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ISSUE 352 APRIL 2015



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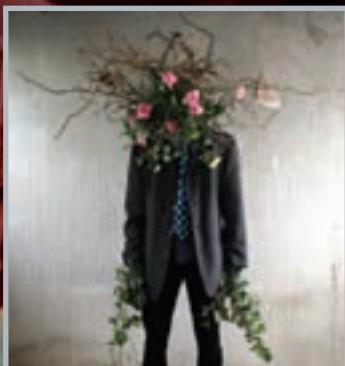
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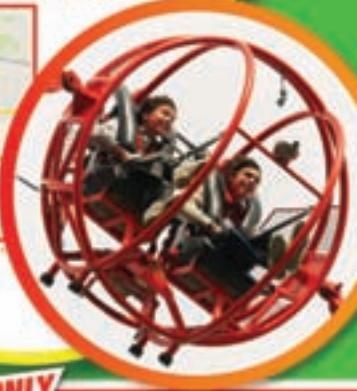
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MAGAZINE GROUP



swamp-dwelling ogre set to make a splash in Shrek The Musical, page 27

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Corrie stars in fine voice at The REP...

Former Coronation Street favourites Vicky Entwistle and Chris Gaskoynes are set to star in a brand new Birmingham Repertory Theatre production of Jim Cartwright's Olivier Award-winning play, The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice.

Vicky, who played Janice Battersby in the long-running ITV soap, and Chris, who starred as Peter Barlow, will be joined in the show by Nancy Sullivan as Little Voice. Nancy has previously starred at The REP in The Wizard Of Oz.

The new show has been produced in collaboration with West Yorkshire Playhouse and shows at The REP from Friday 15 to Saturday 30 May.

Tickets cost from £7 to £35 and can be purchased from the box office on 0121 236 4455, or online at Birmingham-rep.co.uk.



Double celebrations at gallery

Digbeth contemporary art gallery and artists' studio Grand Union has received a £122,800 investment from Arts Council England. News of the grant comes as the venue prepares to celebrate its fifth anniversary. A 5 April birthday party features a one-off performance by artist-in-residence Phil Hession, followed by DJs and dancing.

Instrumental in the regeneration of Birmingham's Digbeth area, Grand Union has hosted twenty-eight exhibitions during its five-year history. The venue has worked with over two hundred artists and commissioned the same number of new artworks.



Guillem bows out in Brum...

Dance supremo Sylvie Guillem has announced she's to present her last ever UK performance on the Birmingham Hippodrome stage in September.

Guillem, who will receive a special award for her lifetime achievements at this month's Olivier Awards (12 April), began her career as a ballerina before diversifying into the world of contemporary dance. Her extensive repertoire includes numerous iconic roles in ballets by Kenneth MacMillan, Maurice Béjart, Frederick Ashton, William Forsythe



B-Town in Victoria Square, Image from IDFB 2014. Credit: Tim Cross

Plans for fifth dance festival revealed...

International Dance Festival Birmingham's (IDFB) co-producers, DanceXchange and Birmingham Hippodrome, have revealed that plans for the event's fifth edition, taking place in 2016, are already well under way. Speaking at a recent special event held to celebrate IDFB, David Massingham, artistic director of DanceXchange and co-artistic director of the festival, said: "IDFB 2014 truly was 'a world of dance in one city'. IDFB 2016 will build on ten years of festival programming experiences and deliver another exciting line-up of performances and events. The focus in 2016 will be 'Destination Birmingham', selling the city as a city of dance. There will be more world-class dance content to look forward to, performances, community engagement and participation, talks and debates, city, region and worldwide collaborations, strong digital elements and more world premieres. IDFB 2016 will showcase Birmingham as one of the world's leading dance cities." Since the inaugural IDFB in 2008, the festival has seen over 172,000 audience members attend 416 free events and 164 ticketed events. Members of the public have enjoyed over 25,000 participatory experiences, and artists from 36 countries have been welcomed to the city.

and Mats Ek. Contemporary offerings include the acclaimed 6000 Miles Away, which Sylvie performed at International Dance Festival Birmingham in 2014. Sylvie's final show is Life In Progress, which she'll perform at the Hippodrome on Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 September. The presentation features both existing and new works by choreographers who have influenced her contemporary career.

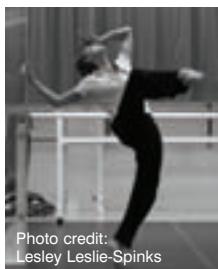


Photo credit: Lesley Leslie-Spinks

Kate Rusby live at the RSC

Acclaimed singer/songwriter Kate Rusby is to give a special performance at Stratford-upon-Avon's Royal Shakespeare Theatre on 2 August. Joined on stage by a string ensemble, Kate will perform new arrangements of classics from her back-catalogue, together with tracks from her latest studio album, Ghost. Tickets priced £25 and £15 are available from the theatre's box office on 0844 800 1100, or by visiting rsc.org.uk



Love Me Tender on tour

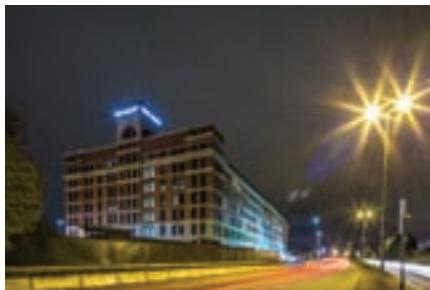
A brand new musical inspired by and featuring the music of Elvis Presley is coming to the region this summer. From the producers of Hairspray, Jersey Boys and West Side Story, Love Me Tender features twenty-five of Elvis's best-loved hits and is described as 'a hilarious feelgood show'. The production runs at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Monday 29 June to Saturday 4 July, and at New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from Monday 24 to Saturday 29 August.

Treat for Bangladeshi music lovers

The largest indoor bangla concert ever to be staged in the UK will take place at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on 26 August. Hosted by Nadia Ali and Mumzy Stranger, the Bangla Beats is a must-attend event for lovers of Bangladeshi music. Composer/musicians Habib Wahid, Hridoy Khan, Kaya and Shireen Jawad all feature in the line-up.

Tub on a hot Brum roof

One of Birmingham's iconic rooftops is set to get steamy next month, courtesy of the city's first ever rooftop hot tub cinema. Super Spa Cinema will be situated atop Fort Dunlop and promises an evening like no other. Guests are invited to take to the roof of the one hundred-foot building to enjoy 'an evening of experimental entertainment and cult cinema'. Taking place between Friday 22 and Sunday 24 May, the unique event features a host of themed activities, including a Tom Cruise cocktail flairing and hook-a-shark competitions. There's even the chance to enjoy the thrills and spills of mastering the waves on Fort Dunlop's surfboard simulator. For further information, visit fordunlop.com



Visitor numbers give cause to rejoice at museum trust...

Bosses at Birmingham Museum Trust are celebrating after newly released figures show that more than one million people have visited the Trust's nine museum sites in the past twelve months. The news coincides with the launch of the new Spitfire Gallery at Thinktank, one of the Trust's nine venues. The other eight sites are Aston Hall, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Blakeslee Hall, Sarehole Mill, Soho House, Weoley Castle, Birmingham Museum Collection Centre and Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.



Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Exhibition celebrates university's half century

An exhibition celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the University of Warwick's art collection is set to open this month. The university itself is also celebrating its half century and is using the exhibition to examine the development of the collection across the decades. Work by over sixty artists is included in the display. *Imagining A University: Fifty Years Of The University Of Warwick Art Collection* shows in the venue's Mead Gallery from Wed 29 Apr to Sat 20 June.



West End musical coming to the Midlands

One of the biggest musical hits ever to grace the West End stage visits Birmingham next year as part of its first ever UK tour. Written by British playwright Catherine Johnson, *Mamma Mia!* is based on the songs of legendary Swedish pop group ABBA. Band members Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus were both heavily involved in the show's development. Set on a Greek island, the feelgood story follows bride-to-be Sophie as she searches for her real father. Since opening in 1999, *Mamma Mia!* has been seen by over fifty-four million people, with forty-nine productions having been mounted in fourteen different languages. To date, the show has grossed more than \$2 billion dollars.

Commenting on *Mamma Mia!*'s visit to the Midlands, Birmingham Hippodrome Chief Executive Stuart Griffiths said: "The Hippodrome has a great reputation for staging the city's big summer musical, and we're thrilled to continue that tradition by presenting this hugely popular show."

Mamma Mia! runs at Birmingham Hippodrome from 28 June to 3 September 2016.

IN BRIEF

Milestone event for Leamington Festival Director

Next month marks a milestone for Richard Phillips, Director of the Leamington Music Festival Weekend. Richard will be staging his one hundredth production as part of the 2015 event, which takes place in the town from 1 to 5 May. Having first entered the world of arts administration in 1996, when he worked for Sadlers Wells Opera in London, Richard has since played a major role in numerous art-related events across the UK. In 2010 he received the Outstanding Contribution to British Arts Festivals Award, presented to him by the British Arts Festivals Association. For full details of next month's festival programme, visit www.leamingtonmusic.org

Celebrating the Bard's birthday at the RSC

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) is next month celebrating Shakespeare's 451st birthday with a special Birthday Bash musical concert and a range of free family activities.

The Birthday Bash, taking place on 26 April, will feature music written for previous RSC productions and for the forthcoming summer season. The music will be interspersed with speeches and extracts from Shakespeare, performed by actors who have a close association with the Company.

The event will also feature the first public performance of the winning entry from the RSC's recent Shakespeare's Birthday Song Competition. As part of the birthday celebrations, on Saturday 25 April the RSC is providing a range of free activities for the whole family to enjoy. These include live music, storytelling sessions, stage-fighting workshops and the chance to discover how fake scars and bruises are created. For more information, visit www.rsc.org.uk.

Names announced for Made Birmingham

A festival reaffirming Birmingham's reputation as a groundbreaking, innovative and diverse hub makes a welcome return this summer. *Made Birmingham* debuted in 2014 and returns to the Digbeth Triangle on Saturday 25 July. Festival Director Pete Jordan has promised that this year's event will 'step up a few gears and become something that the city will truly be proud of'. Held in association with Rainbow Venues, the midday-to-midnight event features a fusion of live music and DJ performances. Beat-boxer Beardyman, legendary dub ambassador David Rodigan and London's Trojan Sound System crew are just some of the well-known names who're performing at the event. For tickets and further information, visit madebirmingham.com



Beardyman

Gerald Kyd who'll take the lead as Michael in *Feed The Beast* at The REP, Birmingham

Feed The Beast

Steve Thompson's political drama makes its debut in Birmingham

British playwright and screenwriter Steve Thompson's television writing credits include numerous episodes of *Dr Who*, *Sherlock*, *Silk* and *The Whistleblowers*. On stage he scored a major hit with debut play *Damages* in 2004, since which time he's also penned *Roaring Trade*, *Whipping It Up* and *Naughty Bits*. Steve's latest play, *Feed The Beast*, makes its debut in Birmingham this month. What's On recently met up with him to find out more.....

What spurred you to write Feed The Beast?

My wife was one of the legal team at the Leveson Inquiry, so I ended up watching almost the whole thing. I was sat at home with my one-year-old daughter, who wanted to watch her mum on TV. There were four Prime Ministers who gave evidence, and that evidence was so compelling that I ended up becoming quite engrossed in the whole thing.

We're led to believe that your main protagonist, Michael, is a man of strong social and political morals. Who then, in the whole spectrum of politics, is his character based on?

He's based on a lot of people, actually. There's no one character in the play who's based on one person. I do this a lot, this sort of mosaic of lots of different people, lots of different incidents. However, the two people who stood out at the Leveson Inquiry as having suffered most cruelly at the hands of the press were John Major and Gordon Brown. Although Michael is a socialist Prime Minister, I do think he might have borrowed from both of them. Major, when he gave evidence, had obviously come through the tough times and was able to rationalise the whole thing. He was very positive and made a lot of positive suggestions on how we could move forward in this country. Brown, on the other hand, was still very bruised when he gave evidence. They both gave very different pictures, but both of them had gone into Downing Street deciding they weren't going to court the press and had suffered as a result of it.

Do you think the media's always been so hungry a beast? If not, what's made it more so in recent times?

I think most people feel that newspapers haven't got long to run. The chances of newspapers being in their current state in ten years' time is incredibly small, and that's made them all the more ravenous. I wouldn't say anything so facile as 'newspapers are a bad thing' because they're clearly not, but it's a complex relationship. It's doubly complex now because newspapers fight so incredibly hard to survive.

Where did your research take you?

Fortunately the Leveson Inquiry is now a matter of public record and you can go online and read all of the testimonies. I did a lot there and a lot of reading. Damien McBride's book, Power Trip: A Decade Of Policy, Plots And Spin was fascinating, and I interviewed a lot of politicians, but it was the Leveson Inquiry which started me off and got me so excited.

Do you know many politicians on a personal level off whom you were able to bounce your ideas?

Not really. I've written political dramas in the past and have been quite cheeky in the past. Seven years ago I wrote Whipping It Up, about the whips' office. My MP at the time was Grant Shapps. He'd just got into parliament, so I phoned his parliamentary office to ask if I could meet to discuss the play and he obliged. Some politicians when you meet them can be great, some of them are a little more 'I'm happy to talk to you but I'd rather my name wasn't bandied around as part of the research'. Some are only too willing, and Grant Shapps was incredible. He

knew I wasn't a Tory voter but he said, 'You're still my constituent and if I can help you, then I will'. He knew I was a playwright and the chances were that I was going to be pretty left wing. We had a really good afternoon and he was very entertaining. I also met Michael Portillo, who was utterly charming and so incredibly loyal to his party that getting any juice out of him for that play was fairly pointless.

Why do you think there's such a disconnect between politicians and the electorate nowadays?

My favourite show of the week is Question Time, and every week the same two questions arise. Question one is always about immigration and question two is always some form of 'why don't we trust you anymore?'. There was an interview with Roy Hattersley about ten years ago where he said 'we're going to suffer for the lack of ideology'. In the '70s and particularly the '80s, there was this huge ideology around. Whether you liked or hated Thatcher, you damn well knew what she stood for. It's now possible that we might end up with a coalition of Labour and Conservative. They are that changeable and that close to one another, their ideology has sort of withered away. The fact that they're so willing to surrender their ideology clearly makes us all very suspicious.

Is the timing coincidental, or was it always your intention to stage this play in the lead up to the general election?

Purely coincidental. I told Roxana Silbert that I wanted to write a play about those two Prime Ministers at Leveson who'd both encountered the same problems, had decided they weren't going to play the press game and had suffered for it. She got terribly excited and said, "Great! We'll do it during the election. I suppose, really, the question the play asks is, what do we want from our politicians and what do we want from our Prime Minister? What better time to be asking that than when we're about to go to a polling booth?

Is Feed The Beast similar to any political satires that we've seen in the past?

I would say not. I know it may sound feeble but my plays are dramas which tend to be a little bit funny. I'm not deliberately trying to write satire or political satire. The market has been completely cornered by Armando Iannucci. The stuff he did with The Thick Of It was so brilliant and so strong, and I wouldn't even attempt to go into satire. Some of it's quite funny, I hope. I'm not billing it personally as a comedy but I hope it functions in two different ways.

What do you think needs to be done to make politics something in which the British public take a significant interest?

I don't have any answers for it but when somebody stands up and says, 'This is what I think and I know it's unpopular but I think it', that, oddly enough, is very appealing. Vivienne Westwood said 'unpopular ideas change the world', and she's sort of right. Popular ideas can somehow be assimilated quickly because they're popular. It's the unpopular ideas that jar and get us talking. The most alluring thing is people standing up and saying, 'You know what, I know that not everyone is going to agree with this, but I think...' That's tough, because clearly there

are some very right wing parties that suddenly stand up. I'm appalled at what they think, but they're standing on their principles. That means that, occasionally, some people spout theories which I loathe. Overall, though, conviction is lacking, and I think everybody feels that.

Do you feel the rise of UKIP and the effect it's had on the main parties is a good or a bad thing for British politics?

Provoking discussion is great. There's not a single UKIP policy that I agree with but that doesn't mean I don't think it's right and good that they're able to provoke a strong discussion.

Away from politics and back to you and your beginnings... You were a maths teacher before you became a playwright. How did the transition come about?

I jacked in being a teacher to look after my children. I pushed a pram around for five years and then became a writer.

Was being a writer something you always wanted to do?

Not at all. It came about because I was at home with my first child. Everybody likes to think they've got a novel in them, don't they? I used to go to the theatre a lot, so thought I'd write a play. I was really lucky. Somebody read it, gave it to the Bush Theatre in Shepherd's Bush and they phoned me up out of the blue and said, "Can we do your play?". This sounds very glib, but it was never intended for me to end up doing this.

Your first play, Damage, won a New Writers Award...

It was an absolute dream for me. Mike Bradwell from Around The Bush created a career for me out of nothing, and I'm eternally grateful to him. The Bush gets five thousand plays a year, chooses one or two from those sent in on spec, and he chose mine. The BBC came to see it and I've worked solidly in television ever since - and written some plays as well.

How does writing for TV programmes like Dr Who, Sherlock and Silk - three very different but distinct series - differ from writing for an on-stage character like Michael?

Theatre's obviously very freeing because it's just you. When you're writing in television, you have to be a good listener. You have to work incredibly well in teams because it's so collaborative. You have to read other people's scripts, watch other people's episodes, talk to other writers, talk to the lead writer and just be a chameleon and learn to assimilate the kind of music. When I started working on Dr Who, Matt Smith was the Doctor and he had such a distinctive style of speech. Just reading all of Steven Moffat's script, I was able to pick that up. It's just about listening to the music of the characters, the way they speak, and trying to take it on board. It can be quite fun.

Out of all your TV writings, which has been the most memorable and why?

It has to be Sherlock, just because it's been so phenomenally popular.

Feed The Beast shows at The REP, Birmingham from Thurs 16 April to Sat 2 May.

“ I prefer to see the older woman/younger man relationship as a way in which women can empower themselves. ”



Donna Moore

American playwright talks about bringing Cougar The Musical to the Midlands...

Described as hilarious, raunchy and insightful, Cougar The Musical is a four-person show from American playwright Donna Moore. An unexpected off-Broadway hit, the musical this month makes its UK debut at Coventry's Belgrave Theatre. What's On recently caught up with Donna to find out more about the play - and about the phenomenon of the 'cougar', who's defined as 'an older woman seeking a sexual relationship with a younger man'...

It could be said that Donna Moore has performing in her blood. Her grandmother was in vaudeville and she has a string of cousins involved in the arts in one way or another. Since contributing her first writing at the tender age of nine and two years later performing on TV in *Zoom* - a programme for which she also wrote - Donna has remained focused on a life in showbusiness. After graduating at New York University Drama School, she enjoyed a successful career as a stand-up comedian. Always looking to give her routine a socio-political angle, she stumbled on the term Cougar at a party. "I remember feeling perplexed at women being given this derogatory name," she recalls.

Responding to the experience and how it had made her feel, Donna wrote a song on the subject which she included in her cabaret act. One night after a performance, she was approached by a producer who, impressed with her work, offered to back her if she wrote a whole show around the subject of cougars. Donna jumped at the offer and wrote a piece called *The Cougar Cabaret*. She then proceeded to perform the show at a New York cabaret venue for the following three-and-a-half years.

As the show's audiences steadily increased, so too did interest from Broadway. "They said if we developed this element of the cabaret show into a larger-format show, more people would get behind me," explains Donna. "It took me four years to turn it into a musical. Twenty songs and four scripts later, I finally got the show that you guys will be seeing this month."

For many here in the UK, the term cougar conjures up images of middle-aged women clad in leopard skin (think *Dorian in Birds Of A Feather*) who spend much of their spare time trying to entice younger men into their bed.

This view of the older woman as a sexual predator isn't one with which Donna holds. "I prefer to see the older woman/younger man relationship as a way in which women can empower themselves. I had this image of this recently divorced older woman on a Saturday night, before she goes out. She may be a mum but she's also someone looking for love and to enjoy herself. She's looking for someone to create value in her life. The fact that we're even using a derogatory name for a woman is just a symptom of how misogynistic and patriarchal our society is."

But doesn't the mere fact that Donna's show takes place in a 'cougar bar', where the three principal characters openly admit they're seeking a younger man, support the stereotypical image of the cougar woman? "I use this to say yes to life, no matter what. The character who has the cougar bar is an innocent. She's actually thinking she wants to have a new lease of life and be with a younger man. She ends up having a really funny and interesting arch at the end of the

show but doesn't end up with the younger man."

So has Donna challenged the stereotypical perceptions of Cougars?

"The character who owns the bar wears a lot of leopard print, that's for sure. She's the more cliched one, but she's got a heart of gold and is creating an app for the iPhone for affirmations of women over forty. She's almost naive about life. She's got this childlike verse about creating happiness and joy, but she also has it in her head that she's going to be with a younger man.

"The other character is a recently divorced woman who's empty-nesting. Her children are off at college and she's alone. It's not natural for her to be in this situation, as she's always looked outside herself for validation, whether it's been with her kids or with her husband. Now, all of a sudden, she's like 'what do I do?' She's never dated a younger man before and she just sort of happens into the cougar bar. She was just looking for a drink after her divorce became final, and that's how she enters into the bar. The two women become friends and are like the odd couple, I guess.

"They meet the third character in a nail salon. She's a business woman who's a single mother and very successful in finance. She decides to go back to Grad school to do a degree in women's studies and she writes her thesis on the cougar phenomenon. This is someone who hasn't been with a man in twenty years and would never, ever entertain a younger man. Her thesis statement is that cougar is a derogatory term and is setting women back fifty years. She ends up, through the arc of the play, coming into her own in a very surprising way."

I ask Donna if she thinks her musical will work with a British audience.

"I've tried to write a funny show that my mum, who's eighty-two, would enjoy. She's a bit of a prude, so I didn't want to go crazy. I tried to be classy and funny. That said, things that I might find totally mild may not be the same for everyone. Everything is character-driven. I didn't throw anything in just for the sake of it. Everything had to be authentic. There is one bit that's shocking but it won't offend."

The musical was initially described as 'an unlikely hit' - so what is it that's made the show such a great success in the US?

"I would say it's because it speaks of truth and because it goes deeper. I wasn't making fun of women preying on younger men, because I don't think that's the reason for this phenomenon. The musical speaks to people. In America, people would dance out of the theatre. It's a very joyful and soulful exploration of women saying yes to life. Although you think you're buying into this whole cougar thing, you see that although it's set in a cougar bar, it's actually about women who're just coming into their own. In the show, not everyone ends up with the younger man."

If we believe the hype, as a single, fifty-two-year-old female, Donna is perfect cougar material. Has she any personal experiences she'd like to share?

"I used to say that I was only interested in older men, especially when I was doing stand-up comedy - but I did once date a man nine years my junior. I've been on dating sites where I've been contacted by men in their twenties. It's so funny because part of me is quite interested. But these boys who've contacted me, it's more that they're wanting to have a sexual encounter with an older woman, which to me isn't terribly interesting. If I was to meet a young man who I connected with in mind, body and soul, I'd look beyond his age. That's also the premise of the young man that I wrote into the musical. He actually has an old soul, so he's able to have a pretty deep relationship with the woman he dates, and they're both transformed by their relationship."

There have been plenty of examples down the years of famous older women dating younger men, but which modern-day celebrities provided Donna with her inspiration when writing the show?

"Demi Moore obviously wasn't the first, but she was out there and widely covered in the press when I was doing my research. She was famous for dating Ashley Kutcher, who was twenty years her junior. When I wrote the first song for the musical, the lyrics were about their relationship. I guess Demi could be credited for turning 'cougar' into a household word, at least in New York."

It's now nine years since the musical made its New York debut. Have Donna's perceptions of the cougar changed at all during that time?

"Interestingly, I still believe the cougar phenomenon reflects an energetic yearning to address a matriarchal system. I very much believe that now is the time for women to really hunker down into their divine value. We women give birth, we are wise, we have healing properties, we can help our children, we can help our men, we can help our sisters in ways that men can't. Moving forward, that mission has probably become stronger for me than it was. Years later, I'm still believing the same things."

Donna Moore



Cougar The Musical plays Coventry's Belgrave Theatre from Sat 16 May to Sat 6 June



Jonny Cole

on why Black Country people have the best humour in the world...

A Black Country lad through and through, comedian/singer/songwriter Jonny Cole uses everyday life in the region as the basis for his 'catchy songs and cheeky melodies'. Initially grabbing the public's attention with his viral hit, The Wednesbury Song, Jonny is fast becoming a force to be reckoned with, both locally and further afield. In addition to his programme of solo shows, he this month takes to the road as part of A Black Country Night Out. What's On caught up with him to find out more...

How would you describe your brand of comedy?

It's difficult for me to put it into an industry-standard soundbite. There are a lot of people who love Black Country humour and who'd love to go into a rough and ready Black Country pub just to listen to the banter, and that's exactly what I do. I've absorbed Black Country humour the whole of my life. I take it out of that pub where people wouldn't dare go in case they got their teeth knocked out, and I put it into a safe, controlled environment where they can enjoy it. I think it's just a case of getting back to the basics of good banter. Black Country folk have got the best humour in the world. They can laugh at themselves before anyone else, which is why I can get away with it.

What's the biggest misconception about Black Country people?

That they're stupid. I think the accent lends itself to that. On the TV, if there's ever anyone who needs to be depicted as being a bit slow, they get given a Black Country accent. I think it's a common misconception. It's the only accent in the world that makes good news sound like bad news.

When did you first realise that you were funny?

I don't really know that I am. The Black Country's funny and I just tell people about it. I've always been a bit of a prankster. At school I was just an idiot with a guitar, and I used to get told off for that. Nobody tells you that if you get really good at being an idiot with a guitar, people might start paying you for it one day.

So when did they start paying you?

I woke up one morning with a bit of a hangover and decided to write this song called The Wednesbury Song - just for myself, just for a laugh. I recorded it in about twenty minutes in my home studio and emailed it to my dad. We put it on YouTube for a laugh, and a couple of days later I saw that it had got a couple of thousand hits. My dad said to me, "Son, I'm not being funny but you want to write some more of this because nobody likes your other stuff". So I wrote another one called How Can I Tell Her It's Over When I've Still Got My XBox At Her House?, which went viral as well. I started slipping these songs into the cover sets I was doing around the pubs, and they were going down better than the covers! It all evolved from there, really.

There's a lot going on in your life at the moment. Do you feel like you're being carried along on a wave?

Yeah, it's the best feeling in the world. I don't like planning for anything because it means I've got to stick to plans, and that's not in my personality. This is a positive thing, everyone's enjoying it and I'm getting some great feedback. I've got a brilliant team around me and I don't know where it's going. That's fun and very exciting. It's a blast and I'm the luckiest man alive as far as I'm concerned.

Your comedy is very focused on the Black Country. Does it travel well?

It's not all focused on the Black Country, it's just delivered from a Black Country perspective. I talk about travel, things that happen in pubs, relationships - all of which are universal. It just comes with a Black

Country accent. I played at the Blackpool Grand and I just had to slow everything down a bit. I do a song about a woman leaving me because she found out I was playing away and she took the TV remote to be spiteful. I follow that up with a version of No Woman, No Sky. That works all over the country.

Have you ever offended anyone with your songs?

Never ever, and I think that's testament to the Black Country humour. Generally, the people who're laughing the most are the ones who I'm taking the piss out of. They're the ones who buy you a pint afterwards.

Your style has been compared to that of a young Jasper Carrott. Has he inspired you in your work?

I was a massive fan of Jasper when I was very young. I wouldn't follow him around or go looking for his stuff, but everything that came my way by him I really enjoyed. I met him once. My sister had cystic fibrosis and was in the Birmingham Children's Hospital quite a lot. One weekend Jasper took time out after shopping to come to the hospital to see the kids and cheer them up. So I've always had my eye on him because I'd met him. I really loved his early stuff but I never thought I could do that kind of stuff myself, nor even imagined I would want to. As I said, I fell into it by accident, but I definitely think he influenced me.

How do you keep your material fresh?

You hear the old boys in the pub having banter with each other, or you hear a woman shouting something really common at her kid in a shop. Anything like that. Another gag I came up with recently is, 'You notice all the kids in Walsall have the same second name - Get here! And then every now and again you hear a posh one with a double-barrelled name - Get here-now!'

It's all there. You've only got to look. In a way it feels like cheating.

You're involved in Women's Aid. Tell us about that.

It's all very exciting. Although I'm not going to make anything out of it personally, it's the most exciting thing that's happening for me this year. When you become known as a comic, you get lots of charities approach you to do stuff. You'd like to say yes to them all, but if you did you'd be so busy and so skint because you'd never have time to work for yourself! So I try and choose one charity every year. Last year I did Help For Heroes and this year I've chosen Women's Aid. It all came about during a drunken evening with a good mate of mine. I said 'how am I going to make lots of dough for this Women's Aid?', and he said, 'It's for battered women, ain't it? Well you want to get battered by a woman then, don't yer. Get a kickboxer to kick hell out of yer'. I said I couldn't see Women's Aid advocating violence between a man and a woman as a way of stopping violence between men and women. He said, 'Well what about one of those women wrestlers? That's like pantomime, innit. That would be a laugh'. So we looked on the internet and found this picture of the female champion wrestler. We sent her an email and within the hour she got back to us and said 'Yeah, just pay my airfare and I'll be there and do it for free'. I hadn't even sobered up and it had been arranged.

She's from Berlin. She's a six-foot-two, two

hundred pound German woman called the Alpha Female. Check her out online! She's scary!

We've started filming a documentary for it. It's going to be half about me putting on an event and how difficult that can be - with a comedic twist, of course - and half about visiting Women's Aid, seeing all the good work they do and explaining what else they could do if they had more funding.

How much are you hoping to raise?

I haven't really worked it out, but anything over five grand I'd be happy with. Anything over that is a bonus.

Will people who come along to see the new tour of A Black Country Night Out see the same material you use in your one-man show?

You'll see a cleaner slice of what's in my one-man show. A Black Country Night Out is very much geared towards a family audience, and I've got to be careful not to upset anyone in that respect.

Peter Lee is the compere. He's older than God's dog. We wheel him out once a year. I think we might be doing a song together this time round, which I'm looking forward to.

Last year was my debut on the show and I was the warm-up. This year is kind of exciting because I'll be the last on.

So as a Black Country chap, what are you most proud of about the region?

I'm proud of the Black Country people. They're happy to stick together. They look after their own and I think it should be celebrated. There's Brummies and there's Black Country folk. Brummies hate to be thought of as Black Country and vice versa. I think we know we're safe together and we look out for each other. And we're funny, we're really funny. We should celebrate that.

Talking of celebrating, last year saw the first ever Black Country Festival taking place. How was that for you?

The best thing about the festival was that nobody outside of the Black Country gave a shit. Nobody funded it very much. It was just Black Country people getting out of the house and having loads of fun, thinking of what they could do for their own people. It wasn't aimed at the masses, it was just for us. That's the spirit of the Black Country that I'm proud of.

It's back this year, 'bigger and better'.

What's going to be your involvement?

I'm not sure yet but I've just started doing an online radio show at Black Country Radio. They have a lot to do with the festival, so I'm sure I'm going to be roped into doing all sorts of things.

One last question. What's your guilty pleasure?

The Jeremy Kyle Show. It's a great source for my material...

Jonny Cole stars in A Black Country Night Out which shows at various venues across the Midlands this month, including **Walmley Club, Sutton Coldfield** Sat 4 April; **Stratford Artshouse** Thurs 9 April; **Palace Theatre, Redditch** Fri 17 April; **Solihull Arts Complex** Wed 22 April; **Aston Wood, Sutton Coldfield** Thurs 30 April.

For full tour dates, visit brianyeates.co.uk

What's on

HIGHLIGHTS

To see what's on when, visit www.thsh.co.uk/whats-on

Rock, Pop & Entertainment



Clare Teal sings the Doris Day Songbook

Saturday 16 May

7.30pm

Town Hall

£19.50 plus transaction fee*



Lulu

Tuesday 19 May

Doors open 7pm

Symphony Hall

£28.50 - £45 plus transaction fee*



Lord of the Dance Dangerous Games

Friday 22 May -

Tuesday 26 May

Symphony Hall

£33 - £43.50 plus transaction fee*



Supreme Fabulettes Viva La Divas

Friday 29 May

8pm

Town Hall

£19.50 plus transaction fee*

Classical



Barbara Hannigan sings Mozart and Stravinsky

Tuesday 5 May

7.30pm

Town Hall

£9.50 - £40 plus transaction fee*



Grimethorpe Colliery Band

Sunday 17 May

3pm

Town Hall

£19.50 plus transaction fee*



Takács Quartet Haydn, Debussy and Beethoven

Tuesday 19 May

7.30pm

Town Hall

£9.50 - £35 plus transaction fee*



Fisk Jubilee Singers

Saturday 23 May

7.30pm

Town Hall

£9.50 - £30 plus transaction fee*

*A £3 transaction fee plus £1 (optional) postage, will be charged on all bookings except purchases made in person at the Town Hall or Symphony Hall Box office.

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Music

Seasick Steve

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Wed 29 April

This is Seasick Steve's first full UK tour in four long years and comes in support of brand new album *Sonic Soul Surfer*, released only last month.

"The whole record is mostly me and my longtime drummer, Dan Magnusson, sitting there drinking and playing," says Steve. "There ain't a whole lot of producing going on! But I know what I'm doing and I know what I want."

A memorable evening of authentic folk-blues music awaits...



Drum Got Soul ft. Omar & Don-E

The Drum, Birmingham, Sat 25 April

The world of Soul and R'n'B is here being celebrated via performances by two of the most respected names on the UK music scene. Soul legend Omar selects hits from his extensive back-catalogue. Singer-songwriter Don-E delivers silky-smooth and soulful sounds from hit album *Little Star*. The fellas will be joined for the gig by a yet-to-be-announced DJ who, it's promised, 'will be dropping in to deliver a hardcore guest slot for the party people'.

Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 13 April

The enigmatic ensemble have decided to call time on their stellar career, so are here visiting Birmingham to say a fond farewell. The Adios tour is being described as 'a distillation of more than a thousand shows over sixteen years and involving more than forty musicians'.

Musical director, band leader and trombonist Jesus 'Aguaje' Ramos once again helms the ensemble, and is joined for the occasion by, amongst others, veteran diva Omara Portuondo, trumpeter Guajiro Mirabal and laud virtuoso Barbarito Torres. An evening of Cuban musical tradition celebrated with flair and élan is most definitely on the cards...



Marc Almond

Town Hall, Birmingham, Fri 14 April

Although he's nowadays well established as a solo artist and international DJ specialising in electro-clash, the elfin Marc Almond nonetheless remains best known for his Soft Cell collaborations with the far more anonymous-looking Dave Ball. Drug addiction, alcoholism and a major nervous breakdown brought the Soft Cell days to an end and, save for a brief reunion a decade ago, Almond's pretty much been flying solo ever since.

Paul Simon & Sting

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Sun 12 April

Long-time pals Paul Simon and Sting here offer fans a 'two superstars for the price of one' package, courtesy of their On Stage Together tour. Originated at the Robin Hood Foundation benefit in 2013, the show features thirty-plus songs, including *Boy In The Bubble*, *Fields Of Gold*, *Driven To Tears*, *Mother & Child Reunion*, *Desert Rose*, *Every Breath You Take*, *The Boxer* and *Diamonds On The Soles Of Her Shoes*. Reviews of the show have, on the whole, been positive - but then what else would you expect when you bring together two songwriting giants and a back-catalogue of pure gold?





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with 'Sensation' Abba Tribute



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with Divas Of Soul



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Sat 13 Jun
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Fri 19 Jun
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with Brothers Of Soul



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with Harry Cambridge

Fri 26 Jun
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Music PREVIEWS

Photo by Yu Tsai

Nadine Shah

The Rainbow, Birmingham, Sat 18 April

Dual-heritage Geordie lass Nadine has the kind of bubbly personality that sits at odds with her far-from-cheery music.

"I get compared to Nick Cave, whose music I love," she says, "but I don't just want to be a female Nick Cave."

PJ Harvey's another with whom comparison is often drawn - and Nadine's in no doubt as to why. "We both sound serious and have big noses," she offers with a smile.

Nadine tours to the Midlands this month in support of her new album, *Fast Food*. "It's an album about love, really," she says, "and the realisation that as you get older you're never going to be anybody's first love ever again."



Turbowolf

Kasbah, Coventry, Sat 11 April

Turbowolf have been helped in their rise to prominence by the media's uncertainty about how best to categorise their music, a fact which promotes the notion that the band are peddling a sound that's refreshingly unique. Elements of heavy metal, punk rock, electronica, rock'n'roll and psychedelia are all present and correct in their songs, with Turbowolf themselves stating that their mission is 'to create something innovative and new and quite fun and rock music and not to tread old ground'.

They're touring to the Midlands in support of second album *Two Hands*, released this month.



Dreadzone

The Robin, Bilston, Fri 10 April

Presenting an eclectic fusion of dub, reggae, techno, folk and rock music, Dreadzone formed in 1993, during their early years employing backing vocalists who included Melanie Blatt, Denise van Outen and Alison Goldfrapp.

Their second album, 1995's *Second Light*, was championed by the legendary John Peel, who cited it as one of his favourite albums of all time. Twenty years on and the band's magic remains resolutely intact, with recently released seventh studio album *Escapades* being well received by both old and new fans alike.



Olly Murs

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Sun 26 - Tues 28 April

Over the years, plenty of X Factor's aspiring stars have found that scoring a success on the hit TV series is no guarantee of a future in the limelight. Not so Olly Murs, who's impressively transformed from talent-show wannabe to celebrity musicmaker in his own right.

Olly's appearing in Birmingham in support of new album *Never Been Better* and is joined for the gig by the BRIT Award-winning Ella Eyre.

Adam Ant

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Thurs 16 April; Student Union Copper Rooms, Warwick University, Coventry, Fri 24 April

Swashbuckling new-wave star Adam Ant made a generation of young girls positively swoon way back in the early 1980s, at his peak playing three hundred gigs a year. Now returning to his musical roots after spending a period of time trying to make it as an actor, he visits the Midlands as part of a promotional tour for seminal debut album *Dirk Wears White Sox*.

"In the face of the sterile perfection of the digital age," says Adam, commenting on his Midlands appearances, "I invite you all to an evening of one hundred percent British Leather Rock."

John Cooper Clarke

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 9 April

Expect a mix of humorous anecdotes about life in a northern town interspersed with many a quickfire poem when you check out John Cooper Clarke. Often referred to as a 'punk poet', John has supported the likes of The Sex Pistols, The Fall, Joy Division, Buzzcocks and Elvis Costello in his time and offers a truly unique evening of entertainment.

"People think those punk gigs must've been rowdy for a poet," says John of his early-career experiences, "but punk came from the arty end of the spectrum, so they were a doddle compared to working men's clubs - particularly the Glasgow ones. I didn't help matters by calling myself a poet, mind!"



Portico

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Tues 28 April

Comprising three young musicians from South London, Portico pride themselves on creating a truly unique sound and are always looking to explore new sonic territories. Blending jazz and folk styles for their first two albums, the boys have since turned to electronic, synthpop and ambient genres. They appear in Birmingham in support of new album *Living Fields*, released this very month.



The Skints

The Institute, Birmingham, Sat 18 April

"Reggae music is the sound that makes all four of us geek out," says Skints vocalist and guitarist Josh Waters Rudge, "so it's always going to be where our greatest strength lies. The music has so much history, so it's important to be respectful at the same time as trying to create something new."

A ska and reggae band hailing from East London, The Skints quickly established a formidable reputation as live performers. They also scored a significant hit with their first album, selling more than seven thousand copies. Follow-up offering *Part & Parcel* was hailed a modern-day dub, reggae and hip hop-inspired classic.

The band play the Midlands in support of recently released third album *FM*.

Music GIG REVIEWS

For further reviews, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

The Script

Genting Arena, Birmingham

Striding past screaming fans and followed by a spotlight. It was an entrance that even Rocky Balboa would've appreciated! Playing to an arena packed with mostly young women, charismatic Irish frontman Danny O'Donoghue was on fine form, launching into Paint The Town Green, Before The Worst and Breakeven. His voice was fizzing with energy - although sometimes drowned by poor acoustics. We Cry and If You Could See Me Now were solid, as was Nothing - a popular tour stunt where Danny sang to a fan's ex-boyfriend, along with the fans! But it was a moving rendition of monster hit The Man Who Can't Be Moved that proved to be the showstopper - an example of The Script at the very top of their game. No Good In Goodbye and For The First Time featured towards the end of the show, with proceedings being rounded off with the spectacular Hall Of Fame.

One thing was for certain - The Script were Superheroes that night!
Malaka Chowdhury 



Ryan Adams

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

It was 2007 when Ryan Adams last performed in Wolverhampton. Since then he's married and split from actress-singer Mandy Moore, battled drug and drink problems, taken a hiatus from music and been treated for a career-threatening ear condition. With all of this behind him, it was a relaxed Ryan who was greeted by a lively Civic crowd. The set launched with a snarling Gimme Something Good (the lead track from his self-titled new album) and Stay With Me - both Tom Petty-style rockers which showcased the more straight-ahead, hard-rock style of the new record.

Backed by an incredibly tight four-piece featuring the talents of singer and guitarist Mike Viola - and with the stage decked with two giant fender amps, vintage arcade machines, a stuffed leopard and the now-customary stars-and-stripes CND flag draped over the organ - Adams effortlessly slid between gentle folk and soulful rock. Magnolia Mountain's extended jam, with its glistening, shimmering guitar interplay, was a nod to The Grateful Dead. Songs from his two Grammy-nominated albums, Heartbreaker and Gold, were well represented in a nicely paced twenty-two-song set. A solo winding wheel gave the audience a chance to find their voice.

Impressive support act Natalie Prasse returned to sing backing vocals on Oh My Sweet Carolina, while La Cienga Just Smiled was beautifully mesmerising. A rousing finale of Come Pick Me Up brought the two-hour set to a close.

David Davies 



Music LISTINGS

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

WED 1 APR

BARLUATH The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
DANNY VAUGHN & DAN REED The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THE CRAZY 88S & THE HIGH FLYING ACES The Jam House, B'ham
FERRYMAN, CANCEL TOMORROW, STRANGER IN DEATH Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham
THE WEDDING CRASHERS The Jam House, B'ham
FEAST OF FIDDLERS Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THU 2 APR

LARRY MILLER The Robin, Bilton
CHARLI XCX The Institute, Birmingham
KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS The Jam House, Birmingham
JOSH HARTY & KELLY MACRAE DUO Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
LAURENCE JONES The Assembly, Leamington Spa
SWIM DEEP The Ooblec, Birmingham
LOST DIALS O2 Academy, Birmingham
ONDWAHUN, DIRTY SAINT & THE MIGHTY YOUNG The Roadhouse, B'ham

FRI 3 APR

ELO AGAIN The Robin, Bilton
OF MICE & MEN O2 Academy, Birmingham
B'SPOKE The Jam House, Birmingham
STEEL PULSE The Institute, Birmingham
OCCOEUR, THE ELEGANT CHAOS & FREE SUN RISING Route 44, B'ham
NICKI MINAJ The Barclaycard Arena, B'ham



VOODOO VEGAS The Assembly, Leamington Spa
90'S NIGHT PRESENTS: A VERY GOOD FRIDAY The Institute, Birmingham
KAHOAS THEORY, SISTER SHOTGUN, CELESTIAL WISH & EVERLUST Scruffy Murphys, B'ham
THE ATLANTIC PLAYERS Hare & Hounds, B'ham
JOURNEY 2 TOTO & ANDREW P DONE The Roadhouse, Birmingham

SAT 4 APR

B'SPOKE The Jam

House, Birmingham
THE SMITHS LTD The Roadhouse, B'ham

DIRTY DC - TRIBUTE TO AC / DC The Robin, Bilton

THE SOLID SILVER 60S SHOW 30TH ANNIVERSARY Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GORDON GILTTRAP, JOHN ETHERIDGE, CLIVE CARROLL & RAYMOND BUREY The Assembly, Leamington Spa

THE WEDDING CRASHERS The Jam House, B'ham

FEAST OF FIDDLERS Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

IN HINDSIGHT O2 Academy, Birmingham

PARTYNEXTDOOR The Institute, Birmingham

THE ROVING CROWS Artrix, Bromsgrove

TORANAGA, D.A.M., SOLITARY, SUICIDE WATCH, BLOODRODRED & HOTCOPS The Asylum, Birmingham

GURDAS MAAN Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

ARRON ERSKINE O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE STRIKE, LOBSTER, SHOOZE, THE UNDER-CLASS & ABBI BAKER The Institute, Birmingham

JUBILEE CLUB The Institute, Birmingham

SYLVIA The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE COUNTERFEIT SIXTIES Swan Theatre, Worcester

LA BETE BLOOMS The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry

SAXONIZED Route 44, Birmingham

SUN 5 APR

RAINOVER, TEMPERANCE, SEVENTH SIN, DIVIDED WE FALL & ROSE AVALON

The Roadhouse, B'ham

DEFINITELY MIGHT BE AND ADORED The Robin, Bilton

JOEY NEGRO Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DJ ALPHA BIRTHDAY BASH The Institute, Birmingham

BOX OF LIGHT O2 Academy, Birmingham

BENNY JACKSON Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

JERU THE DAMAJA The Ooblec, Birmingham

CHARLES DEXTER WARD, THE IMAGINEERS & RESURRECTION MEN The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry

MON 6 APR

TUFF LOVE The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

TUE 7 APR

JACK MCNEILL & CHARLIE HEYS Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

A PLACE TO BURY STRANGERS The Rainbow Venues, B'ham
ZOAX Alfie Bird's, B'ham
TOVEY BROTHERS The Jam House, B'ham

WED 8 APR

BIPOLAR SUNSHINE The Institute, Birmingham

SLEEPING WITH SIRENS O2 Academy, B'ham

EDGAR BROUGHTON The Robin, Bilton

STACEY KENT Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

SUPERFOOD The Rainbow Venues, B'ham

HOSTPOET Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GURT, BONG CAULDRON & PIST & CONJURER Scruffy Murphys, B'ham

CLARENCE CLARITY Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PIERCE THE VEIL O2 Academy, Birmingham

TRASH BOAT, NATHAN DETROIT & MAYCOMB The Flapper, Birmingham

GOSPEL CENTRAL The Jam House, B'ham

NEW MOTION The Ooblec, Birmingham

THU 9 APR

BLUE De Montfort Hall, Leicester

IAN PARKER & HIS BAND The Robin, Bilton

FEAST OF FIDDLERS The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

BIBRIBY & DODIE CLARK O2 Academy, B'ham

LIMEHOUSE LIZZY The Mar's Bar, Worcester

TALON - THE BEST OF EAGLES Palace Theatre, Redditch

OBEY THE BRAVE The Ooblec, Birmingham

JOHN COOPER CLARKE Artrix, Bromsgrove

TOSELAND The Asylum, Birmingham

RETOX The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SUBURBAN LEGENDS & MC LARS The Rainbow, Birmingham

OPHEON, THE FINAL CHAPTER, VEXXEN & THIS MEMORY The Flapper, Birmingham

SHALAMAR The Jam House, Birmingham

FRI 10 APR

MARILLION WEEKEND UK Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

TALON - THE BEST OF EAGLES Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

THE ELVIS YEARS The Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE WOMBATS O2 Academy, Birmingham

SUPERONIT - OASIS TRIBUTE Route 44, B'ham

SOLID SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham

DREADZONE The Robin, Bilton

MARIUS NESET CBSO Centre, Birmingham

BLACK YAYA The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry

THE ELO EXPERIENCE Artrix, Bromsgrove

AARON SNAPES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE MOTELLAS Nailcote

Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
JKUKEBOX JURY & THE DELRAY ROCKETS The Roadhouse, B'ham
SHEBREW, MORASS OF MOLASSES, VICTORIAN WHORE DOGS & RESURRECTION MEN Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham
MATTHEW LONG Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull
FALLING RED The Asylum, Bromsgrove
SAMOANS, ENQUIRY, MAYORS OF TORONTO & POCKET APOCALYPSE The Flapper, Birmingham
MATTHEW EDWARDS & THE UNFORTUNATES Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



Matthew Edwards

TIDY BOYS The Marr's Bar, Worcester
THE ASSIST The Rainbow, Birmingham
SAMOANS, ENQUIRY, MAYORS OF TORONTO & POCKET APOCALYPSE The Flapper, Birmingham
ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW & THE LOWRIDERS Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

SAT 11 APR

MARILLION WEEKEND UK Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

SOLID SOUL The Jam House, Birmingham

HEY BEATLES Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

T.REXTASY The Robin, Bilston

SIMPLE MINDS O2 Academy, Birmingham

VIBRACATHEDRAL ORCHESTRA, DEATH SHANTIES & HEATHER LEIGH The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry

COMPLETE MADNESS Evesham Arts Centre, Worcester

THE PHIL BEER BAND The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

DIZZY LIZZY The Roadhouse, Birmingham

BRING IT ALL BACK! ULTIMATE 90S SHOW Solihull Arts Complex

CRACKED ACTORS The Pig And Drum, Worcester

DRENCE The Institute, Birmingham

THE UPBEAT BEATLES Artrix, Bromsgrove

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC Crewe Lyceum

MEGHAN TRAINOR The Institute, Birmingham

TURBOWOLF Kasbah, Coventry

HOT CLUB DE SWING Hare & Hounds, B'ham

NATHAN SYKES The Institute, Birmingham

HOWL, BEARDMORE & SPIRIT KREEK Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

PURPLE VELVET & ADAM TURNER Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

EKKAH The Sunflower

Lounge, Birmingham
DAYLIGHT ROBBERY, LAWLESS & SHYNE Route 44, Birmingham

SUN 12 APR

MARILLION WEEKEND UK Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

MARIANA SADOVSKA mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

LA VILLA STRANGITO The Robin, Bilston

PAUL SIMON & STING Genting Arena, B'ham

BALTHAZAR The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

FINLEY QUAYE The Ooblec, Birmingham

RITA PAYNE Artrix, Bromsgrove

ANGLAGARD The Robin, Bilston

BARS AND MELODY O2 Academy, Birmingham

BRETFORTON SILVER BAND Evesham Arts Centre, Worcestershire

WALK OF FAME Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

SUBURBAN LEGENDS The Assembly, Leamington Spa

BURDEN OF THE NOOSE, BOYCOTT THE BAPTIST, SEALCLUBBER & A HORSE CALLED WAR Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

MON 13 APR

ORQUESTA BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB Symphony Hall, Birmingham

YOUNG KATO The Rainbow Venues, B'ham

MARK OLSON Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

NORTH SEASONS The Flapper, Birmingham

TOM BROSSEAU The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry

TUE 14 APR

THAT'LL BE THE DAY The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

CIRCA WAVES The Institute, Birmingham

SKELETONWITCH, GOAT-WHORE & MORTALS The Ooblec, Birmingham

THE GLOWROGUES The Jam House, B'ham

NIGHT AT THE MOVIES The Roadhouse, B'ham

WED 15 APR

THAT'LL BE THE DAY The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

ANDY IRVINE The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham

LARKIN POE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BRETT DENNEN The Glee Club, Birmingham

PLANES The Rainbow, Birmingham

THU 16 APR

ELIO PACE PERFORMS THE

BILLY JOEL SONGBOOK

The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

BENJAMIN FOLKE

THOMAS HARE & HOUNDS Birmingham

STEVE HOWE The Robin, Bilston

DEMORALISER The Ooblec, Birmingham

SIGMA The Institute, Birmingham

THERAPY? The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

ROO PANES The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

ADAM ANT The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

THE OFFICIAL RECEIVERS The Jam House, B'ham

ENGRAVED DISILLUSION, WHITE NOISE THEORY, OFFSHORE & DISTANCE

TO FALL Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

BENIGHTED, CANCEROUS WOMB & ABHORRENT DECIMATION

The Flapper, Birmingham

FRI 17 APR

UB40 The Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE SOLID SILVER 60S SHOW 30TH ANNIVERSARY

TOUR Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE HOLLIES Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FRED ZEPPELIN The Roadhouse, B'ham

MARC ALMOND Birmingham Town Hall

CLASSIC CLAPTON Artrix, Bromsgrove

ROUPER The Jam House, Birmingham

ANDY WHITE Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

DIRT BOX DISCO The Asylum, Birmingham

MAINLY MADNESS The Robin, Bilston

THE SHIRES The Institute, Birmingham

MIKE HURST AND THE SPRINGFIELDS Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

GHOSTS IN DAYLIGHT Ort Cafe, Birmingham

THE LEISURE SOCIETY The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

FIRE RED EMPRESS The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

STEREO KICKS O2 Academy, Birmingham

BLOOM O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE OFFICIAL RECEIVERS The Marr's Bar, Worcester

CALLAGHAN The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

OZZMOSIS Route 44, Birmingham

SAT 18 APR

ROUPER The Jam House, Birmingham

UFO Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

DIRT The Asylum, B'ham

CHAMPIONS OF ROCK Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE COUNTERFEIT STONES The Robin, Bilston

ALMONY FOLK Evesham Arts Centre, Worcestershire

Bella Hardy - mac - Midlands Art Centre, Birmingham



NADINE SHAH

The Rainbow, Birmingham

DARLIA Student Union Copper Rooms, Warwick University, Coventry

YOUTH MAN

The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

JAMES BAY

The Institute, Birmingham

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR

Artrix, Bromsgrove

RED SHOES

Palace Theatre, Redditch

BOOTLEG BLONDIE

The Roadhouse, B'ham

THE SKINTS

The Institute, Birmingham

OZZMOSIS

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

PVRIS

O2 Academy, Birmingham

NADINE SHAH

The Rainbow Venues, B'ham

MARXS BROTHERS

Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire

CHRIS TYE

Ort Cafe, Birmingham

HORDES, SLOW WORM, FVNERALS & COLOSSLOTH

Scruffy Murphys, B'ham

GURDAS MAAN

Genting Arena, Birmingham

THEM WOLVES, BLACK MEKON, THE CASTILIANS, SUNSHINE FRISBEE LASERBEAM, SWAMPMASTER FAMILY

BAND, THREADS

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ESTABLISHMENT, THEIR SOULS ARE GOLD & TIDES

APART SEASONS

The Institute, Birmingham

3SIXTY, STONE COLD KILLERS & BLACKOUT

SUN

The Marr's Bar, Worcester

CLoudBUSTING

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

WE ARE THE OCEAN

Kasbah, Coventry

BOGUS BLOOZE

Route 44, Birmingham

SUN 19 APR

CURVED AIR The Robin, Bilston

TEXAS Symphony Hall, Birmingham

STORMZY The Institute, Birmingham

THE LIFE & MUSIC OF JIM

Ben Howard

Kris Drever & Boo Hewerdine

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Stormzy

Reeves

The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Ray Quinn

Stratford Artshouse

Renaissance

The Assembly, Leamington Spa

George Clinton

Nai Harvest

The Ooblec, Birmingham

Crooked House

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Girl Friend

The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Tue 21 Apr

The Life & Music of Jim Reeves

Solihull Arts Complex

Prong

O2 Academy, Birmingham

Polar Bear

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Kyshera, Broken Chords & Gooding

The Robin, Bilston

The Swellers

The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

The Blatherskites & Charlie and the Funk Factory

The Jam House, Birmingham

Valour, Impuritas, Monasteries & Merciless Tide

Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

The Swimmers

The Blatherskites & Charlie and the Funk Factory

While She Sleeps & Cancer Bats

The Institute, Birmingham

Enchante

The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

Echosmith

O2 Academy, Birmingham

Skinny Lister

The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

Sasha McVeigh & Sonia Leigh

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Patsy Fuller & The Revellers

The Jam House, Birmingham

Ryley Walker

The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry

Thu 23 Apr

The Fortunes - Past & Present

Solihull Arts Complex

Gerry and the Pacemakers

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Kate Rusby

Arts Centre, Coventry

Carolyn Sampson &

Music Listings

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

JOSEPH MIDDLETON Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire
MIKE STEWART Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull
LAWRENCE Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
NAJMA AKHTAR Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
STATUS QUO Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
FIVE The Institute, Birmingham
DONA OXFORD The Jam House, Birmingham
RENAISSANCE The Robin, Bilton
AMPLIFIER The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
TOM WILLIAMS Ort Cafe, Birmingham
MERCILESS TIDE O2 Academy, Birmingham
WILL BUTLER The Institute, Birmingham
STEALING SHEEP The Rainbow, Birmingham

FRI 24 APR

GERRY MCAVOY'S BAND OF FRIENDS The Robin, Bilton
THE KILKENNYS Solihull Arts Complex
SPIRO The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
THE SMYTHS O2 Academy, Birmingham
DEREK RYAN Irish Centre, Birmingham
TRU GROOVE The Jam House, Birmingham
RYAN BOLDT & KACEY CLAYTON The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry
SOLID GOLD 70'S SHOW Malvern Theatres, Worcester
THE BUDDY PRESLEY SHOW The Roadhouse, Birmingham
TALON - THE BEST OF EAGLES Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
THE EARLY NOVEMBER The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
RALEIGH RITCHIE The Institute, Birmingham
THE BIRTHDAY MASSACRE, THE RED PAINTINGS, AMONG THE ECHOES & THE DEAD BETAS The Institute, Birmingham
THE SOUL SURVIVORS WITH MEL DAY Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire
NUALA HONAN & BETH PORTER Ort Cafe, B'ham
SHOWADDYWADDY Regal Cinema, Evesham
SWAMP DELTA O2 Academy, Birmingham
HOWL The Flapper, Birmingham
BUFFALO SUMMER The Oobleck, Birmingham
WRETCHED SOUL, ERADIKATOR, INVASIVE & KILLER HURTS Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham
HANGING TREE The Marr's Bar, Worcester
PELIKANN The Marr's Bar, Worcester
ALAN BENZIE TRIO Sym-

phony Hall, Birmingham
MAHALIA The Rainbow, Birmingham
BELLA HARDY mac - Midlands Art Centre, B'ham
ADAM ANT Student Union Copper Rooms, Warwick Uni, Coventry



Adam Ant

DURAN Route 44, B'ham

SAT 25 APR

TRU GROOVE The Jam House, Birmingham
HOT WAXX The Institute, Birmingham
LOVEBITE O2 Academy, Birmingham
YOI & KEIRON BOOTH Hare & Hounds, B'ham
GO ON PUNK MAKE MY DAY AGAIN The Assembly, Leamington Spa
ROCK ANTHEMS Evesham Arts Centre, Worcestershire
TELLISON The Rainbow, Birmingham

MON 27 APR

OLLY MURS The Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
MIKE & THE MECHANICS Symphony Hall, B'ham
MOON DUO Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
PURITY RING The Institute, Birmingham
LAURA MARLING The Institute, Birmingham
TELLISON The Rainbow, Birmingham

TUE 28 APR

OLLY MURS The Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
YEALLOW, NATIVE WRECK, MYTH CITY, LIGHT THE SKIES, BESIDE ALL HOPE & HIVE O2 Academy, Birmingham
MANIFEST The Drum, Birmingham
SCOPYONS & RECKLESS HEART The Roadhouse, Birmingham
THE ROAD TO BLISS-FIELDS 2015 The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
THE CRUXSHADOWS The Institute, Birmingham
CRACKED ACTORS The Custard Factory, Birmingham
VON HERTZEN BROTHERS The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
LUCY PARHAM AND SIMON RUSSELL BEALE Stratford ArtHouse
KWABS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
QUERCUS Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
THE MIGHTY WRAITH, CHEMILL, TOLEDO STEEL, NEVERSTAR, HIDDEN & GEE HARLIQUIN Scruffy Murphys, B'ham
RIFF RAFF & DIZZY LIZZY The Marr's Bar, Worcester
ALBERT HAMMOND Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
TERAPY? Kasbah, Coventry
IVOR & LYNN'S CLASSIC ROCK DISCO Route 44, Birmingham

WED 29 APR

MAN OVERBOARD The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THE SANDY DENNY SONG-BOOK Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
KATHRYN ROBERTS & SEAN LAKEMAN The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
SEASICK STEVE Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
DAMAGE O2 Academy, Birmingham
BLACK Artrix, Bromsgrove
JULIE FELIX The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham
GIRLS WITH GUITARS The Robin, Bilton
BLAIR DUNLOP & EMMA STEVENS The Glee Club, Birmingham
IMAGINATION WITH LEE JOHN The Jam House, Birmingham
CC SMUGGLERS Hare &

SUN 26 APR

RAYMOND FROGGATT The Roses Theatre, Tewkes-

bury
OLLY MURS The Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
JACK JONES Birmingham Town Hall
DAN WHITEHOUSE Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
SIMON GOODALL PERFORMS THE CLIFF RICHARD SONGBOOK Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
ZERVAS & PEPPER The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
FREDDIE STARR The Robin, Bilton
URIAH HEEP The Assembly, Leamington Spa
SHAWN SMITH Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE INTERRUPTERS O2 Academy, Birmingham
GREN BARTLEY Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham
SYMMETRY O2 Academy, Birmingham
WALSALL JAZZ ORCHESTRA Symphony Hall, Birmingham



Laura Marling - The Institute, Birmingham

Hounds, Birmingham
EMILIA MARTENSSON Hare & Hounds, B'ham
JACKSON LIVE IN CONCERT Evesham Arts Centre, Worcestershire

THU 30 APR

HIGHER ON MAIDEN & SAXONISED The Robin, Bilton
DEL CAMINO The Jam

House, Birmingham
DUOTONE & MALARKIE The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry
CALABRESE The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
MEXRRISSEY - MEXICO GOES MORRISSEY Warwickshire University SU, Coventry
OUR LAST NIGHT The Odeon, Birmingham
THEY SURRENDER O2

Academy, Birmingham
DANGEROUS GIRLS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE LOST NOTES, SMALL CHANGES & KATE BARRY The Roadhouse, B'ham
INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY CONCERT The Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa
THE TAKE THAT EXPERIENCE Swan Theatre, Worcester

Music Venues Box Office Across The Midlands

Birmingham

02 ACADEMY 0121 622 8250
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ADRIAN BOULT HALL 0121 331 5901
THE ASYLUM 0121 233 1109
BARCLAYCARD ARENA 0121 780 4141
BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL 0121 780 3333
CBSO CENTRE 0121 780 3333
FLAPPER 0121 236 2421

GENTING ARENA 0121 780 4141
THE GLEE CLUB 0871 472 0400
HARE & HOUNDS 0121 444 2081

THE INSTITUTE 0121 643 0428

IRISH CENTRE 0121 622 2314

THE JAM HOUSE 0121 200 3030

THE KITCHEN GARDEN CAFE 0121 443 4725

THE RAINBOW 0121 772 8174

RED LION FOLK CLUB 0121472 4253

THE ROADHOUSE 0121 246 2273

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Black Country

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FOREST ARTS CENTRE 0845 111 2898
NEWHAMPTON ARTS CENTRE 01902 572090
ROBIN 2, BILSTON 01902 401211
SLADE ROOMS 0870 320 7000
STOURBRIDGE TOWN HALL 01384 812812
WULFRUN HALL, WOLVERHAMPTON 0870 320 7000

WULFRUN HALL, WOLVERHAMPTON 01384 812812

THE BUTTERMARKET, SHREWSBURY 01743 355055

THE EDGE ARTS CENTRE, MUCH WENLOCK 01952 728911

HENRY TUDOR HOUSE 01743 361666

THE HIVE, SHREWSBURY 01743 234970

LUDLOW ASSEMBLY ROOMS 01584 878141

THEATRE SEVERN, SHREWSBURY 01743 281281

THE PLACE, OAKENGATES, TELFORD 01952 382382

WEM TOWN HALL 01939 232299

Staffordshire

02 ACADEMY 01538 386112
LICHFIELD GUILDHALL 01543 262223
THE SUGARMILL, HANLEY STOKE-ON-TRENT 01159 454 593
TAMWORTH ASSEMBLY ROOMS 01827 709618
VICTORIA HALL, HANLEY 0870 060 6649
STAFFORD GATEHOUSE 01785 254653

Warwickshire

02 ACADEMY 01926 311311
THE KASBAH, COVENTRY 024 7655 4473

NAILCOTE HALL, BERKSWELL 02476 46 6174

STRATFORD CIVIC HALL 01789 207100

THE TIN MUSIC & ARTS, COVENTRY 0247 655 9958

Worcestershire

02 ACADEMY 01527 577330
HUNTINGDON HALL / SWAN THEATRE 01905 611427
MARR'S BAR, WORCESTER 01905 613336
THE RIVER ROOMS, STOURBRIDGE 01384 397177

For additional information and to find out What's On at these venues.

Visit: www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Classical Music PREVIEWS



Noah Stewart Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 25 April

One of international opera's most talked-about tenors, Noah Stewart's potential was first recognised at the age of twelve when his choir teacher encouraged him to pursue a career in music. Awarded a scholarship to New York's prestigious Juilliard School, Noah committed to an operatic career. Towards the end of his time at Juilliard, having attracted the attention of the professional classical community, he was invited by the Bach Society of Columbia to perform the title role in their touring version of *Acis And Galatea*. It was the beginning of what has since proved to be an award-winning career for Noah, who went on to win the Mario Lanza Competition for Tenors.

The Harlem-born singer's self-titled fourteen-track debut album, released in 2012, proved to be a hit on both sides of the Atlantic, topping the UK classical charts for an impressive seven weeks. A critically acclaimed Covent Garden debut - starring as Hassan in Judith Weir's *Miss Fortune* - further established Noah's rising-star status.

Stopping off in Birmingham as part of a seven-date solo tour, Noah here performs a programme featuring some of opera's most-celebrated arias, presented alongside numerous hand-picked West End and big-screen favourites.

BCMG: The Miracle Of The Rose

CBSO Centre, Birmingham, Sat 25 April

Acclaimed conductor Oliver Knussen makes his only Birmingham outing of the season at this much-anticipated concert with Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG).

Knussen takes the helm to present Hans Werner Henze's *Le Miracle de la Rose*, a musical evocation of a written work of the same title by French poet and playwright Jean Genet. The instruments used in the piece are representative of figures from Genet's book.

Henze is one of two German composers whose work is featured in the concert programme. The other is Arne Gieshoff, BCMG's Apprentice Composer-in-Residence. His work, *Kata*, here receives its world premiere.

The programme also includes works by three American composers - *Septet* (Stravinsky), *Critical Moments I and II* (George Perle) and *Between The Lines* (Alexander Goehr).



Oliver Knussen



Beauchamp Sinfonietta

St Mary's Church, Warwick, Sat 25 April; Town Hall, Leamington Spa, Sun 26 April

Leamington Spa-based Beauchamp Sinfonietta is widely regarded as one of the region's premier chamber orchestras, presenting music that covers a wide spectrum of classical periods.

Performing regular concerts across the Midlands under the leadership of Musical Director Nic Fallowfield, the orchestra is this month staying particularly close to home by performing at two Warwickshire venues. The programme for both concerts features: Mendelssohn's Overture *The Fair Melusine*; Schumann's Cello Concerto with soloist Tim Gill; and Beethoven's Symphony No.7.

English Touring Opera

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 13 - Tues 14 April; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 April

English Touring Opera travels to more regions and plays more venues than any other English opera company, presenting as many as one hundred-and-ten performances every year. The company's stated aim is to make opera accessible to everyone. It achieves this not only via its varied repertoire of professional productions but also through an ambitious outreach programme. The programme comprises an average of one hundred-and-seventy workshops and performances each year, ranging from full-scale community operas to intimate performances in care facilities.

This month sees the company returning to the Midlands to present a new production of the Puccini masterpiece *La Bohème*, featuring Ilona Domnich as Mimì and David Butt Philip as Rodolfo. The programme also includes a revival of Donizetti's *The Siege Of Callais* - a tale of heroism in the face of defeat - and a first staging in Britain during modern times of Donizetti's *The Wild Man Of The West Indies*.



Ex Cathedra: Good Friday St Matthew Passion

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 3 April

A favourite at Easter, Bach's moving retelling of Christ's betrayal and death is one of classical music's most profound experiences. Sung in German with English subtitles, *St John Passion* is here performed by the Ex Cathedra Choir and Baroque Orchestra. Under the direction of conductor Jeffrey Skidmore and featuring Jeremy Budd (Evangelist), Greg Skidmore (Jesus) and James Geidt (Pilate), the much-celebrated early music ensemble present a new approach to the composer's piercingly beautiful work.



Greg Skidmore

Birmingham
Contemporary
Music Group



The Miracle of the Rose

Tickets:
£14 full price /
£10 concession
£1 under 16s

Box Office:
0121345 0491
Online:
bcmg.org.uk

Saturday 25 April 2015, 7.30pm
CBSO Centre, Birmingham
Conductor: Oliver Knussen
Clarinet: Timothy Lines *
Igor Stravinsky: Septet
George Perle: Critical Moments
Alexander Goehr: between the Lines
Interval
Arne Gieshoff: katá (world premiere /
BCMG/SaM Apprentice
Composer-in-Residence 2014)
Interval
George Perle: Critical Moments 2
Hans Werner Henze: Le Miracle de la Rose *

Henze's 40-minute *Le Miracle de la Rose*, is a musical evocation of a literary work of the same title by the French poet and playwright Jean Genet. The exceptional Timothy Lines as soloist evokes the principal characters: the sixteen-year-old murderer Harcomone; and the poet himself. Three American works (Stravinsky was a naturalised U.S. citizen by the time he wrote *Septet* in 1953); a world premiere from Arne Gieshoff and Alexander Goehr's chamber symphony complete the programme.



EX CATHEDRA
Jeffrey Skidmore



"This brilliant Birmingham choir"
The Independent

RACHMANINOFF VESPERS

SUNDAY 3 MAY, 4PM
TOWN HALL, BIRMINGHAM

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LEAMINGTON
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WEEKEND
2015

Friday 1 May, 7.30pm

Anna Tilbrook - Piano
Fitzwilliam String Quartet
Mozart • Haydn • Shostakovich



Saturday 2 May, 12 noon

Roderick Williams - Baritone
Gary Matthewman - Piano

The Great War
Butterworth • Finzi • Gurney • Ireland • Ives
Somervell • Vaughan Williams and more



Saturday 2 May, 7.30pm

Ensemble 360

Haydn • Brahms • Schubert

Sunday 3 May, 12 noon

Jana Novakova - Violin

Petr Novak - Piano

Dvorak • Martinu • Novak • Schubert

Sunday 3 May, 3pm Family Concert

The Singing Cellist

Simon Wallfisch - Baritone and Cello

Edward Rushton - Piano

Sunday 3 May, 7.30pm

Michael Collins - Clarinet

Peter Donohoe - Piano

Brahms • Schubert • Debussy • Poulenc
Stravinsky • Lovreglio

Monday 4 May, 12.30pm

Simon Wallfisch - Baritone and Cello

Edward Rushton - Piano

Schubert • Brahms • Edward Rushton • Strauss
Caplet • Mozart

Monday 4 May, 7.30pm

Hagai Shaham - Violin

Raphael Wallfisch - Cello

Arnon Erez - Piano

Haydn • Brahms • Schubert

Tuesday 5 May, 12 noon

Hagai Shaham - Violin

Raphael Wallfisch - Cello

Arnon Erez - Piano

Schubert • Brahms

Tuesday 5 May, 7pm

Michael Collins - Clarinet

Henschel String Quartet

Haydn • Schubert • Brahms



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and the
West Midlands

Comedy

Jo Enright

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 11 April

Birmingham-born actor and comedian Jo Enright admits she's happiest when she's hiding behind a character. "I like anonymity," says Jo. "That's the great thing about being an actor; you can be in things without anybody recognising you."

Jo's career so far has seen her taking refuge behind one character or another in some of the UK's most successful comedy series - *Phoenix Nights*, *I'm Alan Partridge* and *Life's Too Short*.



Jeremy Hardy

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 22 April; The Courtyard, Hereford, Sun 26 April

"In an ideal world," The Guardian once wrote, "Jeremy Hardy would be extremely famous, but an ideal world would leave him without most of his best material." Hardy has developed a reputation for being one of the most topical comedians on the circuit, blending his concerns about the modern-day world with a humour that makes his sometimes controversial subject matter all the more accessible and thought-provoking.



Matt Forde

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 25 April

Nottingham-born Forde is this month returning to the Midlands with a show that brings together topical stand-up and political debate (Forde is a one-time political advisor to the Labour Party). Away from the spotlight of live stand-up, Matt writes gags for shows like *Russell Howard's Good News*, *8 Out Of 10 Cats* and *Stand-Up For The Week*. He also hosts talkSPORT radio show *Extra Time*.



Lee Nelson

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 30 April

Lee Nelson is the hugely popular creation of former medical doctor Simon Brodkin. After years of wearing cheap bling and drinking Stella like it's going out of fashion, Nelson is now moving up in the world, with Brodkin deciding to 'suit and boot' the character for this latest tour. Nelson is joined in the show by various other Brodkin alter-egos, including pitch-invading Premier League footballer Jason Bent, bigoted pastor Daniel Doolay and unhinged club rep Chris Young from *Kicking Off In Kavos*.

Speaking about the experience of touring a show, South London geezer Lee said: "There's no bigger buzz in the world than turning up in a new city, making two thousand people laugh and then sleeping with about five of them afterwards. The only downside's Chlamydia."

Matt Reed

Manford's Comedy Club, Players Bar, Birmingham, Sat 25 April

Sunderland-born Matt Reed has acquired a loyal band of enthusiastic followers, particularly in his homeland of the North East, and always brings plenty of energy to his stand-up routines. "The best gigs are always the most unexpected," he told gigglebeats.co.uk. "I've been held above a bouncer's head, I've been topless, naked, and I've got a nineteen-year-old boy his first kiss off a girl in front of two thousand people at a festival. I've done gigs in a cave, up a mountain, too drunk, too ill and with broken ribs. But I love my job and I can't see that changing any time soon."



Comedy Box Office

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01527 577330
BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL
0121 780 3333
THE BEAR PIT,
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
01789 403416
CIVIC HALL,
WOLVERHAMPTON
0870 320 7000
COURTYARD THEATRE,
HEREFORD
01432 340555
THE DRUM, BIRMINGHAM
0121 333 2444
DRUMMONDS BAR,
WORCESTER
01905 28190
THE EDGE ARTS CENTRE,
MUCH WENLOCK, SOUTH
SHROPSHIRE
01952 728911
Evesham Arts Centre,
WORCESTERSHIRE
01386 446944
FOXLOWE ARTS CENTRE,
LEEK, STAFFS
01538 386112
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BIRMINGHAM
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BIRMINGHAM
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ROOMS,
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE
01584 878141
MAC, BIRMINGHAM
0121 446 3232
OAKENGATES THEATRE,
TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE
01952 382382
PALACE THEATRE,
REDDITCH
01527 65203
PLAYERS BAR,
BIRMINGHAM
0121 643 6871
THE ROSES THEATRE
TEWKESBURY
01684 295074
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LEAMINGTON SPA
01926 334418
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0871 220 1000
THE SLADE ROOMS,
WOLVERHAMPTON
0870 320 7000
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0121 704 6962
STRATFORD ARTSHOUSE
01789 207100
THEATRE SEVERN,
SHREWSBURY
01743 281281
WARRICK ARTS CENTRE
02476 524524
WULFRUN HALL,
WOLVERHAMPTON
0870 320 7000

Comedy LISTINGS

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

JUNIOR SIMPSON, HANNAH SILVESTER, FREDDIE FARRELL, JOE ROWNTREE, ALBERT SMITH, NICK CLARKE, PAUL NIGHTINGALE, GARETH BERLINER & KAREN BAYLEY Wed 1 Apr, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield

KUM-N-AVALOFF COMEDY NIGHT Thurs 2 Apr, Stourbridge Town Hall

JETHRO Thurs 2 - Fri 3 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

IVO GRAHAM, IAN COPPINGER, ANDY ROBINSON & COMEDY

CAROUSEL Thurs 2 - Sat 4 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDY PARSONS Fri 3 Apr, Evesham Arts Centre

SLIM, DANA MICHELLE

ALEXANDER & REM

CONWAY Fri 3 Apr, The Drum, Birmingham

ALL ACTS TBC Fri 3 Apr, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

IVO GRAHAM, IAN COPPINGER, MATT RICHARDSON & ROMESH

RANGANATHAN Fri 3 - Sat 4 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW STANLEY, RICHARD MORTON, SIMON FEILDER & HARRIET DYER Sat 4 Apr, Coventry Showcase

JOHN LYNN, JOHN FOTHERGILL, MICHAEL FABBRI & WAYNE DEAKIN

Sat 4 Apr, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

DAVE HADINGHAM, CHRIS TURNER, STEVE GRIBBIN & BRYAN LACEY Sat 4 Apr, Players Bar, Birmingham

LEE NELSON Sun 5 Apr, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

ALLYSON JUNE SMITH, ALICE FRICK & MAUREEN YOUNGER Wed 8 Apr, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

ANDREW LAWRENCE

Thurs 9 Apr, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

KEN DODD Thurs 9 Apr, Bedworth Civic Hall

ADAM BLOOM & ANDY

ROBINSON WITH COMEDY CAROUSEL & COMIC TBC

Thurs 9 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ADAM KAY, JAMES, DOWDESWELL & DAVID MORGAN Thurs 9 Apr, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

PATRICK MONAHAN Thurs 9 - Fri 10 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MATT FORDE Fri 10 Apr, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

DAVE JOHNS, MARK NELSON, KEVIN GILDA & JIM SMALLMAN Fri 10 - Sat 11 Apr, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

ADAM BLOOM, MAFF BROWN & ERIC LALOR

Fri 10 - Sat 11 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ALAN CARR Fri 10 - Sat 11 Apr, Malvern Theatres

JO ENRIGHT Sat 11 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, DAVID TRENT, DANA ALEXANDER & DANNY

MCLOUGHLIN Sat 11 Apr, Players Bar, Birmingham

QUINCY, MATT RUDGE, BRETT GOLDSTEIN & LOST VOICE GUY Sat 11 Apr, Coventry Showcase

NINA BENJAMIN, MAUREEN YOUNGER, PETE TECKMAN & JOSH PUGH Sun 12 Apr, Drapers Bar, Coventry

LOUDEEMY SOUP

COMEDY NIGHT Mon 13 Apr, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

JULIET MEYERS & AARON TWITCHEN Mon 13 Apr, Old Joint Stock Pub, Birmingham

DAN NIGHTINGALE, BRENNAN REECE, GARETH BERLINER, HARRIET DYER & COMIC TBC Tues 14 Apr, Rose Villa Tavern, Birmingham

COUNT ARTHUR STRONG

Thurs 16 Apr, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

DAN NIGHTINGALE, LIAM WILLIAMS WITH ANDY

ROBINSON & COMEDY

Rob Rouse

CAROUSEL Thurs 16 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MILTON JONES Fri 17 Apr, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

COUNT ARTHUR STRONG

Fri 17 Apr,

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

DIANE SPENCER, JUNIOR

SIMPSON, ANDY ASKINS & RAYMOND AND MR

TIMPKINS REVUE Fri 17 Apr, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

DAN NIGHTINGALE, LIAM WILLIAMS, LLOYD

LANGFORD & SEAN

PERCIVAL Fri 17 - Sat 18 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CAREY MARX, JONATHAN

ELSTON, MICHAEL FABBRI & JULIET MYERS Sat 18 Apr, Coventry Showcase

DIANE SPENCER, JUNIOR

SIMPSON, ANDY ASKINS & GEORGE EGG Sat 18 Apr, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

MICKEY D Sat 18 Apr, mac, Birmingham

ANDY WHITE Sat 18 Apr, mac, Birmingham

JOHN LYNN, BRENNAN

REECE, ZOE LYONS & ED GAMBLE Sat 18 Apr, Players Bar, Birmingham

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY!

Mon 20 Apr, The Blue Orange

Theatre, Birmingham

TIM VINE Wed 22 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JEREMY HARDY Wed 22 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ANDY PARSONS Thurs 23 Apr, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

GAVIN WEBSTER, JONNY

AWSUM WITH ANDY

ROBINSON & COMEDY

CAROUSEL Thurs 23 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

GAVIN WEBSTER, JONNY

AWSUM, JOE LYCETT & KATIE MULGREW Fri 24 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

STEWART FRANCIS Fri 24 Apr, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

MILTON JONES Fri 24 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BRYAN LACEY, OTIZ

CANNELLONI, CHRIS

WALKER & RORY

O'HANLON Fri 24 Apr, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

GAVIN WEBSTER, JONNY

AWSUM, JOE LYCETT & DAVID WHITNEY Sat 25 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JUNIOR SIMPSON, JOE

BROMHEAD, SUSAN

MURRAY & JAVIER

JARQUIN Sat 25 Apr, Coventry Showcase

MATT FORDE Sat 25 Apr, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



Tim Vine

MATT REED, BARRY DODDS, CHRIS WASHINGTON & ANDREW BIRD

Sat 25 Apr, Players Bar, Birmingham

LEE NELSON Thurs 30 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

DYLAN MORAN Thurs 30 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HELEN LEDERER Sun 26 Apr, The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

SEANN WALSH Thurs 30 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ROB ROUSE PLUS

SUPPORT Thurs 30 Apr, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield

CHRISTIAN O'CONNELL

Thurs 30 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARLON DAVIS, ANDY

ROBINSON Thurs 30 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

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www.manfordscomedyclub.com [Facebook.com/manfordscomedy](https://www.facebook.com/manfordscomedy)



WED 25 - SAT 28 MAR

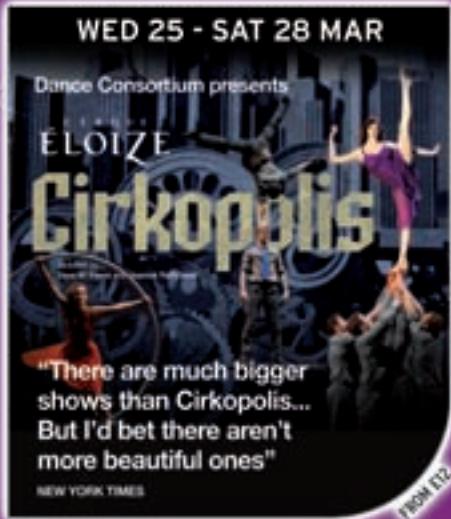
Dance Consortium presents

**ELOIZE
Cirkopolis**

"There are much bigger shows than Cirkopolis... But I'd bet there aren't more beautiful ones"

NEW YORK TIMES

FROM £12



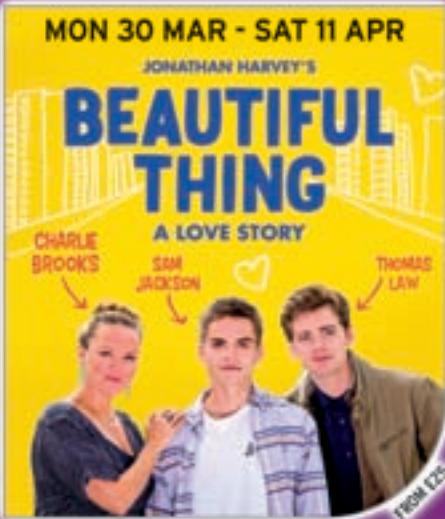
MON 30 MAR - SAT 11 APR

JOEL HARRIS'S

BEAUTIFUL THING
A LOVE STORY

CHARLIE BROOKS SAM JACKSON THOMAS LAW

FROM £25

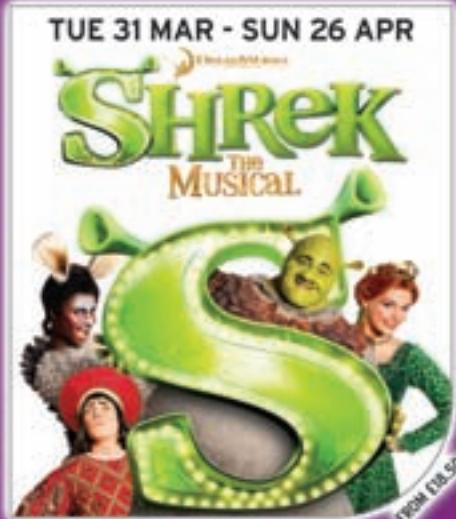


TUE 31 MAR - SUN 26 APR



**SHREK
THE MUSICAL**

FROM £18.50



TUE 26 MAY - SAT 6 JUN

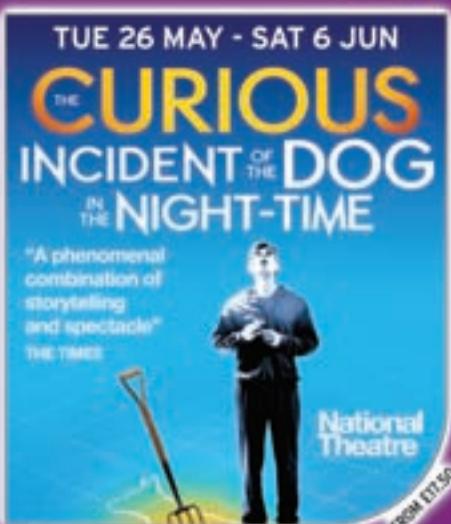
THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

"A phenomenal combination of storytelling and spectacle"

THE TIMES

National Theatre

FROM £17.50



WED 10 - SAT 13 JUN

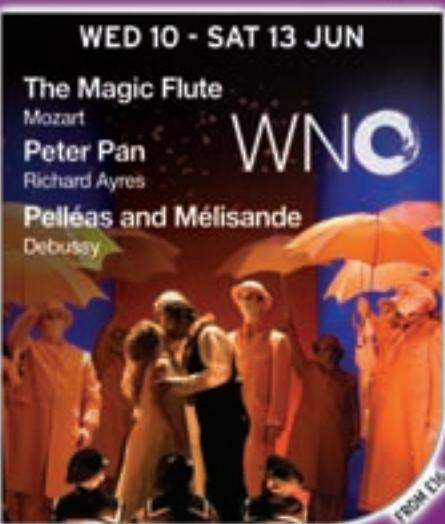
The Magic Flute
Mozart

Peter Pan
Richard Ayres

Pelléas and Mélisande
Debussy

WNO

FROM £25



WED 17 - SAT 20 JUN



**BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET**

CARMINA
BURANA
& THE KING DANCES

FROM £16



WED 24 - SAT 27 JUN

SYLVIA

BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET

FROM £16



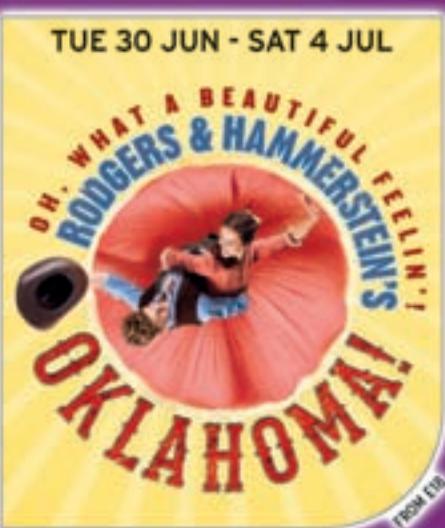
TUE 30 JUN - SAT 4 JUL

OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL FEELIN'-

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

OKLAHOMA!

FROM £19

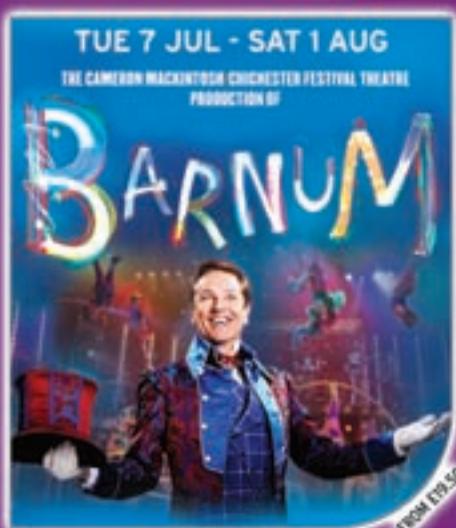


TUE 7 JUL - SAT 1 AUG

THE CAMERON MACKINTOSH CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE
PRODUCTION OF

BARNUM

FROM £19.50



THU 30 APR - SAT 23 MAY

**Dirty
Dancing**

★★★★★

"A SPECTACULAR SHOW THAT HAD THE CROWD WHOOPING FROM START TO FINISH"

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THE CLASSIC STORY ON STAGE
RECORD-BREAKING NATIONAL TOUR

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Theatre



The Producers

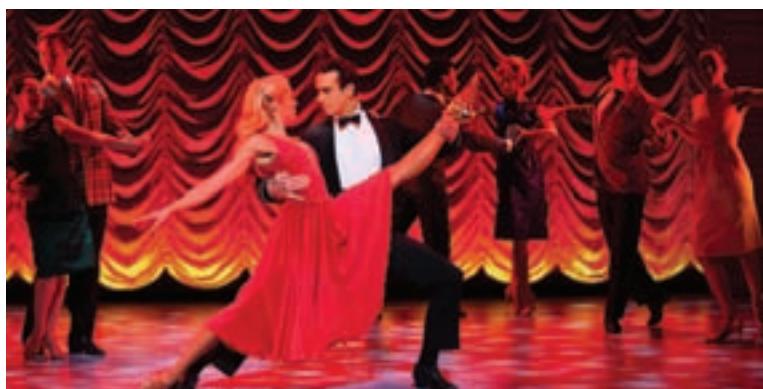
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 20 - Sat 25 April

Jason Manford and Phil Jupitus are among the big-name stars heading up the cast in this latest touring version of Mel Brooks' hit Broadway musical.

When down-on-his-luck theatrical producer Max Bialystock and his hapless accountant Leo Bloom stage a theatrical show called *Springtime For Hitler*, they're assuming it will be a great big flop, leaving the two of them to share out all the money they've raised to mount the production. Sadly for Max and Leo, things don't turn out quite as they'd expected...

"I'm basically Judy Garland - that's who Leo Bloom is," explains Jason Manford about his character. "He's brand new to showbusiness and is having his eyes opened very quickly to a lot of things he's never experienced before. My favourite line of his is, 'Stop the world, I want to get on'. It's a really big moment for him, and you could just imagine a young Judy Garland saying it off camera, with a little glint in her eye..."

Louie Spence, David Bedella and Cory English also star.



Dirty Dancing

Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 30 April - Sat 23 May

Seen by millions across the globe, Eleanor Bergstein's worldwide smash-hit musical tells the classic story of Baby and Johnny, two fiercely independent young spirits from different worlds who come together for what will prove to be the most challenging and triumphant summer of their lives.

Hit numbers include *Hungry Eyes*, *Hey Baby*, *Do You Love Me?* and *I've Had The Time Of My Life*. If you've not seen the show before, it's well worth checking out - its celebrity fans include Sir Ian McKellen, Judy Dench, Emma Forbes, Naomi Campbell, Alan Shearer, Graham Norton and Joanna Lumley, to name but a few. So if you enjoy the show, you'll certainly be in exalted company!

Rebecca

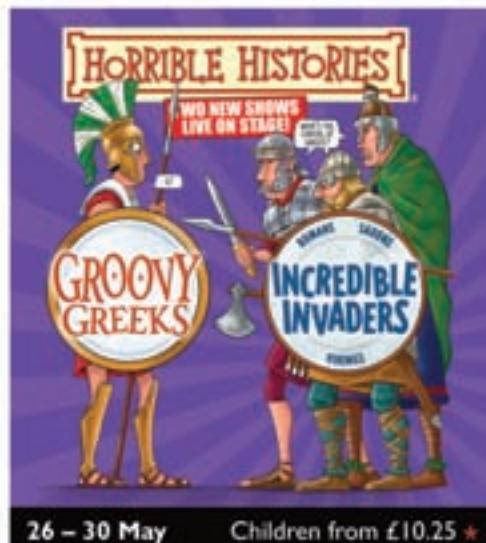
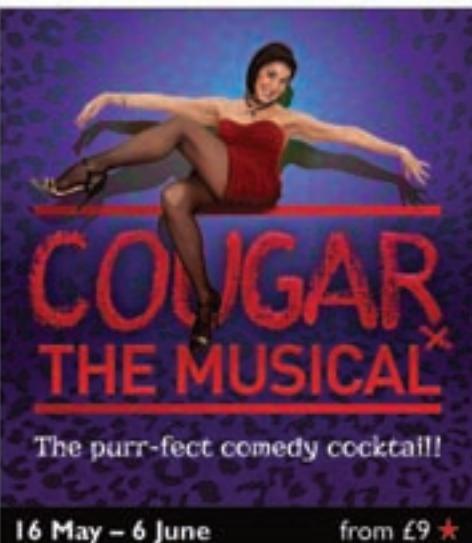
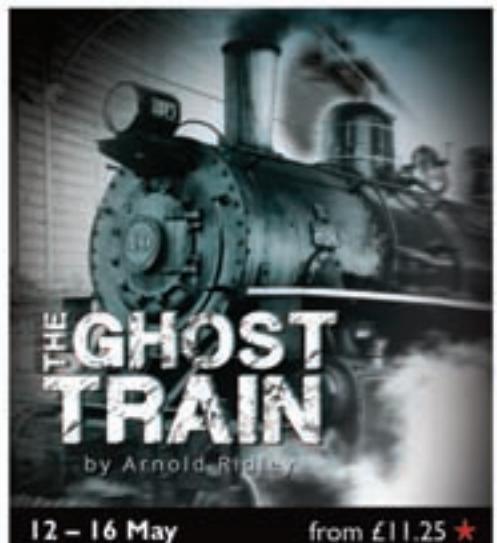
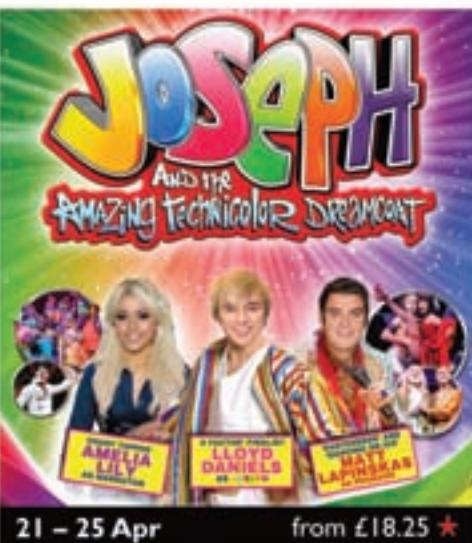
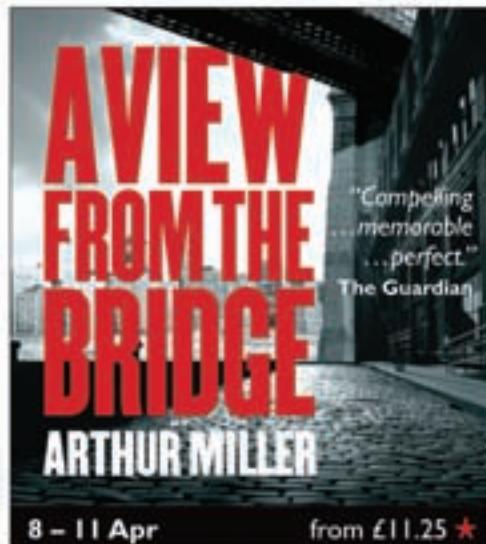
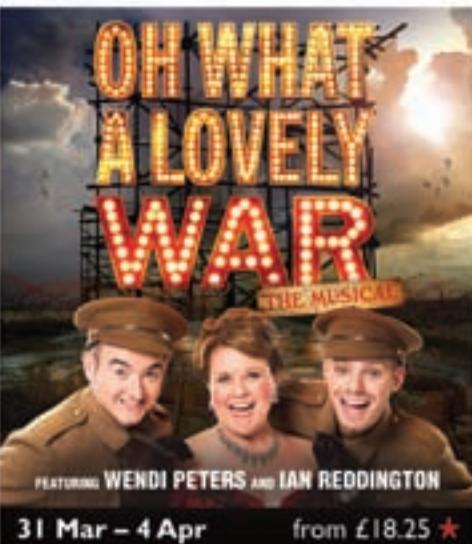
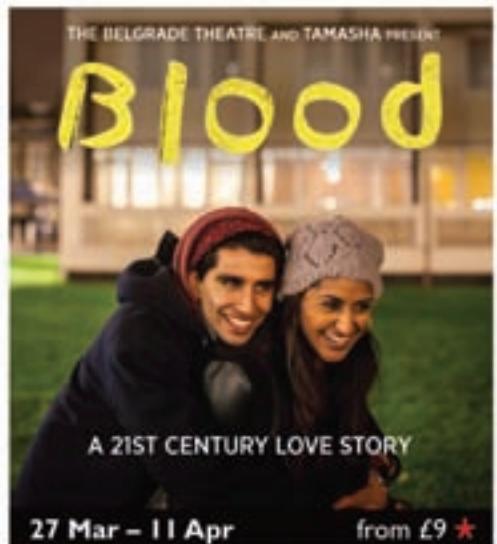
The Rep, Birmingham, Mon 27 April - Sat 2 May; Malvern Theatre, Mon 4 - Sat 9 May

The always splendid Kneehigh Theatre here make a welcome return to Birmingham to present a brand new production of Daphne du Maurier's Cornwall-set masterpiece.

The new Mrs Maxim de Winter feels threatened by the memories of her husband's first wife, the glamorous and now-deceased Rebecca. But when her jealousy prompts her to uncover the secrets of the house in which she is now the mistress, she soon comes to realise that all is not quite what it seems... Read our interview with Daphne du Maurier's son, Kit, online at whatsonlive.co.uk



Photo credit: Steve Tanner



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

Theatre PREVIEWS

Feed The Beast

The REP, Birmingham,
Thurs 16 April - Sat 2 May

Award-winning Sherlock and Doctor Who writer Steve Thompson is the man behind this brand new political comedy. It focuses on the character of Michael, who, as the newly elected Prime Minister, is determined to avoid all media charm offensives in favour of concentrating on the real business of making the world a better place. Trouble is, his family's private life looks set to be the next big story. And when Michael is advised by a press secretary to "feed the beast before it turns on you", he finds himself wondering whether his lofty principles are set to take a serious tumble... *Read the interview with Steve Thompson on page 6.*



Bouncers

Old Rep, Birmingham, Wed 15 - Sat 18 April

"Although it was written more than thirty years ago, it feels like it could be about any Friday or Saturday night in any town or city up and down the country", says John Godber when asked about one of the biggest successes in British theatre in the last thirty-odd years. John Godber's clever comedy provides a sharp and funny perspective on the club scene in the late twentieth century. It focuses on four mean and moody bouncers as they prowl around a nightclub, and four good-time girls out on a hen night. Godber has a talent for hitting the right notes with his observations on contemporary life, and Bouncers exemplifies this talent at its very best. *Read our interview with John online at whatsonlive.co.uk*



Shrek

Birmingham Hippodrome, until Sun 26 April;
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Wed 30 September - Sun 11 October

The popularity of this family-friendly West End winner of a show hardly comes as a surprise. After all, Dreamworks' animated Shrek movies, inspired by cartoonist William Steig's 1990 book, were absolutely huge. It was only ever going to be a matter of time before everybody's favourite swamp-dwelling ogre made a big splash away from the silver screen. After a tentative Broadway start, the production was revised for its subsequent US tour and West End residency - and is all the better for it. Pretty much retelling the story of the first movie, it peddles a line in humour that calls to mind both the surrealist Pythons and an evening of festive-season pantomime fare.

There are plenty of new songs to enjoy, too, presented alongside the cult Shrek anthem I'm A Believer. All in all, then, a feelgood show that pretty much touches all the bases for its young target audience, while at the same time offering plenty to keep the adults amused.

Different Is Dangerous

The Drum, Birmingham, Thurs 16 April

Conceived by Nyla Levy and Fadia Qaraman while they were studying drama at Leeds University, Different Is Dangerous combines headphone verbatim and fictional monologues to explore themes of ethnicity and 'race'. Nyla and Fadia gathered their information for the show by conducting interviews within Leeds' Asian community, talking to a broad cross-section of people - from schoolchildren through to the older generation. The resulting theatre piece offers a thought-provoking insight into the experiences and challenges of multicultural life.

Anne Of Green Gables

mac, Birmingham, Thurs 9 - Sat 11 April

Prior to the arrival of Annie Warbucks in Annie The Musical, Anne Shirley was surely the fictional world's best-known redheaded orphan.

The central character in Lucy Maude Montgomery's 1908 novel, Anne is mistakenly sent to live with a middle-aged brother and sister who live on Green Gables farm in the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island. A spirited girl, Anne soon makes a big impression - and not only on the siblings who've adopted her...

Redhead Reach, the ensemble behind this new production, will be presenting a free post-show talk entitled Carrots!, which takes a look at the theme of red hair and identity. A free post-show writing workshop for children aged seven to eleven follows the matinee performance.

The Turn Of The Screw

The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham,
Thurs 23 April - Sat 2 May

An innovative use of shadow puppetry and projection help crank up the atmosphere in this stage adaptation of Henry James' gothic classic. A young governess hired to care for two children at a remote country estate begins experiencing eerie visions of a man and woman wandering through the house - and soon becomes convinced that the youngsters in her charge are aware of the ghostly presence too...

The Mist In The Mirror

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Tues 14 - Sat 18 April

When Sir James Monmouth determines to uncover the secrets of his childhood hero, the mysterious Conrad Vane, he finds himself haunted at every step by a pale, thin boy. He hears chilling screams and desperate sobbing too - and when his search leads him to the old lady of Kittiscar Hall, he discovers that something far more terrible is at work than ever he could've imagined...

Imitating The Dog present this atmospheric new production of Woman In Black author Susan Hill's spinechilling gothic tale.



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WE ARE 40 THE ROSES

April & May In Tewkesbury



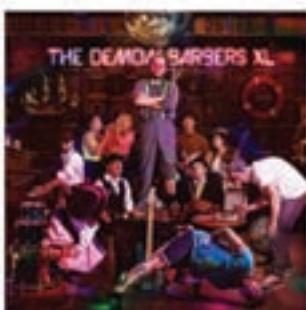
The Billy Joel Songbook
Sat 11 Apr 7.30pm



Tangomotion
Thurs 23 Apr 7.30pm



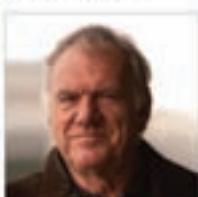
Spiro
Fri 24 Apr 7.30pm



The Demon Barbers XL
Fri 8 May 7.30pm



**Last Man Standing:
James Wilton Dance**
Thurs 21 May 7.30pm



Ralph McTell
Sun 17 May 7.30pm



Bella Hardy
Wed 20 May 7.30pm



Rory McLeod
Tues 26 May 8.30pm



The Basil Brush Show
Thurs 28 May 11am & 2.30pm



Michael Morpurgo
Thurs 28 May 7.30pm

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A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT
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Thursday 2 April, 7.30pm
**REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY:
THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF COMEDY (ABRIDGED)**

Following a hugely successful, critically acclaimed
season at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2014
The Reduced Shakespeare Company will set out to
reduce the UK to tears of laughter.
Age 12+



Friday 10 April, 4pm
CAPTAIN FLINN & THE PIRATE DINOSAURS
Winner of The Primary Times Children's Choice Award

When Flinn discovers a pirate hiding in the school
supply closet, it's all aboard, me hearties, for a real
live pirate adventure!



Saturday 11 April, 8pm
BRING IT ALL BACK! THE ULTIMATE 90S SHOW

'Bring it all Back' features a full professional cast of
singers and dancers performing renditions of your
favourite 90s hits! - SPICE GIRLS, STEPS, S CLUB 7,
BACKSTREET BOYS, SIVE, SNAP, 2UNLIMITED &
MANY MORE!!



Thursday 23 April, 7.30pm
THE FORTUNES - PAST & PRESENT

This intimate show will include not only all of The
Fortunes' fabulous hits, but many others drawn from
their times in other bands, as well as untold anecdotes
and stories drawn from their many experiences over
the years.



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A Translation Of Shadows

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Wed 22 - Fri 24 April

The ever-experimental Stan's Cafe here present the world premiere of their latest show. The Birmingham-based ensemble last year travelled to Tokyo to make a silent movie about a young couple in love. The film, entitled *Shadows*, plays a key part in this new production, which focuses on the intriguing figure of the Benshi, a narrator employed during Japan's silent-movie era to explain to cinema-goers what was happening in the film they were watching.

"The Benshi were the stars," explains Stan's Cafe. "They would tell us what every shot and symbol meant, who the actors were, why he loved them, why the director was terrible, when and why we should cry and laugh, what would happen in the end, why he himself was the greatest, most indispensable Benshi in history, and why we should fall in love with him."



Snow White On Ice

Malvern Theatre, Tues 14 - Sun 19 April

The much-loved fairytale of Snow White - complete with its evil queen, enchanted mirror, rosy red apple and handsome prince - is here presented by the highly accomplished Russian Ice Stars. Boasting the talented ensemble's usual blend of lavish sets, sumptuous costumes and breathtaking athleticism - not to mention an appearance from Midlands favourite Rustie Lee - this is a production that should be well worth, er, getting your skates on for...



Love's Sacrifice

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Sat 11 April - Wed 24 June

A rarely performed revenge tragedy written by John Ford, who also scripted *Tis Pity She's A Whore*, *Love's Sacrifice* hasn't always met with universal acclaim. One of its most notable critics was TS Eliot, who once described it as 'disfigured by all the faults of which Ford was capable'. That said, the play was well received when first performed in the seventeenth century, and is further recommended by its more than passing resem-



A View From The Bridge

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 8 - Sat 11 April

Dempsey And Makepeace actor Michael Brandon stars in this new version of Arthur Miller's 1955 study of love, jealousy and betrayal.

Set in New York during the 1950s, it finds longshoreman Eddie Carbone becoming increasingly obsessed with his orphaned niece, Catherine. But when Eddie and his wife welcome two cousins - Marco and Rodolpho, illegal immigrants from Italy - into their home, Catherine falls for the somewhat effeminate Rodolpho.

The scene is suddenly set for an act of betrayal on Eddie's part that leads to tragic consequences - not only for himself but also for his family and the whole community....

Read our interview with Michael at whatsonlive.co.uk

blance to Shakespeare's *Othello*.

The Duke of Pavia has married the beautiful Bianca, unaware that his best friend Fernando loves her too. The Duke's sister, meanwhile, loves Fernando and racked with jealousy begins to manipulate her brother to act against his friend...

The Picture Of Doreen Gray

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Thurs 30 April

The well-established and always-value-for-money Lip Service - aka Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding - return to the region to present their latest comic offering, which takes its inspiration from Oscar Wilde's *The Picture Of Dorian Gray*.

Maggie and Sue are this year celebrating three decades of working together, presenting shows like *Withering Looks* - 'an authentic insight into the lives and works of those three Bronte sisters' - and *Inspector Norse* - 'a self-assembly Swedish crime thriller'. You get the picture.

This time they're telling the story of drive-time radio show host Doreen, who finds her high-profile career set to go up in smoke as she fast approaches her half century.

While attending a school reunion, she stumbles across a youthful self portrait - and finds herself making a dark and dreadful deal...

The production features community actors as Doreen's high school friends.

Anatomy Of The Piano

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Thurs 16 April

The co-dependency that exists between the piano and the pianist is just one of the subjects explored by Will Pickvance in this part

piano recital, part fantasy lecture.

Will scored a major hit with the show at the Edinburgh Fringe in both 2013 and last year. He uses piano solos, songs, underscores and hand-drawn projections to uncover the physical, emotional and spiritual anatomy of the piano, as well as to tell his own story as a musician.

Death Of A Salesman

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 2 May

As the world changes around him, Willy Loman struggles to keep up. An on-the-road salesman for longer than he cares to remember, Willy's notched up countless miles in his efforts to earn an honest crust for himself and his family. But as the corporate world moves on, sixty-year-old Willy finds himself questioning the decisions he's made - and wonders how the world can care so little for a man who's given so much...

Arthur Miller's poignant and harrowing play is regarded as one of the twentieth century's most influential works, its study of loneliness and failure having touched a chord with post-war America. At a time when society is changing at an ever-faster pace, the play continues to have resonance today, particularly for anybody who's ever had the feeling that the world is passing them by.

Sir Antony Sher takes the lead as Willy, while Dame Harriet Walter stars as his wife, Linda. Sam Marks as Happy Loman and Alex Hassell as Biff also feature.





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THUR 16 APRIL
7.30
69 SHADES OF
BLACK
£22.00* &
£20.00* (disc)



THUR 2 APRIL 7.30
A NIGHT
OF DIRTY
DANCING
£19.25* & £18.25*
(disc)



FRI 17 APRIL 7.30
A BLACK
COUNTRY
NIGHT
OUT
£15.75*



THUR 9 APRIL
7.30
TALON
The Best of the
Eagles
£20.75*



SAT 18 APRIL
7.30
BIG GIRLS
DON'T CRY
£19.25* &
£18.25* (disc)



SAT 11 APRIL
7.30
ESSENCE
OF
IRELAND
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Saturday 11th April
JO ENRIGHT
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Wednesday 29th April
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Thursday 30th April
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WITH HIS NEW SHOW 28



FORTHCOMING CINEMA: *Whiplash* (15) // *Selma* (12a) // *Shaun The Sheep* (u) // *Wild* (15)
A Most Violent Year (15) // *Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* (PG) // *Leviathan* (15)

FORTHCOMING SCREENINGS: *The Rise & Fall of The City of Mahogonny* (Royal Opera House)
La Traviata (ENO) // *The Hard Problem* (NT Live) // *La Fille Mal Gardee* (Royal Ballet)
Man And Superman (NT Live) // *The Pirates Of Penzance* (ENO)



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Theatre LISTINGS

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

From
WED 1 APR

DR SEUSS'S THE CAT IN THE HAT Lively & engaging theatre for children aged three-plus, until Wed 1 Apr, Malvern Theatre

BACK DOWN Highly anticipated first play by Birmingham-born Steven Camden, more commonly known as award-winning performance poet Polarbear, until Wed 1 Apr, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

A PASSION FOR BIRMINGHAM An immersive, promenade production which reimagines one of the world's most important stories, the life and death of Jesus Christ, until Fri 3 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR Joan Littlewood's legendary musical, revived to commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War One, until Sat 4 Apr, Belgrave Theatre, Coventry

THE ADDAMS FAMILY: THE MUSICAL Worcester On Stage provide a rare chance to see a new musical, fresh from Broadway, until Sat 4 Apr, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

JEEVES AND WOOSTER IN PERFECT NONSENSE Hit West End comedy adapted from the works of PG Wodehouse, directed by Sean Foley. Robert Webb, Jason Thorpe & Christopher Ryan star, until Sat 4 Apr, Malvern Theatre

THE JEW OF MALTA Justin Audibert makes his RSC debut to direct Christopher Marlowe's subversive play, until Tues 8 Sept, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

BLOOD Emteaz Hus-

sain's twenty-first century love story, until Sat 11 Apr, Belgrave Theatre, Coventry

DERREN BROWN The award-winning master of psychological illusion returns to the Midlands with a brand new show, until Sat 11 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

BEAUTIFUL THING Featuring Charlie Brooks, Thomas Law, Sam Jackson & Gerard McCarthy, until Sat 11 Apr, Birmingham Hippodrome

SHREK THE MUSICAL Visiting the Midlands direct from the West End, until Sun 26 April Birmingham Hippodrome

DEATH OF A SALESMAN Sir Antony Sher, Alex Hassell & Harriet Walter star in Arthur Miller's great American tragedy, until Sat 2 May, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

CHRIS & PUI Brand new show packed with songs, games and a few surprises! Wed 1 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch

PENELOPE RETOLD An irreverent collision of classic myth and contemporary rage, written & performed by Caroline Horton, Wed 1 & Thurs 2 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

DISNEY ON ICE: MAGICAL ICE FESTIVAL In a new twist on fairytale fun, comical segments from everyone's favourite Disney characters set the scene for the show-stopping on-ice stories of princesses Ariel, Rapunzel and Belle, Thurs 2 - Sun 5 Apr, Genting Arena, Birmingham

THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY A fast-paced romp through all of The Bard's plays, Thurs 2 Apr, Solihull

Arts Complex
MIDDAY VARIETY Coventry's finest variety show, with live music and a star line-up, Thurs 2 Apr, Belgrave Theatre, Coventry

CAPTAIN FLINN AND THE PIRATE DINOSAURS Les Petits Theatre Company present a pirate adventure fusing live music, puppetry, physical performance & dastardly dinosaurs, Thurs 2 Apr, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

THE PASSION Playbox

Theatre presents a bold new staging of its acclaimed production, with a new cast of young actors from across Warwickshire and the West Midlands, This performance forms part of St Mary's Good Friday Service, Fri 3 Apr, St Mary's Church, Warwick

PUSS IN BOOTS Lyngo

Theatre present a new show for children aged three to eight, based on the much-loved fable, Fri 3 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

DINOSAUR ZOO Bringing

a plethora of prehistoric creatures to the stage, this unique experience enables audiences to interact with lifelike dinosaurs in an engaging live show', Fri 3 - Sun 5 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE SOOTY SHOW A

brand new family show featuring Sooty and his friends..., Sat 4 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

THE DANCING BEAR Philip

Monks' play for young children, providing fun, songs & audience participation for two-to-nine-year-olds, Sat 4 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THE MYSTERIES Playbox

Theatre presents a bold new staging of its acclaimed production. These performances are based on the original production, with a new cast of young actors from across Warwickshire and the West Midlands, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Apr, The Dream Factory, Warwick

A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT Featuring Jonny

KEY FOR TWO Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Players

present John Chapman & Dave Freeman's farce concerning a woman canny enough to be kept by two men, Tues 7 - Fri 10 Apr, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE GHOST TRAIN Jeffrey

Holland & Judy Buxton star in Arnold Ridley's classic comedy thriller about a group of travellers stranded at an isolated railway station, Tues 7 - Sat 11 April Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE Arthur Miller's

modern classic, complete with universal



Anne Of Green Gables - mac, Birmingham

Cole, Dandy, Peter Lee, and introducing Kaylee Cropper and The Ronaldos, Sat 4 Apr, Walmley Club, Sutton Coldfield

THE CHUCKLES OF OZ

Children's TV stars Paul and Barry take audiences on a journey into the Emerald City in a show packed with audience participation and laugh-out-loud comedy, Sat 4 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**Week Commencing
MON 6 APR**

ARCADIA Tom Stoppard's 1993 masterpiece explores two groups of people (two hundred years apart) in the same room of one of England's great country houses, Mon 6 - Sat 11 Apr, Malvern Theatre

JUSTIN AND FRIENDS: MR TUMBLE'S CIRCUS Tues 7 Apr, Genting Arena, Birmingham

DANNY CHAMPION OF THE WORLD London

Contemporary Theatre put an entirely new slant on Roald Dahl's classic tale, Tues 7 Apr, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

PUSS IN BOOTS Lyngo

Theatre use puppetry to bring to life this 'classic fairy tale', Tues 7 - Wed 8 Apr, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

KEY FOR TWO Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Players

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A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE Arthur Miller's

modern classic, complete with universal

themes of love and starring Michael Brandon, Wed 8 - Sat 11 Apr, Belgrave Theatre, Coventry

NO REGRETS: THE LIFE

STORY AND SONGS OF EDITH PIAF A salute to the iconic French singer, this 'bio-show' is a fascinating journey through the life of a legend who's still idolised fifty years after her death, Thurs 9 Apr, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SHOWSTOPPERS: THE FANTASTICAL STORY FACTORY

An improvised musical adventure for kids of all ages - and adults who act like kids! Everything is made up on the spot and entirely from audience suggestions, Thurs 9 Apr, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

MARTIN HUGHES-GAMES

Join the presenter of BBC's Springwatch and Autumnwatch as he talks about his 'thrilling and often hilarious' memoir, *A Wild Life*, which recounts the trials and tribulations of filming the natural world, Thurs 9 Apr, Kings High School, Warwick

A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT

Featuring Jonny Cole, Dandy, Peter Lee, and introducing Kaylee Cropper and The Ronaldos, Thurs 9 Apr, Stratford Arthouse

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

Redhead Reach present a new staging of this bestselling coming-of-age tale, Thurs 9 - Sat 11 Apr, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

AND THIS IS MY FRIEND

MR LAUREL Jeffrey Holland's one-man play, which portrays his idol Stan Laurel. Set In Oliver Hardy's bedroom, the play provides an in-depth, humorous and touching account of the comedian's life, Thurs 9 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

CAPTAIN FLINN AND THE PIRATE DINOSAURS

Les Petits Theatre Company present a pirate adventure fusing live music, puppetry, physical performance & dastardly dinosaurs, Fri 10 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

WE'LL MEET AGAIN - HITS FROM THE BLITZ Brand new wartime cavalcade show celebrating seventy years since the end of WWII, Fri 10 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE AMAZING BUBBLE MAN International hit show, featuring bubble art, magic, science and lots of fun, Fri 10 - Sat 11 Apr, Belgrave Theatre, Coventry

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY European Arts Company present an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's decadent tale of infatuation, Sat 11 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

BOUNCERS AND SHAKERS

The Crescent Theatre present two one-act plays devoted to the men and women who work clubs up and down the country, Sat 11 - Sat 18 Apr, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

LOVE'S SACRIFICE

Matthew Dunster makes his RSC debut, directing John Ford's rarely performed revenge tragedy, Sat 11 Apr - Wed 24 Jun, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**Week Commencing
MON 13 APR**

LA BOHEME English Touring Opera present a new production of Puccini's romantic opera. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, Mon 13 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MAXINE PEAKE AS HAMLET Royal Exchange Theatre screening of the critically acclaimed production, Tues 14 Apr, Malvern Theatre

42ND STREET The Peterbrook Players present their version of the much-loved musical, which tells of Peggy Sawyer's rise from cho-

All My Sons - Malvern Theatre



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Friday 10th April
Assembly Rooms, Ludlow - Tel: 01584 878141

Thursday 16th April
Garrick Theatre, Lichfield - Tel: 01543 412121

Friday 17th April
Palace Theatre, Redditch - Tel: 01527 65203

Wednesday 22nd April
Arts Complex, Solihull - Tel: 0121 704 6962

Tuesday 28th April
The Robin, Bilton - Tel: 01902 401211

Thursday 30th April
Aston Wood, Sutton Coldfield - Tel: 0121 580 7800

Friday 1st May
Assembly Rooms, Tamworth - Tel: 01827 709 618

Thursday 21st May
The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham - Tel: 0121 359 9445

Friday 22nd May
Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth - Tel: 01746 766477

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Wed 22 Apr



Yamato
Drummers
Fri 1 May

Aliens Love
Underpants
Fri 29 May - Sun 31 May



Family Day
Sun 31 May



Warwick Music Festival
Thu 21 - Sat 23 May
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
Django Django
An Evening with Joan Armatrading

The Little
Shop of Horrors
Wed 10 - Sat 13 Jun



The Deranged Marriage
Tue 2 - Sat 6 Jun

Reginald D Hunter
Thu 25 Jun



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Theatre LISTINGS

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

rus girl to Broadway star, Tues 14 - Wed 15 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Rock-n-roll spectacular combining music from the '50s, '60s & '70s with wacky comedy routines, Tues 14 - Wed 15 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE MIST IN THE MIRROR An Oldham Coliseum Theatre production of Susan Hill's gothic fireside story, Tues 14 - Sat 18 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE PAJAMA GAME Leamington & Warwick Musical Society present a revival of the popular 1954 musical, set within the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory, Tues 14 - Sat 18 Apr, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

SNOW WHITE ON ICE Join the world-famous Russian Ice Stars as they embark on a magical journey to the heart of one of the best-loved fairytales of all time, Tues 14 - Sun 19 Apr, Malvern Theatres

BOUNCERS John Godber's classic comedy, Wed 15 - Sat 18 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

OCTONAUTS AND THE DEEP SEA VOLCANO ADVENTURE A brand new stage show based on the popular CBeebies TV show, Wed 15 - Thurs 16 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

69 SHADES OF BLACK New comedy 'full of nipple-twisting action and indecent proposals', Thurs 16 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch

FEED THE BEAST World premiere of Steve Thompson's fiercely funny look at the rocky relations between our press and politicians in a world of spin-doctors and Leveson Inquiries, Thurs 16 Apr - Sat 2 May, The REP, Birmingham

ANATOMY OF THE PIANO Part piano recital, part fantasy lecture, pianist Will Pickvance brings his sell-out Edinburgh Fringe show of virtuosity, dissec-

tion and charmingly surreal humour to the Midlands, Thurs 16 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

TWELVE Kali Theatre take a look at the subject of 'honour-based violence'. This performance comprises twelve moving, touching and sometimes humorous monologues which tell stories of friendship, first love, defiance, death and survival, Thurs 16 - Fri 17 Apr, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

DIFFERENT IS DANGEROUS Two's Company & The Drum present a devised piece of theatre which offers a unique insight into the idiosyncratic life of the Asian community living in Leeds, Thurs 16 Apr, The Drum, Birmingham

THE HARD PROBLEM National Theatre Live screening of Tom Stoppard's highly anticipated new play, Thurs 16 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

CHARLES DARWIN: THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES Tangram Theatre Company present a musical comedy about the life and works of the biologist, Charles Darwin, Fri 17 - Sat 18 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

FRANK: JUST ANOTHER BROTHER A New Stuff Theatre Company Production which explores (some of) the life and times of Francis of Assisi, Fri 17 - Sat 18 Apr, The Bear Pit Theatre - The United Reformed Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT Featuring Jonny Cole, Dandy, Peter Lee, and introducing Kaylee Cropper and The Ronaldos, Fri 17 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch

TOP GIRLS Caryl Churchill's muscular and moving study of success in Thatcher's England, the compromises we made

and what happened to those left behind, Fri 17 - Sat 25 Apr, Hall Green Little Theatre, Acocks Green, Birmingham

BY THE RIVERBANK First Stages present a multi-sensory adventure inspired by Kenneth Grahame's much-loved classic, The Wind In The Willows. Suitable for children aged three to six, Sat 18 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

F.A.N.Y - ANONYMOUS IS A WOMAN THEATRE COMPANY New writing centred around the lives of five young women fighting in the First World War for the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, Sat 18 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

DALLOWAY Dyad Productions present an adaptation of Virginia Woolf's celebrated map of hearts, minds and memories, which offers a compelling feminist response to the aftermath of the First World War, Sat 18 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

CIRQUE SPECTACULAR Pop concert featuring 'dynamic dancers and breathtaking circus performers', Sat 18 Apr, Albany Theatre, Coventry

Week Commencing MON 20 APR

THE BOY WHO BIT PICASSO

With storytelling, music and lots of chances to make your own art, this hands-on family show introduces one of the twentieth century's most influential artists through the eyes of a young boy. Be sure to wear some play-clothes because it's going to get messy!, Sun 19 - Mon 20 Apr, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

THE PRODUCERS Mel Brooks' smash-hit musical comedy based on the Academy Award-winning movie, Mon 20 - Sat 25 Apr, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE BODYGUARD Alexandra Burke stars in the lead role as Rachel Marron, Tues 21 Apr - Sat 2 May, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE PRODUCERS Studley Operatic Society present an amateur staging of Mel Brooks' award-winning musical comedy, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch

I BELIEVE IN UNICORNS Theatre Alibi present a staging of Michael Morpurgo's spellbinding story about a Unicorn Lady who arrives in town with a sackful of magical tales, Tues 21 - Wed 22 Apr, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE PRODUCERS Studley Operatic Society presents an amateur production of Mel Brooks' award-winning

musical, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, Palace Theatre Redditch

ALL MY SONS Talawa Theatre Company presents Arthur Miller's searing investigation of honesty, guilt and the corrupting power of greed, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, Malvern Theatre

WEST SIDE STORY Worcester Operatic And Dramatic Society (WODS) present an amateur production of one of the best-known musicals of all time, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT Featuring Jonny Cole, Dandy, Peter Lee, and introducing Kaylee Cropper and The Ronaldos, Wed 22 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

NICHOLAS NICKLEBY Birmingham Ormiston Academy present a contemporary staging of Dickens' comic masterpiece, Wed 22 - Fri 24 Apr, Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

A TRANSLATION OF SHADOWS World premiere of Stan's Cafe's latest work, Wed 22 - Fri 24 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE TURN OF THE SCREW Blue Orange Arts fuse shadow puppetry and projection to tell Henry James' gothic classic, Thurs 23 Apr - Sat 2 May, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Rock-n-roll spectacular combining music from the '50s, '60s & '70s with wacky comedy routines, Thurs 23 - Fri 24 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

MY FATHER AND OTHER SUPER HEROES A one-man show that innovatively fuses storytelling, physical theatre and contemporary spoken word in a powerful one-hour performance, Thurs 23 Apr, The Drum, Birmingham

AS YOU LIKE IT SYT present Shakespeare's tale of love, jealousy and regeneration, Thurs 23 Apr - Sat 2 May, The Dream Factory, Warwick

PALACH Newman University Second Year Drama presents Alan Burns' neglected experimental work, Thurs 23 - Fri 24 Apr, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE BEAUTY MANIFESTO The Belgrade Acting Out Company present a world of extreme physical conformity, where teenagers celebrate their sixteenth birthdays with cosmetic surgery, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

MAXINE PEAKE AS HAMLET Royal Exchange Theatre screening of the critically acclaimed production, Thurs 23 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MACBETH SYT present Shakespeare's drama of power, dread and supernatural confrontation, Fri 24 Apr - Sat 2 May, The Dream Factory, Warwick

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21st May
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22nd May
MR. B
THE GENTLEMAN REYMER

23rd May
NEIL GUNN'S HISTORY END BAKE

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Tina Turner
Tea Lady

27th May
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Theatre LISTINGS

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

IN CONVERSATION WITH STEVE THOMPSON An insight into the working process of the award-winning writer of *Feed The Beast*, *Sherlock* and *Doctor Who*, Sat 25 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

GLASS MOUNTAIN Broken Glass Theatre Company present an original fairytale combining storytelling with puppetry and a live musical soundtrack, Sat 25 Apr, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SHACKLETON'S CAT English Touring Opera present a new one-act opera for seven-to-eleven-year-olds and their families, in celebration of the centenary of the voyage of The Endurance to the Antarctic. The opera includes moments of participation, science and participatory songs, Sat 25 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MET OPERA: MASCAGNI CAVALIERA RUSTICANA & LEONCAVALLO I PAGLI-ACCI Opera's most enduring tragic double-bill returns in an evocative new production from Sir David McVicar, who sets the action across two time periods but in the same Sicilian village, Sat 25 Apr, Malvern Theatre

WELL REALLY, CAPTAIN MAINWARING! Dad's Army vicar Frank Williams invites you to join him for an afternoon of television nos-

talgia, Sun 26 Apr, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Week Commencing MON 27 APR

ROMEO AND JULIET

Encore live screening of a 'dazzling' modern-day take on one of Shakespeare's best-loved plays, Sun 26 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

REBECCA Kneehigh Theatre present Emma Rice's adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's timeless tale, Mon 27 Apr - Sat 2 May, The REP, Birmingham

THE KING'S SPEECH

Jason Donovan & Raymond Coulthard star in a new staging of the story of one man's struggle to overcome his personal affliction and, in his country's darkest hour, deliver a speech to inspire his people, Mon 27 Apr - Sat 2 May, Malvern Theatre

OUR HOUSE Solihull On Stage present an amateur production of the Madness musical, Tues 28 Apr - Sat 2 May, Solihull Arts Complex

THE SECRET ADVERSARY The Watermill Theatre in association with Eleanor Lloyd Productions present Agatha Christie's gripping thriller, which follows the adventures of Tommy & Tuppence Beresford in 1920s London, Tues 28 Apr - Sat

2 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

I BELIEVE IN UNICORNS

Theatre Alibi present a staging of Michael Morpurgo's spellbinding story about a Unicorn Lady who arrives in town with a sackful of magical tales, Tues 28 Apr - Sat 2 May, Malvern Theatre

A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT Featuring Jonny Cole, Dandy, Peter Lee, and introducing Kaylee Cropper and The Ronaldos, Tues 28 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

POETRY SLAM Hosted by former Birmingham Poet Laureate SPOZ, Tues 28 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch

ARCH 468: CUDDLES

Debut play from Capital Award-winning young playwright Joseph Wilde, Wed 29 - Thurs 30 Apr, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Tinkers Farm Opera present a modern interpretation of Gilbert & Sullivan's operatic masterpiece, Wed 29 Apr - Sat 2 May, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

GREEN LEAVES FALL

Strictly Arts Theatre Company present a debut play which explores two of the most pressing social issues of our time - inequality and unemployment, Wed 29 Apr - Sat 2 May, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

CURIOS Half Moon presents a Tam Tam Theatre production, a play with a few words, an imaginative world where kitchen meets garden and where dirt is good, Wed 29 Apr, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT Featuring Jonny



Disney On Ice Presents: Magical Ice Festival - Genting Arena, Birmingham

Cole, Dandy, Peter Lee, and introducing Kaylee Cropper and The Ronaldos, Thurs 30 Apr, Aston Wood, Sutton Coldfield

THE PICTURE OF DOREEN GRAY Brand new production from the award-winning LipService Theatre, Thurs 30 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

LITTLE WOMEN Birmingham Ormiston Academy present a staging of

Louise May Alcott's classic tale, Thurs 30 Apr - Sat 2 May, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

NEVILLE'S ISLAND Tim Firth's comedy, which follows the misadventures of four out-of-condition, out-of-their-depth businessmen on an out-of-control team-building exercise, Thurs 30 Apr - Sat 9 May, Sutton Arts Theatre, Sutton Coldfield

DIRTY DANCING Eleanor Bergstein's smash-hit West End musical tells the classic love story of Baby and Johnny. This touring production features brand new choreography performed alongside a host of memorable tunes - including the award-winning (I've Had) The Time Of My Life, Thurs 30 Apr - Sat 23 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

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Theatre REVIEWS CONT...

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

One Man, Two Guvnors

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

One Man, Two Guvnors secured its writer, Richard Bean, the 2011 Critics' Circle Award for Best Play and the 2012 Whatsonstage.com Theatregoers' Choice Award for Best New Comedy. Expectations, therefore, were understandably high.

The play centres on the not-too-bright and easily confused Francis Henshall. Francis, who's recently entered the employ of one Roscoe Crabbe, finds himself in Brighton, assisting Roscoe recover a large debt. The debtor is Charlie 'The Duck' Clench, who's reneged on an arrangement in which his daughter was to marry Roscoe. From here on in, life gets ever more complicated for Francis - and getting himself an additional guvnor only adds to his dilemma.

What unfolds is a fast-paced farce in which a befuddled Francis takes centre-stage, with those around him seemingly oblivious to his predicament. Hilarious dialogue and great physical comedy are in plentiful supply here. There are scenes that involve the audience, but I thought these were unnecessary and drawn out - they certainly distracted from the play itself. But Gavin Spokes, who plays Francis, steals the show with a fantastic and very energetic performance.

One Man, Two Guvnors is a riot from start to finish. Catch it if you can! *Ted Finlay* ■■■■■



Cirque Berserk

The REP, Birmingham

This was definitely one berserk circus, and I was clapping like a happy seal at each death-defying stunt! The clubby vibe and pulsating music provided a contemporary twist to the more-traditional acts - and the audience went wild.

With a supernaturally talented troupe of international performers, it felt like a transatlantic mystique had landed in Brum for one night only. The Cuban Tropicana Troupe were truly thrilling, catapulting off a springboard and somersaulting through the air with perfect grace. The Timbuktu Tumblers were my favourite, drawing gasps as they limboed under fire, dived through hoops and back-flipped around the confined stage. Other acts included awesome acrobatics, knife throwing and a more-exciting-than-it-sounds handstand. Tweedy the clown contributed too - but it was the Globe Of Terror, with four motorbike riders zooming in dizzy directions, that really had the crowd cheering!

Daring and dramatic, this was dynamite entertainment in a league of its own.

Malaka Chowdhury ■■■■■



Top Hat

Birmingham Hippodrome

Set in the 1930s, Top Hat is a musical that recreates the glamour and decadence of the age. The production, based on the 1935 film of the same name starring Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, is a non-stop thrill-ride from start to finish. From New York to London and finally Venice, the musical follows tap star Jerry Travers as he moves from Broadway to the West End to star in a new show produced by Horace Hardwick. He meets and pursues gal-about-town Dale Tremont and follows her to Venice, where the classic tale of mistaken identity takes plenty of twists and turns. With stunning scenery that evokes the glitz of Hollywood's heyday, rich satin and silk costumes that glide sensuously across the performers' sinewy bodies, and an even grander soundtrack, Top Hat is a dazzling spectacle. The original score by musical maestro Irving Berlin has spawned numerous hits - Puttin' On The Ritz, Cheek To Cheek and Let's Face The Music And Dance - making it a musical that can be enjoyed by all.

Dale is played by Charlotte Gooch, who's sensational both in looks and movement, gliding around the stage and performing effortless high kicks - as well as delivering wise-cracking put-downs with aplomb. Alan Burkitt plays the endearing Jerry, his charm and charisma winning the affection of the audience.

Added to this mix are Horace Hardwick and his hardball-playing wife, Madge, who have a jaded view on marriage. "A man is incomplete until he's married," proclaims Horace, "after that he's finished."

Another shining star is John Conroy as Bates, the classic butler archetype who goes one step further, donning costumes - including that of a gondolier and a waiter - in his efforts to serve Mr Hardwick.

Providing even more comedy is Sebastien Torkia's Alberto Bedini, whose exaggerated flamboyance steers the show into the realms of farce.

A glitzy affair with plenty of style and pizazz, Top Hat is a spectacle that shouldn't be missed. *Alev Dervish* ■■■■■

Milked

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

It's tough being twenty in the countryside; especially if you're straight out of university with a useless degree, or a local lad struggling to identify an ambition.

Author Simon Longman presents us with two pals with precious little purpose, suffering from the uselessness of youth. They were clearly unprepared by their school for life beyond (a predicament which may have rung more true a generation ago) and are already nostalgic for their lost childhoods.

Paul (Adam Redmore) is making hundreds of pointless phone calls in search of jobs beyond his experience and Snowy (Oliver Mott) does know what to do with himself other than succumb to parental pressures.

Longman gives them some very witty, machine gun dialogue - much of which I 'remembered' from my own youth...though I was surprised by the residual levels of childishness in their conversation. I would have pitched the naivety of their dialogue to be more like that of young teenagers.

But their sense of frustration is very palpable...until a chance encounter with a downed cow gives them a 'project'. The poor beast is clearly ill and - rather than use adult sensibility and call for assistance - they try to help it themselves; hopelessly. What is initially an empowering experience only deepens their sense of failure.

It's a very clever, amusing and original device. I enjoyed the banter; and the business of finding a plastic glove big enough to do a particularly mucky job is reliably funny...as toilet humour generally is.

The trouble is the central scenario is totally unlikely. Cows cost money. No farmer checking his herd twice a day would leave one lying around to fade away. Good comedy is based on reality...and the cow's ultimate fate is laughable for all the wrong reasons.

I came away with a sense that the play was piggy backing on real rural issues rather than dealing with them head-on to an audience that already gets the picture.

Increasingly in Pentabus productions, we don't actually see anything happen; and this show also feels a bit like a pilot for a radio drama.

Ultimately it's an amusing but incomplete evening in the theatre.

Chris Eldon Lee ■■■■■

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Theatre WEST END

Mark Rylance back in the West End

Hot on the heels of his performance as Thomas Cromwell in the BBC2 adaptation of Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall, Mark Rylance has announced he's to return to the stage to star in Claire van Kampen's new play, Farinelli And The King. The production - which transfers to the West End in the autumn from the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe - sees Rylance starring as King Philippe of Spain.

Set in eighteenth century Spain, the play tells the story of Carlo Broschi - stage name, Farinelli - who at the time was the world's most famous castrato and one of the greatest celebrities of the age.

Farinelli And The King will show at the Duke of York's Theatre for a limited season from September.

Rylance's recent theatre credits include Johnny 'Rooster' Byron in Jez Butterworth's Jerusalem (Royal Court, West End and Broadway).



Ex-Dr Who star Peter Davison joins Gypsy

All Creatures Great And Small favourite and one-time Dr Who actor Peter Davison has joined the cast of the Chichester Festival Theatre's production of Gypsy.

Davison will star as Herbie, opposite Imelda Staunton as Rose, in an eagerly anticipated staging of the classic musical.

Boasting music by Jule Styne, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by Arthur Laurents, this new production is the first West End staging of Gypsy in forty years.

Based on the true-life memoirs of legendary burlesque entertainer Gypsy Rose Lee, the show tells the story of Momma Rose and her two daughters, Baby June and Louise, as they trek across America in their family vaudeville act. But times are changing, audiences are expecting more, and the two girls have their own ambitions in mind. The rise of burlesque is upon them, and nothing will ever be the same again for Momma Rose... Gypsy shows at the Savoy Theatre and is currently booking until 18 July.



Women On The Verge... for longer

Producers of hit musical Women On The Verge Of A Nervous Breakdown have announced that the production has extended its booking period at the Playhouse Theatre until 22 August.

Directed by Tony Award-winner Bartlet Sher and starring Tamsin Greig and Haydn Gwynne in the lead roles, Women On The Verge... is based on Pedro Almodovar's film of the same name.

Set in Spain in the 1980s, the story follows the messy love lives of several women, including Pepa (Greig), an actress and singer who struggles to deal with being dumped by her boyfriend.

At the time of going to print, both Greig and Gwynne have been nominated for Olivier Awards, Greig for Best Actress In A Musical and Gwynne for Best Supporting Actress In A Musical.

Casting announced for The Spalding Suite

A new show inspired by UK basketball culture is to make its debut at London's Southbank Centre this month before heading out on a nationwide tour.

Written by spoken-word artist Inua Ellams and directed by the award-winning Benji Reid, The Spalding Suite is described as 'a physical theatre show combining original poetry with contemporary movement to explore the elegance and beauty of basketball'.

Featuring UK Beatboxing Champion and World Finalist MC Zani, Marcquelle Ward (E4's Banana) and Emmanuel Akwafio (Forever, Cuckoo), The Spalding Suite shows at the Southbank Centre from 29 April to 2 May. On tour, it shows at Birmingham's DanceXchange from 14 to 16 May.



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Dance

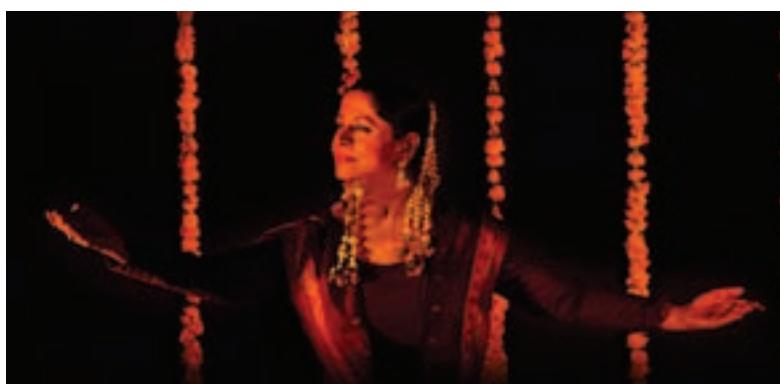


Rosie Kay Dance - 5 Soldiers: The Body Is The Frontline The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 April

The award-winning Rosie Kay Dance Company this month returns to the region to present a highly acclaimed work exploring how the human body remains essential to war in the twenty-first century. Created in 2010, 5 Soldiers: The Body Is The Frontline is a moving and thought-provoking work of dance theatre featuring one female and four male dancers. Looking at the physical training that's undertaken in preparation for war, the show blends moments of great humour and brutal honesty, all delivered in Kay's inimitable dance style.

The production has seen the company working in partnership with theatres, military bases and the Army Welfare Service. The tour model comprises two months of community outreach work in each location, followed by a weekend of events, community performances, professional presentations and post-show talks with Kay, the cast and a local commanding officer.

"We aim to make an impact with this tour," says Rosie, "and make people see conflict and the repercussions of war in a new way."



Maati (Earth)

mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Thurs 30 April

According to The Independent, 'If you only see Kathak once, make sure it's Nahid Siddiqui dancing it.' Described as Pakistan's 'face of Kathak dance', Siddiqui fuses traditional and contemporary techniques to extend the Kathak repertoire and develop its universal appeal. In this new work, based on the writings of seventeenth-century Eastern philosopher and poet Hazrat Bulleh Shah, Siddiqui presents a 'haunting baafi' which unveils the phenomena of earth and questions the fundamental truths of human existence.

Pasha Kovalev

Solihull Arts Complex, Tues 7 April; Lichfield Garrick, Sat 2 May; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Tues 5 - Wed 6 May; Malvern Theatre, Fri 8 May; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Tues 12 May; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 6 June; Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Thurs 18 June.

A firm favourite on BBC's Strictly Come Dancing, Siberian-born Pasha Kovalev's forte is ballroom and latin dance. Having toured with the Strictly team in 2012 and then with professional dance partner Katya Virshilas in 2013, Pasha is currently on the road with his brand new show, Life Through Dance.

Promising non-stop action, the production features 'breathtaking choreography, sensational music and amazing costumes'. Pasha is joined by fellow dancers Anya Garnis, Ryan Hammond, Marcella Solimeo, James Wilson and Leila Stewart.



Dance LISTINGS

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

VIENNA FESTIVAL BALLET

Thirty-fifth anniversary gala featuring excerpts from the world's most beloved Tchaikovsky ballets, Wed 1 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
A NIGHT OF DIRTY DANCING Dancing extravaganza presented by an all-star cast, including West End performers, Thurs 2 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch
PASHA KOVALEV: LIFE THROUGH DANCE Join

Stopgap: Artificial Things - mac, Birmingham



the Strictly star as he transports audiences into the world of Ballroom & Latin dance in a new production featuring 'fabulous choreography, sensational music & amazing costumes', Tue 7 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex
ESSENCE OF IRELAND Exploration of Irish myths through narration, Irish music and Irish dancing, Sat 11 Apr, Palace Theatre, Redditch
ESSENCE OF IRELAND

Exploration of Irish myths through narration, Irish music and Irish dancing, Sun 12 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SUITE FROM SNOW

WHITE (SCHNEE-WITTCHEN) A BALLET IN FOUR ACTS World premiere of music for ballet set to the original Brothers Grimm version of Snow White, Tues 14 Apr, The Old Rep, Birmingham

IVAN THE TERRIBLE (LIVE)

Live screening from the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow. Recently revived, Ivan The

Terrible is an essential part of the company's repertoire, a twentieth-century classic and a wonderful theatrical experience, Sun 19 Apr, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
TANGOMOTION Journey into the heart of Tango Argentino with world-famous dancers Giraldo Escobar, Christina Bensen, Richard Manuel and Pauline Reibel, Thurs 23 Apr, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
STOPGAP: ARTIFICIAL THINGS In this cinematic and evocative production, Stopgap Dance Company create a compact world of riddles that questions our notions about unity and

co-existence, Thurs 23 Apr, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

SNOW WHITE Midland Theatre Ballet's interpretation of the much-loved Grimm fairytale, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Apr, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

5 SOLDIERS - THE BODY IS THE FRONTLINE

Rosie Kay Dance Company present a powerful dance theatre production that explores the physicality of modern warfare, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

NEVER GOING HOME AGAIN

Rutherford Dance Company here celebrate diversity and investigate differences defined by sexual orientation, Mon 27 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove
MAATI (EARTH) PRESENT-ED BY NAHID SIDDIQUI Acclaimed Kathak dancers and choreographer Nahid Siddiqui present a new work developed on the writings of seventeenth-century Eastern philosopher & poet Hazrat Bulleh Shah, whose poetry highlights his spiritual journey through Sufism, Thurs 30 Apr, mac, Birmingham



Tangomotion - The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

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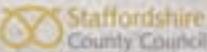
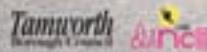
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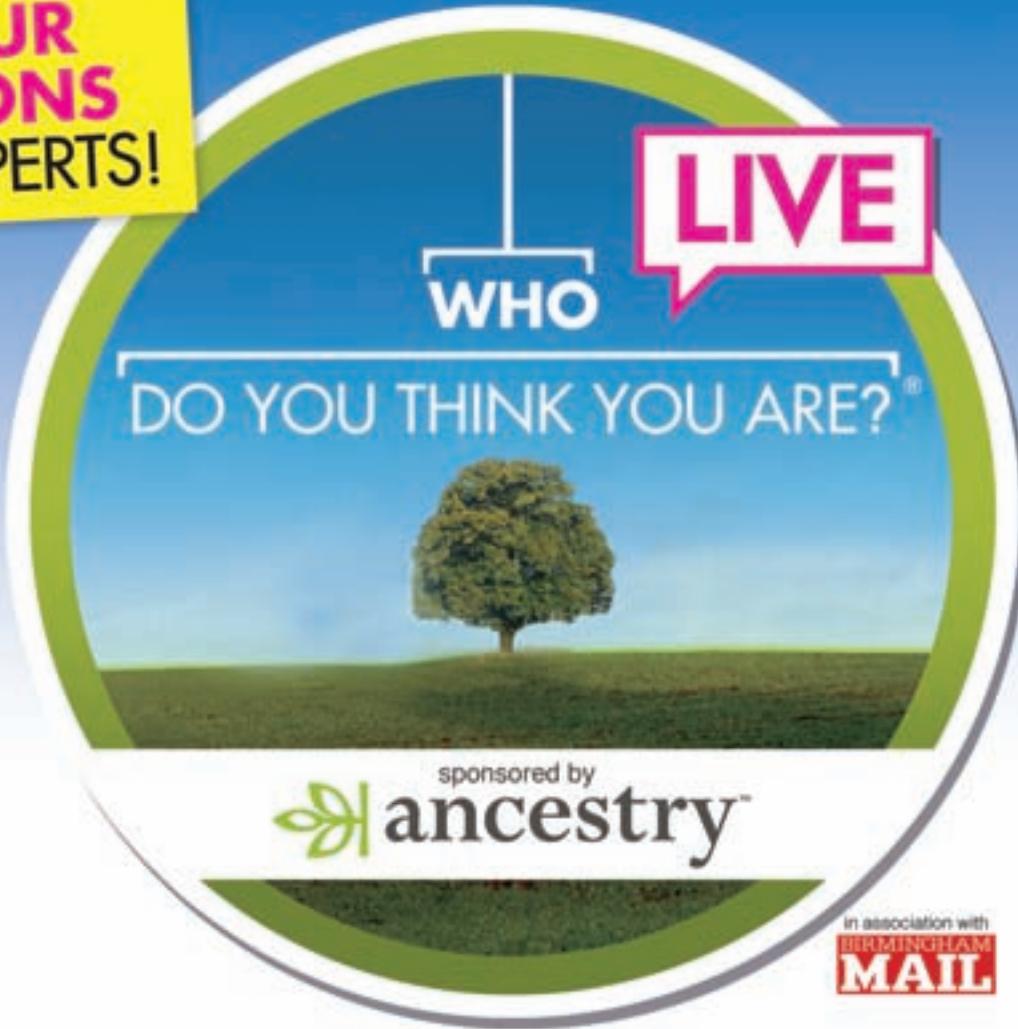


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Film

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FROM
FRI 24
APRIL

The Avengers: Age Of Ultron CERT tbc

Starring Robert Downey Jr, Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, James Spader, Samuel L. Jackson, Don Cheadle, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Elizabeth Olsen, Paul Bettany, Cobie Smulders, Hayley Atwell, Idris Elba, Stellan Skarsgård, Tom Hiddleston Directed by Joss Whedon (USA)

The film of the year? Considering that *Avengers Assemble* (2012) is now the planet's third highest-grossing movie of all time, one might think so. Thankfully, Joss Whedon is once again at the helm and has reunited the original Sensational Six - Iron Man, Thor, The Hulk, Captain America, Black Widow and Hawkeye - to fight a new threat to mankind. The villain better be good to sustain this tentpole and he comes in the form of James Spader as the eponymous Ultron. Ultron is another sentient robot (cf. *Ex Machina*, *Big Hero 6*, *Chappie*), and although programmed with some of the personality traits of Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr), his aim is to save our planet by extinguishing humanity. He has a point... The film was primarily shot in Surrey (at Shepperton Studios), as well as on location in South Africa, Italy, South Korea, Bangladesh, New York and Norwich. A truly global phenomenon, then.



From
FRI 3
APR

Fast & Furious 7 CERT tbc

Starring Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Michelle Rodriguez, Jordana Brewster, Tyrese Gibson, Ludacris, Lucas Black, Jason Statham, Kurt Russell, Djimon Hounsou Directed by James Wan (USA)

As *Fast & Furious 6* (2013) grossed over \$788million at the global box-office, the producers could afford to pay for this astonishing cast of heavyweights. Indeed, the budget finally came in at a wallet-buckling \$250million. Jason Statham is the new hardman to beat and you can smell the testosterone from here. He plays the brother of Owen Shaw (played by Luke Evans in the last film) and is out for revenge for Owen's death. Sadly, Paul Walker - who plays Brian O'Conner - died during production (in a car, no less) and filming was put on hold for four months while the writers figured out a way to explain his departure from the story (no spoilers here). Filming took place in Abu Dhabi, Toronto, Colorado, Tokyo, Atlanta and California.

TOP 5 FILM BOX OFFICE

1 *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* (PG)

2 *Run All Night* (15)

3 *Focus* (15)

4 *Suite Française* (15)

5 *Fifty Shades Of Grey* (18)



Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Film NEW RELEASES

Released from Fri 3 April

Kidnapping Freddy Heineken

CERT 15 (93 mins)

Starring Anthony Hopkins, Jim Sturgess, Sam Worthington, Ryan Kwanten, Jemima West
Directed by Daniel Alfredson
(UK/Belgium/Netherlands)

Freddy Heineken was not small beer. In fact, his abduction resulted in the largest ransom ever paid out for a single person. Sir Tony plays the brewing bigwig of the title, his kidnapping chronicled by the investigative journalist Peter R de Vries, on whose two books the film is based. If you can't remember, it all happened in 1983.



While We're Young

CERT 15 (97 mins)

Starring Ben Stiller, Naomi Watts, Adam Driver, Amanda Seyfried, Charles Grodin, Adam Horovitz
Directed by Noah Baumbach (USA)

Having written and directed *The Squid And The Whale*, *Margot At The Wedding* and *Frances Ha*, Noah Baumbach has carved himself a nice little niche in critically acclaimed indie cinema. Here, he's cast Ben Stiller and Naomi Watts as a (gasp) middle-aged couple who have embraced the technology available to them. However, their lives are turned around when they meet a twentysomething pair who are really into vinyl, typewriters and all that old stuff. Predictably, the film has received rave reviews in the States.



Released from Fri 10 April

Lost River

CERT 15 (93 mins)

Starring Christina Hendricks, Saoirse Ronan, Iain De Caestecker, Matt Smith, Eva Mendes, Ben Mendelsohn
Directed by Ryan Gosling (USA)

Who would have thunk it? Ryan Gosling directing *Doctor Who*? Matt Smith plays a well-honed thug called Bully (at one point he shouts "look at my muscles!"), but the story really belongs to Christina Hendricks' Billy, a single mother drawn into a "macabre and dark fantasy underworld." The film was panned at Cannes. Oh, and expect some pretty strong violence.

Jauja

CERT 15 (110 mins)

Starring Viggo Mortensen, Vilbjørk Malling Agger, Ghita Nørby
Directed by Liseandro Alonso
(Denmark/Argentina/France/Mexico/USA)

You don't often come across existential Danish films shot in Argentina, but this is one such. Viggo Mortensen (whose father is Danish) plays Gunnar Dinesen, an engineer working for the Danish army who is posted to a remote outpost of Patagonia. Then his fifteen-year-old daughter (Agger) elopes with a soldier and so Dinesen embarks on an epic journey through the desert to find her. Winner of the FIPRESCI Prize at last year's Cannes festival.



Hot Tub Time Machine 2

CERT 15 (102 mins)

Starring Rob Corddry, Craig Robinson, Clark Duke, Adam Scott, Chevy Chase
Directed by Steve Pink (USA)

The original film, released in 2010, was a one-joke comedy about three guys transported back to 1986 via a magic hot tub. The sequel - which received withering reviews in the US - sees Corddry, Robinson and Duke now transported into the future. So they have to alter the future in order to save the past. John Cusack, the original star (and producer), is nowhere to be seen.



The Water Diviner

CERT 15 (91 mins)

Starring Russell Crowe, Olga Kurylenko, Yılmaz Erdoğan, Cem Yılmaz, Jai Courtney
Directed by Russell Crowe (Australia/USA/Turkey)

Having worked with Ridley Scott, Ron Howard, Michael Mann and Peter Weir, Russell Crowe now takes up the directorial reins himself for this historical drama. He plays the father of three boys who went missing during the Battle of Gallipoli and travels to Turkey to find them.

Good Kill

CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring Ethan Hawke, January Jones, Zoë Kravitz, Jake Abel, Bruce Greenwood
Directed by Andrew Niccol (USA)

The writer-director Andrew Niccol (*Gattaca*, *S1m0ne*, *In Time*) likes to explore ideas of technology and morality. Here, he casts Ethan Hawke (*Gattaca*, *Boyhood*) as a drone pilot who begins to question the ethics of his job. We can't wait.



Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2

CERT PG (94 mins)

Starring Kevin James, Molly Shannon, Neal McDonough, Daniella Alonso, Raini Rodriguez
Directed by Andy Fickman (USA)

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) was pretty well panned by the critics - yet it still managed to gross \$183million worldwide. Anyway, this time security guard Blart (Kevin James, who also co-scripts) takes his daughter on vacation in Las Vegas. However, what was meant to be a time of relaxation turns out to be something of a busman's holiday...



Woman In Gold CERT 12a (109 mins)
Starring Helen Mirren, Ryan Reynolds, Daniel Brühl, Katie Holmes, Tatiana Maslany, Charles Dance, Jonathan Pryce
Directed by Simon Curtis (UK/USA)

Don't be fooled: Dame Helen Mirren is still only sixty-nine. However, here she plays Maria Altman, a Jewish octogenarian who, with the help of an American lawyer (Reynolds), takes on the Austrian government in order to reclaim Gustav Klimt's Portrait Of Adele Bloch-Bauer I, stolen from her family by the Nazis. Based on a true story.



Released from Fri 17 April

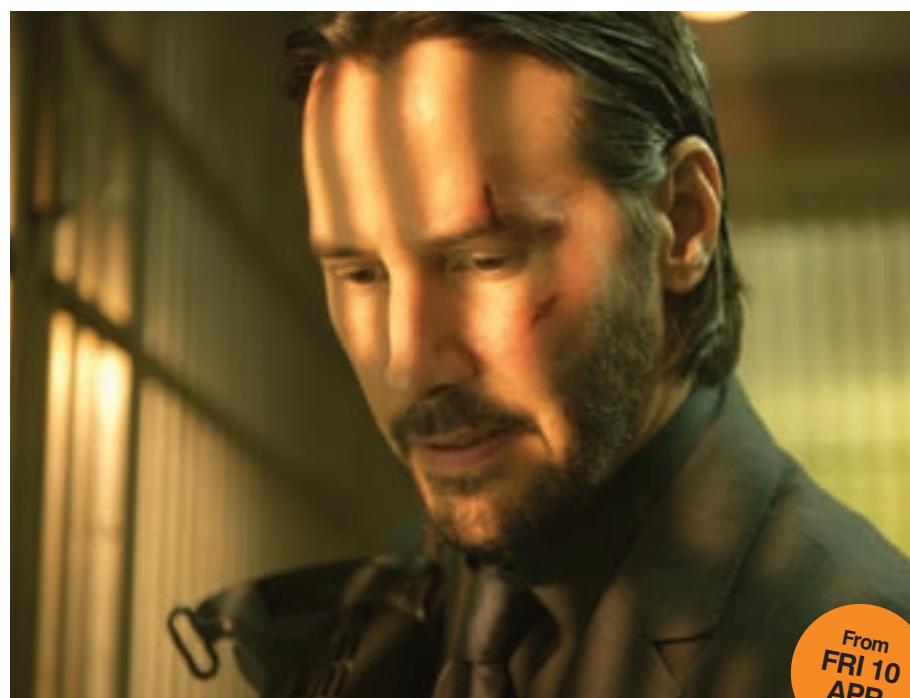
Child 44 CERT 15 (137 mins)
Starring Tom Hardy, Gary Oldman, Noomi Rapace, Joel Kinnaman, Paddy Considine, Jason Clarke, Vincent Cassel
Directed by Daniel Espinosa (USA/UK)

Filmed in the Czech Republic, this hard-hitting thriller takes as its subject a spate of child murders. Tom Hardy plays Leo Demidov, a disgraced intelligence agent in the Stalin-era Soviet Union who takes it upon himself to investigate the killings. Based on the 2008 novel by Tom Rob Smith.



The Last 5 Years CERT 12a (94 mins)
Starring Anna Kendrick, Jeremy Jordan, Natalie Knapp, Alan Simpson
Directed by Richard LaGravenese (USA)

Adapted from the Off-Broadway musical, this is an intriguing concept for a film, with or without songs. Essentially a deconstruction of a romantic relationship, the story unfolds through the songs of an aspiring actress (Kendrick), whose version of events are played backwards, while her beau (Jordan) sings the songs that lead up to the culmination of their liaison.



From
FRI 10
APR

A Little Chaos CERT 12a tbc
Starring Kate Winslet, Matthias Schoenaerts, Alan Rickman, Stanley Tucci, Helen McCrory, Jennifer Ehle
Directed by Alan Rickman (UK)

There just aren't enough films about landscape gardeners. This one pits Kate Winslet's Sabine against the designs of André Le Nôtre (Schoenaerts, recently seen in *Suite Française*), both of whom are competing to win the prize of constructing a new fountain at the Palace of Versailles. Alan Rickman plays King Louis XIV and also directs, following his debut behind the camera with *The Winter Guest* (1997).



The Salvation CERT 15 (92 mins)
Starring Mads Mikkelsen, Eva Green, Eric Cantona, Mikael Persbrandt, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Jonathan Pryce
Directed by Kristian Levring (Denmark/UK/South Africa)

Any new film starring Mads Mikkelsen is good news, but it's a surprise to see him in a Western. And not just any Western: this is a Danish cowboy drama shot in South Africa. Mikkelsen plays a settler whose family is murdered and so he takes the law into his own hands... Expect strong violence.

Glassland CERT 15 (93 mins)
Starring Jack Reynor, Toni Collette, Will Poulter, Michael Smiley
Directed by Gerard Barrett (Ireland)

From the director of *Pilgrim Hill* (2013), *Glassland* is the story of a Dublin taxi driver (Reynor) caught up in the world of human trafficking. In addition, he is resolved to wean his mother (Collette) off the bottle.



John Wick CERT 15 (101 mins)

Starring Keanu Reeves, Michael Nyqvist, Alfie Allen, Bridget Moynahan, Ian McShane, Willem Dafoe
Directed by Chad Stahelski (USA)

John Wick (Keanu) is a hitman who's thrown in the towel. However, when Russian gangsters shoot his beagle puppy - a gift from his late wife - he unpacks his shooter. The action-thriller - co-directed by an uncredited David Leitch - takes much of its inspiration from anime and martial arts films as well as from the oeuvre of John Woo.

Released from Fri 24 April

The Good Lie CERT 12a (110 mins)
Starring Reese Witherspoon, Corey Stoll, Sarah Baker, Maria Howell
Directed by Philippe Falardeau (USA)

Based on true events, this is the story of a brassy American woman (Witherspoon) who assists in the relocation of four young Sudanese refugees. Corey Stoll, the male lead, previously played Ernest Hemingway in Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*

Stonehearst Asylum

CERT 15 (101 mins)
Starring Kate Beckinsale, Jim Sturgess, Brendan Gleeson, Ben Kingsley, Michael Caine, David Thewlis
Directed by Brad Anderson (USA)

Based on Edgar Allan Poe's short story, *The System Of Doctor Tarr And Professor Fether* (1845), this violent thriller is set in the mental institution of the title. Here, Edward Newgate (Sturgess), a recent medical school graduate, arrives to take up residency. He is then immediately drawn to the very beautiful Eliza Graves (Beckinsale), a woman diagnosed with 'female hysteria'...



KERRANG!

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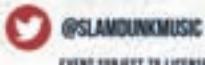
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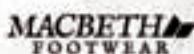




image courtesy of Shrewsbury Folk Festival

All hail the festival season...

They're big news in the UK and come in many guises, with some of the very best taking place right here in the Midlands. Yes, we're talking festivals - and the festival season is very nearly upon us...

Theatre, dance, comedy and film all play their part in ensuring the Midlands offers a diverse and vibrant festival scene. And when it comes to music - regardless of your preference, be it jazz, indie, folk, classical, world or pop - you're almost certain to find a festival to suit your taste.

Meanwhile, an abundance of food festivals across the region play their part in helping to satisfy the nation's insatiable appetite for all things culinary.

But the Midlands festival scene doesn't cater only for adults, with more and more organisers programming their events to ensure they offer plenty of family-friendly fun for youngsters to enjoy.

Something for all...

Well established as one of the UK's top ten summer festivals, **Shrewsbury Folk** (West Midland Showground, 28 to 31 August) attracts some of the biggest names in the business. This year's event sees the Richard Thompson Electric Trio making a welcome return as the Sunday night headliners. A family-friendly event, Shrewsbury Folk features Pandemonium! and Refolkus - two 'festivals within a festival' for children and teenagers to enjoy...

When it comes to beautiful surroundings, the **Lunar Festival** at Umberslade Park (Tanworth-in-Arden, near Solihull, 5 to 7 June) takes some beating. Set in the spiritual home of Nick Drake, Lunar offers an eclectic programme of peripheral activities alongside an impressive line-up of performers, with Dr Feelgood founder Wilko Johnson headlining the weekend.

An event on a smaller scale, though no less impressive, is the **Lichfield Blues & Jazz Festival** (Lichfield Cathedral, Guildhall and George Hotel, 25 to 28 June). Contributors include the Tommaso Starace Quartet, John Etheridge, Steve Aja and the Climax Blues Band.

If it's noise you're after, **Slam Dunk** (Wolves Civic, Wulfrun Hall and Civic Bar, 25 May) might be right up your street. Described as the UK's 'loudest' punk rock festival, the event this year features You Me At Six, Taking Back Sunday and Lower Than Atlantis.

One of the biggest pop events in the country, **V Festival** (Weston Park, Staffordshire, 22 to 23 August) regularly attracts the creme de la creme of popular music. Grammy Award-winner Sam Smith, Paloma Faith and the man with The Voice, Tom Jones, all feature amongst the line-up.

Pick of the month... Cheltenham Jazz Festival, Montpellier Gardens, 29 April to 4 May

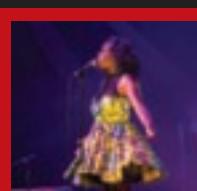
Boasting a typically bold programme, Cheltenham Jazz Festival features a range of exclusive one-off performances, unique collaborations, special commissions and debut UK appearances from a heady mix of established stars and emerging talent.

Taking place across six days, this year's festival is hosted in a tented village and presents a balance of classic and contemporary jazz, blues, soul and pop from an impressive line-up of pioneering acts. Performers appearing at the festival include million-selling singer-songwriter Rumer, Dutch superstar Caro Emerald, experimental producer and composer Squarepusher, 'queen of soul' Martha Reeves, world-renowned DJ and broadcaster Gilles Peterson, former Dr Feelgood guitarist Wilko Johnson, Californian blues-rocker Beth Hart and consummate jazz singer and broadcaster Clare Teal.

The festival also features a jazz arena, a food, drink and market

area, and the Take Five Tent - hosting talks, workshops and family activities.

Although the main action takes place in the tented village, a number of festival shows are taking place at various venues around the town.



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Festivals Listings

For full listing information on festivals, including dates and line-up, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

NANTWICH JAZZ, BLUES & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; Thea Gilmore & her band, Connie Lush, Andy Fairweather Low & FM, Thurs 2 - Mon 6 Apr, various venues around Nantwich

MARILLION WEEKEND UK

Line-up includes; The Steve Rothery Band, Ginger Tom & Synesthesia, Fri 10 - Sun 12 Apr, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

CHELTENHAM JAZZ FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; Caro Emerald, Laura Mvula, Wilko Johnson & Gregory Porter, Wed 29 Apr - Mon 4 May, Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham

CLUN GREEN MAN FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; Whalebone, The Endings and more to be announced, Sat 2 - Mon 4 May, various venues throughout Clun, Shropshire

SWINGAMAJIG

Line-up includes; Chinese Man, Electric Swing Circus, The Correspondents & Ed Solo, Sun 3 May, The Custard Factory, Birmingham

FUDGESTOCK

Line-up includes; AKA Skaface, Bethan and The Morgans, Hot Rocks & special guest tba, Sun 3 May, The Robin, Bilston

FULL ON

Line-up includes; Ferry Corston, Ben Gold, Menno De Jong & Angry Man, Sat 9 May, Boxed Warehouse, Birmingham

STOURBRIDGE BLUES FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; Tom Walker Trio, Big Wolf Band, The Mentulls & Rebecca Downes Band, Sat 16 May, Old Halesonians RFC, Stourbridge

BEARDED THEORY

Line-up includes; New Model Army, James, Afro Celt Sound System & Cara Dillon, Thurs 21 - Sun 24 May, Catton Hall, Derbyshire

BREAKING BANDS FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; Voodoo Vegas, Monument, Breed 77 & The Heretic Order, Fri 22 - Sun 24 May, Stoke Prior Country Club, Bromsgrove

OUTBREAK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; Sven Vath, Armand Van

Helden, Jamie Jones & Shadow Child, Fri 22 - Sun 24 May, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

THE COLOUR FESTIVAL

Line-up to be announced, Sat 23 May, The Rainbow Arena, Birmingham

SLAM DUNK

Line-up includes; You Me At Six, Taking Back Sunday, Architects & Don Broco, Mon 25 May, various venues and locations around the city centre, Wolverhampton

WYCHWOOD FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; UB40, The Proclaimers, Lady-smith Black Mambazo & Ghostpoet, Fri 29 - Sun 31 May, Cheltenham Racecourse

LUNAR FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; Tinariwen, Wilko Johnson, Public Service Broadcasting & Sun Ra Arkestra, Fri 5 - Sun 7 Jun, Umberslade Farm Park, Warwickshire

VALEFEST

Line-up to be announced, Sat 6 Jun, The Vale, Birmingham

LEAMINGTON PEACE FESTIVAL

Line-up to be announced, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Jun, Leamington

HOLI ONE FESTIVAL BIRMINGHAM

Line-up to be announced, Sat 13 Jun, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE ACOUSTIC FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

Line-up includes; Alan Barnes, Old Hat Jazz Band, Chris Pearce Quartet & Gypsy Fire, Fri 26 - Sun 28 Jun, The Riverside, Upton-upon-Severn

cludes; Paul Carrack, Big Country, Show Of Hands & From The Jam, Fri 19 - Sun 21 Jun, Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire

LINTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; Wilko Johnson, Andy Fairweather Low & The Low Riders, The Hoax & Ryan McGarvey, Fri 19 - Sun 21 Jun, The Alma Inn, Herefordshire

100 ABOVE (LAINFEST)

Line-up includes; Amber Run, Bipolar Sunshine, Laurel & Bwani Junction, Fri 19 - Mon 22 Jun, Gopsall Hall Farm, Warwickshire

KINETON MUSIC FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; Hot Tubes, The Folly Brothers, Neighbourhood Catch & The Harvesters, Sat 20 Jun, Kineton Sports and Social Club, Warwickshire

LICHFIELD BLUES AND JAZZ FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; The Blues Band, Jay Phelps Quartet, Tommaso Starace Quartet & Steve Ajao & Climax Blues Band, Thurs 25 - Sun 28 Jun, various venues around Lichfield

UPTON JAZZ FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; Alan Barnes, Old Hat Jazz Band, Chris Pearce Quartet & Gypsy Fire, Fri 26 - Sun 28 Jun, The Riverside, Upton-upon-Severn



Tom Jones - V Festival, Weston Park, Staffordshire

CAMPER JAM Line-up to be announced, Fri 3 - Sun 5 Jul, Weston Park, Staffordshire

GODIVA FESTIVAL

Line-up to be announced, Fri 3 - Sun 5 Jul, War Memorial Park, Coventry

BLUES AT THE FOLD

Line-up includes; Jack Blackman, The King Biscuit Boys, Swampcandy & Will 'Harmonica' Wilde Band, Sat 4 Jul, The Fold, Worcester

L FEST

Line-up to be announced, Fri 17 - Mon 20 Jul, Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire

WARWICK FOLK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; Billy Bragg, Lil' Jimmy Reed Band, The Demon Barbers XL & Nancy Kerr, Thurs 23 - Sun 26 Jul,

various venues around Warwick

NOZSTOCK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; The Wu Tang Clan, Martha Reeves and The Vandellas, Beardyman & London Electricity, Fri 24 - Sun 26 Jul, Bromyard, Hereford

MADE BIRMINGHAM Line-up includes; Beardyman, Claude VonStroke, David Rodigan & Julio Bashmore, Sat 25 Jul, The Digbeth Triangle, Birmingham

SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL

Line-up includes; Richard Thompson, La Bottine Souriante, Kate Rusby & Sharon Shannon, Fri 28 - Mon 31 Aug, West Midland Showground, Shrewsbury

SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL
28-29-30-31 AUG 2015

Richard Thompson Electric Trio
La Bottine Souriante **Sharon Shannon**
Kate Rusby **Oysterband Special**
The Peatbog Faeries **Steve Knightley**
Catrin Finch & Seckou Keita
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www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk

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HIGHER INTELLIGENCE AGENCY **CLAUDIO SIMONETTI'S GOBLIN** **POLE POSITION**
HELLOWEEN **JOE BONAMASSA** **THE REVENANT** **SYD ARTHUR** **JAKE WEAVER**
RICHARD HARRIS **ELECTRIC SWING CIRCUS** **DAVID BURG**
MARK RADCLIFFE'S GALLON BEAST **MY BROTHER'S BROTHER** **NICK DRAKE'S RECORD PLAYER**
ROBBY HITCHCOCK **MIKE NEWMAN** **SWIMMING WITH THE BIRDS**
LOKER **MAURICE WILDE** **LOVE IN BENDERS** **GLORI** **WILD FANTASY** **WHITE HOUNDS**

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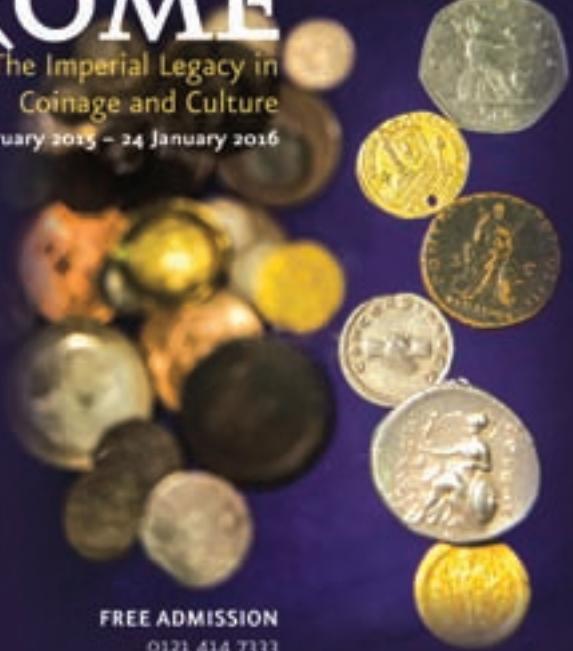
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Semyon Faibisovich
Matias Faldbakken
Bernard Frize
Ryan Gander

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Carmen Herrera
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Elizabeth Magill
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Visual Arts

The Non-Conformists: Photographs By Martin Parr

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, until Sun 7 June

"These photographs are from another era," says celebrated documentary photographer and satirist Martin Parr of his Non-Conformists project, "but hopefully they will appeal to people interested in northern life from the 1970s, particularly the Hebden Bridge area."

Martin's highly praised mid-'70s project documented the lives of people who were residing in the Yorkshire mill town of Hebden Bridge and the surrounding Calder Valley. The collection of photographs captured a traditional way of life organised around the church and hill farming - and one that was very much in decline.

As well as offering a unique perspective on a disappearing community, The Non-Conformists also records a bygone stage of Martin's own photographic career, during which his focus was very much on recording remnants from past eras.

"If you're a documentary photographer you can't just do nostalgia alone," Martin said in a recent interview with The Yorkshire Post. "You're obliged to try and reflect current trends in society. You can't just photograph things from the past.

Photographers love nostalgia and I'm no different, but I fully understand that photographing a supermarket is just as important and valid as doing pictures of Morris dancers."



AK Dolven

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, until Sun 19 April

AK Dolven's work is primarily concerned with the representation of sublime natural forces, a fact which connects her to fellow Norwegian artist Peder Balke (1804–1887), whose work is also included in this exhibition.

Using painting, installation, film and sound, Dolven explores the nature of perception and the subconscious functioning of memory and feeling. "I hope people have very individual experiences in viewing the exhibition," she said in a recent interview with countryandtownhouse.co.uk. "I think every work is different to every person; it mirrors who they are and where they come from."



Love Is Enough: Andy Warhol and William Morris

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Sat 25 April - Sun 6 Sept

Citing both Andy Warhol and William Morris as significant influences on his work - which explores socio-political aspects of contemporary culture - artist Jeremy Deller has here curated an exhibition designed to compare and contrast the interests and ideas of the two men. Love Is Enough brings together significant and iconic works by both artists, including some rarely seen pieces. It also features archival material owned or made by Warhol and Morris that sheds light on their influences and working practices.

Gothic Exhibition

Library of Birmingham,
Tues 7 April - Sat 2 May

With a new version of Daphne du Maurier's Gothic romance *Rebecca* this month being staged at the adjacent Repertory Theatre, the Library of Birmingham is hosting an exhibition exploring differing approaches to the Gothic - from literature and film to architecture, art and Goth culture. The interdisciplinary show is being presented by Birmingham City University artists. A special Gothic Day on 2 May offers an opportunity to investigate the subject in greater depth.



Further exhibitions

Aideen Doran: Im Bau

Grand Union, Birmingham,
Sat 18 April - Sun 14 June

The shifting landscape and regeneration of Birmingham are investigated in this fascinating new project from Aideen Doran. Exploring the city as a space for artistic, economic and ideological production, *Im Bau* sees the artist build a research lab within the gallery space. During the course of the project, Doran will also curate a number of workshops and talks specifically designed to generate conversation between the city's residents.

Stanhope Forbes' England

Worcester Museum & Art Gallery,
until Sat 6 June

Although he was born in a city (Dublin) and studied in two other cities (London and Paris), it was for his paintings of towns and villages that Stanhope Forbes was most admired.

This new exhibition takes a look at some of the artist's best-known works - his beautiful costal scenes of Newlyn and the surrounding areas - and includes the painting *Chadding On Mount's Bay*.

"*Chadding On Mount's Bay* is considered Stanhope Forbes' greatest work and is a jewel in Worcester's collection," says Philippa Tinsley, Senior Curator at Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum. "The exhibition brings together a fascinating selection of other landscapes by Forbes, from both public and private collections, to tell the story of this important artist."

Susan Stockwell: Sea Markings

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Wed 1 April - Sun 6 September

"Working as artist-in-residence at the RSC has been insightful, inspirational and enjoyable," says Susan Stockwell. "Witnessing the inside workings of the organisation has revealed a very collaborative process, different to the visual artists' practice, which tends to be more solitary. It's been a great opportunity to push my work further and explore Shakespeare's language to make new art which I hope will surprise and intrigue visitors."

Stockwell's exhibition, inspired by the RSC's summer 2015 season of plays and the world of sixteenth century Venice, explores themes of identity, migration and trade. The show is a response to Othello and The Merchant Of Venice. It includes a 'spectacular' installation of sails, a series of quilts and textiles pieces, and a flotilla of boats made from paper currency from around the world.



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

MAT JENNER: DREAMS
TIME FREE until Fri 3 Apr, Grand Union, Birmingham

YOU ARE HERE A series of newly commissioned audio & video portraits by Chris Paul Daniels of residents and workers from Digbeth and Bordesley Village, until Fri 3 Apr, A3 Project Space, Digbeth, Birmingham

ELIZABETH ROWE Disparate images carefully selected from women's magazines, National Geographic volumes and old books feature at the heart of Elizabeth Rowe's work, until Sun 5 Apr, New Art Gallery, Walsall

SARANJIT BIRD - COGN I Using drawing, dance and digital media, this multimedia work investigates cognition and habit, until Mon 6 Apr, The Drum, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM SHOW Large-scale group exhibition, until Sat 11 Apr, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

JERWOOD ENCOUNTERS 3-PHASE SHOW 1 First of two exhibitions by emerging artists - in this case, Kelly Best and Georgie Grace, until Sat 11 Apr, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

SIGN, SYMBOL & SCRIPT David Walton's large abstract paintings, based on the symbolic marks on ancient stones, until Sat 11 Apr, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

EAT, DRINK, WORK, REST & PLAY EXHIBITION A show by Colin Wilkinson & John Shakespeare RBSA which celebrates everyday life and objects, until Sat 11 Apr, RBSA, Birmingham

EXPRESSIONS OF THE HUMAN ART FORM Six RBSA members and associates focus on the human figure within the context of the traditions of western art, until Sat 11 Apr, RBSA, Birmingham

INTERLACE BY RUTH SINGER & BETHANY WALKER New collaboration between textile artists Ruth Singer and Bethany Walker which features a combination of delicate, manipulated textiles set into concrete, until Sat 18 Apr, Bilton Craft Gallery

WILL SHANNON: THE CLOSET CRAFTSMAN In this new exhibition for Birmingham, Shannon

produces Market Factory. Resonating with Birmingham's heritage as a place for trade and making things, the new workspace manufactures limited-edition chairs for sale, until Sun 19 Apr, mac, Birmingham

DRESDEN EXCHANGE Artist-led initiative founded in 2012 by John Yeadon and Jean Kirsten which seeks to develop dialogue and communication between artists from the cities of Coventry and Dresden, until Sun 19 Apr, Lanchester Gallery, Coventry University

NÁSTIO MOSQUITO: DAILY LOVEMAKING Exhibition fusing music, photography, film and performance poetry to reflect on the nature of the globalised world, and how lovemaking can act as an antidote to corruption and hypocrisy, until Sun 19 Apr, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

STEVE EVANS ARBSA Display of abstract perspex works & ink drawings, until Sat 25 April, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

ANDREW MATHESON Showcase of stoneware & porcelain pieces, until Sat 25 Apr, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

NEW ART WEST MID-LANDS Showcase of work by thirty of the region's best emerging artists, until Sat 25 Apr, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

STEPHEN BUTT: THE MEASUREMENT OF NATURE A series of prints and watercolours reflecting Stephen's ongoing exploration of the relationship between the natural and man-made world, as seen through cities, gardens and objects, until Sat 25 Apr, RBSA, Birmingham

RECORDING BRITAIN Victoria & Albert Museum collection comprising over one thousand, five hundred paintings that present a remarkable snapshot of the fast-changing country, until Sun 26 Apr, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

ECHOES OF WAR Focusing on the major contribution that Stoke-on-Trent made to the war effort through its infirmary and the role of the Millicent Sutherland Ambulance, until Sun 26 April, Potteries

WILL SHANNON: THE CLOSET CRAFTSMAN In this new exhibition for Birmingham, Shannon

Stanhope Forbes' England - Worcester City Art Gallery



Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES An exhibition showcasing collected welcomes from Birmingham & beyond, until Sun 26 Apr, mac, Birmingham

REVOLUTIONISING FASHION Display of elegant eighteenth & early-nineteenth century British miniatures by the likes of Richard Cosway, George Engleheart & John Smart, until Sun 26 April, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

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

TONY CLARKE: ON THE THRESHOLD OF A DREAM New exhibition honouring one of Coventry's most beloved sons, until May, Coventry Music Museum

THE POETIC IMPOSSIBILITY TO MANAGE THE INFINITE Exhibition which documents our quest to penetrate the astrophysical reality of the universe in order to better understand time, space & matter, until Sat 2 May, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

MADE AT MAC: TEXTILES Featuring work from mac's From Paper To Fabric course, until Sun 3 May, mac, Birmingham

DISRUPTED Curated by Noemi Lakmaier, this exhibition invites visitors to encounter the 'other' - that which is different and unfamiliar, until Sun 3 May, mac, Birmingham

FOUND Bringing together seven contemporary artists who work with found images, until Sun 3 May, New Art Gallery, Walsall

ROBERT GROVES: GOLDEN YEARS Constellation of

small golden paintings (c.1965) which reflect the artist's strong interest in Middle Eastern & South Asian culture, until Mon 4 May, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

JON WILLIAMS: SENSATIONAL CLAY Touring exhibition from Bilton Craft Gallery, featuring ceramics by Hereford-based maker Jon Williams, until Mon 4 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

HIDDEN TREASURES CRAFT EXHIBITION Exhibition featuring new techniques such as 3D-printing to examine current trends in ceramics & jewellery, until Sat 9 May, RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

A LEAMINGTON MUSICAL METEOR: THE LIFE OF WILLIAM DENIS BROWNE (1888 - 1915) Exhibition which brings together family archive material alongside compositions by Browne, to celebrate his career, until Sun 10 May, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

STONES & BONES EXHIBITION Discover more about the early history of the Midlands and how that history was uncovered, recorded and told by prominent local geologists and scientists, until Sun 17 May, Library of Birmingham

NEW ART WEST MID-LANDS Showcase of work by thirty of the region's best emerging artists, until Sun 17 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham & Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

GODS AND HEROES Seeking to uncover the methods and motives behind the representation of the superhuman and supernatural in art. Subjects drawn from both ancient mythology and the Judeo-Christian tradition feature, until Mon 25 May, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

ART FROM ELSEWHERE: INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART FROM UK

GALLERIES Touring exhibition which considers themes of global change, postcolonial experiences and failed utopias, until Sun 31 May, Waterhall Gallery, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

NEW ART WEST MID-LANDS Showcase of work by thirty of the region's best emerging artists, until Sun 31 May, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

STANHOPE FORBES'S ENGLAND Marking the first time this collection of works has been brought together for public viewing, until Sat 6 June, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

FAITH & ACTION: QUAKERS & THE FIRST WORLD WAR Exhibition which uses original photographs, film interviews & artefacts to tell the compelling stories of Quaker men and women during the 1914-1918 conflict and its aftermath, until Sun 7 June, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

CANALETTO: CELEBRATING BRITAIN Bringing together the paintings & drawings which Canaletto created between 1746 and 1755, a period during which he celebrated the achievements of British

architecture and engineering, until Sun 7 June, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

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

SOLDIERS' STORIES: BIRMINGHAM AND THE ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT 1914 - 1918

Exhibition which commemorates the centenary of the First World War and recounts the experiences of Birmingham men who served in the regiment between 1914 and 1918, using personal objects, medals & memorabilia, until Sun 26 July, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

LOVE IS ENOUGH: ANDY WARHOL AND WILLIAM MORRIS Exhibition bringing together significant and iconic works by both artists, including some rarely seen pieces, until Sun 6 Sept, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

AN ENGLISHMAN ABROAD Exhibition examining the changing focus of pilgrims and the coun-

tries that their pilgrimages have taken them to, until Sat 31 Oct, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

ART IN THE PARK: KERN BABY BY FAYE CLARIDGE This enigmatic new commission by artist Faye Claridge for the grounds at Compton Verney will take on the form of an exaggerated sculptural emblem of folklore, until Sun 13 Dec, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

INHERITING ROME

Exhibition which uses money to explore and question our deep-seated familiarity with the Roman Empire's imagery, until Sun 24 Jan 2016, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

CLAIRE COOPER-WALSH EXHIBITION Wed 1 - Sun 26 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE CURRENT SITUATION

A selection of five artworks by artist Yara El-Sherbini which, although diverse, bring together a common theme, Wed 1 Apr - Sat 27 Jun, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

CHINESE LIVES IN BIRMINGHAM EXHIBITION

Exhibition which looks at the development of the Chinese community in Birmingham, Thurs 2 - Sat 25 Apr, Library of

Birmingham

THE SALTELY STORIES

Presenting the results of a community history project which records the memories and experiences of people from all backgrounds and of all ages, and the collation of images of Saltley & Alum Rock over the past five to six decades. Wed 8 Apr - Thu 7 May, The Drum, Birmingham

INDEFINABLE CITIES

Group exhibition pre-

senting works by six UK & Japanese artists, curated by Amanda Francis (UK) & Koh Yoshida (Japan), Fri 10 Apr - Sat 23 May, AirSpace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

CANDIDATES EXHIBITION

Annual exhibition featuring works by artists seeking election to become associates or members of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, Mon 13 - Sat 25 Apr, RBSA Gallery,

Birmingham

TIBOR REICH An exhibition of drawings by the prolific Stratford-based textile designer, Mon 20 Apr - Sat 30 May, Parkside Gallery, Birmingham City University

IMAGINING A UNIVERSITY Fifty years of The University of Warwick Art collection, Wed 29 Apr - Sat 20 Jun, The Mead Gallery, Warwick University, Coventry

Museums & Art Galleries

Birmingham

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BARBER INSTITUTE
0121 414 7333
BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY
0121 303 2834
CASTLE GALLERIES
0121 248 8484
GRAND UNION
0121 643 9079
IKON GALLERY
0121 248 0708
NUMBER NINE THE GALLERY
0121 643 9099
RBSA GALLERY
0121 236 4353
STRYX GALLERY, DIGBETH
stryxarts@gmail.com
THREE WHITE WALLS GALLERY
0121 200 3328

Black Country

BANTOCK HOUSE WOLVERHAMPTON
01926 645500
HERBERT ART GALLERY COVENTRY
02476 832386
LANCHESTER GALLERY, COVENTRY
02476 887831
MEAD GALLERY WARWICK
02476 524524
ROYAL PUMP ROOMS
01926 742700
RUGBY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY
01788 533201

Warwickshire

COMPTON VERNEY GALLERY
01926 645500
HERBERT ART GALLERY COVENTRY
02476 832386
LANCHESTER GALLERY, COVENTRY
02476 887831
MEAD GALLERY WARWICK
02476 524524
ROYAL PUMP ROOMS
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01788 533201

Worcestershire

WORCESTER CITY ART GALLERY 01905 25371

Visit whatsonlive.co.uk for venue website details



For details of talks and tours see www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum
Foregate Street, Worcester WR1 1DT
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Image: Chadding on Mounts Bay, 1902,
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Events



Antiques For Everyone NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 9 - Sun 12 April

Birmingham's silversmiths, craftsmen and artisans are very much at the heart of this month's Antiques For Everyone (AFE) Spring Fair. Celebrating the comeback of 'real tea'-making, AFE features an exhibition titled The Story Of The Caddy Spoon c1775 - 2015. Around five hundred caddy spoons, ranging from the very plain to the incredibly ornate - and mostly in silver - will be on display at the show, with over half of those showcased having originated in Birmingham. For those interested in art and literature who're looking for something new to add to their collections, AFE Spring Fair is commemorating the one hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of Rudyard Kipling by making available two hundred copies of a new edition of the author's

Jungle Book, beautifully illustrated by wildlife artist Lute Vink. Celebrating its thirtieth anniversary in 2015, Antiques For Everyone is one of the largest events of its kind in the UK. The show features displays of antique and decorative furniture, treen, ceramics, kitchenalia, silver, glass, jewellery and works of art, arms and armour, maps, dolls, bears and an array of vintage and decorative collectables. With more than two hundred-and-fifty dealers showcasing their wares - and with items ranging in price from as little as £10 right up to £100,000 for the more serious collectors - this ever-popular event offers the perfect opportunity to pick up some unusual gifts.

Horrible Histories: Mediaeval Mayhem

Warwick Castle, Warwick,
Sat 28 March - Sun 12 April

The truly gruesome sights, sounds and smells of Mediaeval England are brought back to life at Warwick Castle this Easter, courtesy of Horrible Histories.

Featuring funny moments from history, a weird crowd of characters and gory games aplenty, the Horrible Histories shows are always a hit with children and parents alike.



Stratford Literary Festival

Various Locations Around
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Sat 25 April - Sun 3 May

Stratford Literary Festival is one of the most significant get-togethers of its kind in the UK. Offering a fusion of celebrity-author events, debates and workshops, this year's festival features a plethora of big names - including four dames: Dame Harriet Walter, Dame Jacqueline Wilson, Dame Antonia Fraser and Dame Wendy Hall.

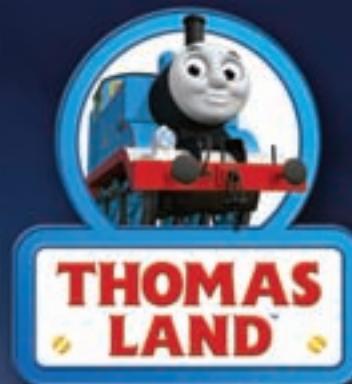
Other highlights during the nine-day festival include appearances by comedian Paul Merton, former political spin-doctor Alastair Campbell, actor Simon Russell Beale and Waterstones' Book of the Year winner Jessie Burton.

A selection of music-and-word events also features, as does the festival's well-established Children's Day. For a full festival line-up, visit www.stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk





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Festival Of Power

Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton, Fri 3 - Sun 5 April

Promising a memorable weekend for families and dyed-in-the-wool drag racing fans, Santa Pod's three-day Easter celebration boasts a bumper package of entertainment. As well as enjoying spectacular racing by two and four-wheeled vehicles, visitors to the event can look on as a huge array of cars and motorcycles hit the national championship trail.

The Jet Car Shootout, a real hit with fans at last year's inaugural event, welcomes the return of Germany's Gerd Habermann and his Dragon Hunter, while Globe Of Death features gravity-defying bikers hurtling around inside a giant sphere.

Other off-track programming worthy of mention includes a static display of supercars and the chance to inspect a Chieftain Battle Tank. Funfair rides, a climbing wall, helicopter pleasure flights, monster truck rides and a Peugeot 205 Jet Car also feature.

For the festival's full itinerary, visit www.santapod.com



RSC Easter Activities

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 28 March - Sun 12 April

The Royal Shakespeare Company is offering a whole range of activities and workshops for families to enjoy this Easter. Included in the programme of attractions is a Stage Fighting workshop with an RSC expert and the chance to find out all about the company's wigs and make-up department. A 'Speaking Shakespeare' session provides the opportunity to perform some of the bard's most iconic speeches, learning to quote them like a pro! Most sessions run throughout the week but for a full time table, visit www.rsc.org.uk



Chinese-inspired Activities

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, until Sun 12 April

Whatever the weather this Easter, one thing's for sure - there's plenty to keep visitors entertained at Compton Verney. Chinese-inspired pot-making classes are on offer at the site's Forest School, where a family tour to discover Compton's permanent collection is also



Drayton Manor Theme Park

Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth, Open Daily

Drayton Manor Theme Park's newly expanded Thomas Land attraction is opening to the public on 8 April. A celebration of the adventures of Thomas The Tank Engine and friends, Thomas Land is the only one of its kind in Europe. The massive £2.5million expansion increases its size by a whopping forty percent and includes three brand new rides - Flynn's Fire Rescue, Captain's Sea Adventure and Toby's Tram Express - as well as a 'stunning' new two-storey Sodor Airport terminal.

Drayton Manor Theme Park's 2015 season started in late March and runs until Sunday 1 November.

available. Meanwhile, over in the Discovery Room there's a chance to learn more about the newly re-displayed Chinese Collection. Visitors can also create their own version of Compton's Heavenly Horse to take home. For further information on all activities, visit www.comptonverney.org.uk



Children's Easter Fun

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Sun 5 - Fri 10 April

An action-packed day of high-quality fun is being promised by Birmingham's Botanical Gardens this Easter Sunday. In addition to perusing the garden's horticultural displays - a real treat at this time of year - visitors can also meet Bibbly Bob and take part in activities including face-painting, a children's trail, an egg hunt and an Easter bonnet parade.



Museum Detectives

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry Tues 7 - Fri 17 April

Become a museum detective at Herbert Art Gallery this Easter and join in a series of 'fun investigations'. Over the course of the two-week holiday, learn to examine clues, solve crimes in a 'whodunit spectacular' and investigate new ways to work with art materials. Activities include a messy Magnificent Marbling workshop involving ink and shaving cream, light investigations with shadow sculptures and the chance to help interview the suspects in 'the case of the missing cloak'.



Harlem Globetrotters

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Tues 21 April

Having played exhibition basketball games combining athleticism and comedy for the best part of a century, the Harlem Globetrotters this month return to the Midlands with a brand new family show that takes fan intervention to a whole new level. Via pre-show online voting at harlemglobetrotters.com/rule, followers can decide which new game-changing rules they want to see introduced when the team stops off in Birmingham.





What's on

Eggsperience Easter at Eastnor

Fri 3rd – Mon 6th April

Our legendary Easter Treasure Hunt around the castle and grounds, chocolate for all taking part!



Chilli Festival

Sun 3rd – Mon 4th May

All things chilli to try and buy! Live music, hot food and the legendary Chilli Eating Competition!

Vintage Family Fun

Sun 24th – Mon 25th May

A nostalgic family fun day with steam engines, tea tent, garden games and a vintage carousel.

Visit website for full events list

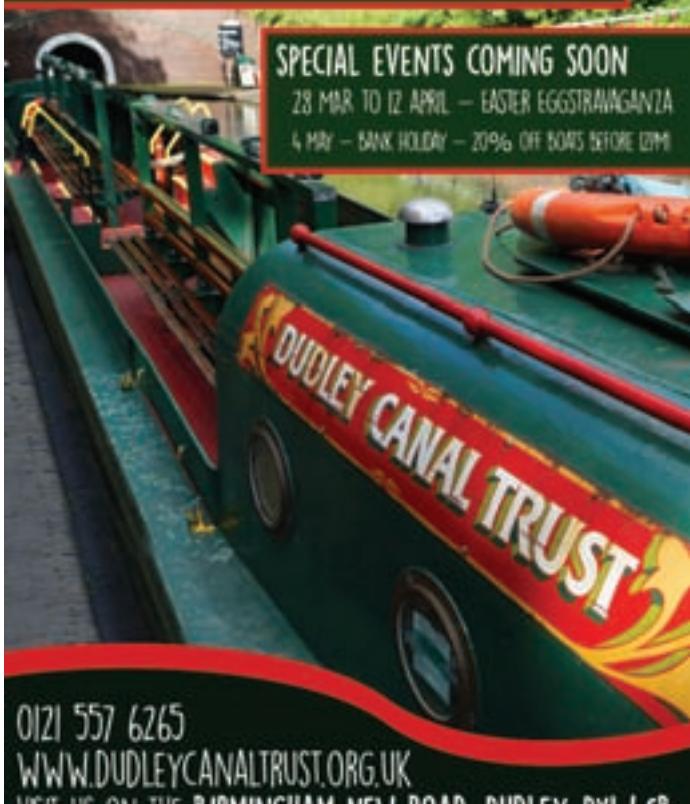
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Events PREVIEWS

Egg-citing Easter Activities

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,
Sat 28 March - Sun 12 April

Discover the Easter delights of the Black Country Living Museum, where a programme of fun events awaits. There's the opportunity to win a prize in the Easter quiz, enjoy a classic Easter Egg hunt and egg-rolling competition, and to get crafty with egg-painting activities.

There's also the chance to discover what playtime was like in the Victorian era by finding out about traditional street games like hopscotch, skipping, cup-and-ball and whip-and-tops. Visitors can also test their skills in the hoop-and-stick challenge, to find out how long they can keep the hoop rolling. A journey 'into the thick', meanwhile, offers the chance to experience life in an 1850s coal mine.



Who Do You Think You Are?

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 16 - Sat 18 April

After eight successful years in London, Who Do You Think You Are? Live moves to Birmingham. The event boasts numerous informative and interactive features and is aimed at anyone and everyone with an interest in tracing their past.

Over one hundred-and-twenty specialist exhibitors are on hand during the event, including the UK's largest gathering of family history societies. Archives, museums and online resources are also represented. Visitors are encouraged to bring photos, documents and heirlooms for expert analysis and can also learn how to use DNA in their research. The event also features appearances by various celebrities talking about their own family history.

Commenting on the event, Show Director Andy Healy said: "We're delighted to be bringing Who Do You Think You Are? Live to Birmingham and therefore providing a central location and better accessibility to the UK's biggest family-history show. We promise no-one will leave without having discovered more about their family tree."



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From M1 Northbound: Exit J21, M69. A46. Exit A46 to join B4113.

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Events LISTINGS

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

from
WED 1 APR

SPONGEBOB SPONGE HUNT

Help Spongebob find his friends, who're hidden throughout the Sealife Centre, Fri 27 Mar - Sun 19 Apr, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter-themed treasure hunt around the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Sat 28 Mar - Sat 11 Apr, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

DINOSAUR EGG HUNT TRAIL

Test your dinosaur knowledge and fool the Egg Hunt Trail. Starting in the Stones and Bones Exhibition, through the library and ending in the Children's Library, Sat 28 Mar - Sat 11 Apr, Library Of Birmingham, Birmingham

EASTER

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Join the Easter fun at Dudley Canal & Limestone Mines and visit the underground 'eggsibition', Sat 28 Mar - Sun 12 Apr, Dudley Canal Tunnel and Limestone Mines, Dudley

HORRIBLE HISTORIES: MEDIAEVAL MAYHEM The fun never stops with the gruesome sights, sounds and smells of Mediaeval England, Sat 28 Mar - Sun 12 Apr, Warwick Castle, Warwick, Warwickshire

EGG-CITING EASTER

ACTIVITIES Activities include an Easter egg hunt, Easter bonnet parade, egg painting, quizzes, egg rolling and more, Sat 28 Mar - Sun 12 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

EASTER

EGGSTRAVAGANZA Lots of Easter activities on offer, including discovery trails, 'Livingstone' the explorer and the chance to win prizes, Sat 28 Mar - Sun 12 Apr, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley, Worcestershire

CADBURY EASTER

EGGSPLORER TRAIL Hunt high and low for eggs on this special Cadbury trail, Sat 28 Mar - Sun 12 Apr, Croome Park, Croome D'Abitot, Worcestershire

JOUSTING Experience the drama of the joust as brave knights face each other on River Island, Sat 28 Mar -

Sun 12 Apr, Warwick Castle, Warwick, Warwickshire

SPRING IN THE GARDEN

The garden team give detailed tours of the Spring flowers, Mon 30 Mar - Wed 1 Apr, Croome Park, Croome D'Abitot, Worcestershire

EASTER EGGVENTURES

Join the egg hunt and make easter chicks, sun visors and bunny boxes, Mon 30 Mar - Sun 5 Apr, Selly Manor, Bournville, Birmingham

EASTER HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN

Family entertainment on offer every day, Mon 30 Mar - Sun 19 Apr, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

GROSS GAZUNDAS &

PUTRID PRIVIES Explore the interesting world of gross gazundas and putrid privies by following the trail while taking a tour of the Back To Backs, Tues 31 Mar - Sun 12 Apr, Birmingham Back to Backs, Birmingham

BRUNEL IN SOUTH WALES

Lecture by Stephen K Jones which explores the works of Brunel and his impact on South Wales, Wed 1 Apr, Thinktank at Millennium Point, Birmingham

KEEP THE HOME FIRES

BURNING Children's activities and pastimes from WWI, Wed 1 Apr, The Elgar Birthplace Museum, Lower Broadheath, Worcestershire

RETRO MARVEL NOW

Exhibition of work by top comic book artist Lee Bradley. Various workshops available, Wed 1 - Sun 12 Apr, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch, Worcestershire

SCIENCE OF SOUND

Wed 1 Apr - Fri 5 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EASTER HOLIDAY DANCE

ACTIVITY Suitable for ages four to eleven, Thurs 2 Apr Solihull Arts Complex

EASTER HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT

Suitable for children aged seven to eleven, Thurs 2 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex, Solihull

PRO PEAK PERFORMANCE

TEST & TUNE DAY

Only open to racers entered into the Festival of Power, Thurs 2 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway, Northamptonshire

FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITY:

EASTER BUNNIES Artist Lisa Broughton helps families decorate their own mixed-media 3D Easter Bunny, Thurs 2 Apr, Museum of the

Gadget Show Live - NEC, Birmingham

Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITY:

SHIP A'HOY Celebrating the discoveries made by Tudor explorers, make your own sail boat and check it floats before taking it home, Thurs 2 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

FUSED GLASS BUNNIES

Thurs 2 Apr, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Kingswinford

GOOD FRIDAY

Watch the inhabitants cleaning and preparing for Easter and have a go at egg decorating, Fri 3 Apr, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

EASTER EGG HUNT

Find all the eggs before they hatch, Fri 3 Apr, Wooley Castle Ruins, Birmingham

DINOSAUR ZOO

Bringing a plethora of prehistoric creatures to the stage, this unique experience enables audiences to interact with lifelike dinosaurs in an engaging live show', Fri 3 - Sun 5 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

FESTIVAL OF POWER

An action-packed Easter weekend of family Drag Racing entertainment, including European Nitro Funny Car Series, Jet Car Show and

National Drag Racing

classes headlined by the MSA 200mph Pro Mods, Fri 3 - Sun 5 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire

EASTER ACTIVITIES

Make crafts to take home, Fri 3 - Mon 6 Apr, Croome Park, Croome D'Abitot, Worcestershire

EASTER

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

An action-packed programme of chocolatey fun for all the family, Fri 3 - Mon 6 Apr, Cadbury World, Birmingham

CADBURY EASTER EGG

TRAIL Hunt high and low for eggs on this special Cadbury trail, Sat 4 - Mon 6 Apr, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

MCE INSURANCE BRITISH

SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP

Donington Park plays host to the first round of the 2015 MCE

Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire

CADBURY EASTER EGG

TRAIL Hunt high and low for eggs on this special Cadbury trail, Fri 3 - Mon 6 Apr, Birmingham Back To Backs

EASTER ADVENTURE

QUEST Get hands-on with history and meet characters from the past. Crack the clues as you explore the venue and reap a chocolate reward, Fri 3 - Mon 6 Apr, Kenilworth Castle; Whitley Court and Gardens, Great Whitley, Worcestershire

CADBURY EASTER EGG

TRAIL Hunt high and low for eggs on this special Cadbury trail, Fri 3 - Mon 6 Apr, Packwood House, Solihull

CADBURY EASTER EGG

TRAIL Hunt high and low for eggs on this special Cadbury trail, Fri 3 - Mon 6 Apr, Greyfriars' House and Garden, Worcester, Worcestershire

CADBURY EASTER EGG

TRAIL Hunt high and low for eggs on this special Cadbury trail, Fri 3 - Mon 6 Apr, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

SCIENCE SHOW - THE

MOON AND THE ECLIPSE Learn about the moon and eclipses with this fun science show, featuring rocket launches and demonstrations. Fri 3 - Fri 17 Apr, Jodrell Bank Observatory

EASTER EVENT

Sat 4 Apr, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

CADBURY EASTER EGG

TRAIL Hunt high and low for eggs on this special Cadbury trail, Sat 4 - Mon 6 Apr, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

MCE INSURANCE BRITISH

SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP

Donington Park plays host to the first round of the 2015 MCE

Insurance British Superbike

Championship, with a world-class field of riders, Sat 4 - Mon 6 Apr, Donington Park Racing Circuit

NEWCOMEN IN STEAM

The only full-sized working replica of the world's first steam engine can be seen in action. Due to the unpredictable nature of the Newcomen, please check running details with the museum prior to travelling, Sat 4 - Mon 6 Apr, Black Country Living

MUSEUM DETECTIVES

Become a super sleuth museum detective, examine clues in archaeological finds and help solve a crime that's taken place in one of the galleries. Content suitable for children aged five-plus, Tues 7 - Fri 17 Apr, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

THE GADGET SHOW LIVE

Five-day event packed with gaming celebrities, brand new games and top tournaments, Tues 7 - Sun 12 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

HANDS ON MOON

ACTIVITIES Explore the phases of the moon by creating a flick book, try moon-themed puzzles and fire your own rocket to the moon, Tues 7 - Fri 17 Apr, Jodrell Bank Observatory

MY DREAM:

BIRMINGHAM'S YOUNG POET LAUREATES A rare chance to catch up with some of Birmingham's former Young Poet Laureates, Wed 8 Apr, Library Of Birmingham

RAMBLE WITH THE RANGER

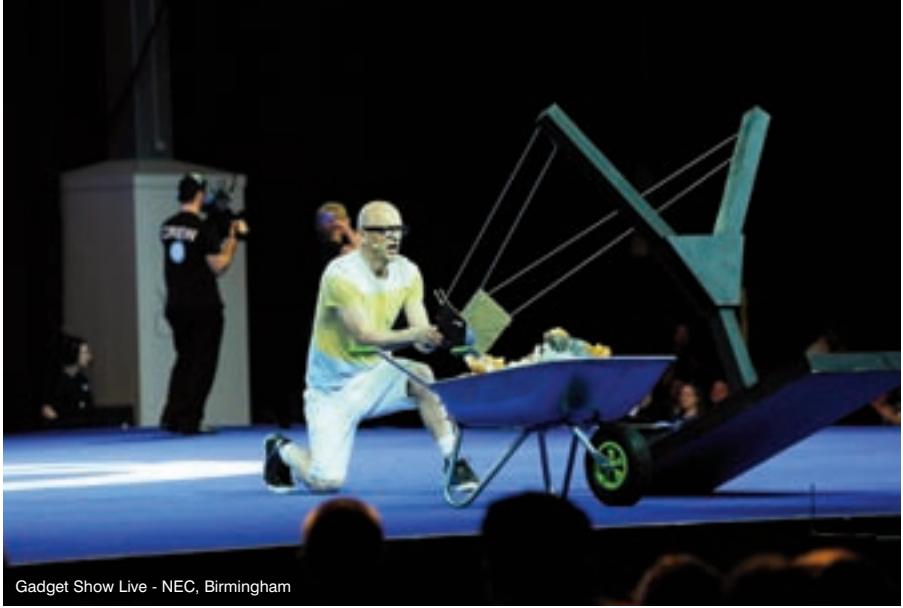
Join the Ranger on an exploration of the parkland and woodland, Wed 8, Fri 10 Apr, Croome Park, Croome D'Abitot, Worcestershire

EASTER HOLIDAY DANCE

ACTIVITY Suitable for ages four to eleven, Thurs 9 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex

EASTER HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT

Suitable for children





Stratford-upon-Avon
Literary Festival
THE WEEK

Jacqueline Wilson
Alastair Campbell
Paul Merton
Simon Russell Beale
Harriet Walter
Nick Butterworth
Hugo Rifkind
Antonia Fraser
Christina Lamb
Alexander McCall Smith
Chris Riddell
Richard Davenport Hines
Helen Lederer
Jessie Burton
Douglas Hurd
David & Ben Crystal
and many more...



Box Office: **01789 207100**
or online at:
www.stratfordartshouse.co.uk

The Stratford-upon-Avon Literary Festival

25th April to 3rd May 2015 www.stratlitfest.co.uk



PLUS: Competitions | Free Events | Guardian Masterclasses



Easter fun for all the family

Hop along to the gardens this Easter:

5-10th April - Face painting, trails & crafts
5th April - Easter egg hunt
6th April - Easter bonnet parade

Visit our website for more information
birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk/whatson

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GARDENS
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birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk



Compton Verney

Award-winning art gallery and park

EASTER FUN FOR ALL AGES

- Free family trails
- Creative activities
- Forest Schools
- Family tours
- Children's playground
- Under 5's go FREE



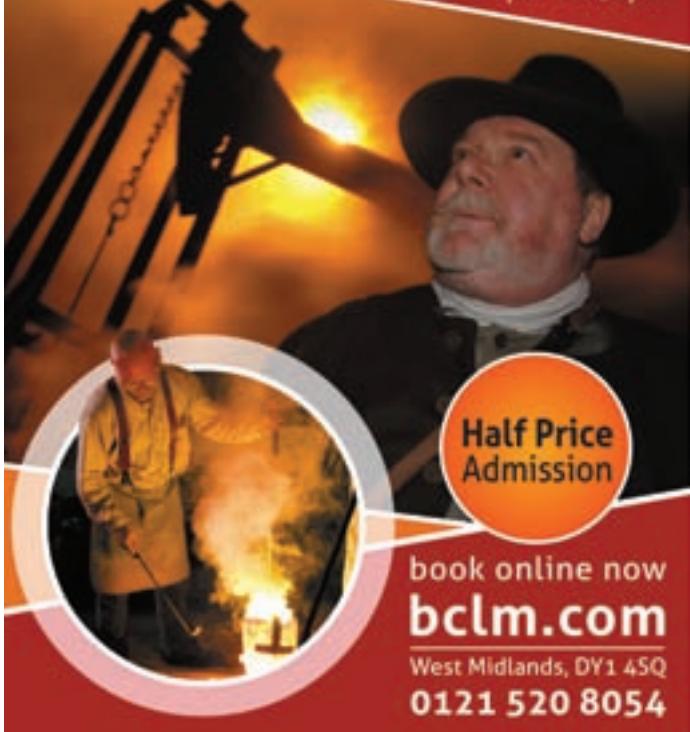
Compton Verney
Warwickshire
CV35 9HZ
T. 01926 645 500
www.comptonverney.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1022479

*Voucher valid until 30 April 2015

BLACK COUNTRY
LIVING
MUSEUM

Red by Night

Sat 16 May
7pm - 10.30pm



Events LISTINGS

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

children aged four to eleven, Thurs 9 Apr, Solihull Arts Complex
MARTIN HUGHES-GAMES
 Join the presenter of BBC's Springwatch and Autumnwatch as he talks about his 'thrilling and often hilarious' memoir, *A Wild Life*, which recounts the trials and tribulations of filming the natural world, Thurs 9 Apr, Kings High School, Warwick

FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITY: METAL POPPIES Artist Jolene Smith helps families make poppies out of metal, wire and beads, Thurs 9 Apr, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham
STONES & BONES WORKSHOP: EXPLORING VOLCANOES! Find out about volcanoes at this interactive workshop and make your own to take home, Thurs 9 Apr, Library Of Birmingham
FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITY: GLITTERING TREASURE Celebrate the discoveries made by Tudor explorers and create a glittering treasure to

take home, Thurs 9 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

DECORATE A MINI VASE

Decorate a mini vase for some Spring flowers, Thurs 9 Apr, Museum of the Order of St John, Warwick

FAMILY CRAFTS - JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Thurs 9 Apr, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE

Including a display of silverware from the Soldiers Of Gloucester Museum, Thurs 9 - Sun 12 April, NEC, Birmingham

SPRING FAIR &

CHILDREN'S TRAIL Join in the fun with a day of crafts, artwork and photography, Fri 10 Apr, Birmingham Cathedral

2015 FIA WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

The opening of the 2015 FIA World Endurance Championship packed with six hours of non-stop action, Fri 10 - Sun 12 Apr, Silverstone Circuit

SKETCH COVENTRY Join in the fun with a day of crafts, artwork and photography, Fri 10 Apr, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

friendly people for a day of sketching around Coventry city centre. Must supply own materials. Meet in the Herbert Café, Sat 11 Apr, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

RUN WHAT YA BRUNG

Take your car or motorcycle out on the famous quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sat 11 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

TREE CLIMBING AT CROOME

An hour of tree climbing with The Big Tree Company, Sat 11 Apr, Croome Park, Croome D'Abitot, Worcestershire

DROP-IN FAMILY ARTS

Make your own artwork to take home and try out new techniques, Sat 11 Apr, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM CLASSIC CAR BREAKFAST CLUB

A chance to show off your classic car and/or motorcycle, Sat 11 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK

Sat 11 Apr, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

WILDLIFE WATCH
GARDENS, WARWICKSHIRE GTI SPRING FESTIVAL
 RWYB event for water-cooled VWs with show'n'shine, clubs, autojumble and more, Sun 12 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

GTI SPRING FESTIVAL

RWYB event for water-cooled VWs with show'n'shine, clubs, autojumble and more, Sun 12 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

MG OCTAGON CAR CLUB

Featuring a display of up to twenty classic cars, Sun 12 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

THE MATRA ENTHUSIASTS CLUB UK A display of ten cars from the

Mantra Enthusiasts Club, Sun 12 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

COIN & BANKNOTE FAIR

Over forty-six dealers from the UK and Ireland, Sun 12 Apr, National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull

THE NATIONAL TELEPHONE KIOSK COLLECTION Explore the telephone kiosks and exchanges from the 1920s to 1990s, Sun 12 Apr, Avoncroft Museum,



Wedding Fair - The REP, Birmingham

MUSEUM & ART GALLERY BIRMINGHAM

Museum Madness this Easter

at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Fun packed days out!

- Hands-on Natural History
- Meet the Experts
- Pop up Planetarium
- Easter trails and crafts

DON'T MISS THE  **Staffordshire Hoard Gallery**

birminghammuseums.org.uk

Founded by Birmingham City Council

LOTTERY FUNDING

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Millennium Point

Birmingham Museums

*Some activities may incur a charge. See website for dates, times and prices of activities.

Events LISTINGS

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

Bromsgrove
WEDDING FAIR Featuring a huge range of suppliers, dress makers, photographers, make-up artists and cake makers to help you plan your big day, Sun 12 April, The Rep, Birmingham

Week Commencing MON 13 APR

IF MUSIC AND SWEET POETRY AGREE Donald Hunt takes a look at English poetry inspired by music, Tues 14 Apr, The Elgar Birthplace Museum, Worcestershire

STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD & CONSERVATION TOUR Behind-the-scenes tour to find out the goings on of the Conservation Studio, Tues 14 Apr, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

RAG RUG WORKSHOP Jessie Lindon explains the traditional recycling tradition of Rag Rug making, Tues 14 Apr, Packwood House, Warwickshire

DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG Chance to practise drifting in safe and legal conditions on some of the Pod's thirty acres of open tarmac, where there are beginners, intermediate and advanced tracks open at the same time each DWYB day, Wed 15 Apr, Santa Pod

Raceway, Northampton

WINES FROM THE HEDGEROW Ken

Marshall shares tales about the perks and pitfalls of hedgerow growing, Thurs 16 Apr, Winterbourne House & Garden, Birmingham

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? LIVE 2015 Offering expert advice to both new and experienced family historians, Thurs 16 - Sat 18 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

CLASSIC VIRGINS

EXPERIENCE DAY A day designed to encourage and support potential British classic car owners, Sat 18 Apr, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

RUN WHAT YA BRUNG

Take your car or motorcycle out on the famous quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sat 18 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

SILVER RING WORKSHOP

With designer-maker Grace Page, Sat 18 Apr, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

POTTER AND PAINTER: THE ARTISTIC UNION OF EVELYN AND WILLIAM DE MORGAN Discover what made this couple such a force in English art, Sat 18 Apr, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

DAFFODIL SOCIETY NATIONAL SHOW 2015

The Daffodil Society return with a show packed full of hundreds of exhibits, new varieties and expert advice, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Apr, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

DUNLOP MSA BRITISH TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP

Gladiatorial-style racing, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Apr, Donington Park Racing Circuit

ONCE MORE UNTO THE BREACH

Celebrate the six hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Apr, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

THE CENTRAL PERFORMANCE SHOW

See the fastest sports & performance cars in the country battle it out head to head, Sun 19 Apr, Santa Pod

Raceway, Northampton

SPRING CRAFT FAIR

Shop for some unusual gifts from a variety of stalls, or relax in the pop-up tea room, Sun 19 Apr, Highbury Hall, Birmingham

SIMPLE SCIENCE - KALEIDOSCOPES Sun 19 Apr, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Stourbridge

CAMERA FAIR

The UK's largest independent camera fair, featuring over one hundred stands, Sun 19 Apr, Wolverhampton Racecourse

FORGE MILL FARM FUN DAY

Meet some cuddly creatures and join in rural activities, Sun 19 Apr, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch, Worcestershire

THE BOY WHO BIT PICASSO

With storytelling, music and lots of chances to make your own art. Be sure to wear some play-clothes because it's going to get messy, Sun 19 - Mon 20 April

mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

Week Commencing MON 20 APR

AGM Mon 20 Apr, Bromsgrove Rugby Football Club

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS Witness history in the making as Washington Generals look for a

landmark victory over the Harlem Globetrotters, Tues 21 Apr, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

HERBERT ILLUMINATION: HARPING ON Spanning centuries and continents, this talk will be illustrated by recorded and live music, Tues 21 Apr, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

THE ULTIMATE YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE QUIZ

A literature-themed quiz, Thurs 23 Apr, Waterstones - High St, Birmingham

ADULT CRAFTS - GLASS MOSAICS Fri 24 April, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Stourbridge

TAI CHI Tai Chi lesson in the peaceful setting of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Sat 25 Apr, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

BRUMBATS A guided walk with bat experts BrumBats, Sat 25 Apr, Martineau Gardens, Birmingham

FESTIVAL OF CHOCOLATE

Featuring chocolate-making workshops, craft sessions, demonstrations and storytelling, Sat 25 Apr, Selly Manor, Birmingham

WORLD PENGUIN DAY

Help celebrate World Penguin Day with talks and activities at the Penguin Pool, Sat 25 Apr, Cotswold Wildlife Park

BAMMA 20 One of the biggest MMA events of

the year returns with a huge headline fight featuring Brett McDermott and Marcin Lazars, Sat 25 Apr, Barclay Card Arena, Birmingham

THE OPENING DAY & WORLD WAR I GARDEN

Sat 25 Apr, Chedhams Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon

SOOTY'S FUN HOUSE

Direct from CITV, The Sooty Show returns, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Apr, Cadbury World, Birmingham

GT & FORMULA CAR RACES

MotorSport Vision Racing visits for two days of sportscar and single-seater action, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Apr, Donington Park Racing Circuit

ST GEORGE'S WEEKEND

Discover the legend of St George, patron saint of both England and soldiers, Sat 25 - Sun 26 Apr, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

BIKE 4 LIFE FEST 2015

In support of the RAF Museum and Midlands Air Ambulance, ride out from Meole Brace Shrewsbury at 11.30am to RAF Cosford, Sun 26 Apr, RAF Cosford

BMW CAR CLUB GB

The Central Region's first visit to Coventry, featuring up to fifty BMWs, Sun 26 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

MOTORSPORT



St. George's Weekend - Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

MARSHALLING TASTER DAY

Get closer to the action by becoming a marshall, Sun 26 Apr, Donington Park Racing Circuit

GAYDON TOY & COLLECTORS FAIR

Including over 100 exhibitors from all over the UK with thousands of toys both old and new, train models and collectables, Sun 26

Apr, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

Week Commencing MON 26 APR

MSA SPRING CLASSIC A non-competitive scenic tour for classic cars, open to all road cars manufactured before 31 December 1994, Mon

26 Apr, Shelsley Walsh, Worcestershire

DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG

Chance to practise drifting in safe and legal conditions on some of the Pod's thirty acres of open tarmac, where there are beginners, intermediate and advanced tracks open at the same time each DWYB day, Wed 29 Apr, Santa Pod

Stratford Festival of Motoring

TOWN CENTRE 9:30 - 5PM

Sun 4th & Bank Holiday Mon 5th May 2015

FREE event in Stratford upon Avon Town Centre for motor enthusiasts and families

ORGANISED BY STRAT>FORWARD BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

AGM Mon 20 Apr, Bromsgrove Rugby Football Club

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS Witness history in the making as Washington Generals look for a

Eating Out

Mailbox welcomes new bar and restaurant

A hotly anticipated new bar and restaurant has recently opened its doors in Birmingham's Mailbox. Gas Street Social serves up seasonal European food alongside a range of international craft beers, fine wines and signature handcrafted cocktails. The venue, which has been opened with the support of the Regional Growth Fund, has a restaurant area catering for up to one hundred-and-twenty diners and an outdoor terrace accommodating up to thirty-six people.



Plenty to Nosh & Quaff in Brum...

Birmingham is set to get its first dedicated lobster restaurant. The aptly named Nosh & Quaff promises to get creative with the popular crustacean, using fresh and organic ingredients to bring a taste of the sea - with a special twist - to the Midlands. Also on tap will be a wide variety of beers selected both to complement the menu and quench the thirst. We've got high expectations of this latest addition to the Birmingham food scene, as it's a new member of the award-winning Lasan Group. Other members are Lasan in the Jewellery Quarter, Fiesta del Asado on Hagley Road and Raja Monkey on Stratford Road. Nosh & Quaff is set to open on Colmore Row at the end of May.

Wolves restaurant maintains Michelin status

Wolverhampton's popular Bilash restaurant has succeeded in maintaining its Michelin-star status for the fourteenth consecutive year. The family-run eatery first opened its doors on Cheapside over thirty years ago, in 1982, and has been going from strength to strength ever since. Specialising in Bangladeshi and Indian cuisine, the restaurant is popular with locals and visitors alike. Bilash prides itself on offering 'mouthwatering, innovative food' - and obviously those in the know at the Michelin Guide continue to be in agreement with that assessment. So why not sample some award-winning dishes next time you're in the area?



Great addition to Broad Street...

REVIEW

It's all change again at The REP. After the venue's major refurbishment a couple of years ago, the theatre's Bistro & Bar - Marmalade - is now being run by Birmingham food group Bitters'n'Twisted, the people behind some of the city's best-known venues - Bodega, the New Villa Tavern and the New Inn in Harborne.

So what's new? The bar and restaurant area has a fresh new look, with cosy dens, rich textiles and murals painted on the walls. There's 1950s-inspired sideboards and light shades, giving the feeling of a place where you could enjoy either a quick cup of coffee or a full pre-theatre meal. Cocktails are a big deal at Marmalade - from their own take on the classic cosmopolitan, mojito and

martini through to blackberry julep and pomegranate collins. Those with a sweet tooth might enjoy a peanut butter martini. I stuck to the delicious booze-free rhubarb fizz. The food menu has the usual pub classics - fish and chips, burgers, steak - and a selection of smaller plates which would be ideal for a light pre-theatre dinner.

We went for the crab and cod korokke - a kind of deep-fried fish cake which came with mango salsa and celeriac remoulade (£6.95). Our barhurat chicken thighs, meanwhile, arrived dusted with spice and served on top of a hearty lentil dahl (£7.95). The slow-cooked beef rib lasagne (£13.50) was stuffed full with shredded beef and doused in a rich beef jus. The sirloin steak (£18.95) disappointed, with chunky 'chips' that were more akin to reheated roast potatoes. My tip

would be to ask for fries instead.

Puddings include Repertory Mess - a mix of almond, meringue, coffee sponge and berries - and gingerbread cheesecake (all £5.75).

All credit to Marmalade for creating a cosy-feeling space that works for a daytime coffee stop as well as a late-night restaurant. There's a bit of tinkering to be done to make it all run smoothly, but this could be a great addition to the Broad Street food scene.

Food:	█ █ █ █
Service:	█ █ █ █
Ambience:	█ █ █ █
Overall value	█ █ █ █
OVERALL	█ █ █ █

Marmalade Bistro & Bar
The Rep
Broad Street
Birmingham
B1 2EP
Tel: 0121 245 2080

Restaurant LISTINGS

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

Birmingham

AALTO RESTAURANT Hotel

La Tour, Albert Street, Birmingham B5 5JT

0121 718 8000

AIR RESTAURANT LG

Arena, Bickenhill Rd, 0844 338 0333

BALCONY BRASSERIE

Selfridges On4, The Bullring, B5 4BP

BANK 4 Brindleyplace, B1 2JB

0121 633 4466

BAR ESTILO 10-114

Wharfside St, The Mailbox, B1 1RF

0121 643 3443

BARAJEE 265 Broad Street, B1 2DS

0121 643 6699

BELLA ITALIA 102 New Street, B2 4HQ

0121 643 1548

BERLIOZ Burlington Arcade, New St, B2 4JQ

0121 633 1737

BLUE GINGER 32 Poplar, Rd, Kings Heath, B14

7AD 0121 444 0999

BLUE MANGO Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS

0121 633 4422

BLUE PIANO RESTAURANT AND BAR 24-26 Harborne Rd, B15 3AA

0121 454 6877

BUONISSIMO 1 Albany Rd, Harborne, B17 9JX

0121 426 2444

CAFE OPUS 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2HS

0121 248 3226

CAFE SAFFRON

Wolverhampton Road,

Oldbury B69 4RR

0121 552 1752

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

0121 633 9262

CENTENARY BAR & BRASSERIE Broad Street, B1 2EP

0121 245 2080

CHI BAR & GRILL 61 Newhall Street, B3 3RB

0121 233 3150

CHIMICHANGA 41 Mill Lane Arcade, Touchwood, Solihull, B91 3GS

0121 704 0749

CHUNG YING 16-18 Wrottersley Street,

B5 4RT 0121 622 5669
CHUNG YING CENTRAL 126

Colmore Row, B3 3AP
0121 400 0888

CHUNG YING GARDEN 17
Thorpe St, B5 4AT
0121 666 6622

CIELO 6 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2JB
0121 632 6882

COAST TO COAST 9
Brindleyplace, Broad Street, B1 2HJ

COTE The Mailbox, B1 1RX 0121 631 1587

CUCINA RUSTICA 24
Ludgate Hill, B3 1DX
0121 233 2277

EASTZEST 167 Broad Street, Birmingham, B15 1AY, 0121 643 4808

EDMUND'S 6 Brindley place, B1 2JB 0121 633 4944

FIESTA DEL ASADO 229
Hagley Road, Birmingham, B16 9RP
0121 445 9331

FLEET STREET KITCHEN
Fleet Street, Islington Gates, B3 1JH 0121 236 0100

ITIHAAS 18 Fleet St, B3 1JL 0121 212 3383

JAMIE'S ITALIAN Middle Mall, Bullring Shopping Centre, B5 4BE

0121 270 3610

JIMMY SPICES Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS
0121 643 2111

LAS IGUANAS Arcadian Centre, Hurst St, B5 4TD
0121 622 4466

LASAN 3-4 Dakota Buildings, James St, St Paul's Square, B3 1SD
0121 212 3664

THE LOFT LOUNGE 143 Bromsgrove St, B5 6RG 0121 622 2444

THE LOST & FOUND 8 Bennetts Hill, B2 5RS
0121 643 9293

LOVES The Glasshouse, Browning St, B16 8FL
0121 454 5151

MECHU 47 - 59 Summer Row, B3 1JJ 0121 212 1661

METRO BAR & GRILL 73 Cornwall St B3 2DF
0121 200 1911

MINT Yew Tree Retail Park, Stoney Lane Yardley, B25 8YP
0121 789 8908

MOUNT FUJI The Bullring, B5 4BH 0121 633 9853

NUVO BAR 11 Brindley Place, B1 2LP 0121 631 1600

OPUS 54 Cornwall St, B3 2DE 0121 200 2323

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

PEACHY KEENS 1741 Coventry Road, B26 1DS 0121 764 5519

PENNY BLACKS The Mailbox, 132-134 Wharfside St, B1 1XL
0121 632 1460

PICCOLINO 9 Brindleyplace B1 2HS
0121 634 3055

PITCHER & PIANO Brindleyplace, B1 2HP
0121 643 0214

POPPY RED Arcadian Centre, Birmingham B5 4TD 0121 687 1200

PURNELL'S 55 Cornwall St, B3 2DH 0121 212 9799

PURNELL'S BISTO 11 Newhall Street, B3 3NY, 0121 2000 1588

RAJDOOT TANDOORI 78 79 George St, B31 1PY
0121 236 1116

THE RECTORY 50-54 St Paul's Sq, B3 1QS
0121 605 1001

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

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

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

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

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

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

TGI FRIDAYS 180 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, B16 9NY 0121 454 1930

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

TURTLE BAY 81-91 John Bright Street, B1 1BL

THE VAULTS Newhall Place, Newhall Hill, B1 3JH 0121 212 9837

WAGAMAMA Brindley Place, birmingham B1
WATERS ON THE SQUARE Chad Square, Hawthorne Rd, Edgbaston, B15 3TQ

Warwickshire

7 SQUARE 7 Old Square, Warwick CV34 4RA
01926 411 755

NO. 9 CHURCH STREET Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6HB
01789 415522

AGRA PLACE 12 Abbey Green, Nuneaton, CV11 5DR 024 7635 0515

THE ALMANACK Abbey End North, Kenilworth CV8 1QJ 01926 353637

AUBERGINE 32 Smith St, Warwick CV34 4HS
01926 400 086

THE BELL Alderminster, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 8NY
01789 450414

BLUE BISTRO 21 Spon St, Coventry, CV1 3BA 024 7622 9274

CARLUCCIOS 13 Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6BA
01789 267424

CATALAN 6 Jury St, Warwick CV34 4EW
01926 498 930

THE CHURCH STREET TOWNHOUSE 16 Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6HB 01789 262222

ROBBIE'S RESTAURANT 74 Smith Street, CV34 4HU
01926 400470

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT @ The RST, Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BB 01789 403449

SAFFRON GOLD Market St, Westgate House, Warwick CV34 4DE
01926 402061

THE SAXON MILL Coventry Rd, Guys Cliffe, Warwick CV34 5YN
01926 492 255

TAILORS 22 Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SL
01926 410590

THE TREVELYAN Warwick Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 ONR
01789 295252

THE VINE INN 86 - 88 West St, Warwick CV34 6AW
07873 219005

WARWICK SPICE 24 Smith Street, CV34 4HS 01926 491736

ZIZZI 85-87 Regent Square House, Parade, Leamington Spa CV 32 4NL 01926 432532



Prezzo - Birmingham

Droitwich WR9 7NQ
01905 345874

CHADDELEY RESTAURANT Brockencote Hall Hotel, Kidderminster DY10 4PY
01562 777876

THE CHASE INN Chase Rd, Upper Colwall, Malvern. WR13 6DQ 01684 540276

CHESTERS 51 New St, Worcester, WR1 2DL
01905 611638

CROWN & SANDYS Main Rd, Ombersley, WR9 0EW 01905 62025

EWE AND LAMB Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove B60 4DN 01527 871 929

THE FIG TREE 99 Church Street, Gt Malvern, WR14 2AE 01684 569909

FUSION BRASSERIE Hawbridge, Stourton, Worcester WR7 4RJ 01905 840647

THE INN AT STONEHALL Stonehall Common, Worcester, WR5 3QG 01905 820462

KING CHARLES II King Charles House, New St, Worcester WR1 2D
01905 22449

L'AMUSE BOUCHE 51 Graham Rd, Malvern. WR14 2HU 01684 572427

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

MAEKONG THAI 12 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove B61 7AE 01527 578888

MASSALLA LOUNGE 35 Broad St, Worcester WR1 3NH 01905 729955

MUG HOUSE Claines Lane, Worcester WR3 7RN 01905 456649

ON THE ROCKS 44 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7AE 01527 882421

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

PORTWAY ITALIAN, Alcester Rd, Redditch. B48 7HT 01564 824794

ROSADOS'S 2 Finstall Rd, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove. B60 2DZ 01527 889948

SAFFRON BISTRO 15 New St, Worcester WR1 2DP 01905 610505

Worcestershire

ANAKARALI 47 The Tythings, Worcester. WR1 1JT 01905 214124

ANGEL CHEF 1 Angel St, Worcester WR1 3QT 01905 731131

ANUPAM 85 Church Street, Malvern. WR14 2AE 01684 573814

BACCHUS 44 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove B61 0TA 01527 877557

BENEDICTOS 34 Sidbury, Worcester WR1 2HZ 01905 21444

BINDLES BAR & BRASSERIE 55 Sidbury, WR1 2HU 01905 611120

BRAMBLINGS Hither Green Lane, Redditch, B98 9BE 01527 406600

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Menu

For full Restaurant listings
visit: whatsonlive.co.uk



ENCORE RESTAURANT
Warwickshire



MALLORY COURT
Warwickshire



EDMONDS
Birmingham



ORIENTAL
Birmingham



BRINDLES BRASSERIE
Worcestershire



ANGEL CHEF
Worcestershire

What's On
whatsonlive.co.uk

READ THE REVIEWS ONLINE
whatsonlive.co.uk

THE LOFT LOUNGE



TAPAS TUESDAY

£2.75 FOR
ONE
OR 4 FOR
£10

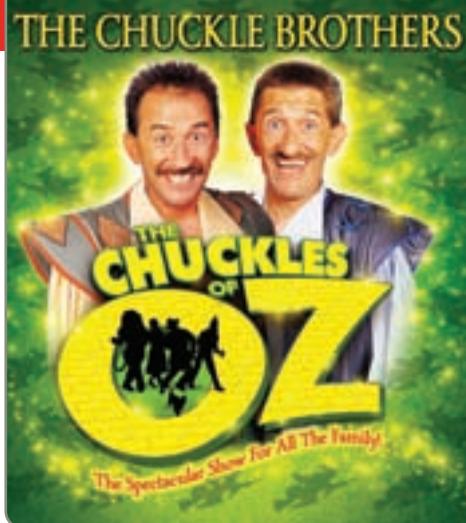
SELECTION INCLUDES

- Whitebait with aioli (VG)
- Pork meatballs with spicy tomato sauce (GF)
- Beer battered onion rings with smoked paprika mayo (VG)
- Patatas bravas with tomato herb sauce (GF)(VG)
- Calamari with sweet chilli sauce (VG)
- Marinated olives (GF)(VG)
- Breaded mushroom with aioli (VG)
- BBQ chicken wings (GF)

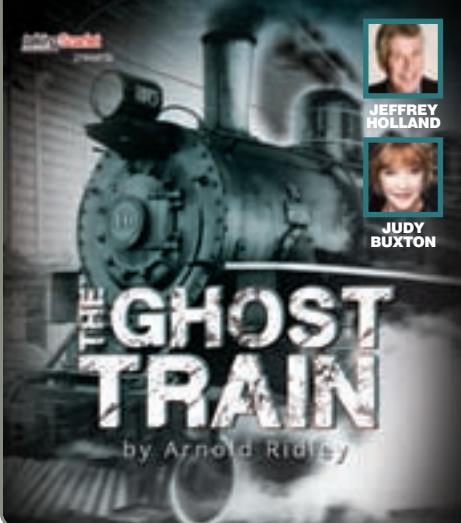
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Great Theatre at the Grand!

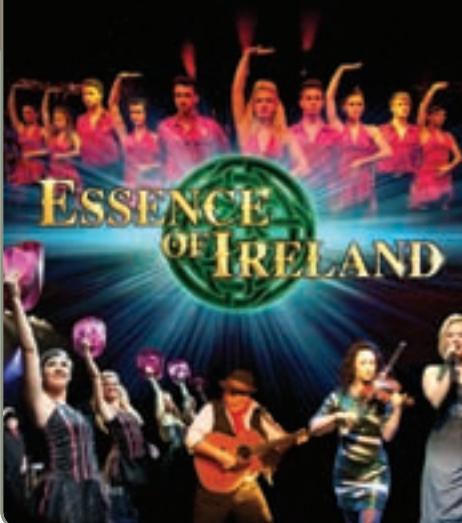
SAT 4 APRIL



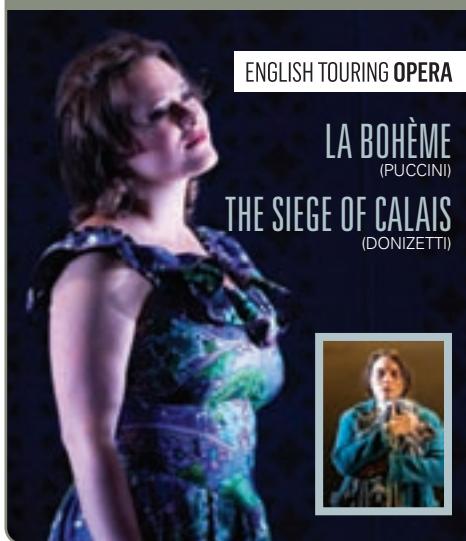
TUES 7 - SAT 11 APRIL



SUN 12 APRIL



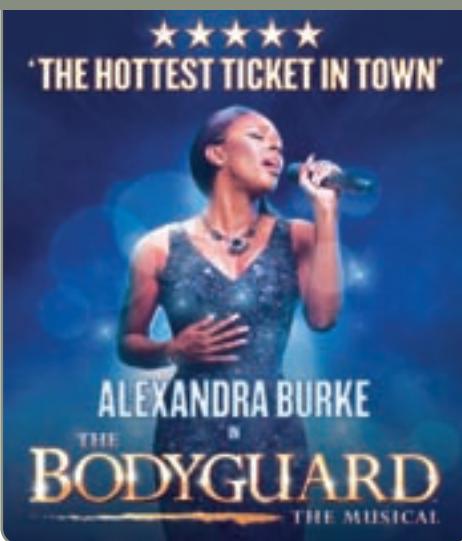
MON 13 - TUES 14 APRIL



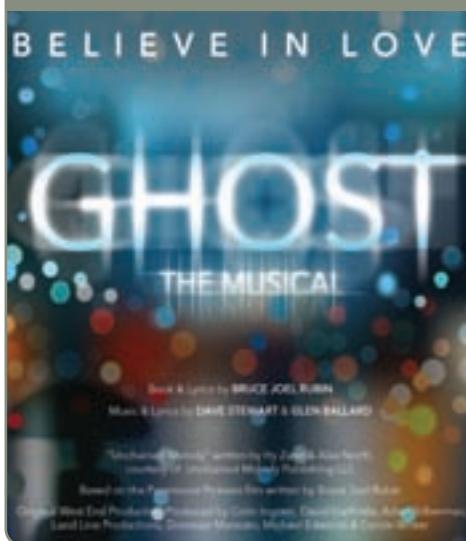
WED 15 - THURS 16 APRIL



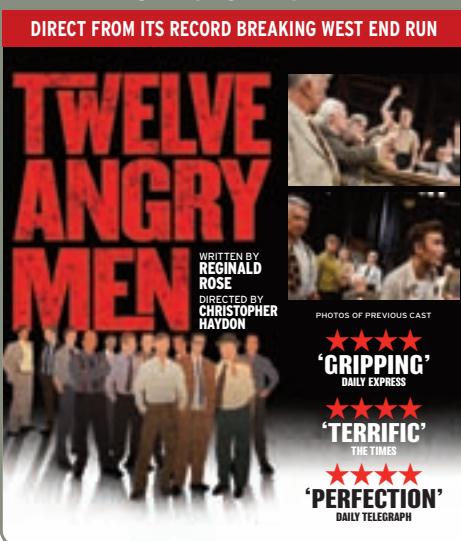
TUES 21 APRIL - SAT 2 MAY



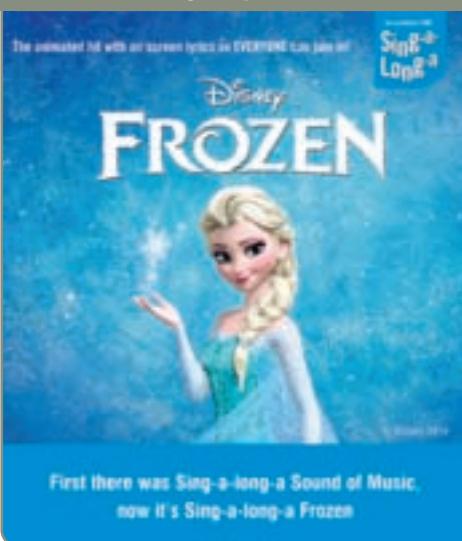
WED 13 - SAT 16 MAY



MON 18 - SAT 23 MAY



MON 25 MAY



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