, but after that she just sort of disappeared.”

But if Million Dollar Quartet takes some liberties with the truth, it’s all in the name of good storytelling and creating an exhilarating live experience that has thrilled audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. It might not be the first jukebox musical of recent years, but it might just be one of the most irresistible.

“I think a lot of [the rise of jukebox musicals] is about nostalgia - I know I love Jersey Boys because that was my era. But I think when they fail is when they take all those songs and try to pin them to a story that isn’t very good. This show has a great book, but also every song that’s sung is a huge hit. There’s a great sort of mega mix at the end which is in the form of a concert, culminating in Jerry Lee Lewis doing Whole Lotta Shakin’ Goin’ On, and I defy anybody to stay in their seat by the end. Above all, this is the sort of show that you can’t help coming out of with a big smile on your face, which I think is quite a nice thing in this time we live in.”

.....

Million Dollar Quartet is at Malvern Festival Theatre from Monday 17 until Saturday 22 October, and Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday 24 until Saturday 29 October.

946: The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips

The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 6 - Sat 15 September;
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 8 - Sat 12 November

Lily Tregenza's life on a farm in Slapton is pretty idyllic, even though beyond the picturesque seaside village's boundaries the Second World War is raging. Lily's dad is away and her school is being attended by evacuee children - but other than that, her world remains untouched by the terrible conflict. Until, that is, the villagers are told to leave their homes so that the allies can use Slapton to practise their landings for D-Day. When Lily's cat finds her way beyond the 'keep out' signs and through the barbed wire, the 12-year-old girl thinks little of her own safety as she searches for her beloved pet...

Michael Morpurgo's delightful story is here presented by the ever-inventive Kneehigh theatre company, who cleverly combine music, puppetry and 'foolishness' to recount a tale that's been described by The Times as a life-affirming piece of theatre.



Method In Madness

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Thurs 20 - Friday 21 October



Any actress who accepts the role of Hamlet's Ophelia needs to be ready and able to undertake a necessary plunge into her own psyche. So when a young Hollywood starlet in Blitz-ravaged London struggles to connect with Shakespeare's enigmatic and ultimately tragic character, she turns for salvation to 'method acting', a technique that sees the actor aspire to complete emotional identification with the role they're playing. Her resulting performance is sensational - but it isn't long before the boundaries between theatre and her own reality become disturbingly blurred...

Fusing Shakespearean text and new writing with physical theatre, dance and mask/puppetry work, Method In Madness is presented against a soundtrack of haunting music by folk singer-songwriter Laura Marling.

The Rocky Horror Show

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,
Mon 10 - Sat 15 October

Hook up your fishnets, tighten your corsets and prepare to 'do The Time Warp again' - The Rocky Horror Show is returning to Birmingham.

Richard O'Brien's cult production tells the tale of the straight-laced Brad and the deliciously corruptible Janet, who arrive at the castle of alien transvestite Frank N. Furter and witness the birth of the monster, Rocky. Along the way, they take the audience through a selection of love-'em-or-loathe-'em musical numbers, including Sweet Transvestite, Damn It Janet and The Time Warp.

Great fun's a guarantee - particularly if you get into the spirit of things and attend the show dressed in your very best stockings and suspenders (as many patrons do)!

This touring production stars The Voice's Liam Tamne as Frank N. Furter, S Club 7's Paul Cattermole as Eddie/Dr Scott and comedian Steve Punt as the Narrator.



Fall Out

mac, Birmingham, Tues 11 - Wed 12 October;
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Wed 19 -
Thurs 20 October



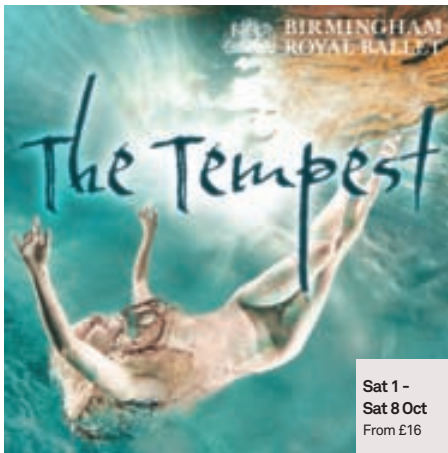
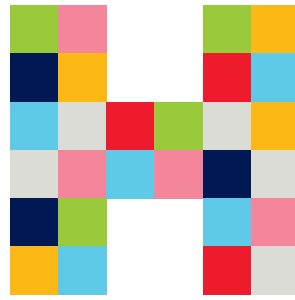
This latest work from Midlands-based Highly Sprung Performance Co has been produced in response to what the company describes as a growing concern about young people becoming disempowered - 'no longer having a voice, or control over their own future'. The story focuses on three teenagers on the roof of a nightclub, thrown together through circumstance, who're all searching for an answer to the same question - who, if anybody, cares? A young revolutionary named Jay thinks he knows how to bring about change: "Thousands of us," he says, "on the last day of exams - we're all gonna jump. They'll have to listen to us then, they'll have no choice..."

Set in empty studio spaces, Fall Out combines physical theatre performance with the experience of a club night.

"Audiences are invited to enter a nightclub," Highly Sprung explain. "Dance becomes interspersed with story, movement and dialogue, and action takes place around and above the audience. It's a self-contained, interactive, promenade experience."



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The Sound Of Music

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Tues 4 - Sat 8 October

One of the most popular family musicals of all time, Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The Sound Of Music* is best known, of course, from its mid-1960s film version starring Julie Andrews. It tells the story of the Von Trapp family's World War Two flight across the mountains of Austria, along the way featuring hit songs including *My Favourite Things*, *Do-Re-Mi*, *Climb Every Mountain* and *The Lonely Goatherd*.

This touring version of the show stars The Voice's Lucy O'Byrne as Maria and former Coronation Street actor Andrew Lancel as Captain Von Trapp.



On The Edge Of Me

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
Thurs 13 October

"Stigmas such as gender, race and class are transcended by mental health issues," explains Yolanda Mercy, who fuses storytelling, poetry, live music and audience participation in this one-woman show. Although the production focuses on the subject of mental health in the context of graduate unemployment, Yolanda is keen to point out that she hopes the piece speaks to a wide audience. "It isn't a play that's exclusively for unemployed graduates," she says. "I hope *On The Edge Of Me* doesn't just re-educate but gives people something to identify with."



A Tale Of Two Cities

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Wed 19 - Sat 22 October

Charles Dickens' name is probably best known to the wider population via all manner of Christmas Carol adaptations and the hugely successful stage musical version of *Oliver Twist*. But it's *A Tale Of Two Cities* - an epic story of love, sacrifice and redemption set during the turbulent days of the French Revolution - which the author himself con-

sidered to be his finest work.

Using the struggles of one particular family as a focal point, Dickens' explores the human drama of the revolution in all its myriad forms. And having had such rich and dramatic subject matter at his disposal, it's hardly surprising that the resulting story makes for compelling theatre.

The show's music is provided by Oscar-winning composer Rachel Portman.

Seriously Dead

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire,
Sat 15 October

Benidorm favourite Crissy Rock takes top billing in a new comedy that she co-wrote with Leah Bell, who also stars. When bank robber Albert Blunderstone returns home from abroad to attend a funeral, he runs into Betty, the former wife of his accomplice, a small-time crook called Nodger Wilson. Suddenly alert to the possibility of finally finding out what happened to his share of the loot, Albert befriends Betty and her husband, Billy Blenkinsopp. But as you might expect, the course of true crime never runs smooth...

One-time *Emmerdale* actor Frazer Hines and comedian Billy Pearce co-star.



Henceforward...

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Tues 11 - Sat 29 October

Not exactly one of Alan Ayckbourn's best known or most performed plays, *Henceforward...* is a curious offering that's set in a futuristic world devoid of human contact.

With both his family and his inspiration gone, lonely composer Jerome Watkins is a desperate man - and it's hard to imagine that his deranged android childminder is ever likely to help him regain the person who matters most to him...

Alan Ayckbourn himself directs this much-anticipated revival of the 1987 comedy. It's presented by Scarborough's Stephen Joseph Theatre, of which Ayckbourn is the long-standing artistic director.

The Hound Of The Baskervilles

Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock,
Thurs 13 - Fri 14 October

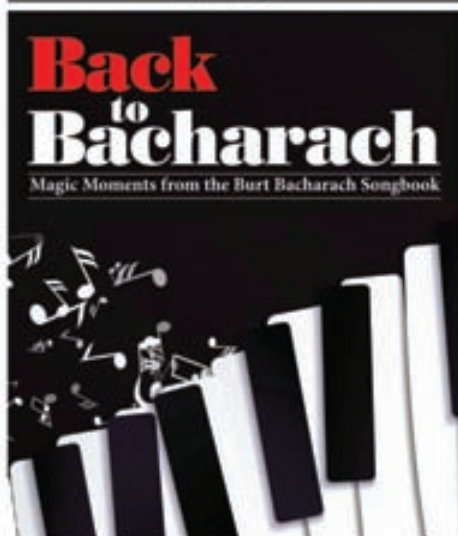
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* is one of literature's most enduring characters, *The Hound Of The Baskervilles* his most famous adventure. Yet no matter how many actors don the deerstalker and solve the mystery of the monstrous moorland beast, the story remains a popular choice for both stage and screen adaptation.

This latest version finds the ever-reliable Ambient Night Productions bringing a welcome dose of humour to the lonely wasteland of the desolate moors...

THU 27 OCT



FRI 28 OCT



SAT 29 OCT



TUE 1 - SAT 5 NOV



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THU 10 NOV



FRI 11 NOV



SAT 12 NOV



TUE 15 - SAT 19 NOV



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Theatre

Blood Brothers

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Mon 10 - Sat 22 October

Although it's effectively a class-driven 'scouse melodrama', to describe Blood Brothers as such is to greatly underestimate the emotional response it produces within its audience.

This touring production stars one-time New Seeker Lyn Paul as Mrs Johnstone, an unfortunate mother compelled to give away one of her twins. The show also features adult actors playing children, a narrator who wanders through the scenes with warnings of impending doom, a good helping of sharp social awareness to counteract the sticky sentimentality and a raft of much-loved musical numbers, including Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and the emotionally charged Tell Me It's Not True.



Paradise Of The Assassins

Belgrade Theatre,
Coventry,
Thurs 13 - Sat 15
October

The former associate artistic director of Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Anthony Clarke, is the man behind this chillingly resonant stage adaptation of a century-old tale. Clarke's company, Theatre Accord, has teamed up with Tara Arts to present the story, written by Abdul Halim Sharar in 1899. Sharar's novel focuses on a young man named Hussain who finds himself faced with the decision of a lifetime - whether to live without his beloved Zamurrud or to join her in Paradise. But choosing the latter comes with a heavy price attached - if he wishes to be reunited with her, he must first join The Assassins...

This thought-provoking reflection on the price people are willing to pay for Utopia contains scenes of a violent nature and sexual references. As such, it's not recommended for anybody under the age of 12



described by the RSC as 'A Midsummer Night's Dream meets Fight Club', and with troubled lovers, woodland scenes and mortal combat all playing a part, it's easy to see why.

When Duke Theseus of Athens is victorious in battle with King Creon of Thebes, the 'two noble kinsmen' - cousins and Thebans Palamon and Arcite - find themselves imprisoned. Looking from their window, they see a beautiful woman with whom they both fall instantly in love. In so doing, they set in motion a chain of events that will see one of them win her hand in marriage and the other lose his head...

Women's Hour

Warwick Arts Centre,
Coventry,
Tues 25 - Wed 26
October

The female-led Sh!t Theatre are quite open about the fact that their on-stage product is intentionally a little bit, er, sh!t. Their style of presentation aims to be reflective of life - and life, too, can sometimes be a little bit... well, you get the drift.

A cabaret piece of 'giddy, freewheeling silliness', Women's Hour takes the format of Radio Four's morning magazine programme of a similar name. Along the way it makes the point that dedicating 60 radio minutes per day exclusively to women hardly constitutes a prime example of equality in action...



The show was a massive success in Edinburgh this summer, where it made fun of the radio programme its name recalls - "Next: Judi Dench talking about her menstrual cycle" - and presented such concepts as the pink, gender-specific Kinder Egg, complete with the surprise 'gift' of a message informing the not-so-lucky recipient that she's fat.

Commissioned by Camden People's Theatre, the show promises an evening of imaginative sketch-based comedy that hits the funny bone far more times than it misses.

Shooting With Light

Bridge House Theatre, Warwick,
Tues 11 October

The long-neglected story of pioneering photojournalist Gerda Taro is here presented via the use of innovative staging, physicality and multimedia.

Fleeing from Germany to Paris in the early 1930s, Taro soon found herself using her camera to record the tyranny of fascism in the Spanish Civil War. But it was the fellow refugee with whom she undertook the dangerous project, a man called Robert Capa, whose name would become synonymous with compelling and provocative war photography. Taro, meanwhile, would be all but forgotten...

Presented by the highly rated Idle Motion theatre company.



The Two Noble Kinsmen

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon,
until Tues 7 February

Chaucer's Knight's Tale was Shakespeare's inspiration for this rarely performed tragicomedy, written in collaboration with John Fletcher only a couple of years before the Stratford bard's death.

This latest version of the play is being

JOHN BARROWMAN
as Dick Whittington

STEVE MCFADDEN THE KRANKIES
as King Rat

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theatre for younger audiences...



Disney On Ice: Frozen

Disney On Ice: Frozen

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
Tues 25 - Sun 30 October

Disney On Ice's latest extravaganza brings the snowy wastelands of the hugely popular movie Frozen to the Midlands this month. The company promises a production replete with 'dazzling' special effects and 'astounding' skating - not to mention, of course, the cast of ever-popular characters from the Academy Award-winning film. But wait, there's more; Mickey and Minnie are on hand to host proceedings, with the Mouse House's beloved Princesses making guest appearances too. With characters from all-time favourites like Toy Story, Finding Nemo and The Lion King also getting their skates on, this is one winter wonderland that should definitely warm the cockles of any youngster's heart.

We're Going On A Bear Hunt

Old Rep, Birmingham,
Thurs 20 - Sat 22 October

Suitable for children aged two-plus, this Little Angel Theatre adaptation of Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury's popular picture book follows the exciting adventures of a family as they head out on an intrepid quest to find a bear. Catchy songs and enchanting puppets are combined with no shortage of swishy swashy grass and oozy, squelchy mud in a show that seems certain to keep youngsters entertained.

Dan TDM Tour

Birmingham Hippodrome, Sun 23 October

Coventry-based Daniel Middleton is one of the world's most viewed YouTube creators. A professional gamer who goes by the handle The Diamond Minecart (DanTDM), he has over 12 million subscribers and has accumulated around seven billion views across his two YouTube channels. Given such massive popularity, it's hardly



The Curious Adventures Of Pinocchio

surprising to find him embarking on his first ever live tour, bringing along with him his pugs, his close friend Dr Trayaurus and lots of other characters from his children-focused Diamond Minecart gaming channel. Plenty of bums on seats at these touring shows is pretty much a guarantee and will further swell an annual income that's estimated to be somewhere between £160,000 and £1.6million. Daniel's also got a graphic novel coming out this month - DanTDM: Trayaurus And The Enchanted Crystal.

The Adventures Of Walter Lemonface

mac, Birmingham, Sun 23 October

If you're looking for something a little different for your kids to enjoy, check this out. Walter Lemonface is a fun and friendly character with a lemon for a head. An older-than-the-hills adventurer, fearless inventor, connoisseur of carrots and hunter of rhubarb ogres, he lives in a purple shed at the bottom of a waterfall. And his adventures very much depend on the suggestions called out by the youngsters in the audience. The refreshingly imaginative 154 Collective are the company behind this hit show, a winning blend of live animation, music and storytelling that's suitable for children 'aged three to 93'.

The Curious Adventures Of Pinocchio

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Fri 28 - Sat 29 October

A singular visual flair, an inventive use of props and an interactive approach to performance are the trademark features of Lyngo theatre company's productions for children. This latest show brings to life the much-loved tale of the puppet-boy whose nose grows whenever he tells a porky-pie. CBeebies' Patrick Lynch is the man pulling the strings.



Penguin! Elephant!

Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton,
Sun 2 October; Bridge House Theatre,
Warwick, Sun 16 October

"Goblin theatre company believes that imagination inspires imagination," says its founder and producer, Matt Borgatti, "so we aim to create shows that will make young people want to tell stories, be characters, make up songs and remember the experience long after the performance finishes." Goblin's currently-touring show for children aged three-plus is an energetic celebration of 'difference', telling the story of a selfish penguin that has its black-and-white world turned upside down by the arrival of a big, messy, colour-loving elephant. Food based-mess, a 'magical' balloon ride and a fish-finger rap add to the fun.

Gangsta Granny

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Wed 12 - Sun 16 October; Grand Theatre,
Wolverhampton, Wed 22 - Sun 26 March

The ever-popular Birmingham Stage Company make a welcome return with their critically acclaimed adaptation of David Walliams' best-selling book. Ben's no lover of Friday nights - and why would he be? After all, Friday night means having to stay at Granny's house, where he's not only bored senseless but also has to eat an unholy trinity of cabbage dishes - cabbage soup, cabbage pie and cabbage cake. But experiences can sometimes be deceptive, and Ben soon finds out that there's way more to his boring old Granny than he'd ever imagined...



Gangsta Granny

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BIRMINGHAM

Storms, spells & shipwrecks: Birmingham Royal Ballet present the world premiere of David Bintley's *The Tempest*

With 2016 marking one of the biggest Shakespeare milestones to date, it's little wonder that just about everyone's been getting stuck in to the 400th anniversary celebrations, particularly in the playwright's native West Midlands. Back in April, Birmingham Royal Ballet dancers Elisha Willis and Tyrone Singleton performed a preview from David Bintley's brand new Shakespeare Suite, which sets snapshots of Shakespeare's best-loved couples to a swinging Duke Ellington soundtrack. Then in July, the company revived John Cranko's lively 1969 ballet of *The Taming of the Shrew* to rave reviews

Now the BRB continues its focus on the Bard with a full season of shows inspired by some of Shakespeare's most iconic plays. Two sets of three short ballets sandwich the autumn season with a mix of new and established works by Bintley, José Limón, Frederick Ashton and Jessica Lang, but the jewel in its crown will be the world premiere of Bintley's full-length adaptation of *The Tempest*.

In some respects, it's hard to conceive a better choice to translate into a physical medium. Wild, wonderful and a little bit weird, Shakespeare's last solo play is set on an isolated island where Prospero, the former Duke of Milan, lives in banishment with his daughter, Miranda. There, he practises magic, conjuring island spirits to do his bidding, foremost among them the mysterious Ariel, whom Prospero rescues from captivity. Also under his command is the earthy island child Caliban, a "thing of darkness" born to the cruel witch Sycorax. Yet at the same time, *The Tempest's* complexity can make it an unwieldy and difficult piece to stage even as a play, let alone in other forms. Fortunately, the company's ever-inventive artistic director is well-equipped for the challenge.

"David is like a dramaturg as well as a

choreographer," says Iain Mackay, who plays the ageing magician Prospero. "He does allow us to find our own way, but he's so aware of the text and how he's going to bring out the story in dance that sometimes I think the best thing to do is just be led by him. If you want to understand how he wants it, one of the best things to do is just to watch him. He's amazing, especially with the acting: all of a sudden he just gets up and completely becomes the character – and then he does the other ones as well!"

"I think with a production like this, because the play is so complicated, probably half the people in the company have no idea what's going on for some of it!" says Jenna Roberts, who plays Miranda. "But when you're a lead character, you definitely need to know what the part entails and the emotions they're feeling. David did explain some of it – in the very first rehearsal we discussed what kind of person Miranda was, but I don't think he did that with everyone. I like to read about it, watch the play and watch movies so I can get a really good idea of them."

The storms, spells and shipwrecks that fill *The Tempest's* scenes demand bold creative choices – something at

which Bintley has always excelled. Among the more unusual aspects of this production is its extensive use of aerial choreography.

"We've done flying ballet before, but I guess that's what you'd call quite basic stuff. Generally you're up and off, like in *Aladdin* or *The Nutcracker*, whereas in this, it's very choreographic and there's the whole element of the character still moving in the way that he should," says Mackay.

"It seems difficult at first, but actually it's easier than I thought it was going to be. We have really, really good instructors," says Joseph Caley, who plays Prospero's shipwrecked nephew Ferdinand. "It's all about where you put your weight – the harness can really rub on your hips, but once you get the technique down, it's quite fun. I think for the Ariels, they have to do this sort of dive which can be quite difficult to control, just tipping your body and holding it there, whereas I do tumbling, so it's just somersaults."

"After I've done all my tumbling, we have these strange fish characters that grab on to me and start rocking me and moving me around. They've also put some bungee cord in so there's a kind of buoyancy effect to it. I'm sup-

ROYAL BALLET

posed to be drowning, basically – that's how I start," he adds.

"Just the thought of it's making me feel sick!" laughs Mackay. Fortunately for him, Prospero doesn't have to do any flying. In fact, as often as not, he's the one who's making other people fly.

In addition to the choreography, there's also the design to consider, and for this production, Bintley has assembled a stellar team, at the heart of which is award-winning War Horse designer Rae Smith.

"The designs are stunning. Hands down this is the best costume I've ever had!" says Mackay. "The first thing she showed me was a picture from a movie with Clive Owen in it, and I thought it was brilliant. I've got an amazing cloak, and there are all these incredible masks in it too. I think the guy who made them does things for Doctor Who and stuff like that. They're unbelievable!"

"I think they've tried to keep it sort of period-ish, but it's a stylised take on that," says Caley. "It can't be exact, because I've got to be able to move around and lift my arms up in it, but they're going for that look."

For most ballet dancers, starring in a world premiere would be something that happens only on an occasional basis, but at BRB, the company is accustomed to regularly taking on new creations and new challenges, keeping the dancers (quite literally) on their toes.

"It's part of what makes it good to be in this company – it's exciting, it's new and the rep's constantly changing," says Mackay. "If we did Swan Lake from now until next August we'd all be pulling our hair out, and I think so would the audiences."

"We've done quite a lot recently – we've had Cinderella and Aladdin too, but generally I guess it's not that common. We're really lucky to have David," Roberts agrees.

"The thing is, with a new production like this, we don't know how it's going to be. It's a journey for us as well. With anything else, you can go and watch YouTube videos of the dancers you love so you can see their take on it – I could go and look up how Carlos did something and wish that I could do it like him. Whereas if you've got something new that's come straight from the man at the front of the studio, you've got no idea what you're going to be doing," Mackay adds.

In this regard, the opportunities that BRB presents for young talent are almost unparalleled. Not only does being part of the company provide them with a steady position and a chance to work with one of Britain's most celebrated living choreographers, it's also a relatively small, tight-knit team where everyone gets a chance to shine on stage.

"We're not like the Royal Ballet – there's only 60 of us, and David often brings through young dancers. I've been here for 17 years now – I got my first principal role when I was 20," says Mackay. "It's a really talented company, and while David always picks whoever he thinks will be best for a role, he's got the luxury that everyone in the company is really strong. There are a lot of young members who are phenomenal, but also dancers that have been here a long time who are better than ever now."

.....
**Birmingham Royal Ballet perform
The Tempest at Birmingham Hippo-
drome from Saturday 1 until Satur-
day 8 October.**



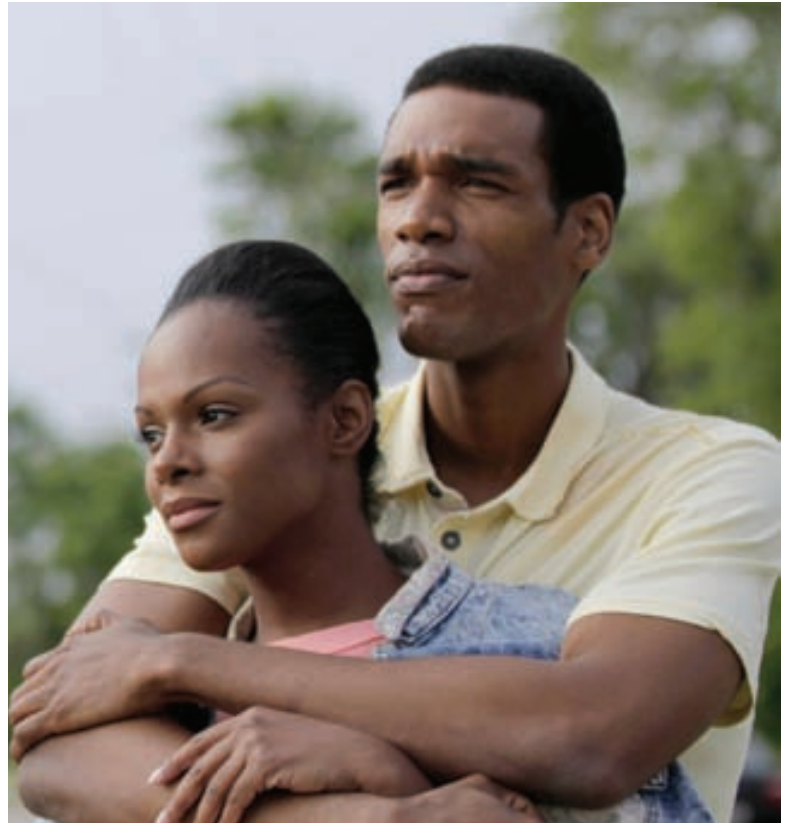
Film

Southside With You CERT 12a (84 mins)

Starring **Parker Sawyers, Tika Sumpter, Vanessa Bell Calloway** Directed by **Richard Tanne** (USA)

With just one month to go before the presidential blood-bath, this is one film that fans of the current administration will want to seek out. If you can imagine Richard Linklater's *Before Sunrise* trilogy peopled not by Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy but by Barack Obama and Michelle Robinson, then you will get the picture. It is 1989 on Chicago's Southside and the future commander in chief is working as a young law associate alongside the beautiful attorney Michelle. The young man is obviously smitten with his colleague and invites her out on a date disguised as a trip to a local community assembly. Throwing in a visit to an exhibition of Afro-Centric art and a picnic in the park, Barack has just a few hours to win the attorney's heart. If there's any justice in Hollywood, newcomer Parker Sawyers should be heading for an Oscar nomination for his performance as Obama - he not only nails the man's mannerisms but gives him a credible humanity, vulnerability and passion, to boot. The film - superbly written and directed by Richard Tanne - is also an intelligent look at what it was to be black and motivated in 1989 with no idea of what the future held.

Now showing



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Film highlights released in October...

The Girl On The Train

CERT 15 (112 mins)

Starring **Emily Blunt, Rebecca Ferguson, Haley Bennett, Justin Theroux, Luke Evans, Edgar Ramírez** Directed by **Tate Taylor** (USA)

Not to be confused with the 2009 French film of the same name, this thriller is based on the 2015 novel by Paula Hawkins. Emily Blunt plays a divorcee who, on the same train each day, fantasises about the couple just down the street from where she and her ex-husband used to live together. Then she witnesses something quite shocking...

Tate Taylor previously directed the award-winning *The Help* (2011).

Released Wed 5 October



Blood Father

CERT 18 (88 mins)

Starring **Mel Gibson, Erin Moriarty, Diego Luna, Michael Parks, William H Macy, Elisabeth Röhm** Directed by **Jean-François Richet** (France)

It all sounds rather familiar. An ex-con on parole attempts to bond with his estranged 17-year-old daughter while saving her from the clutches of some very nasty drug dealers. Although the film is technically French, it was shot in English in New Mexico.

Released Fri 7 October

War On Everyone

CERT 15 (112 mins)

Starring **Alexander Skarsgård, Michael Peña, Theo James, Tessa Thompson, Caleb Landry Jones, Paul Reiser** Directed by **John Michael McDonagh** (UK/Ireland)

The corrupt cops Terry Monroe (Skarsgård) and Bob Bolaño (Peña) don't mess around. If they can't catch their man, they'll frame him. Then they come across an adversary who's even meaner than they are. Possibly. We expect great things from this, as the director previously brought us *The Guard* and *Calvary*. Shot in New Mexico.

Released Fri 7 October



American Honey

CERT 15 (164 mins)

Starring **Sasha Lane, Shia LaBeouf, Riley Keough, Raymond Coalson, Arielle Holmes**
Directed by **Andrea Arnold (UK/USA)**

A new film from Andrea Arnold (Red Road, Fish Tank) is always worth seeking out. Here, she cast the waitress Sasha Lane as Star, a teenager from an abusive home who links up with a magazine subscription sales team. As they travel across the American Midwest, Star falls in with their hard-partying antics and brushes with petty crime... As usual with Arnold, much of the film was improvised. Winner of the Jury Prize at Cannes.

Released Fri 14 October



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Doctor Strange

CERT tbc

Starring **Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams, Benedict Wong, Mads Mikkelsen, Tilda Swinton, Michael Stuhlbarg, Benjamin Bratt**
Directed by **Scott Derrickson (USA)**

Scott Derrickson has made some pretty duff movies (The Day The Earth Stood Still, Deliver Us From Evil) but Doctor Strange is likely to change his fortunes. The film has certainly got an intriguing cast, with Benedict Cumberbatch as

Marvel Comics' Stephen Vincent Strange, the neurosurgeon-turned-sorcerer. And with Chiwetel Ejiofor and Tilda Swinton in the mix, it should certainly be more lively than Batman v Superman. Indeed, when the film's trailer was first released, it caused a storm in nerdland.

Apparently, even Benedict says he got the shakes watching it. Benedict Wong plays Wong, Doctor Strange's valet. In 3D.

Released Fri 28 October

Inferno

CERT 12a (121 mins)

Starring **Tom Hanks, Felicity Jones, Irrfan Khan, Omar Sy, Ben Foster, Sidse Babett Knudsen** Directed by **Ron Howard (USA)**

Dan Brown's Robert Langdon, Professor of Religious Iconology and Symbolology, is back in a new adventure. This time Langdon (Tom Hanks, for the third time) follows in the footsteps of Dory and Jason Bourne and wakes up with amnesia in an Italian hospital. Then, like Jason Bourne, he discovers that he is the target of a major manhunt. Luckily, our very own Felicity Jones is on hand to help out. In 3D.

Released Fri 14 October



Storks

CERT U (90 mins)

With the voices of **Andy Samberg, Katie Crown, Kelsey Grammer, Keegan-Michael Key, Jordan Peele, Jennifer Aniston** Directed by **Nicholas Stoller and Doug Sweetland (USA)**



While Amazon is revving up its drone infrastructure, this computer-animated fable has the eponymous birds delivering packages for the global internet giant Cornerstore.com. Then, when a mishap produces a real live baby, Junior (voiced by Andy Samberg) is forced to deliver the infant. Like in the old days. In 3D.

Released Fri 14 October

Queen Of Katwe

CERT PG (124 mins)

Starring **David Oyelowo, Lupita Nyong'o, Madina Nalwanga**
Directed by **Mira Nair (USA/South Africa)**

Just the presence of David Oyelowo (Selma) and the Oscar-winning Lupita Nyong'o (12 Years a Slave) alone should make this film worth seeking out. But the true-life story of Phiona Mutesi (Nalwanga), a poor girl from Uganda whose father died of Aids, sounds simply inspirational. With her family unable to afford her schooling, Phiona, aged nine, enrolled in a chess programme organised by the Sports Outreach Institute. And she turned out to be rather good at the game...

Released Fri 21 October



Jack Reacher: Never Go Back CERT tbc

Starring **Tom Cruise, Cobie Smulders, Danika Yarosh, Robert Knepper** Directed by **Edward Zwick** (USA)

In spite of the first film's disappointing box-office (for a Tom Cruise vehicle, that is), Jack Reacher is back and in trouble. Here, he's accused of a 16-year-old homicide and must clear his name and uncover a major government conspiracy. Edward Zwick previously directed Cruise in *The Last Samurai* (2003).

Released Fri 21 October



Ouija: Origin Of Evil CERT tbc

Starring **Elizabeth Reaser, Annalise Basso, Lulu Wilson, Henry Thomas, Kate Siegel** Directed by **Mike Flanagan** (USA)

Time for another horror film, and a sequel at that. Set almost 50 years prior to the events featured in *Ouija* (2014), a mother and her two daughters introduce a new scam into their séance sessions. And, lo and behold, the younger daughter finds herself possessed by a very real entity...

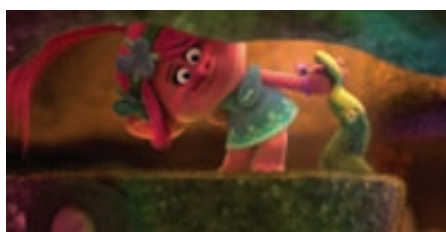
Released Fri 21 October

Trolls CERT tbc

With the voices of **Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake, Zooey Deschanel, Russell Brand, James Corden, Gwen Stefani** Directed by **Mike Mitchell** and **Walt Dohrn** (USA)

After *The Boxtrolls* of 2014 we now just have *Trolls*. This cartoon musical animates the plastic so-called 'gonk trolls' available in every good toyshop. Here, a grouchy troll called Branch (voiced and sung by Justin Timberlake) teams up with the flighty Poppy (Kendrick), princess of the Trolls, to help save the future of Troll Town. In 3D.

Released Fri 21 October



Daniel Blake

CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring **Dave Johns, Hayley Squires, Dylan McKiernan, Briana Shann** Directed by **Ken Loach** (UK/France/Belgium)



Winner of this year's Palme d'Or at Cannes, Ken Loach's latest film features Dave Johns as the titular carpenter. When Daniel Blake falls foul of heart disease, he attempts to untie the red tape that would enable him to benefit from Employment and Support Allowance. And, along the way, he befriends a single mother who is also battling the system. Typical Ken Loach fare who, amazingly, is now 80 years old.

Released Fri 21 October

Keeping Up With The Joneses CERT tbc

Starring **Jon Hamm, Zach Galifianakis, Gal Gadot, Isla Fisher, Maribeth Monroe** Directed by **Greg Mottola** (USA)



Neighbours ain't what they used to be. Suburban couple Jeff and Karen Gafney (Galifianakis, Fisher) find themselves caught up in a world of espionage when they discover that their new neighbours are secret agents. Not to be confused with *The Joneses* (2009) in which Demi Moore and David Duchovny played suburbanites who were not entirely who they said they were...

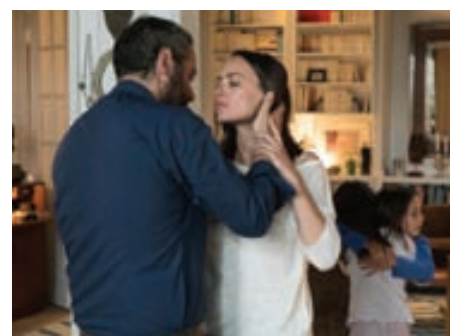
Released Fri 28 October

After Love CERT tbc

Starring **Bérénice Bejo, Cédric Kahn, Marthe Keller, Catherine Salée** Directed by **Joachim Lafosse** (Belgium/France)

It's a tricky situation. After 15 years of marriage, Boris and Marie are in the process of divorce. However, they are forced to stay in the same house - until they can resolve their differences over the property. The Belgian writer-director Joachim Lafosse previously brought us the intelligent and absorbing *Our Children* (2012), which also dealt with people from different backgrounds sharing a confined space under unusual circumstances.

Released Fri 28 October



Burn Burn Burn CERT tbc

Starring **Laura Carmichael, Chloe Pirrie, Jack Farthing, Joe Dempsie, Hannah Arterton** Directed by **Chanya Button** (UK)

Marking the directorial debut of Chanya Button, this is a bittersweet road movie in which Seph and Alex set out across Britain with a singular mission in mind. They are accompanied by the ashes of their friend Dan, who has instructed them to scatter his remains across his favourite old haunts.

Released Fri 28 October





Jeremy Deller

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Jeremy Deller, *The Battle of Orgreave (An Injury to One is an Injury to All)*, 2001.
Courtesy The Artangel Collection. Photo: Martin Jenkins

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Roy Lichtenstein, Reflections on Girl 1990.
ARTIST ROOMS Tate and National Galleries of Scotland.
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ARTIST ROOMS On Tour is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, Art Fund and the National Lottery through Creative Scotland.

Visual Arts

Roy Lichtenstein

Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
Sat 22 October - Sun 26 February

Renowned for works based on comic strips and advertising imagery coloured with his signature Benday dots, Roy Lichtenstein was one of the most radical and influential artists of the 20th century and a leading figure in the Pop Art movement. This exhibition of his art is drawn from Artist Rooms, a collection of international modern and contemporary art owned by National Galleries of Scotland and Tate on behalf of the public.

Commenting on the show, Wolverhampton councillor John Reynolds, cabinet member for City Economy, said: "This is the fourth time the art gallery has hosted an Artist Rooms exhibition, and we're delighted the Lichtenstein works, newly added to the collection, are coming here this month. They were first displayed at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh in 2015, and this will be the first opportunity for visitors to see the works at an Artist Rooms associate venue."



Roy Lichtenstein Reflections on Crash 1990. ARTIST ROOMS, Tate and National Galleries of Scotland. Lent by The Roy Lichtenstein Foundation Collection 2015

Sara Barker

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,
until Sun 27 November



The boundary between sculpture, painting and drawing is the place where Sara Barker makes her art.

The Glasgow-based artist often draws on the written word for inspiration, dipping time and again into the works of Virginia Woolf, Gertrude Stein and Doris Lessing, authors who write about their own creative space. "It's also a crutch to coax the work," Sara told The List, "to distract away from the work, to allow my mind to think more clearly about what I need to do. It's very multiple." Sara here presents existing installations as well as a new work made especially for Ikon.

Peter Kennard: Off Message

mac, Birmingham, until Mon 27 November

"The point of my work," explains Peter Kennard, "is to use easily recognisable iconic images, but to render them unacceptable; to break down the image of the all-powerful missile, in order to represent the power of the millions of people who are actually trying to break them."

The image of the Broken Missile to which Kennard refers is perhaps the artist's most famous work, a 1980 photomontage he produced for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).

Kennard is widely considered to be Britain's most important political artist, producing, for nearly half a century, images which have been deployed on placards and banners by activist groups and organisations throughout the UK. His distinctive photomontages have been published extensively in newspapers and magazines, while his collaborations with artists including Banksy offer evidence of a persisting desire to present art which is relevant and topical.

This new retrospective exhibition, produced by mac birmingham and curated by Craig Ashley, features examples of Kennard's work between 1968 and the present day.

The Human Document

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Fri 7 October - Sat 10 December



When it was created in 1937, the primary objective of the US's Farm Security Administration (FSA) was to combat Depression-era rural poverty. The agency attempted to do this by means of rural rehabilitation, farm loans and subsistence homestead programmes. For all of its good work in this regard, the FSA during this period is perhaps best known for its collection of photographs documenting rural conditions. The photos not only promoted the agency's programmes but also provided a record of the people, cultures and landscapes of rural America.

As well as presenting a selection of these famous photographs, The Human Document also explores the fascination of modern-day photographers with the FSA images - a collection created as much to awaken human emotions as to provide a historical record of a desperate period in 20th century American history.

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Events



Grand Designs Live

NEC, Birmingham, Wed 19 - Sun 23 October

The UK's leading contemporary home show makes its annual visit to Birmingham this month, with design guru Kevin McCloud once again presiding over proceedings.

Kevin hosts various events in the show's Grand Theatre, where guest speakers offer tips and advice on a variety of homebuilding issues. This year's show also features tons of inspiring ideas to help visitors create stylish interiors for their homes, state-of-the-art bathroom products, suggestions for making the most of available kitchen space, and 'must have' products for gardens and outdoor spaces.

Weston Park Horse Trials

Weston Park, Staffordshire,
Sat 18 - Sun 19 October

This annual two-day event features the Blue Chip Central North West BE80(T) Challenge and the Mitsubishi Motors Cup BE90 & BE100 Regional Finals.

Commenting on the show, internationally renowned course designer and Weston Park Horse Trials organiser Janet Plant said: "Every year we're faced with a slightly different course depending on the weather during V Festival in August, which always keeps the course interesting and different!"



Flame And Thunder

Santa Pod Raceway, Northants,
Sat 29 October



A regular on the Santa Pod calendar, the family-focused Flame And Thunder show brings together monster trucks, jet cars and drag cars for plenty of spectacular main-track action. Away from the circuit, entertainment comes courtesy of (alongside numerous other attractions) a wall of death, a funfair, helicopter pleasure flights and a kids' Halloween disco. The event is brought to a close with a 'huge' firework display and 'massive' bonfire.

Brick Live

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 October

This haven for LEGO fans boasts numerous interactive features. Attractions include brick pits - enabling visitors to showcase their inner master builder - a movie zone, a fan zone, LEGO Mincraft, a museum of LEGO history, a collection of well-known film and television characters recreated in LEGO, and race ramps on which to test custom-built cars.

New for 2016 is the LEGO League - in which teams compete to design, build and program an autonomous robot to solve a series of missions - and LEGO Mindstorms, demonstrating how to build a robot.





The Horse Of The Year Show

Genting Arena, Birmingham,
Wed 5 - Sun 9 October

A spectacle reminiscent of the traditional driving tasks asked of heavy-breed horses in a bygone era is making a welcome return to the Horse Of The Year Show.

The Musical Drive sees the jingling of the chains created by the heavy horses' majestic footing providing a harmonious accompaniment to military-style drill music. Last seen as

a display at the show in 2008, the Drive performance had previously been presented from the 1950s until 1999.

This year's Horse Of The Year Show also features international showjumping, the finals of the national Showing and Showjumping Championships, a line-up of equestrian entertainment and a performance by the West End cast of hit Abba musical Mamma Mia!

For more information, visit hoys.co.uk

Motorhome And Caravan Show

NEC, Birmingham, Tues 11 - Sun 16 October

Attracting huge crowds and filling numerous halls of the NEC, the Motorhome And Caravan Show is this year being opened by cyclist and Olympian Sir Bradley Wiggins.

The six-day event offers visitors the chance to check out all the new 2017 caravan, motorhome, holiday home, trailer tent and folding caravan models, as well as to access plenty of free help and advice on all aspects of touring.

The show also features a space in which visitors can enhance their motorhome manoeuvring skills, the opportunity to sample a virtual reality zipwire experience, and the chance to check out a wide range of accessories - many of which will be available at show-only prices.



World War One History Weekend

British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire,
Sat 1 - Sun 2 October



The British Motor Museum this month joins in with the ongoing national World War One commemorations via this family-friendly weekend. Attractions include the opportunity to check out a 'Battle Bus' on loan from London Transport Museum, and to find out from a 'tommy' in the trenches what life was like for soldiers on the Front Line. There's also the chance to visit a Field Hospital and discover how injuries sustained in battle led to the discovery of new medical techniques, including plastic surgery. Numerous 'dynamic' displays and re-enactments also take place across the weekend, presented by the Royal Warwickshire Regiment 1914-1918 Living History Group.

Birmingham Oktoberfest

Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham,
Wed 12 - Sun 16 October

Munich is coming to Birmingham this month. Well, sort of. Oktoberfest is the legendary Munich beer festival providing the inspiration behind this popular annual event, which organisers promise will be a 'truly unique' experience. Expect huge steins, Bavarian lager, German games, authentic German food and plenty of lederhosen...



Festival Of Flight Spectacular

Ragley Hall, Warwickshire,
Sat 1 - Sun 2 October

Top display pilots from around the world will be flying into the Midlands for this two-day family air show.

Featuring aerobatic displays on both days and a World War Two pyrotechnics display, the event also includes a craft fair, a small funfair for children, an on-site camping facility and a 'spectacular' fireworks and light show, illuminating the skies on the Saturday night.



Birmingham Literature Festival

Various locations across Birmingham, Thurs 6 - Sun 16 October

This annual event features appearances by a host of well-known names, this year including Hans Rosenfeldt - writer of hit Nordic noir television series *The Bridge* - and Elif Shafak, the most widely read woman writer in Turkey. The 2016 festival celebrates an impressive range of subjects - from the creativity of concrete to what makes Birmingham a great speech-making city.

Other festival highlights include an appearance by Waterstones Children's Laureate Chris Riddell and the National Poetry Day Gala. Launching the 11-day event, the gala features the announcement of the new Birmingham Poet Laureate and Young Poet Laureate.



Destination Star Trek Europe

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 7 - Sun 9 October



Birmingham is surely offering a special kind of heaven on earth for Trekkers this month. This homage to all things Star Trek beams into the city's NEC complete with interactive exhibits, two 50th anniversary parties and all manner of fascinating information about the long-running franchise's impact on science, space and technology.

The absolute highlight of the three-day event, though, must surely be the appearance of Captain James Tiberius Kirk himself, aka actor William Shatner...

'The Shat', as he's affectionately known by his legion of fans, will be taking to the stage on the Saturday night to present his hit one-man Broadway show, *Shatner's World*.

Other well-known actors from the Star Trek universe who're scheduled to appear at the event include Walter Koenig and George Takei (Mr Chekov and Mr Sulu in the original series) and Gates McFadden, Marina Sirtis and Will Wheaton (Dr Beverley Crusher, Deanna Troi and Wesley Crusher in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*).

Museums At Night

Various locations across the Midlands, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 October

This annual after-hours celebration of arts, history and heritage sees hundreds of museums and galleries across the UK staying open late and hosting special events.

Midlands highlights include a spooky trail around St John's House Museum in Warwick, code-cracking fun at Worcester's Infirmary Museum, and a line-up of ghoulish characters appearing and disappearing in the ghostly gaslight of Blists Hill Victorian Town in Shropshire.

For a full run-down on events taking place in the region, visit museumsatnight.org.uk



Dive Show

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 22 - Sun 23 October

Boasting over three hundred exhibitors - including manufacturers and retailers of diving equipment and travel agents offering dive holiday options - the Dive Show also features an unrivalled programme of guest speakers. Popular in-hall features include the Try Dive Pool, the Rebreather Pool, a photo zone and a new-product showcase.

Themed travel and dive training areas are also included.

The International Astronomy Show

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, Fri 14 - Sat 15 October

"We have a full lecture programme running both days of the show," says Martin Stirland, one of the organisers of this annual event. "We also have over 30 trade vendors from Europe and the UK selling all things astronomy - telescopes, binoculars, eye pieces, mounts, cameras, clothing. We even have meteorites and astro images available for sale - framed and ready to hang on your wall. There are also kids' booths, the purpose of which is to make space simple, and vendors selling space jewellery." Martin has been running the event with his friend, Graham Smith, since 2012. "It's very much a show organised by astronomers for astronomers," says Graham, "I've been an amateur astronomer for nearly 40 years and I've attended a lot of events, most of which are in London or near Scotland. We're proud to have created something that's far more central."

Diwali

Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, Sun 16 October

Diwali (the festival of lights) celebrations will be much in evidence across the Midlands this month, with the biggest event taking place in Handsworth, Birmingham.

Diwali is an ancient Indian festival which celebrates the triumph of good over evil. Its dates change each year in accordance with the Hindu lunar calendar. This Diwali celebration will include live performances from Punjabi artist Roshan Prince and local artist Jaz Dhami. As well as a variety of street food and Indian cuisine on offer, a fun fair and a range of family activities to enjoy.

LITTLE MONSTERS FUNFEST

24th - 30th October

Get your gory glad rags on and join us for some Halloween half term fun!

There will be: pond dipping, spooky trails, arts & crafts, bug hunting, live animals on Tuesday & Thursday and a bouncy castle on Sunday.

For more information please contact reception or visit birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk

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Tamworth Castle



Curios, spooky fun and a bonfire night to remember...

Castle Collections Weekend

'Collections of Curiosities'
Sat 24th & Sun 25th September
11.30am-4.00pm

We have a superb Museum collection and this weekend we are bringing out some of the more curious and unusual pieces gathered from around the world.

Haunted Castle

Mon 24th to Fri 28th October
11.30am-4.00pm

A week full of ghostly goings on at the spooktacular haunted Castle. Come and be challenged by the haags to play ping pong eyeballs, make spells and much more.

Children's Halloween Evening

Sat 29th October 5.00pm-8.30pm
Bring all the family, get dressed up in your spookiest costume and enjoy the ghostly goings on around the Castle. Free pumpkin lantern for all paying children.

Ghost Search

Mon 31st October 7.30pm-Midnight
Join us for a night with a difference on our ghost walk around the Medieval Castle, with vigils conducted in reputedly haunted rooms.

Bonfire Night

Sat 5th November
from 5.30pm
(Fireworks 8.00pm)

This is a chance to visit Tamworth Castle after dark, before enjoying the ever popular breathtaking firework display in the Castle grounds.

Castle by Candlelight

Sat 12th November 5.30pm-8.00pm

Walk through the period rooms and meet the Castle characters who will explore the use of light through the ages.



Tamworth
Borough Council



For more information please call 01827 709 618
www.tamworthcastle.co.uk

Tamworth Castle, The Holloway, Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 7NA

As the late American children's author Harry Behn observed in his famous poem, Halloween is the night 'when dead leaves fly like witches on switches across the sky'...

And it wasn't just broomstick-riding witches that Harry made reference to either, pointing out that 'ghoul and ghost and goblin host' were other supernatural entities that featured prominently in the All Hallows' Eve mix.

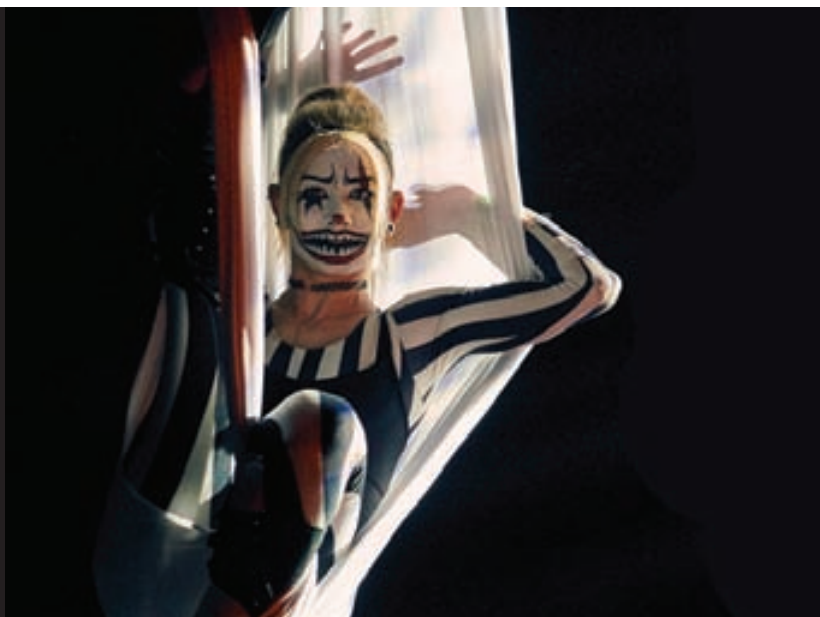
As you'd expect, there'll be no shortage of freaky and frightening other-worldly creatures and characters in evidence at Halloween happenings across the Midlands this month. Check out some of the region's eeriest events in the following few pages...

The Haunting

**The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham,
Sat 29 October**

Organisers of The Haunting are promising that their show will feature a haunted circus, a ghost train, a haunted house, black magic, voodoo witchcraft and more 'terrifying treats' than you can shake a witch's broomstick at.

More than 50 actors, acrobats and performers will ensure a real sense of the theatrical is much in evidence, while an impressive line-up of DJs is headed by Wilkinson. Attending in fancy dress is very much encouraged.



Ghostly Gaslight

**Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge,
Shropshire, Sat 29 October**

A spine-tingling but family-friendly experience awaits visitors to Ironbridge Gorge's Blists Hill Victorian Town this half-term holiday. Included among the popular venue's Halloween-related attractions is a ghost story trail, providing participants with the chance to learn about the supernatural tales that were so beloved of the God-fearing Victorians. There's also the chance to find out about curious Halloween customs of the Victorian era, and to enjoy a selection of Shropshire ghost stories and spooky scenes from Sweeney Todd, courtesy of the Prince Albert Players.



Haunted Castle

**Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire,
Mon 24 - Fri 28 October**



Castles are great settings for spooky Halloween capers, as Tamworth's proves every October. End-of-month visitors to the venue will find themselves challenged by hags to make spells and play ping pong eyeballs. Ghoulish characters making their presence felt include St Editha and the eerie executioner.

Halloween Nights

**Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,
Fri 28 - Sat 29 October**

With a well-established reputation for effectively evoking whatever atmosphere any one of its numerous themed events may require, the Black Country Living Museum is an obvious place to visit if you're looking for some hair-raising, spiningling, knee-trembling and utterly ghoulish fun this Halloween. Highlights of the event include the chance to descend into the depths of the venue's 'spooky' mine, a competition to decide who's the best-dressed ghoul in the Halloween costume parade, and performances by street entertainers, fire jugglers and magicians.



Halloween



Alton Towers Scarefest

Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire, Sat 8 - Sun 9, Sat 15 - Sun 16 and Fri 21 - Mon 31 October

Alton Towers' hugely popular Halloween attraction makes a welcome return this month. Highlights of this year's Scarefest include Altonville Mine Tours - presenting 'the chilling tale of the Skin Snatchers' - Sub-Species: The End Games - featuring a post-apocalyptic, sewer-dwelling community infested by a species from another world - and Terror Of The Towers,

in which small groups venture through the darkened corridors of a forgotten ruin and discover the terrifying secret of 'what lies within'. Featured alongside the three mazes are two equally spine-tingling scare zones. Dark Apocalypse sees quarantine procedures implemented as a deadly virus gets out of hand. Freak Show, meanwhile, dares visitors to walk among the freakishly fascinating misfits of a travelling circus sideshow.

Dudley Canal Trust

Dudley Canal Tunnel and Limestone Mines, Dudley, Fri 28 - Mon 31 October

What better way can there be to get into the Halloween spirit than by exploring Dudley Canal Trust's naturally spooky tunnels and caverns?

The Trust is running special children's boat trips lasting between 45 minutes and an hour this half-term holiday (28 to 31 October), during which youngsters will encounter some truly impressive glow-in-the-dark Halloween puppets. The boat trips are 'spooky' but not scary, and should be suitable for children over three years of age.

And the fiendish fun doesn't end there. On the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings of half-term week (25 - 27 October), families can enjoy a 45-minute heritage boat trip and get creative with a selection of Halloween-themed craft activities. Each child will get to make a witch or wizard hat, have a go at creating an animal superpower potion and add a spooktacular creation to the Trust's truly ghastly ghostly gallery.

Lockdown II - Sanatorium

Dana Prison, Shrewsbury, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 October

If you fancy scaring the living daylights out of yourself, Shrewsbury's former prison, the Dana, could well be the venue for you this Halloween. Part of a three-event story arc called Lockdown, Sanatorium presents participants with the challenge of finding the formula for a 'cure', after the country has been plunged into a post-apocalyptic nightmare. The only trouble is, the clues to the formula's whereabouts lie with the inhabitants of Sanatorium, all of whom have been driven to insanity...

This 90-minute zombie fest is followed by a short Scare Maze experience, bringing to life the origins of the Lockdown story arc.



Creepy Carnevil

Waterworld, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 27 - Fri 28 October

Waterworld is evidently intending to make a big splash this Halloween - and judging by its line-up of creepy characters, the popular Stoke-on-Trent visitor attraction has every chance of doing just that.

Killer clowns, insane ringmasters, psychotic puppet masters, supernatural puppets, zombie showgirls and crazy fortune-tellers are all present and correct in a show that's being advertised as 'not for the fainthearted'.

Halloween at Hickman Park

Hickman Park, Bilston, Sat 29 October

It's time to get out your needle and thread and start sewing - the organisers of Hickman Park's Halloween event will be on the lookout for the best-dressed ghoul, ghost or witch when they host this family-friendly get-together at the end of the month. The best costume will win a prize, with categories for under eights, under 16s and adults. Other highlights of the event include a pumpkin parade for youngsters and their families, the lighting of a dozen cauldrons prior to an 'impressive' fireworks display, and plenty of family entertainment from Signal FM breakfast show host Dicky Dodd and his team.

Red Ditch Halloween Film Festival

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Oct

Big Frog Films are the organisation behind this cinematic spookfest, promising not one but two evenings of 'the best short horror films from around the world'. The event is hosted by Redditch undertaker Weird Mortimer Balmer. Guests who dress to scare 'may be rewarded'...

Seance

Centenary Square, Birmingham,
Tues 18 - Sat 29 October

"We won't prey upon the paranoid, the bereaved, the credulous, the wide-eyed, the weak or the inbred," promise performers David Rosenberg and Glen Neath of Seance, their third collaboration, "but in return we ask that you proceed with an open mind. Seance is an *entertainment only*, and we cannot hold the medium responsible for the outcome." Having previously scored successes with projects Ring and Fiction, Rosenberg and Neath present this 15-minute 'event' (for up to 20 people) in a shipping container, in complete darkness. Expect a tingle or several in the region of your spine...

Note: Seance is recommended for ages 18-plus and, as stated above, is an entertainment only.

Spooky Science Night

Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham,
Sat 29 October

Thinktank is calling on all mad scientists, witches and wizards to come together for a spooky party featuring tricks, treats and optical illusions.

Highlight of the venue's Halloween offering is its Science Of Fright show, 'where making a monster is all a matter of choosing the right ingredients'. Visitors can also make their own family light photos and create their own sample of blood to take home, while those in fancy dress have the opportunity to be entered into a 'fantastic' prize draw.



Spookfest

Lower Drayton Farm, Nr Stafford,
Sat 22 - Sun 30 October

Award-winning horror-maze creators Twisted Attractions have designed a Halloween show especially for very young children to enjoy. SpookFest is a daytime event with a 'boo factor' designed to keep little ones happy and engaged, but without running the risk of keeping them awake at night. Highlights of the show include three 'scary' attractions, children's entertainers, a soft-play area and the chance to enjoy the popular Halloween practice of pumpkin carving.



Drayton Manor More Trick Than Treat

Drayton Manor Theme Park, Staffordshire, Sat 15 - Sun 30 Oct

Drayton Manor Park is inviting families to dust off their broomsticks and batwings and treat themselves to some ghoulish Halloween fun this month.

As well as providing 'creepy arts and crafts, spooky sweet treats and pumpkin donuts', the Staffordshire venue is also staging a fireworks spectacular, presenting 'the animals of the night' and transforming its popular Thomas Land attraction into the 'spooktacular' Island of Sodor. And if that little lot isn't enough to give you the heebie jeebies, you can always give yourself the fright of your life by trying out one of the theme park's stomach-churning white-knuckle rides!

Halloween Pokemon Go

Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham,
Sat 29 October

This Halloween-themed charity fundraiser follows on from the Pokémon Go-inspired walk that took place in July. As with the inaugural walk, donations are in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital.

"We love how the Pokéwalk team have taken the latest social media craze and ingeniously turned it into a fundraiser," says Miranda Williams, Public Fundraising Manager at Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity. "The money donated from the last Pokémon Go walk will make a massive difference to our brave young patients and their families, so we're certainly excited about this Halloween event!"

The Halloween Pokéwalk takes place in Birmingham on Saturday 29 October from 1pm, with an open-to-all, family-friendly after-party at Second Cup cafe from 5pm until midnight.

For more information about the event, visit birminghampokewalk.com

The Haunting

Heart of England Conference and Events
Centre, Coventry, Fri 28 - Sat 29 October

With an arrival cocktail, three-course carvery meal, music and party games all featuring on The Haunting's programme of entertainment, there's certainly more than a ghost of a chance that you'll head for home at the end of the night having had a thoroughly enjoyable experience. And in true Halloween spirit, the event also features a seance. Guests are invited to help a medium make contact with the restless spirit of a lady who drowned her children in the lake, burying them somewhere in the grounds before hanging herself in the boathouse. Fancy dress, by the way, is compulsory...





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AN SJM CONCERTS PRESENTATION

*Your week to week
listings guide*
October 2016

thelist



BRB's The Tempest at Birmingham Hippodrome - Sat 1 to Sat 8 October

Music I Comedy I Theatre I Dance I Film I Events I Visual Arts I and more!

What's On

Sat 1 to Sun 9 October



James Acaster at The Glee Club, Birmingham
Wed 5 October

Mon 10 to Sun 16 October



Franco B: Milk + Blood at mac, Birmingham
Thurs 13 October

Mon 17 to Sun 23 October



We're Going On A Bear Hunt at The Old Rep, Birmingham
Thurs 20 - Sat 22 September

Mon 24 to Mon 31 October



Jake Bugg at O2 Academy, Birmingham
Mon 24 October

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

Visual Arts

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

CELEBRATING GANESHA A touring exhibition across seven venues around the UK. Part of the British Museum's National Programmes, until 8 Jan

BIRMINGHAM PEOPLE AND CHANGE IN THE INNER-CITY Birmingham People explores the ways in which ordinary Brummie folk have been represented in art during the 20th and 21st centuries. Change In The Inner-City focuses on the four inner-city wards of Ladywood - Nechells, Soho, Aston and Ladywood, until Fri 31 Mar 2017

Grand Union

MITRA SABOURY: PULLING WALLS The first solo exhibition of Saboury's work to be presented outside the US. It's curated by the Birmingham-based Anneka French, until Fri 4 Nov

Ikon Gallery

ŽILVINAS KEMPINAS Exhibition comprising a number of installations representing natural phenomena such as light and the circulation of air, until Sun 27 Nov

PHILIPPINE HAMEN French design student Philippine Hamen presents a new hybrid piece of furniture inspired by David Lodge's short story, The Man Who Wouldn't Get Up (1998), until Sun 27 Nov

NEW MITTI KA GUR - CLAY HOUSE A scaled replica of a traditional Pakistani clay house, showcasing miniature clay houses made by visitors to The Auspicious Journey this summer, presented by Mahtab Hussain, Tues 25 Oct - Sun 6 Nov

The Library of Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM BIG ART PROJECT The exhibition presents the five shortlisted artists' proposals for a major new work of public art for the city of Birmingham, to be completed in 2018, until Sun 4 Dec

RBSA Gallery

NEW CHRIS SALMON ARBSA Distinctive new etchings from artist Chris Salmon, Mon 3 Oct - Sat 19 Nov

NEW GEORGE JACKSON ARBSA A selection of plinth and wall-mounted work made using glass and ceramics, Mon 10 Oct - Sat 26 Nov

NEW BAKER TO BARTLETT: THE CHANGING FACE OF RBSA PRINTMAKING This year's annual exhibition of artworks from the RBSA Collection showcases the variety of prints produced by artists throughout the Society's history, Mon 17 Oct - Sat 12 Nov

NEW PRINT PRIZE 2016 The biennial exhibition aims to champion and celebrate the exciting range of contemporary printmakers producing origi-

nal printed artworks within the UK, Wed 19 Oct - Sat 12 Nov

mac, Birmingham

NEW DIALOGUE: DÉRACINER Exhibition by the Anglo/French group Dialogue, a collaboration focused on ideas and objects associated with borders, mapping and historical references between France and England, Sat 1 Oct - Sun 27 Nov

BOM (B'ham Open Media)

NEW LIFE ECHO Justin Wigan's first solo show is a groundbreaking experiment in sound and memory. The exhibition features specially designed pods and invites the public to participate in a fascinating experiment by creating their most powerful life memory triggers, Wed 26 Oct - Sat 28 Jan

Museum of The Jewellery Quarter

COLLECTING BIRMINGHAM: STORIES THAT SHOULD BE SHARED The first in a series of four exhibitions showcasing objects collected from local people, telling their stories of life in Birmingham, until Sat 31 Dec

Other VISUAL ARTS

TIM PEAKE'S PHOTOS FROM SPACE Celebrating Tim Peake's mission to the International Space Station, the images in this exhibition show remarkable landscapes on Earth taken from space and life on board the space station, until Sat 31 Dec, Thinktank at Millennium Point, Birmingham

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIVES OF EVERYDAY PEOPLE Exhibition exploring the extraordinary lives of everyday Birmingham people, until Sat 1 July 2017, Soho House, Birmingham

NEW PRODUCTION SHOW: PROTOTYPING/DISCOVERING/ANALYSING Programme of relationships, commissions, exhibitions and events spanning two years which explodes as an active space of research, development, prototyping, manufacturing and display, Sat 1 Oct - Sat 10 Dec, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

NEW REIMAGING DONALD RODNEY A programme of exhibition and events exploring digital legacy and identity through the work of Black British artist Donald Rodney (1961 - 1998), Sat 8 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, Vivid Projects, Birmingham

NEW REMAINS Mark Murphy and John Bennett present a series of contemporary collage works in paper and wood, Fri 14 - Sat 22 Oct, A3 Project Space, Birmingham

NEW 'PATTERNS IN NATURE' Exhibition of textiles and embroidery created using traditional and contemporary techniques by the members of Solihull Embroiderer's Guild, Wed 19 - Mon 31 Oct, The Core, Solihull

Gigs

02:31 5TH BIRTHDAY Sat 1 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

DEFINITELY MIGHTBE Sat 1 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE ENGLISH BEAT Sat 1 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

STOP STOP Sat 1 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

AGAINST THE CURRENT Sat 1 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

SOULED OUT 2 FUNK Sat 1 Oct, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

THE MAGIC GANG Sat 1 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY OF THE INFANT JESUS Sat 1 Oct, Centrala Gallery & Cafe, Birmingham

ONLY MEMORIES / ECHIDNA / PARRHESIA Sat 1 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

JAMIE T Sat 1 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

POP WILL EAT ITSELF Sun 2 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

RED FANG Sun 2 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

HATFUL OF RAIN Sun 2 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

NANCY KERR AND THE SWEET VISITOR BAND Sun 2 Oct, mac, B'ham

LOYLE CARNER Sun 2 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BLADEFEST 2016 Sun 2 Oct, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

MOOSE BLOOD Mon 3 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CLARE MAGUIRE Mon 3 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARIANAS TRENCH Mon 3 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JOHNNY LLOYD Mon 3 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

ALVAREZ KINGS Mon 3 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE BIRTHDAY MASSACRE, THE RED PAINTINGS, AMONG THE ECHOES & THE DEAD BETAS Tue 4 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

WILLE & THE BANDITS Tues 4 Oct, Hare &

Hounds, Birmingham

BLUE ROSE CODE Tues 4 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

CARL SINCLAIR DUO Tues 4 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

FEEDER Tues 4 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE HUNNA Tues 4 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

SPOTTED DOG JAZZ TUESDAYS Tues 4 Oct, The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

ULTIMATE PAINTING Tues 4 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JAKE QUICKENDEN Wed 5 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BOO HEWERDINE Wed 5 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

FIREBALL - FUELLING THE FIRE TOUR Wed 5 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GABRIEL BRUCE Wed 5 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

LEE JOHN Wed 5 Oct, The Jam House, B'ham

MURA MASA Wed 5 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

THE MILE ROSES Wed 5 Oct, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

ANDY MORTON'S JAZZ BALLADS Wed 5 Oct, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

THE COMPUTERS Thurs 6 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

NANNA RADLEYS Thurs 6 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE KILLS Thurs 6 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

ERJA LYYTINEN WITH HER BAND Thurs 6 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

THE ACADEMIC Thurs 6 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

FOUR LAST SONGS Thurs 6 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JERRY WILLIAMS Thurs 6 Oct, The Sunflower

THE NEXTMEN Fri 7 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

BLOOD YOUTH Fri 7 Oct, The Asylum, B'ham

SECRET AFFAIR Fri 7 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

THIS FEELING Fri 7 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE FOOD FIGHTERZ Fri 7 Oct, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

JOHNNY FOREIGNER Fri 7

Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

HIGHER ON MAIDEN Fri 7 Oct, Route 44, B'ham

PILGRIMAGE WITH YOUNG PILGRIMS + HANS PYRA + FISTFUL OF DYNAMITE Fri 7 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

BOB MOULD Fri 7 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

THIS BURNING AGE Fri 7 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

AURORA Fri 7 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MOTOR CITY DRUM ENSEMBLE Fri 7 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE WEDDING PRESENT Sat 8 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

ANDY C Sat 8 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

FREE AT LAST Sat 8 Oct, Route 44, Birmingham

RHINO AND THE RANTERS Sat 8 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JEAN-MICHEL JARRE Sat 8 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

HARRY WOLFMAN Sat 8 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE REGULARS Sat 8 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THIS IS MADCHESTER Sat 8 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GARAGE GATHERING Sat 8 Oct, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

KATE JACKSON & THE WRONG MOVES Sat 8 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

JANE MCDONALD Sun 9 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

NELL BRYDEN Sun 9 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SORORITY NOISE Sun 9 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DUA LIPA Sun 9 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE SONGBOOK COLLECTIVE Sun 9 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: SYMPHONY OF THE GODDESSES - MASTER QUEST Sun 9 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BABEHEAVEN Sun 9 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Classical Music

ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN: MARVELLOUS MOZART Sat 1 Oct, St John's Church, Bromsgrove

SUNDAY CLASSICS Presenting a range of young stars of the future from the classical world, ranging from opera singers to violinists to harpists at the very start of their careers, Sun 2 Oct, The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by Bach (arr. M. Dupre), Bach, J. Francaix, C.H Parry & Rossini (arr. Trotter), Mon 3 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

MONDAY SHOWCASE: HANDEL, WARLOCK, MAHLER & SCHUMANN Featuring Joanne Sealey (piano) & Tommy Hill (oboe), Mon 3 Oct, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

TAMSI WALEY-COHEN IN RECITAL Featuring Huw Watkins (piano). Programme includes works by Beethoven, Elgar, Ravel & Gershwin (arr. Heifetz), Mon 3 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO: FOUR LAST SONGS Featuring Alpesh Chauhan (conductor) & Talise Trevigne (soprano). Programme includes works by Humperdinck, R. Strauss & Bruckner, Thurs 6 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE SACCONI QUARTET Featuring Freddy Kempf (piano) & Double Bass. Programme includes Elgar's Piano Quintet & Schubert's Piano Quintet in A Major 'The Trout', Fri 7 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LUNCHTIME CONCERT WITH JAMES TURNBULL & CLARE HAMMOND Programme includes works by Poulenc, Thomas Hyde, Ninfea Cruttwell-Reade, Robert Saxton & Dutilleux, Fri 7 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

BEASTDOME: EMERGENCE Featuring guest artist Denis Smalley, Fri 7 Oct, The Dome, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham University

CARDUCCI STRING QUARTET Featuring Matthew Denton and Michelle Fleming (violins) Eoin Schmidt-Martin (viola) & Emma Denton (cello). Programme includes works by

Mendelssohn Shostakovich & Beethoven, Fri 7 Oct, Royal Pump Rooms, Birmingham

CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA: GREAT BRITISH CHORAL ANTHEMS Programme includes works by Handel, Vivaldi, James MacMillan & Bach, Fri 7 Oct, Lichfield Cathedral

THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: SYMPHONY OF THE GODDESSES Sun 9 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

ELLIE TAYLOR Sat 1 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PAUL TONKINSON, PHIL NICHOL, LLOYD GRIFFITH & ALLYSON SMITH Sat 1 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL MCCAFFERY, JARLETH REGAN, GARETH RICHARDS & KANE BROWN Sat 1 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

RICH HALL Tues 4 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JAMES ACASTER Wed 5 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MANILLA ROAD COMEDY Thurs 6 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, ALISTAIR BARRIE, TOM LITTLE & JAMES MEEHAN Thurs 6 Oct, The George Hotel, Lichfield

PAUL F TAYLOR, ANDY ASKINS & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 6 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MATT FORDE Fri 7 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

PAUL F TAYLOR, ANDY ASKINS, ANDRE VINCENT, DARIUS DAVIES & GUZ KHAN Fri 7 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL BREAKING TALENT AWARD Fri 7 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

OH DEAR DIARY Fri 7 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

JOHN HEGLEY Fri 7 Oct, mac, B'ham

BARRY BLING MR VELVET AND THE ORCHESTRA OF CHAOS Fri 7 Oct, The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

SCOTT BENNETT, DANNY BEET, JON

PEARSON, COLIN HAVEY & RED RDMOND Fri 7 Oct, The New Inn, W'hampton

DAN NIGHTINGALE, THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, MARLON DAVIS & BEN BRIGG Fri 7 - Sat 8 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

RICE N PEAS N CAVIAR (SECOND HELPINGS!) Sat 8 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

PAUL F TAYLOR, ANDY ASKINS, ANDRE VINCENT & DARIUS DAVIES Sat 8 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KERRY GODLIMAN Sat 8 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SIMON MUNNERY Sat 8 Oct, mac, Birmingham

MARTIN HUBURN Sat 8 Oct, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

ROMESH RANGANATHAN Sun 9 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

PAUL RICHARDS Sun 9 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL HALF-DAYER - PART 1 Sun 9 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

ADHAM FISHER Sun 9 Oct, Six Eight Kafe, Birmingham

Theatre

DIAL M FOR MURDER Blue Orange Arts present Frederick Knott's erotic tale of betrayal, passion and murder - best known from its 1954 Alfred Hitchcock-directed film version starring Ray Milland and Grace Kelly, until Sat 1 Oct, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

DEAD SHEEP Steve Nailon and Graham Seed star in Jonathan Maitland's tale of love, honour, loyalty and revenge, which charts the story of how Mrs Thatcher, once the most powerful woman in the world, was brought down by Geoffrey Howe, her one-time friend and political soul mate, with one of the greatest speeches ever made, until Sat 1 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION Examination of desperation, injustice, friendship and hope in the claustrophobic setting of a maximum security

facility. Based on Stephen King's 1982 novella, until Sat 1 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

DISCO PIGS A furious, funny and violent dash through a lifelong friendship at the moment of its savage destruction, until Sat 1 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

LADY GREGORY One-woman play which recalls the greatest moments in the life of one of Ireland's best-known dramatists, until Sat 1 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ROMEO & JULIET Amateur staging of Shakespeare's classic tale, Fri 30 Sept - Sat 8 Oct, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

CYMBELINE Melly Still directs Shakespeare's rarely performed romance, until Sat 15 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

KING LEAR RSC Artistic Director Gregory Doran directs Antony Sher in the title role, until Sat 15 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN Based on Chaucer's The Knight's Tale, The Two Noble Kinsmen is attributed to John Fletcher and William Shakespeare and is best described as a tragicomedy exploring the intoxication and strangeness of love, until Tues 7 Feb, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE ROVER Aphra Behn's anarchic restoration comedy, rich with seduction, intrigue and danger, is set in the topsy-turvy world of the carnival, until Sat 11 Feb, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE HARBINGER OF HUSSAIN Ridhayatullah Theatre present a two-part play exploring the life and times of the seventh century CE Muslim, ibn Aqeel, who served as a selfless emissary to deliver a message of peace and unity to lands in Mesopotamia, Sat 1 Oct, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ROSA PARKS: THE HIDDEN JOURNEY Thought-provoking exploration of the civil rights movement, performed by a community cast, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Oct, mac, Birmingham

ABIGAIL'S PARTY Solihull Theatre

ARTSCOOP CENTRAL
PRESENTS



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LET THE BRAMALL ENTERTAIN YOU!



An Audience With...

Allan Lamb

Thursday
6 October, 6.30pm

Spend the evening with cricket legend, Allan Lamb, to hear about the life of one of the most successful batsmen of his generation.



Comedy

Comedy Night

Thursday
13 October, 8.00pm

We have a stellar line up of comedians in October, including radio, TV presenter and voice-over artist Tom Wigglesworth.



World Music

Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers

Thursday
20 October, 7.30pm

Experience the rhythms of thundering drums and spellbinding displays of choreography.



Popular Music

Shaun Escoffery

Friday
28 October, 7.30pm

Soul sensation Shaun Escoffery will perform his favourite hits - including Radio 2 Record of the Week "When the Love is Gone".



An Audience With...

Sir Ranulph Fiennes

Wednesday
2 November, 6.30pm

Hear more from the World's Greatest Living Explorer as he tells us about his attempt to become the first mountaineer to reach both poles and the highest mountain on every continent.

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UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Company present an amateur production of Mike Leigh's satirical comedy play, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Oct, The Core, Solihull

THE SOUND OF MUSIC Timeless family musical starring Lucy O'Byrne from BBC's The Voice and former Coronation Street actor Andrew Lancel, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SUNSET BOULEVARD Amateur production presented by Lichfield Garrick Youth Theatre, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

ONE-MAN STAR WARS TRILOGY Actor Charles Ross single-handedly plays all the characters, sings the music, flies the ships, fights the battles and condenses the plots of three films into just 60 minutes! Wed 5 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

RHUM & CLAY: 64 SQUARES A story about memory, free will and how the choices of our past define who we are in the present. Accompanied by a live jazz percussive score, Thurs 6 Oct, mac, Birmingham

THE RUBY DOLLS The acclaimed cabaret ensemble here use unique arrangements of songs by Nick Cave, Amy Winehouse and Rage Against The Machine to tell the centuries-old folk tale of Bluebeard, Thurs 6 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

HIM Actor Tim Barlow reflects on life at 80 in a new collaborative work by writer/theatre-maker Sheila Hill and photographer/videographer Hugo Glendinning, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

946: THE AMAZING STORY OF ADOLPHUS TIPS Kneehigh Theatre fuse music, puppetry and foolishness to tell Michael Morpurgo's tale of war, prejudice and love, based on his novel of the same name, Thurs 6 - Sat 15 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

SETH KRIEBEL: A HOUSE REPEATED Interactive performance-game combining the simplicity of bare-bones storytelling with the limitless possibilities of contemporary open-world computer games, Sat 8 Oct, mac, Birmingham

RICE N PEAS N CAVIAR (SECOND HELPINGS!) Character comedy taking a satirical look at the lives of ladies from the British Afro-Caribbean community and a little further afield, Sat 8 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

HUMANHOOD: ZERO New full-length work exploring the relationship between memory, space and time and choreography, lighting and sound, Sat 1 Oct, mac, Birmingham

BRB: THE TEMPEST An original new ballet in celebration of Shakespeare's 400th anniversary, Sat 1 - Sat 8 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

ANECKXANDER Choreographed by

Alexander Vantournhout & Bauke Lievens, this is a solo show in a minimal setting for one acrobatic body, a handful of carefully selected objects and three variations on a piece of piano music by Arvo Pärt, Fri 7 Oct, DanceXchange, Birmingham

WRIGGLE DANCE THEATRE: THE COLOUR OF ME Interactive dance theatre performance for young audiences, Sun 9 Oct, mac, Birmingham

Talks / Spoken Word

NICHOLAS PARSONS Join raconteur Nicholas Parsons for an evening of anecdotal entertainment based on his life and a career spent in an unpredictable and always fascinating profession, Sat 1 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

BIRMINGHAM - BRICK LANE - BANGLADESH Emerging local writers share their narratives, exploring their family lives and personal journeys, Sun 2 Oct, mac, Birmingham

QUEER'SAY A showcase of queer spoken word, to be recorded for Resonance FM's award-winning LGBT magazine show. With Jasmine Gardosi, AJ McKenna & Rosie Wilby, Fri 7 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

JOHN HEGLEY - NEW & SELECTED POTATOES Performance poet, comedian and musician John hits the road, mandolin in hand, to present meditations on subjects such as family, celery and happier Daleks, Fri 7 Oct, mac, Birmingham

IN THE SPACE WITH NIKKI TAPPER BBC radio presenter Nikki Tapper hosts an evening of live music and conversation accompanied by dance and poetry, Fri 7 Oct, mac, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

CAFÉ SOCIETY (12A) Woody Allen's 45th feature as writer-director sees Jesse Eisenberg as a young man who leaves New York for Hollywood, where he falls in love with the secretary of his uncle (Steve Carell). Bruce Willis was originally cast as the uncle, but Woody fired him on account of his prima donna behaviour. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 3, Thurs 6 - Fri 7 Oct

THE CLAN (15) In an affluent suburb of Buenos Aires in the early '80s, a seemingly normal family makes its living off kidnapping and murder. Welcome to the home of the Puccios - and the astonishing true story of Argentina's most notorious crime family. Foreign language, subtitled. mac, Birmingham, until Thurs 6 Oct

KIRIKOU & THE SORCERESS (U)

Drawing elements from West African folk tales, this is the story of a very small but very brave boy. When his village is terrorised by an evil sorceress, baby Kirikou sets off on an intrepid quest to save his friends and neighbours. With the voices of Antoinette Kellermann & Fezele Mpeka. mac, Birmingham, Sat 1 Oct

BLACK BRITAIN ON FILM A specially curated archive compilation looking at the black experience in Birmingham. Drawing on a superb collection of original 16mm film shot by ATV and Central Television from the 1960s to 1980s that's cared for by the Media Archive for Central England at the University of Lincoln. mac, Birmingham, Sat 1 Oct

BADDDDD: SONIA SANCHEZ An intimate and revealing portrait of the poet and educator Sonia Sanchez. Amongst other events it recalls her days as a Black Panther and as a leading figure in developing black studies and the black arts movement of 1960s America. mac, Birmingham, Sun 2 Oct

ALICE IN WONDERLAND (U) Lewis Carroll's beloved fantasy tale is brought to life in this Disney animated classic. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 2 Oct

THE GIRL WITH ALL THE GIFTS (15) Adapted by MR Carey from his own novel, this is another sci-fi thriller set in a post-apocalyptic dystopian future. When a fungal infection wipes out most of mankind (check your toenails!), a teacher and a scientist set out on a journey of survival - with a young teenage girl (Nanua) unlike normal human beings... Stars Gemma Arterton & Paddy Considine. mac, Birmingham, Fri 7 - Thurs 13 Oct

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Wed 5 Oct, showing at selected cinemas

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN (15)

Released from Fri 7 Oct, showing at selected cinemas

THE GREASY STRANGLER (tbc)

MY SCIENTOLOGY MOVIE (15)

WAR ON EVERYONE (15)

Events

HEAVYCON until Sun 2 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

THE NATIONAL WEDDING SHOW With over 300 wedding specialists from bridal boutiques and florists to jewellers and photographers, this event is the ultimate wedding shopping experience, until Sun 2 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

SHAKESPEARE RE-FASHIONED until Sun 2 Oct, The Bullring Shopping Centre, Birmingham

SCULPTURE TRAIL Exhibition of dramatic sculptures using a range of media, until Tues 4 Oct, The Jinney

Ring Craft Centre, Bromsgrove

FLATPACK FESTIVAL - BIRMINGHAM ON FILM until Sat 15 Oct, Various locations throughout Birmingham

THE SOOTY SHOW: SOOTY IN SPACE Sat 1 - Sun 2 Oct, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

KINGS HEATH FARMERS MARKET Sat 1 Oct, All Saints' Church, Kings Heath, Birmingham

#LOSTANDFOUND: AN EVENING WITH BRILLIANT YA TALENTS KATHRYN EVANS, EUGENE LAMBERT, PATRICE LAWRENCE, OLIVIA LEVEZ AND SUE WALLMAN A discussion of identity, loss, and the darkness inside, of self-discovery, friendship, and hope for a better tomorrow as part of the #LostandFound Book Tour, Sat 1 Oct, Waterstones - High St, Birmingham

MINIATURE - THE INTERNATIONAL DOLLS' HOUSE MODELLING SHOW Featuring workshops, old favourites and skilled exhibitors from the UK and further afield, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2016 Sat 1 Oct - Sun 16 Oct, Birmingham City Centre

WORKSHOP: HOW TO TELL A GREAT GHOST STORY Sun 2 Oct, The Custard Factory, Digbeth, Birmingham

CACTUS SHOW See a display of beautiful cacti, with experts on hand to answer your questions, Sun 2 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

RELAXED @ NEWMAN BROTHERS A factory tour designed specifically for people on the autistic spectrum and their families, Sun 2 Oct, Coffin Works, Birmingham

FLATBREAD MAKING Fun and informal baking class, Sun 2 Oct, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

"NOT A PUB" PUB QUIZ Waterstones' monthly quiz, Wed 5 Oct, Waterstones, High St, Birmingham

HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW Wed 5 - Sun 9 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

DIGBETH FIRST FRIDAY Exhibitions, late-night openings, special events, culture in unexpected spaces, live music, street food and more, Fri 7 Oct, Digbeth, Birmingham

DESTINATION STAR TREK Featuring special guests, props, sets, talks, photo shoots, autographs and more, Fri 7 - Sun 9 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

KINGS NORTON FARMERS' MARKET Sat 8 Oct, The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham

AZTEC WEEKEND Sat 8 - Sun 9 Oct, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham



SCAREFEST Sat 8 - Sun 9 Oct, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

Gigs

RYAN MCGARVEY BAND

Mon 10 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

PETULA CLARK Mon 10 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

ADY SULEIMAN Mon 10 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY Mon 10 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CHIP TAYLOR Mon 10 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

OCTOBER DRIFT Mon 10 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

OTIS GIBBS Tues 11 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

TWIN ATLANTIC Tues 11 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LEVEL 42 Tues 11 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

FRANKIE BALLARD Tues 11 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GAVIN JAMES Tues 11 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BEACH BABY Tues 11 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

LAKE KOMO & BLUE NATION & RYAN SPARROW Tues 11 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

LISA MILLS Wed 12 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

GOSPEL CENTRAL Wed 12 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

LLOYD COLE Wed 12 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE PIGEON DETECTIVES Wed 12 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

JOSIENNE CLARKE & BEN WALKER Wed 12 Oct, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

FIFTH HARMONY Wed 12 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

GREGORY PECK'S JAZZ, FUNK AND SOUL OPEN MIC NIGHT Wed 12 Oct, The Night Owl, B'ham

THE ARKYARD SESSIONS Wed 12 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KERBD OG Wed 12 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE DUKE SPIRIT + JOE GIDEON Wed 12 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

SUBROSA, DARKHER, KROC, BAYONNEBLEEDER Wed 12 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

CHRISTY MOORE WITH DECLAN SINNOTT & JIM HIGGINS Thurs 13 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

SUZANNE VEGA Thurs 13 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

ANTI-NO WHERE LEAGUE Thurs 13 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

AKALA Thurs 13 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

1-EYE REGGAE REVIEW Thurs 13 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

NINA NESBITT Thurs 13 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

WHILE & MATTHEWS Thurs 13 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

GOO GOO DOLLS Thurs 13 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MUSO JAM NIGHT Thurs 13 Oct, The Roadhouse, B'ham

DEMOB HAPPY & TIGER-CUB Thurs 13 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE Thurs 13 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BON GIOVI Fri 14 Oct, The Roadhouse, B'ham

THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD SHOW Fri 14 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

LEFTFOOT & MOSTLY JAZZ FESTIVAL Fri 14 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE JANOSKIANS Fri 14 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

KANO Fri 14 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

NICKELBACK Fri 14 Oct, Genting Arena, B'ham

ALL SAINTS Fri 14 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

STEVE 'BIG MAN' CLAYTON Fri 14 Oct, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

THE LAPELLES Fri 14 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

JONES Fri 14 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KARKOSA Fri 14 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BOSTIN' DAYS 2 FESTIVAL Fri 14 Oct - Sat 15 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

CC SMUGGLERS Fri 14

Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS & BOSSK Fri 14 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

RICHARD SMITH Fri 14 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

RISCAS, VEDA & THE COMMON SOUNDS Fri 14 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

YASHIN & VAMPIRES EVERYWHERE Fri 14 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

WILKO JOHNSON Sat 15 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

BROKEN WITT REBELS Sat 15 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

IVOR & LYN'S CLASSIC ROCK DISCO Sat 15 Oct, Route 44, Birmingham

METALHEADZ FEATURING LENZMAN, DOC SCOTT, DOM AND ROLAND & MC CONRAD Sat 15 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

TONY HADLEY Sat 15 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE RESCUE BLUES Sat 15 Oct, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

MO Sat 15 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

BABBU MAAN Sat 15 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE LOST NOTES Sat 15 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MC TRIGGA BIRTHDAY BASH Sat 15 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ENEMY FEAT. KIT DOWNES, PETTER ELDH, JAMES MADDREN Sat 15 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

SONIC BOOM SIX Sun 16 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

RAGLANS Sun 16 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

JAMIE LAWSON Sun 16 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GILMORE & ROBERTS Sun 16 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

LE BUTCHERETTES Sun 16 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DIVERSITY ROCKS Headlined by local legend and 2 Tone icon, Neville Staple and his Band, Sun 16 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Classical Music

MONDAY SHOWCASE: MOZART, BARTOK & MESSIAEN

Featuring Georgia Hughes (flute) & Joanne Sealey (piano), Mon 10 Oct, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

ELSABE RAATH (VIOLA) Featuring Robert Markham (piano). Programme includes works by Enescu, Brahms & Hinemith, Tues 11 Oct, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN Featuring Lucia Caruso (piano) & David Curtis (conductor). Programme includes works by Salieri, Mozart & Haydn, Wed 12 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

TCHAIKOVSKY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Borodin & Tchaikovsky, Fri 14 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SHAKESPEARE AND HIS

CONTEMPORARIES Featuring Joel Williams (tenor) & Duncan Appleby (piano). Programme includes works by Dowland, Purcell arr. Benjamin Britten, Britten, Parry, Robert Busiakiewicz & Quilter, Fri 14 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

REGER CENTENARY FESTIVAL: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT Members of Birmingham Conservatoire Organ Department perform works by JS Bach, Mendelssohn, Schumann & Reger, Fri 14 Oct, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

MAX REGER CENTENARY FESTIVAL Visit bcu.ac.uk for full listings, Fri 14 - Tues 18 Oct, Birmingham Conservatoire

SUNDAY CLASSICS Presenting a range of young stars of the future from the classical world, ranging from opera singers to violinists to harpists at the very start of their careers, Sun 16 Oct, The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor) & Alison Roddy (soprano). Programme includes works by Wagner, Cantaloube & Bartok, Sun 16 Oct, Bramall Music Building, Elgar Concert Hall, Birmingham University



Comedy Gigs

LOUDEEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT Mon 10 Oct, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

ROADHOUSE COMEDY NIGHT: BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FEST' SPECIAL Mon 10 Oct, The Roadhouse, B'ham

FREEWHEELERS IMPROV COMEDY NIGHT

Mon 10 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE Tues 11 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

GRIMM UP NORTH PRESENTS - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Tues 11 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

VODKA, KGB AND MIND TICKLES Tues 11 Oct, Everyman Theatre, B'ham

LOVEHARD - MURDERED BY MURDER Tues 11 Oct, The Victoria, B'ham

ROMESH RANGANATHAN Wed 12 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

ANNETTE FAGON, JOANNA NEARY, ALICE FRICK & MAUREEN YOUNGER Wed 12 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

DIRTY WHITE BOYS Wed 12 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

ALEX AND SARAH Wed 12 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

JACOB LOVICK Wed 12 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

NATHAN CATON Thurs 13 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, MICHAEL LEGG & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 13 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PATRICK MONAHAN Thurs 13 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE BIRMINGHAM COMEDIANS CHOIR Thurs 13 Oct, mac, Birmingham

ALEX HYLTON Thurs 13 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

ZOE LYONS, ED HEDGES, MERYL O'ROURKE & CHRIS PURCHASE Fri 14 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

KERRY GODLIMAN Fri 14 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham



NAOMI PAUL Fri 14 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BEST OF BRUM COMEDY SHOWCASE Fri 14 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, MICHAEL LEGG, HARRIET DYER & JOE WELLS Fri 14 - Sat 15 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RUDI LICKWOOD, JIM SMALLMAN, BARRY DODDS & ANDY ASKINS Fri 14 - Sat 15 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

LEE NELSON Sun 16 Oct, The Mockingbird, Birmingham

JASON BYRNE Sun 16 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

KANE BROWN Sun 16 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PANEL BEATERS Sun 16 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL HALF-DAYER: PART 2 Sun 16 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

formerly
The NIA
Birmingham



The RBSA logo is prominently displayed at the top of the page, rendered in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the logo is a stylized, high-contrast illustration of a village scene. The illustration features several houses with gabled roofs, some with chimneys, and a few figures walking on a path. The style is reminiscent of a woodcut or a graphic print, with a limited color palette of blues, yellows, and greys. The background of the illustration shows a hilly landscape with trees and a body of water in the distance.

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SATURDAY STANDARD £25

Theatre

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW Starring Diana Vickers as Janet, Ben Freeman as Brad, Richard Meek as Eddie/Dr Scott and Kristian Lavercombe as Riff Raff, Mon 10 - Sat 15 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's acclaimed musical, set in his native Liverpool and starring Lyn Paul in the iconic role of Mrs Johnstone, Mon 10 - Sat 22 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE - GROWING OLD DISGRACEFULLY One-woman grannie stand-up which addresses unlimited free drugs, fun funerals, grandchildren and sex at 60, Tues 11 Oct, The Core, Solihull

FALL OUT Highly Sprung Theatre explore the story of three young people whose night out leads to a journey of self-discovery that tests friendships and questions notions of identity and loyalty, Tues 11 - Wed 12 Oct, mac, Birmingham

GUYS AND DOLLS Amateur production presented by Lichfield Operatic Society, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

9 TO 5 - THE MUSICAL South Staffs Musical Theatre Company celebrates its 80th birthday with this stage version of the hit Dolly Parton movie, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA Birmingham School of Acting presents an amateur production of Shakespeare exuberant romantic comedy, Wed 12 - Sat 15 Oct, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

STARTING OUT New piece of political theatre that shines a light on the experiences of young women entering the world of work in 2016, Wed 12 - Sat 15 Oct, The REP, B'ham

MERCHANT OF VENICE Amateur production presented by Birmingham School of Acting, Wed 12 - Sat 15 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, B'ham

THE WEST END OF BROADWAY Crescendo Musical Theatre present an evening of 'musical magic', featuring music from the 1940s to the current day, Thurs 13 Oct, The Core, Solihull

FRANKO B: MILK & BLOOD An uncompromising performance that responds to personal traumas, societal ills, corrupt politics and barbaric conflict, Thurs 13 Oct, mac, B'ham



HOUSE OF ORPHANS: A BED OF SHARDS The story of Ronnie and Button, two tower-block residents whose eviction to a brand new bungalow reveals dark truths about their relationship, Fri 14 Oct, mac, Birmingham

LET'S TWIST AGAIN A full company of acclaimed artists and musicians deliver a show combining music, fun and laughter, Sun 16 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

Dance

2 FACED DANACE: RUN Triple bill choreographed by Tamsin Fitzgerald, Lenka Vagnerova and Rebecca Evans, with original music by Angus MacRae and Tomas Vychtyl, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 Oct, DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham

Talks / Spoken Word

DAVID STARKEY: THE KING IS DEAD The UK's leading constitutional historian talks about royal death and succession under the Tudors, Sat 15 Oct, Artrix

BELLOWS POETRY COLLECTIVE Showcase Birmingham's first young poetry collective touches on themes of identity, compassion and history, Sat 15 Oct, mac, Birmingham

BRUCE O'NEILL: BROMSGROVE WORDS The Director of Music at the Royal Shakespeare Company considers the importance of music in Shakespeare's plays and its influence on Stratford productions, Sun 16 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

BRIDGET JONES'S BABY (15) Twelve years on and Bridget is still composing her diaries. And this time she really does have something to write about: her bump. Scripted by the redoubtable triumvirate of Emma Thompson, Helen Fielding and Dan Mazer, the romcom sees Bridget battling with her 40s but settling down to a contented routine with her reliable circle of friends. And then a dashing American enters her life... Starring Renée Zellweger & Colin Firth. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 Oct; mac, Birmingham, Fri 14 - Tues 18 Oct

LOSING GROUND Losing Ground by Kathleen Collins, one of the first African-American women to direct a feature film, will be a revelation to audiences denied the opportunity to



2Faced Dance: Run - DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham

see it on its completion in 1982. A picture of a romance at the crossroads of a New York summer, it's also a story of black lives, presented with a sensitivity rarely seen even today. mac, Birmingham, Fri 14 Oct

GOSTA GREEN REVISITED (PG) When BBC Birmingham outgrew its first base on Broad Street, television production moved to the old Delicia Cinema on Gosta Green. This afternoon's screening is a rare chance to sample a selection of Gosta Green's output, introduced by TV historian Lez Cooke. mac, Birmingham, Sat 15 Oct

LAUREL & HARDY ALL AT SEA (PG) Three classic films with a nautical theme from one of the greatest double-act of all time, Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy... mac, Birmingham, Sat 15 Oct

EMPIRE ROAD (PG) Empire Road was the first serious attempt at a long-running drama on British television addressing Britain's growing multi-racial society. This screening offers a rare opportunity to see two episodes of the show on the big screen. Followed by Q&A with actress Corinne Skinner-Carter. mac, Birmingham, Sat 15 Oct

SWEET BEAN (PG) Sweet Bean is the name given to a delicious red paste in the middle of the dorayaki pancakes that Sentaro sells from his bakery to a small but loyal clientele. He's a remote man, for whom things change when the eccentric, 76-year-old Tokue responds to his ad for an assistant. Stars Kirin Kiki & Masatoshi Nagase. Foreign language, subtitled. mac, Birmingham, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Oct

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 14 Oct, showing at selected cinemas

AMERICAN HONEY (15)

INFERNO (tbc)

KATE PLAYS CHRISTINE (tbc)

STORKS (U)

Events

RICK STEIN SIGNING Rick's in store to sign copies of his new book, Long Weekends, Tues 11 Oct, Waterstones, High St, Birmingham

THE MOTORHOME AND CARAVAN SHOW Tues 11 - Sun 16 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

GREGORY LEADBETTER: LAUNCH OF THE FETCH Wed 12 Oct, Waterstones - High St, Birmingham

OKTOBERFEST Wed 12 - Sun 16 Oct, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

GEORGE CADBURY - HERITAGE TALK Bournville Village Trust Chairman Duncan Cadbury gives a talk on businessman and philanthropist George Cadbury, focusing on his contribution to the creation of a flourishing community in Bournville, Thurs 13 Oct, Selly Manor, B'ham

REVEREND RICHARD COLES SIGNING The Reverend Richard Coles signs copies of his new book, Bringing In The Sheaves, Thurs 13 Oct, Waterstones, High St, Birmingham

BOOK TO THE FUTURE University of Birmingham's annual festival of the written and spoken word, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 Oct, The University of Birmingham

THE VAPER EXPO Europe's biggest and best vape convention, attracting exhibitors worldwide, Fri 14 - Sat 15 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK Sat 15 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

CADBURY CHARACTER WEEKEND Sat 15 Oct - Sun 16 Oct, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

APPLE WEEKEND Sat 15 - Sun 16 Oct, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

MIDLANDS BEAD FAIR Sun 16 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL RECORD FAIR Sun 16 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME FILM SCREENING Imperial War Museum's UNESCO-listed film screening, Sun 16 Oct, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

Gigs

JUSTIN BIEBER Mon 17 Oct - Tues 18 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

STEVE MASON Mon 17 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE HYENA KILL Mon 17 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

BACKBEAT SOUND SYSTEM Mon 17 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE CHORÔES Mon 17 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

MIKE FLETCHER QUARTET Tues 18 Oct, mac, Birmingham

BEN MARKLAND'S ORTET Tues 18 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE TUBES Tues 18 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

INME, AARON BUCHANAN & THE CULT CLASSICS & EMPIRE Tues 18 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

WE ARE SCIENTISTS Tues 18 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

SPRING KING Tues 18 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JAY BRANNAN Tues 18 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SKIT RTKAL + CHINKY PIFF + OSCAR #WORLDPEACE + RIOS MOB Tues 18 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

BARB WIRE DOLLS Tues 18 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SPOTTED DOG JAZZ TUESDAYS Tues 18 Oct, The Spotted Dog, Birmingham

AMBER ARCADES Tues 18 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HOMELANDS Tues 18 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III Tues 18 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

THE TRAVELLING BAND Wed 19 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

STEEL PANTHER Wed 19 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

DROWNERS + SCARLET

RASCAL + CRITICS Wed 19 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE TOM HILL TRIO Wed 19 Oct, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT Wed 19 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

TOM WALKER TRIO Wed 19 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

BILLY TALENT Wed 19 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

GREGORY PECK'S JAZZ, FUNK AND SOUL OPEN MIC NIGHT Wed 19 Oct, The Night Owl, Birmingham

TRAP THEM + OKKULTOKRATI + VENOM PRISON Wed 19 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

BEILINDA O'HOOLEY & HEIDI TIDDOW Wed 19 Oct, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

AUSTIN LUCAS & DREAMING SPIRES Wed 19 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

AUGUSTINES Thurs 20 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE CRAZY WORLD OF ARTHUR BROWN Thurs 20 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

KEYWEST Thurs 20 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE SUNSHINE UNDERGROUND Thurs 20 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

POLICA Thurs 20 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FIELD STUDIES Thurs 20 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

DUNE RATS Thurs 20 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

SUPER HANS Thurs 20 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HEAVEN 17 Fri 21 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

ROCKET Fri 21 Oct - Sat 22 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

LOVELY THE BRAVE Fri 21 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

A VISION OF ELVIS Fri 21 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

AQUILLO Fri 21 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MICHAEL KIWANUKA Fri

21 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BAD COMPANY Fri 21 Oct, Genting Arena, Birmingham

BROTHERS OF THE MOMENT Fri 21 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TOM SPEIGHT Fri 21 Oct, Ort Cafe, Birmingham

THE FREESTYLERS Fri 21 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ROBERT CRAIG OULTON Fri 21 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ALL TVVINS Fri 21 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE LOUNGE KITTENS Fri 21 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

BOOTLEG BLONDIE Sat 22 Oct, The Roadhouse, B'ham

THE CHRISTIANS 30TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR Sat 22 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ANTARCTIC MONKEYS Sat 22 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SI CRANSTOUN Sat 22 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

GORGON CITY Sat 22 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

HIDDEN CHARMS & THE VRYLL SOCIETY + THE LIZARDS Sat 22 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

MAXIMUM RNB WITH THE MANFREDS Sat 22 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

MAX GRAEF Sat 22 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KIKO BUN Sun 23 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

SIXTIES GOLD THE SEARCHERS, BRIAN POOLE & THE TREMELOES, P.J. PROBY & GARY PUCKETT Sun 23 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE ROOM Sun 23 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

BIRDY Sun 23 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BROKEN TEETH Sun 23 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

TOM WOODMAN BAND Sun 23 Oct, Lichfield Guildhall

FLASH OF THE BLADE Sun 23 Oct, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

BLACK FOXES + BIG

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER REMEMBERING MAX Reger Mon 17 Oct, B'ham Town Hall

CBSO SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE Featuring Nicholas Collon (conductor) & Vilde Frang (violin). Programme includes works by Ravel, Couperin, Korngold & Berlioz, Wed 19 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BERLIN PHILHARMONIC WIND QUINTET Programme includes works by Mozart (arr. Hasel), Kalevi Aho, Tomasi & Paul Taffanel, Wed 19 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

LA VOCE Thurs 20 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

ELGAR'S STRING QUARTET Programme includes works by Bax & Elgar, Thurs 20 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

FRONTIERS TRIO Featuring David Le Page (violin), Mark Ashford (guitar) & Nick Stringfellow (cello). Programme includes works by Vivaldi, Paganini, Monti & Piazzola, Fri 21 Oct, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

RICHARD JENKINSON & DAVID LE PAGE Programme includes works by Kodaly & Ghys/Servais, Fri 21 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

LA BOHEME Ellen Kent present a brand new production of Puccini's tragic tale, Sat 22 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

CBSO: THE SPIRIT OF ENGLAND Programme includes works by Ravel, Elgar & Berlioz, Sat 22 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE SPIRIT OF ENGLAND Programme includes works by Ravel, Elgar & Berlioz, Sat 22 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

Theatre

DOMESTICA Highly anticipated new work from Sleepwalk Collective which asks what we might cling to and what we might love in an ever-louder, ever-accelerating new century the we already seem to be leaving, Mon 17 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

THE EXORCISM Supernatural thriller presented by the Lichfield Players, Tues 18 Oct - Sat 22 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

SEANCE Tues 18 - Sat 29 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

LIVING WITH LUKE Critically acclaimed play about a father coping with his son's autism, Wed 19 Oct, The Core, Solihull

A TALE OF TWO CITIES The Touring Consortium Theatre Company presents its version of Charles Dickens' French Revolution-set story of love, sacrifice and redemption, Wed 19 Oct - Sat 22 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

CYMBELINE Birmingham School of Acting present Shakespeare's little-performed tale of adultery, betrayal and banishment, Wed 19 - Sat 22 Oct, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT Little Angel Theatre bring Michael Rosen's much-loved children's book to life in a new puppetry production featuring music and lyrics by renowned singer-songwriter Barb Jungr, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 Oct, The Old Rep, Birmingham



METHOD IN MADNESS Fusion of Shakespearean text and new writing with physical theatre, dance and mask/puppetry work, Thurs 20 - Fri 21 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MONOLOGUESLAM UK Check out the brightest new acting talent and see actors go head-to-head to be crowned the winner of their respective rounds, Fri 21 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

CABARET XXL - EAST END CABARET Featuring alternative, award-winning, fifth-mongering musical comedy duo Bernie & Vic, Fri 21 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

ROMEO & JULIET The Pantaloon presents Shakespeare's tale of ill-fated love with a twist. Featuring live music, audience interaction and, of course, the bit with the balcony, Fri 21 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LOST DOG: PARADISE LOST (LIES UNOPENED BESIDE ME) One-man staging fusing theatre, comedy and movement to retell Milton's epic play in just 75 minutes, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Oct, mac, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Mon 17 Oct The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

HAL CRUTTENDEN Wed 19 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ELIS JAMES & JOHN ROBINS EXPERIENCE Wed 19 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

JOJO SMITH, MIKE WILMOT & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 20 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

RH COMEDY PRESENTS HOSTED BY LAURA MONMOTH Thurs 20 Oct, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

TOM ALLEN, SUZI RUFFELL Fri 21 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

JOEL DOMMETT Fri 21 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOJO SMITH, MIKE WILMOT, JONNIE PRICE & MATT PRICE Fri 21 - Sat 22 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

STEVE ROYAL, DANNY MCLOUGHLIN, STEPHEN BAILEY & TUDUR OWEN Fri 21 - Sat 22 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT Sat 22 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Monday 17 - Wednesday 23 October

THE EXORCIST Unleashed for the first time in a uniquely theatrical experience, Fri 21 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

LOVERS ROCK MONOLOGUES Janet Kay, Carroll Thompson and Victor Romero Evans fuse timeless music and theatrical storytelling to present an account of the Lovers Rock lifestyle, Sat 22 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

THE MAGNETIC DIARIES Contemporary exploration of one woman's depression, Sat 22 Oct, mac, Birmingham

THE COLOURS OF KENNY ROACH A warm, funny and deeply moving drama about creativity, the nature of the artist and the self-destructive impulse of addiction, Sat 22 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



JANAK DULARI SITA Subrang Arts present a dramatic staging of India's timeless epic, told through musical storytelling, choreography and dance, Sat 22 Oct, The Crescent

Theatre, Birmingham

DON'T DRIBBLE ON THE DRAGON The People's Theatre Company present a musical adventure about growing up and the importance of family, Sat 22 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SING-A-LONG-A GREASE Interactive screening of the classic film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, Sun 23 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

DAN TDM ON TOUR One of the world's biggest YouTubers takes to the road with his pugs, Dr Trayaurus and lots of other friends, Sun 23 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE ADVENTURES OF WALTER LEMON-FACE 154 Collective present a mix of live animation, music and storytelling for children aged three-plus, Sun 23 Oct, mac, Birmingham

Dance

FAGIN'S TWIST Avant Garde Dance Company shed new light on Dickens' Oliver Twist, Thurs 20 - Fri 21 Oct, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome



Fagin's Twist - The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

Talks / Spoken Word

CHRIS PACKHAM: TADPOLES NOT INCLUDED The popular presenter of Springwatch and The Really Wild Show talks about his encounters with large hungry carnivores, his close shaves with extinction and his views

on conservation, Mon 17 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

HELL OR HIGH WATER (15) Chris Pine has already been through hell and

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high water this year (in the water-logged Finest Hours), but here the title proves to be a little more metaphorical. He plays a Texan farmer whose business is facing foreclosure, so he and his brother, an ex-con, set about acquiring some major cash by somewhat unorthodox means... mac, Birmingham, Mon 17 - Thurs 20 Oct

TICKLED (15) Journalist David Farrier stumbles upon a mysterious tickling competition online. As he delves deeper, he comes up against fierce resistance - but that doesn't stop him getting to the bottom of a story stranger than fiction. mac, B'ham, Wed 19 Oct

PRIMARY COLOURS (15) John Travolta leads an all-star cast (including Oscar-winners Emma Thompson, Kathy Bates and Billy Bob Thornton) on a wild race to the presidency in this savagely funny comedy. mac, Birmingham, Thurs 20 Oct

THE INFILTRATOR (18) Based on the autobiography of US Customs agent Robert Mazur (Cranston), this is the story of an undercover operation in which Mazur pretended to be a corrupt businessman. His aim was to expose a Colombian money-laundering drug cartel run by none other than Pablo Escobar. Stars Bryan Cranston & Diane Kruger. mac,

Birmingham, Fri 21 - Wed 26 Oct

THE BLUE ROOM (15) An adaptation of George Simenon's taut 1964 novel of the same name. It follows the fortunes of Julien, a modestly successful man in provincial France running his own agricultural business, living in a designer house with a young family, who finds himself in the depths of an affair. Stars Mathieu Amalric, Léa Drucker. mac, Birmingham, Fri 21 - Mon 24 Oct

JIMI: ALL IS BY MY SIDE (15) Outkast's André Benjamin stars as Jimi Hendrix in this revealing biopic from Academy Award-winning writer-director John Ridley (12 Years A Slave). The film covers a year in Hendrix's life, from 1966 to '67; from being an unknown back-up guitarist playing New York's Cheetah Club to making his mark on London's music scene, up until his Monterey Pop triumph. Also stars Imogen Poots. mac, Birmingham, Sun 23 Oct

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 21 Oct, showing at selected cinemas

I, DANIEL BLAKE (15)

IN PURSUIT OF SILENCE (tbc)

JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK (tbc)

OUIJA: ORIGIN OF EVIL (tbc)

PHANTOM BOY (PG)

THE QUEEN OF KATWE (PG)

TROLLS (PG)

Events

AN EVENING WITH SIMON GARFIELD

Simon takes a look at the worldwide obsession with keeping time, Tues 18 Oct, Waterstones - High St, B'ham

READ YOUR MIND: THE IDIOT BRAIN BY DEAN BURNETT Wed 19 Oct, Waterstones - High St, Birmingham

GRAND DESIGNS LIVE Wed 19 Oct - Sun 23 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

SPEED-DATING SPECTACULAR - CELEBRATING 500 VERY SHORT INTRODUCTIONS Learn about six subjects from experts in a variety of fields, including Shakespeare, 'leadership' and 'sound', Thurs 20 Oct, Waterstones - High St, Birmingham

BIG FICTION NIGHT In a special event with four authors: Miranda Dickinson, Lucy Diamond, Cathy Bramley and Cressy McLaughlin, Thurs 20 Oct, Waterstones - High St, Birmingham

READ YOUR MIND SEASON: AN EVENING WITH LILY BAILEY An evening with the writer and model, Fri 21 Oct, Waterstones - High St, Birmingham

MARTINA COLE SIGNING Martina Cole signs copies of her latest book, Betrayal, Fri 21 Oct, Waterstones - High St, Birmingham

BEAR GRYLLS PRESENTS ENDEAVOUR Sat 22 Oct, Genting Arena, B'ham

GCCF 40TH SUPREME CAT SHOW Sat 22 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

DIVE 2016 The UK's biggest event for divers, Sat 22 Oct - Sun 23 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR Ghoulish fun and eerie entertainment, Sat 22 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN CERAMIC WORKSHOPS Sat 22 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

FAMILY FUN DAYS - HALLOWEEN 2016 Spooky outdoor trail with take-home activities, Sat 22 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, Baddesley Clinton, Solihull

FAMILY FUN DAYS - HALLOWEEN 2016 Spooky outdoor trail with take-home activities, Sat 22 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, Packwood House, Solihull

DIWALI FAMILY FUN DAY Family activities, crafts and Indian food. With performances of Indian dance and music, Sun 23 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

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WARLEY NATIONAL 2016
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90 LAYOUTS

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th November 2016
Sat 9.45am - 4pm & Sun 9.45am - 5pm. Advance ticket holders 9.15am Sat & Sun
● 90 Model Railway Layouts - Gauges 2 to I and Bigger ● Over 150 Specialist Trade Stands
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We have the perfect boat trip to make your Halloween fun.
All trips are aimed at families with witches, ghouls, spiders and more.

FEATURING PUPPETRY FROM GROOVY UV, GHOST STORIES AND A FEW SURPRISES

The Spooky Family Halloween Tour runs every 30 min from 4.30 to 8.00pm
October 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st

Tickets £7.80
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FAMILIES YOUNG PEOPLE COMEDY DANCE DRAMA MUSIC

FAMILY THEATRE

We're Going On A Bear Hunt

Thu 20-Sat 22 Oct
10.30am, 1.30pm, 4.30pm

Little Angel Theatre brings **Michael Rosen's** family favourite to life in this uplifting production with live music and puppetry.
"A must-see family show, which oozes melodious charm" *The Stage*



The Wind In The Willows

Mon 21 Nov-Sat 31 Dec
10.15am, 1.30pm, 5.30pm

Join us on a magical journey down the riverbank, as **Kenneth Grahame's** classic children's story is brought to life in a mad-cap adventure that will entertain and delight the whole family!



The Colour Of Me

Sat 21 January
11am, 2pm

Come and experience the rainbow of emotions that lives inside each and every one of us. What colour are you today? With live music and projection, this interactive production from **Wriggle Dance** promises to delight, tickle and inspire young audiences.



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Gigs

JAKE BUGG Mon 24 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SOUTHERN TENANT FOLK UNION Mon 24 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

ABC Mon 24 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JUSTIN BIEBER Mon 24 Oct, Genting Arena, Birmingham

THE DIVINE COMEDY Mon 24 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

JAPANESE BREAKFAST Mon 24 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MATT BERRY & THE MAYPOLES Tues 25 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

BLIND BOY PAXTON Tues 25 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

MADDIE & TAE Tues 25 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LISA HANNIGAN Tues 25 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LEO STANNARD Tues 25 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

MARTHA FFION Tues 25 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TYGERS OF PAN TANG Tues 25 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

GOLD CLASS Tues 25 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

MASSMATIKS + RORY INDIANA Tues 25 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

BABAJACK Wed 26 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

COOPE, BOYES AND SIMPSON Wed 26 Oct, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

FOUR TOPS AND THE TEMPTATIONS Wed 26 Oct, Genting Arena, Birmingham

DMA'S Wed 26 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

EMMA BLACKERY Wed 26 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

HORSE ORCHESTRA, KROKOFANT & STEPMOTHER JAG Wed 26 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KELLEY MCRAE Wed 26 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

LET'S EAT GRANDMA

Wed 26 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

STUART BARKER TRIO Wed 26 Oct, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

SIMONE FELICE Thurs 27 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

VULA VIEL Thurs 27 Oct, mac, Birmingham

LADY LESHURR Thurs 27 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ED GEATER, LADY SANITY & ALEX RAINSFORD Thurs 27 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

CHRIS BOURNE Thurs 27 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

PUBLIC ACCESS TV Thurs 27 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE WICKED WHISPERS Thurs 27 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FOLK & ROOTS CLUB Thurs 27 Oct, The Roadhouse, B'ham

FORT HOPE Thurs 27 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

TRUDY AND THE ROMANCE, FOX CHAPEL & SPILT MILK SOCIETY Thurs 27 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

OZZMOSIS Fri 28 Oct, Route 44, Birmingham

FRED ZEPPELIN Fri 28 Oct, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

GEKO Fri 28 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SUNSET SONS Fri 28 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE DOORS ALIVE Fri 28 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

ASYLUMS Fri 28 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

BACK TO BACHARACH Fri 28 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BADFINGER Fri 28 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

TAIL FEATHER Fri 28 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

BONDAX Fri 28 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

JP COOPER Sat 29 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

BARS AND MELODY Sat 29 Oct, O2 Institute,

Birmingham

HALLOWEEN HOOTENANNY Sat 29 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

GEHTIKA Sat 29 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE ROY FORBES TRIO Sat 29 Oct, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

MAJOR TOMS Sat 29 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

OBITUARY & EXODUS Sat 29 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TOM JONES TRIBUTE BY MARTIN JARVIS Sat 29 Oct, Genting Club, Star City, Birmingham

MAXWELL & MARY J BLIGE Sat 29 Oct, Genting Arena, Birmingham

GLAM 45 Sat 29 Oct, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

Y&T Sat 29 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

LUCIANO, EATS EVERYTHING & SOLARDO Sat 29 Oct, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE DELRAY ROCKETS Sun 30 Oct, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

THEATRE OF HATE Sun 30 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BEN MONTAGUE Sun 30 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ROB HERON & THE TEAPAD ORCHESTRA Sun 30 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ALIEN ANT FARM Sun 30 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

NAO Sun 30 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE LUMINEERS Sun 30 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TOM CHAPLIN Sun 30 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SKYE AND ROSS FROM MORCHEEBA Sun 30 Oct, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

GRUMBLE BEE Sun 30 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE JAPANESE HOUSE Mon 31 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

PILE Mon 31 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Classical Music

CBSO: SHOSTAKOICH'S EIGHT Featuring Cristian Măcelaru (conductor) & Akiko Suwanai (violin). Programme includes works by Liadov, Mendelssohn & Shostakovich, Wed 26 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE ENGLISH CONCERT: BAROQUE MASTERS Programme includes works by Purcell, Corelli, Telemann, Vivaldi, Handel & JS Bach, Wed 26 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

THE BEETHOVEN QUARTETFEST Featuring Kryisia Osostowicz & Oscar Perks (violins), Yuko Inoue (viola) & Richard Jenkinson (cello), Fri 28 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSICS: CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME Featuring Michael Seal (conductor), John Suchet (presenter), Mihkel Poll (piano) & Zoë Beyers (violin). Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Uematsu, Rachmaninov, Elga, Sibelius, Grieg, Bruch & Shore, Fri 28 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

STRING QUARTETS Programme includes works by Haydn & Britten, Fri 28 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

LUNCHTIME CONCERT WITH DANIEL LEBHARDT Programme includes works by JS Bach, Ades & Beethoven, Fri 28 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA: THE WOODEN PRINCE Featuring Cristian Măcelaru (conductor), Martin James Bartlett (piano) & the CBSO Youth Orchestra. Programme includes works by Copland, Gershwin & Bartok, Sun 30 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT - THOMAS TROTTER: HAPPY HALLOWEEN Programme includes works by Bach, A. Guilman, G. Edmundson, C. Saint-Saens (arr, Lemare) & L. Boëllmann, Mon 31 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

HANS TEEUWEN Mon 24 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NICK DIXON, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 27 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JO CAULFIELD Thurs 27 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

ZOE LYONS Thurs 27 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

DAMIEN CLARK & LARRY DEAN Fri 28 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

NICK DIXON, PHIL ELLIS, EDDY BRIMSON COMIC TBC Fri 28 - Sat 29 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ALISTAIR BARRIE, MIKE NEWALL, CAIMH MCDONNELL & IVO GRAHAM Fri 28 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

MORGAN AND WEST Sat 29 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MILES JUPP Sat 29 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

ALISTAIR BARRIE, CAIMH MCDONNELL & IVO GRAHAM Sat 29 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

NINA CONTI Sun 30 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

Theatre

BARD'S BEST BITS OF ROMEO & JULIET Oddsocks fuse their signature comedy and clowning in a 90-minute version of the world's greatest love story, Mon 24 Oct, The Core, Solihull

HEADS WILL ROLL Told By An Idiot explore the themes of delusion, vanity and the corruption of power, Mon 24 - Wed 26 Oct, The REP, B'ham

BRUMMEGEM PALS New play written by Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean about two ordinary boys caught up in the horrors of war, Tues 25 - Wed 26 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET Smash-hit musical starring Jason Donovan as record producer Sam Phillips. The story of how four stars made rock-'n'roll history, Mon 24 - Sat 29 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome *See page 24 for details*

SHARK IN THE PARK Family musical following Timothy Pope and his telescope, Tues 25 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE WIZARD OF OZ presented by Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company, Tues 25 - Sat 29 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

DISNEY ON ICE: FROZEN Tues 25 - Sun 30 Oct, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE TELL-TALE HEART Tin Robot Theatre present a new adaptation of Edgar Allen Poe's psychological thriller, Wed 26 - Sat 29 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MIDLAND OPERA PRESENT CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA & I PAGLIACCI Wed 26 - Sat 29 Oct, The Old Rep, Birmingham

A BLACK COUNTRY FAIRYTALE... AY IT! Fizzog Productions weave together various fairytales in one 'spectacular' production, Thurs 27 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE ADVENTURES OF SINBAD Puppetry, music and sound effects bring to life the story of Sinbad and his epic encounters with a whale, a giant bird and an ogre, Thurs 27 Oct, The Core, Solihull

AN EVENING OF DIRTY DANCING: THE TRIBUTE SHOW Homage to 'the greatest movie soundtrack of all time', Thurs 27 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham

FIRST STAGES: MAVIS SPARKLE M6's cosmic new production, mixing magic, animation and laughter, urges its audience to dust away doubts, follow their dreams and reach for the stars. Age recommendation is four-plus, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

WHAT SHADOWS Roxana Silbert-directed play starring Ian McDiarmid as Enoch Powell, Thurs 27 Oct - Sat 12 Nov, The REP, Birmingham *Read more on page 26*

THE NOSE THAT NOBODY PICKED

Surreal yarn for all the family, with songs and, we're reliably informed, 'snot'! Suitable for children aged five-plus, Fri 28 Oct, mac, Birmingham

KICKING & SCREAMING An 'honest, funny and touching' show with a live score played on children's instruments, Fri 28 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

DRACULA: THE MUSICAL Amateur production presented by Blue Orange Arts and Night Project Theatre, Fri 28 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

KNIGHTMARE LIVE: THE GAME HAS CHANGED Critically acclaimed comedy stage adaption of the cult TV classic, Sat 29 Oct, mac, Birmingham

MORGAN AND WEST - PARLOUR TRICKS Brand new show from the time-traveling magic duo, Sat 29 Oct, The Core, Solihull

HENRY V The Crescent Theatre Company present Shakespeare's epic history play, Sat 29 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

CAPTAIN FLINN AND THE PIRATE DINOSAURS 2: THE MAGIC CUTLASS Les Petits present an action-packed adventure for children, a sequel to Captain Flinn And The Pirate Dinosaurs, which, in turn, is based on the popular book by Giles Andarea and Russell Ayto, Sun 30 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

THE MOUSETRAP Touring production of Agatha Christie's famous thriller - the longest-running show in the history of British theatre, Mon 31 Oct - Sat 5 Nov, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham



Dance

ROMEO AND JULIET Ballet Theatre UK present a passionate and innovative recreation of the world's greatest love story, Wed 26 Oct, The Core, Solihull

PINOCCHIO: JASMIN VARDIMON COMPANY A brand new adaptation of the classic tale, based on the original book by Collodi and performed by Vardimon's multi-talented dancers, Sat 29 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

ADITI MANGALDAS DANCE COMPANY: INTER_RUPTED Mangaldas's latest piece contemplates fragility, disintegration and renewal. The show features seven dancers, with musicians live on stage, Sun 30 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Talks & Spoken Word

LEVEL UP SEASON 4.5 VS TONGUE FU

Featuring some of the sharpest poets, storytellers, rappers and comedians around, accompanied by a live soundtrack from the Tongue Fu Band, Tues 25 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

MICHAEL PORTILLO - LIFE: A GAME OF TWO HALVES Mon 31 Oct, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THARLO (PG) The titular Tharlo is a shepherd who heads to the city to obtain a government-issued ID card. Once there, a chance meeting with Yangchuo, a distinctly modern young Tibetan woman, throws Tharlo into a journey that strips his identity to the core. Stars Shide Nyima. Foreign language, subtitled. mac, Birmingham, Tues 25 - Wed 26 Oct

ATTACK THE BLOCK (15) Action-adventure movie that pits a teen gang against an invasion of savage alien monsters. It turns a London housing estate into a sci-fi playground and a tower block into a fortress under siege. Stars Nick Frost & Jodie Whittaker. mac, Birmingham, Wed 26 Oct

FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS (PG) Meryl Streep stars in the true story of Florence Foster Jenkins, a New York heiress and socialite who obsessively pursued her dream of becoming a great singer. Convinced of her own talent, the voice Florence heard in her head was beautiful, while to everyone else it was both hilarious and awful. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 27 Oct

FELIX (PG) Felix Xaba, a brilliant young self-taught musician, dreams of becoming a saxophonist like his late father, Zweli. But his world is turned upside down when he leaves the comfort of Gugulethu township to take up a scholarship at a prestigious private school. Stars Hlayani Jr Mabasa. mac, Birmingham, Thurs 27 Oct

BADEN BADEN (15) After a failed attempt at working on a foreign film set, 26-year-old Ana returns to her hometown of Strasbourg. Over the scorching summer that follows, she tries to get her life together. Stars Salomé Richard & Claude Gensac. Foreign language, subtitled. mac, Birmingham, Fri 28 & Mon 31 Oct

MY SCIENTOLOGY MOVIE (15) Incomparable British broadcaster Louis Theroux hits the big screen in his first feature documentary. Following a long fascination with the religion, and with a lot of experience



Captain Flinn And The Pirate Dinosaurs 2 - Birmingham Town Hall

dealing with eccentric human behaviour, Louis won't take no for an answer when his request to enter the Church of Scientology's Los Angeles headquarters is turned down. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 25 - Wed 26 Oct; mac, Birmingham, Fri 28, Sun 30 & Mon 31 Oct

JACKIE BROWN (15) Jackie Brown supplements her meagre income as a stewardess by smuggling cash into the US for gunrunner Ordell Robbie - until the day an ATF agent and an LA cop bust her at the airport... Stars Pam Grier & Samuel L Jackson. mac, Birmingham, Sat 29 Oct

HALLOWEEN (18) This cinema classic, digitally restored and remastered by the original cinematographer, features an exclusive extended interview and retrospective with filmmaker John Carpenter. Stars Donald Pleasence & Jamie Lee Curtis. mac, Birmingham, Sat 29 Oct

BLADE (18) Starring Wesley Snipes as a half-vampire, half-mortal man who's out to avenge his mother's death and rid the world of vampires. This is a drive-in showing. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 30 Oct

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Wed 25 Oct, showing at selected cinemas

DR STRANGE (tbc)

Released from Fri 28 Oct, showing at selected cinemas

AFTER LOVE (tbc)

BOYZ N THE HOOD (15)

BURN BURN BURN (tbc)

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES (tbc)

Events

HALF-TERM FUN Crafts, games, nature trails and more, Mon 24 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

GHOSTS AND GHOULS Be scared silly with spooky tales and enjoy getting hands-on with creepy crafts and activities, Mon 24 Oct - Fri 28 Oct, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

HAUNTED CASTLE Ghostly goings on at the spooktacular haunted castle, Mon 24 Oct - Fri 28 Oct, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

MONSTER MAYHEM Halloween-themed activities make a paper bag puppet, monster bookmark and a monster mask. Join in the trail, play games and delve into 'yucky' boxes, Mon 24 Oct - Fri 28 Oct, Selly Manor, Bournville, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN FUN Discover the rare and wonderful world of bats, Mon 24 Oct - Fri 28 Oct, Witley Court, Worcestershire

LITTLE MONSTERS FUNFEST Get your gory gladrag on, Mon 24 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

HALLOWEEN SCREAM NIGHTS Uncover the haunting mystery of the Priory Fields, discover the gory secret of Mrs Piggot's Pie Shop, feel the fear on the 'Destruction' trailer ride, and risk never sleeping with the lights off again when you visit the House of Insomnia, Mon 24 Oct - Mon 31 Oct, Lower Drayton Farm, Stafford

AN EVENING WITH CHRIS BECKETT Author of the Eden series, Tues 25 Oct, Waterstones - High St, B'ham

FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITY: WAX AND INK PORTRAITS Take inspiration from Aston Hall's historic paintings collection to create bold and colourful portraits using wax and ink, Wed 26 Oct,

Aston Hall, Birmingham

ZOMBIE DAY Arrive dressed as a zombie and enjoy scary stories, craft activities and glassmaking, Wed 26 Oct, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

CRAFTY KIDS WORKSHOP Wed 26 Oct - Thurs 27 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

THE HANDSWORTH TIMES WITH SHARON DUGGAL Sharon Duggal discusses her novel, *The Handsworth Times*, Thurs 27 Oct, Waterstones - High St, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN HOCUS POCUS Thurs 27 Oct - Fri 28 Oct, Dudley Zoological Gardens

BIRMINGHAM BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL Thurs 27 Oct - Sat 29 Oct, New Bingley Hall, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN FRIGHT NIGHTS Hear tales of ghostly apparitions, dastardly deeds and ghoulish goings-on, Thurs 27 Oct - Sat 29 Oct, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

BRICKLIVE Celebrating all things LEGO, Thurs 27 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

READ YOUR MIND SEASON: AN EVENING WITH JULIAN BAGGINI Fri 28 Oct, Waterstones - High St, Birmingham

BADDESLEY GHOST TOUR Creepy tales and ghostly goings-on, Fri 28 Oct,

Baddesley Clinton, Solihull

HALLOWEEN NIGHTS The popular visitor attraction gets into the Halloween 'spirit', Fri 28 Oct - Sat 29 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

RED DITCH HALLOWEEN FILM FESTIVAL Fri 28 Oct - Sat 29 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

THE MONSTER BALL Fri 28 Oct - Sat 29 Oct, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley, Worcestershire

FRIGHT NIGHTS AT ASTON HALL An immersive horror experience, Fri 28 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN FUN Carve a pumpkin or have your face painted, Fri 28 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, Croome Park, Worcestershire

STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS Outdoor screening followed by a 'galactic' firework and laser show, Fri 28 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Staffordshire

PUMPKIN FLOTILLA Watch pumpkins float across the Mill Pond at twilight, Fri 28 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN Special kids' boat trips through Dudley's underground caverns, Fri 28 Oct - Mon 31 Oct, Dudley Canal Tunnel and Limestone Mines

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN EVENING Get dressed up in your spookiest costume and enjoy the ghostly goings-on around the castle, Sat 29 Oct, Tamworth Castle

STEVE BACKSHALL'S WILD WORLD Illustrated with photos and films from his expeditions, Sat 29 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

THE WEST MIDLANDS VEGAN FESTIVAL Celebrating and promoting vegan lifestyles, Sat 29 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

DOWN UNDER LIVE The UK's number one emigration event, Sat 29 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

MOSELEY FARMERS' & ARTS MARKETS Sat 29 Oct, Moseley Village Green, Birmingham

ASTON HALLOWEEN The Hall's transformed into a haunted mansion, Sat 29 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham

GHOST WALK Sat 29 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN Featuring spooks, spiders, pumpkin carving, face painting and pumpkin pie, Sat 29 Oct, Chedhams Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE LOCKSMITH'S HOUSE - HORRIBLE HISTORIES Horrible Willenhall Histories, a spooky, themed trail and family-friendly ghost stories, Sat 29

Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

TRICK OR TREAT Sat 29 Oct - Sun 30 Oct, Red House Glass Cone, Walsall

TORCH-LIT PUMPKIN WALK Sat 29 Oct - Mon 31 Oct, Bodenheim Arboretum, Kidderminster

SPOOKY HALLOWEEN Dress in your best costume and be prepared for some spine-tingling fun, Sun 30 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

DIVALI - CELEBRATION MUSIC, FOOD & DANCE FESTIVAL Sun 30 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

HALLOWEEN NIGHTS The popular visitor attraction gets into the Halloween 'spirit', Mon 31 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

HALLOWEEN TOURS Tales of ghostly apparitions, dastardly deeds and ghoulish goings-on, Mon 31 Oct, Kenilworth Castle

HALLOWEEN STORY NIGHT Hear tales of ghosts, spirits and fairy-folk, Mon 31 Oct, Martineau Gardens, B'ham

GHOST SEARCH A ghost walk around the medieval castle, with vigils conducted in reputedly haunted rooms, Mon 31 Oct, Tamworth Castle

SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL Mon 31 Oct - Fri 4 Nov, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

thinktank
Birmingham science museum

Spooky Science Week

Mon 24 Oct - Fri 28 Oct

- Fun for all the family
- Participate in creepy crafts
- Launch your own ghosts!

Mon 24 Oct - Fri 28 Oct
Some activities may change

SPOOKY SCIENCE NIGHT
Find out what really happens at Night at the Museum!
SAT 29 OCT 6-9PM

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LOCO IN ACAPULCO ★ HONEY PIE SUGAR
STANDING IN THE SHADOWS OF LOVE ★ BERNADETTE

THE TEMPTATIONS



BALL OF CONFUSION ★ GET READY
CLOUD NINE ★ TREAT HER LIKE A LADY
MY GIRL ★ PAPA WAS A ROLLIN' STONE

PLUS VERY SPECIAL GUESTS

TAVARES



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