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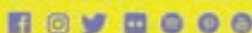
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Managing Director: **Davina Evans** davina@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281708
Sales & Marketing: **Lei Woodhouse** lei@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281703 **Chris Horton** chris@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281704
Yvonne Kentfield yvonne@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281706 Editorial: **Lauren Foster** lauren@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281707
Sue Jones sue@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281705 **Brian O'Faolain** brian@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281701
Abi Whitehouse abi@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281716 **Ryan Humphreys** ryan@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281722
Adrian Parker adrian.parker@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281714 **Rhian Atherton** rhian@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281726
Contributors: **Graham Bostock**, James Cameron-Wilson, **Heather Kincaid**, Katherine Ewing, **Lauren Cox**
Publisher and CEO: **Martin Monahan** Accounts Administrator: **Julia Perry** julia@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281717



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Birmingham braced for new lunar landing

A new internationally touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram is visiting Birmingham's Thinktank next month.

Museum Of The Moon measures seven metres in diameter and features detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface, with each centimetre representing 5km on the surface of the actual moon.

The installation highlights ongoing lunar exploration and research and is accompanied by a surround-sound composition created by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award-winning composer Dan Jones. During its tour, the Moon is being presented in different ways, both indoors and outdoors, ensuring that each new audience around the world will experience the artwork in a different way.

The installation visits Thinktank from 21 July to 20 August.

Open surgery at the BBC

Fans of Birmingham-produced daytime TV show *Doctors* can this month take a behind-the-scenes look at the popular series.

The opportunity comes on 7 June, when the BBC Drama Village opens its doors to the general public for the first ever time.

Commenting on the news, Will Trotter, Head of Daytime Drama at the BBC Drama Village, said: "Fans will be treated to a guided tour by the staff, where they will get first-hand knowledge about the sets, locations and what our award-winning writers have in store for some of BBC One's favourite characters."



Brum's Arcadian havin' a laugh for the sixth time

A Birmingham entertainment centre has agreed to sponsor the city's annual comedy festival for the sixth consecutive year.

The Arcadian is situated in Birmingham's Chinatown and theatre district, and is home

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to a variety of leisure and entertainment businesses - including award-winning comedy venue the Glee Club.

Commenting on the sponsorship announcement, a spokesperson for the Birmingham Comedy Festival said: "We're delighted to be working with The Arcadian again this year. We're looking forward to seeing some great shows at the Glee Club during the festival, including our official opening-night launch event, the Breaking Talent Award."

The festival runs from Friday 6 to Sunday 15 October and will see a host of established and fast-rising comedy acts taking to stages across the city.

Strictly stars dance their way back to the 1950s

Strictly Come Dancing's Natalie Lowe, Louis Smith and Jay McGuinness are set to swing, bop, jitterbug and lindy hop their way back to the 1950s this autumn, when they bring a brand new show to the Midlands. Rip It Up will see the talented trio performing dance routines to a host of era-defining pop and rock'n'roll hits, including Why Do Fools Fall In Love, La Bamba, Oh Carol, Heartbreak Hotel and Good



Golly Miss Molly.

Commenting on the new show, Natalie said: "To be able to work with these two incredible Strictly champions and choreograph routines with them to the sounds of music's greatest decade is something that I'm very excited to be working on. Together we'll dance through some of the most fantastic songs ever created."

The show visits Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Tuesday 19 September.

Roy G Hemmings Drifting into Birmingham

Drifters star Roy G Hemmings brings his latest stage show to the Midlands next month. The Sounds Of Philadelphia And Motown includes songs by The Temptations, Four Tops, The Supremes, The Ojays, Stevie Wonder and (of course) The Drifters.

Roy appears at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre on 14 July. For more information, visit birmingham-rep.co.uk.



Let's get ready to improv...

The Birmingham Improv Festival makes a welcome return to the city in the autumn.

Running from 23 to 29 October, the event will feature improvised plays, musicals, sketches and workshops. Commenting on the news, festival organiser Jon Trevor said: "We were very proud to have brought the festival to Birmingham for the very first time last year. It was so well received by audiences that we've been able to return with the 2017 festival doubling in length to six days. "We're going to be 'bigger, better, Brummier', with more variety, more local talent and more improvised art forms, including jazz, contact improvisation and freestyle rap."

Birmingham Improv Festival 2017 will take place at the Blue Orange Theatre in the city's historic Jewellery Quarter.

Brum street artist Temper returns for The Big Sleuth

Celebrated Birmingham artist Temper is to design a charity bear for the city's Big Sleuth public art trail this summer.

The trail is the highly anticipated sequel to The Big Hoot, which attracted more than 800,000 visitors in 2015 and raised over £625,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity.

This summer's Big Sleuth is being backed by Retail BID Birmingham, the Business Improvement District for the city centre retail area. The organisation is sponsoring two of the trail's bears, one of which will be designed by Temper. The artist also contributed towards The Big Hoot in 2015. His sculpture, Re-Tail owl - also sponsored by Retail BID - produced the highest bid at the Big Hoot auction, selling for £18,000.

The Big Sleuth public art trail will launch on Monday 10 July. For more information, visit the bigsleuth.co.uk



U.Dance festival performances at Birmingham theatre

Birmingham Hippodrome next month hosts three performances which are being presented as part of the 2017 U.Dance festival.

The national event is designed to showcase the talents of young dancers from across the UK. Each performance will feature a different programme of youth dance companies and present a range of styles, including hip-hop, contemporary and South Asian dance. The performances take place at the Hippodrome from Friday 14 to Sunday 16 July.

Range Rover celebrated in Brum

Bookings are now being taken for a Solihull exhibition celebrating the history of the Range Rover. Featuring previously unseen materials and artefacts, Range Rover: The 4x4 That Changed the World is located at Land Rover Experience Solihull and documents five decades in the history of the stylishly designed all-terrain vehicle. The exhibition also offers visitors the chance to check out the new avant-garde Range Rover Velar. For more information, visit solihull.landroverexperience.co.uk

More Briggs festive magic at mac

The company which last Christmas presented Raymond Briggs' The Bear at macBirmingham is returning to the venue this festive season to perform another story by the same author.



Pins & Needles, in association with the Lyric Hammersmith, will present their version of Briggs' Father Christmas, a show for children aged three and older which brings together live music, songs and playful puppetry. The production runs from 30 November to 30 December.

And macBirmingham is also hosting a second show for early-years children to enjoy in the run-up to Christmas. Presented by Little Angel Theatre, Me (15 to 30 November) is a touching tale about a parent and their love for their child. It's adapted from the story by much-loved children's author Emma Dodd. For more information, visit macbirmingham.co.uk

Jewellery Quarter Festival looking to sparkle again

Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter Festival is returning for a third year next month.

Organised by the Jewellery Quarter Business Improvement District (JQBID) and supported by local businesses, the festival takes place from 28 to 30 July.

Among its attractions are a range of free family activities, entertainment including local comedian Barbara Nice, live music, free heritage tours and a selection of street food and drink.

For further information, visit jewelleryquarter.net/JQ-Festival



Summer cinema outdoors at top Midlands venues

Midlands film fans are this summer being given the chance to indulge their love of the movies in the great outdoors, courtesy of both a touring film festival and a home-grown one.

The touring event stops off at Coventry Cathedral, The Arena in Birmingham, Rugby School Quad and Birmingham Botanical Gardens, screening a selection of films including Ghostbusters, Grease, La La Land and Star Wars: Rogue One. For more information about which films are showing where - and when - visit cultscreens.co.uk

Later in the summer, the Birmingham-located Mockingbird Cinema & Kitchen - in partnership with sister company Factory Cinema Co - will present a series of outdoor screenings at the Custard Factory in the city's Digbeth district.

Taking place across the August bank holiday weekend (the 25th to the 27th), the event will include screenings of The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Tim Burton's Batman and Back To The Future.

Spiritual contemplation informs new art exhibition at Sutton Coldfield gallery

A celebrated artist living in Birmingham is next month exhibiting his work at Sutton Coldfield's Artifex Gallery. Dr Mohsen Keiany draws heavily on his Iranian heritage to create paintings characterised by their complex narrative compositions, jewel-like colours and spiritual content.

"I am very much into multi-culturalism," explains Mohsen. "I'm always interested in researching different cultures and traditions, particularly art and architecture. My art work is deeply influenced by my Persian background. Historical, religious and cultural themes feature strongly, especially the influence of Sufi spirituality and Persian philosophy. I believe my art can contribute not just to the aesthetic pleasure that people will experience but also enhance their understanding of diverse art traditions and the human condition. My work covers a range that encapsulates spiritual contemplation, humans and the natural world, and human mythical suffering."

Mohsen's exhibition, *Unknown Legacy*, opens at the Artifex Gallery on Saturday 1 July and shows throughout the month.



Desi Moves...

A Birmingham-based youth programme celebrating streetwise South Asian sounds and styles is making a return to the city this summer. Desi Moves features no-cost, music-based creative training programmes, pop-up events, exhibitions, and hands-on creative making opportunities, all designed to explore the way in which 'South Asian culture meets the street'.

Desi Moves' events programme this month includes free music workshops at the Lighthouse in Aston and Concorde in Sparkbrook, with young musicians then being given the chance to perform at the Birmingham Mela in Victoria Park on Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 July



Seriously saxy...

An award-winning Birmingham-based female musician will next month demonstrate that the saxophone isn't an instrument used only by men, or simply in order to play jazz music. Millicent Stephenson returns for a fourth year with her Not Just Jazz show, an event designed to showcase original compositions from her CDs alongside a selection of iconic reggae, gospel and soul covers.

Millicent presents her show at the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, on Friday 28 July. Tickets are available on 0121 643 5858 or via millicentstephenson.com

Cyclists get set for city centre Skyride

Midlands cyclists get the chance to take over Birmingham's streets this month. The Birmingham Skyride event takes place on Sunday 11 June, with organisers inviting bike-riding individuals and families to join them for 'a ride to remember, with loads of free entertainment, plenty to see and have a go at, and a totally new way of experiencing the city'.

The first 500 people to arrive at the event and show proof of registration can claim a free slice of cake. All registrants will be entered into a prize draw to win one of five £100 Love Velo vouchers. For more information, visit letsride.co.uk/city-ride/birmingham



PIZZA PERFECTION

Whether you think putting pineapple on a pizza is man's greatest invention or a crime against humanity, you're bound to find a delicious pizza to tickle your tastebuds in the city centre. With that in mind, we've put together a list of Birmingham's best pizzerias so that you can grab 'a pizza the action' and a slice of Italian culture - all puns intended.



The Stable

Enjoy a Birmingham-themed pizza at this well-loved restaurant, which blends a casual dining experience with a hipster vibe. Try the Perry Barr Baa with lamb, mint, goat's cheese and sweet potato; the Bournville Bantam with chicken, peppers and mushrooms; or the James Brindley with herb-roasted potato, blue cheese and spinach. As well as monthly specials, The Stable also offers fantastic dairy-free mozzarella options for vegans, handmade to order from scratch. Founder and Executive Chef Andy Briggs even took home the award for Best Technical Pizza in the 2016 National Pizza awards. If that doesn't tempt you, we don't know what will.

115 John Bright St, Birmingham B1 1BE



Spectacular Goat

Using real wood-fired ovens, these street-food maestros serve up great-tasting pizzas from their vintage 1950s caravan. Indulge in a five-cheese mac'n'cheese pizza with maple-roasted bacon, or treat yourself to a Lord Ponsonby with ham, asparagus cooked in butter and truffle oil and a runny egg, finished with hollandaise sauce and fresh rocket. Spectacular Goat have been a firm favourite at Digbeth Dining Club for years - be sure to follow them on social media to stay up to date with forthcoming events.

You're most likely to find them at DDC, Spotlight, Lower Trinity St, Birmingham B9 4AG



Baked In Brick

Another favourite of the Birmingham street food scene is the 2016 Best Of The Best British Street Food winner, Baked In Brick. Founder and head chef Lee Deranges and his team bake Neapolitan-style pizzas in a wood-fired oven on the back of a real Mini car - it's important to stand out from the crowd, right? With regular residence at Digbeth Dining Club and pop-ups at one of our favourite independent coffee shops, Quarter House, make sure to keep an eye on the company's social media pages to find out where you can catch them next.

You're most likely to find them at DDC, Spotlight, Lower Trinity St, Birmingham B9 4AG

La Vera

This unassuming pizzeria is the definition of a hidden gem. Tucked away in Martineau Place, La Vera offers real and affordable Italian pizzas cooked at a seriously high speed in a huge wood-fired oven. Choose from a wide range of classic pizzas - from the Napoletana, with olives and anchovies, to the controversial Hawaii, with pineapple and chicken. There's even a Nutella and banana calzone on the menu - you can't go wrong with that.

16 Martineau Place, Birmingham B2 4UB

Otto

This relatively new and independent pizzeria, owned by the founder of adjacent deli Eight Foot Grocer, serves great-quality pizzas in an intimate and relaxed setting. The homemade dough is topped with the best ingredients sourced from both Britain and Italy - including nduja (a spicy Italian pork salumi) and frijarielli (a green leafy vegetable) - and blasted in the wood-fired oven at 500 degrees for just 90 seconds, creating the perfect pizza.

14 Caroline St, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham B3 1TR

La Galleria

If traditional pizza is what you're after, then look no further. At this authentic, family-run Italian restaurant in the heart of Birmingham, hand-made pizzas are baked in a traditional wood-fired oven imported from Modena, Italy's culinary capital. Each pizza is freshly prepared to order at the open pizza bar and features top-quality ingredients. Choose from a wide range of classics, including a Margherita, Calzone, Caprino with goat's cheese and Rustica with salami.

5A Ethel St, Birmingham B2 4GB

The Crucible

Call The Midwife star Victoria Yeates discusses her role and the powerful political warnings in Arthur Miller's seminal play

Collective outrage, corrupt officials, a flagrant disregard for truth, scapegoating, silencing, extremism, seething resentments, bitter division and a rising tide of tyrannical populism: Arthur Miller once said that the popularity of his most famous play at a given time in any country was indicative of that nation's own political state.

Originally written as a veiled attack on the McCarthyite 'witch hunts' of the 1940s and '50s, *The Crucible* famously uses the sham trials of men and women accused of witchcraft in late 17th century Salem as a metaphor for the anti-Communist hysteria of Miller's own time. But more than 60 years after the play was first performed, it seems to have a lot to say about the world we live in now.

Fresh from her role as Sister Winifred in BBC One's *Call The Midwife*, Victoria Yeates stars in a new touring production of the play as Elizabeth Proctor, a woman denounced by

the embittered teenage lover of her adulterous husband. She told us more about the show ahead of its arrival at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre this month.

"I think it's really interesting to look at how hysteria catches," says Yeates. "And just look at all the things that Trump has said that are completely untrue, yet people are buying it - 'alternative facts', as they're calling it now. (*The Crucible*) is such an important text for people to read now, because history is cyclical and we seem to have reached that point again."

Describing *The Crucible* as "the ultimate post-truth play" in an article for *The Guardian*, director Douglas Rintoul highlights the way in which the story sees unfounded claims and accusations given equal weight to real evidence by blinkered authorities determined to make the so-called 'facts' fit a pre-existing worldview

rather than coming to a reasoned, rational judgement. At a time when the play seems such a rich resource for contemporary social commentary, Rintoul has also lamented its recent removal from the secondary school curriculum as part of Michael Gove's new policy of focusing on British rather than American texts.

"I suppose you could say that maybe it is time for a change," says Yeates, "but I do feel it's a shame that it's been taken off the syllabus now, when it's so relevant again. It's an incredible and very layered play that can be applied to all kinds of situations, so it's definitely one of those texts you can keep doing."

Rintoul's big idea for his production hinges on a heightened, self-conscious theatricality, with Miller's scripted directions projected onto the set, and performers sitting around the stage to observe the action - perhaps drawing attention to the idea of politics as a





kind of performance, particularly relevant in today’s personality-driven, mass media-filtered culture.

“It’s a kind of Brechtian approach which is supposed to remind you that you’re watching a play. It’s all about prompting political conversations. We’re also presenting it in a very fast-paced way that doesn’t let up, so you’re sort of pulled into the world of it, and you don’t really have time to think until the end. People who’ve come to see it have been on the edge of their seats the whole way through, and the reason the director’s done that is because he really wanted people to feel the kind of bemused astonishment that means you don’t act until it’s too late.”

This inertia on behalf of those who see through the lies and extremism is a perennial problem, perhaps more so today than ever before. In an increasingly fragmented society, where the emphasis is always on the individual rather than on community and collective endeavour, it’s easy to see how a sense of powerlessness and disillusionment has been able to set in. Nevertheless, Yeates remains confident that change will eventually come.

“I feel optimistic. I think the more that it’s discussed, the more people will start to act. And actually, loads of young people, the 16 to 25-year-olds, are really switched on, Googling and fact-checking things, so I do think there’s a progression already happening.”

To use the wise words of George Orwell,

“Progress is not an illusion; it happens, but it is slow and invariably disappointing.” But for now, at least, this production of *The Crucible* can contribute towards important conversations, and Yeates hopes that people will leave the theatre “having interesting discussions afterwards”. Meanwhile, for her own part, it’s certainly been a fascinating character and story to explore.

“I’ve always wanted to play Elizabeth Proctor. She’s a woman of many layers and contradictions, and I think it’s always interesting when the domestic arc of a play is just as important as the wider political aspect. Right from the beginning, her relationship with John (her husband) is very complex, and she goes on an incredible journey towards forgiveness, which makes it a great part to develop as an actor.”

Fully inhabiting a world of mob rule, moral panic, false testimony and mass-murder sanctioned by the state makes for a real emotional workout - not to mention the more personal side of the story that sees Elizabeth grappling with motherhood, pregnancy and her husband’s infidelity. One might imagine that Yeates’ work on the famously tear-jerking *Call The Midwife* would have left her well-equipped for the play’s intensity, but the differences between acting for stage and screen can be profound.

“It requires a lot of stamina. When you’re filming, you might just cry for a few hours and then that’s it, but when you do a play, you have to get to that point every single day, sometimes twice a day, which is very difficult and tiring. But I think that’s one of

the interesting things about doing this play. It definitely gives your acting muscles a workout!”

Yeates might always have seen *The Crucible* as “one of the best plays of the 20th century”, but having now immersed herself in the story from the point of view of the pregnant wife he leaves behind, how does she feel about John Proctor’s ultimate refusal to sign the false confession that might have saved his life? Is he right to insist on absolute honesty? Or is life, as Reverend Hale insists, a gift worth more than any principle?

“Ooh, that’s hard, because it’s such a different time, isn’t it? I do think there’s an extent to which we’ve forgotten about the importance of integrity in our society, and his decision to surrender his life and keep his integrity seems like an incredible choice. But then he is leaving his children behind!

“I guess it raises an important question about where we draw the line, because I think we’re in a position now where that line in the sand is becoming more and more blurred, and we allow things to spiral out of control because we just think that’s how things are. So it’s interesting to think about where our integrity is in terms of the decisions we make and being able to say no to people and fight for what we deserve.”

.....
The Crucible shows at Birmingham’s New Alexandra Theatre from Monday 5 to Saturday 10 June.

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Fishy goings-on... Seafood eatery to open branch in Birmingham

A new seafood eatery which has recently been launched in Cardiff has announced plans to open a branch in Birmingham.

Seafood Shack features a Victorian-style fish & chip bar and takeaway, a 150-capacity 'shanty tavern', a Champagne and oyster bar, a roof garden and a 200-seater restaurant. Its menu includes lobster, dressed crab, jumbo crab claws, prawn tails, langoustine, crayfish, scallops and deep-fried calamari.

The opening date for the Birmingham branch is yet to be announced by Seafood Shack's owners.



REVIEW: Siamais New city centre restaurant offers tasty Thai cuisine with a modern twist

Situated in Brindleyplace, one of Birmingham's most desirable locations, Siamais (pronounced Siam-aze) opened its doors in April following a full refurbishment.

Previously home to Thai Edge, this new eatery offers modern Thai cuisine with a twist.

On arrival, we were politely greeted and shown to our table. The stylish, Thai-inspired décor allied to the low lighting and relaxed atmosphere created a fantastic first impression. The restaurant was packed out too, which is always a great sign

when you're visiting somewhere for the first time.

The Siamais cocktail menu is by far the most extensive I've seen and features classics such as Pina Colada, Mai Tai and Cosmopolitan alongside numerous delicious-sounding concoctions created by the restaurant. The Bang Pai Falls (over-proof rum with cherry and vanilla notes and cranberry juice) and the Singapore Fling (gin with pineapple favours, cherry and a caviar ball containing lychee and guava burst) both sounded particularly appetising. Unfortunately we

were driving so didn't get the chance to sample such delights.

To start, we shared the Weeping Tiger Sizzling Steak - sizzler char-grilled sirloin steak, marinated in herbs and ground pepper, served with a spicy chilli sauce - and the soft shell crab in salt and chilli.

The steak marinade was stunning, bursting with flavour, the meat nicely cooked - although my partner did have a couple of chewy pieces, which was unfortunate. The soft shell crab was tasty. However, for its £10 price tag, a slightly larger portion would've been appreciated.

For our main courses, we shared the stir-fried duck in tamarind sauce and stir-fried mixed seafood in chilli paste. Both dishes came with a portion of jasmine rice, but we chose to swap these for spicy vegetable rice and spicy chicken rice.

The duck was probably the highlight of my evening. The meat was cooked beautifully, the tamarind sauce a perfect accompaniment.

The seafood dish comprised prawns, squid, mussels and scallops sautéed in a hot chilli paste with spring onion, red and green peppers, red chilli and sweet basil. The flavours were lovely, worked well together, and the dish showcased just the right amount of spice. The spicy rice is a tad on the hot side, so steer

well clear if spice isn't your thing!

Siamais also offers an extensive tapas menu. Diners can either pay £3.50 per dish or choose any three for £10.

Although not typical Thai dishes, the chocolate ghirlanda and the salted caramel were our choices for dessert. The chocolate dish comprised a coronet of dark chocolate filled with crunchy meringue, a rich chocolate ice cream and a white chocolate sauce. The salted caramel dish came in the form of a smooth, creamy pudding on a thin vanilla sponge with sticky caramel sauce, crumbled shortbread biscuit and sea salt. Both dishes were as naughty as they sound and perfectly rounded off our Siamais experience.

If you're a fan of Thai cuisine, then Siamais is the place for you. Tasty food, fantastic service and stylish surroundings make for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Lauren Foster

Food:
 Service:
 Ambience:
 Overall value
OVERALL

Siamais
 6 Brindleyplace
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New festival offers real treat for coffee lovers

Birmingham is hosting its very own coffee festival at the start of next month. Taking place on Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 July at Digbeth's Custard Factory, the event features 40 independent coffee shops and coffee culture experiences from the local area and beyond.

Commenting on the festival, its organisers said: "Grab a coffee, cake or lunch and relax in our seating area while listening to local musicians. Unlimited samples will be available from our partners, as well as plenty of things to buy on the day."

For more information, visit birminghamcoffeefestival.com

Champagne tasting at the Hippodrome theatre

Birmingham Hippodrome is this month hosting 'an elegant evening of Champagne tasting' with one of the world's most distinguished Champagne houses, the family-owned Laurent-Perrier.

The evening provides participants with the chance to perfect their tasting skills and learn about the famous 200-year-old family brand.

The Hippodrome's head chef has created a lavish five-course menu to complement the Champagnes.

The Laurent-Perrier Champagne Tasting Dinner takes place on Monday 12 June. Tickets cost £95 per person and can be purchased from birminghamhippodrome.com

Birmingham chef at Ragley food festival

Michelin-starred chef Brad Carter - chef-patron of Birmingham restaurant Carters Of Moseley - will this month join Masterchef winner Jane Devonshire at Ragley Hall Father's Day Food Festival Weekend (Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 June).

As well as cookery demonstrations by Brad, Jane and other celebrity chefs, the event also features more than 40 food and drink stalls, free talks, tastings and plenty of activities to keep younger visitors entertained.

Bake Off star Candice at Foodies Festival

Great British Bake Off 2016 winner Candice Brown is to appear at this month's Birmingham Foodies Festival.

The former PE teacher will be joined by, among other top chefs, 'burlesque baker' Charlotte White and chocolatier Fiona Sciotti.

Other attractions at the three-day event include a range of street food, an artisan producers market, a vintage tea tent, Captain Morgan's pirate ship, chilli and bug-eating competitions, and live music on the Unsigned Music Awards Stage.

The event this year has a special focus on healthy living and 'growing your own'. The Birmingham Foodies Festival takes place in Cannon Hill Park from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 June.



Top Birmingham restaurant offers 'golden ticket' prize

Michelin-starred Birmingham restaurant Purnell's is next month celebrating its 10th birthday with a special anniversary menu - and you and a dining partner could be there to enjoy the occasion, courtesy of a golden ticket prize draw. Purnell's chef and owner, Glynn Purnell, is promising to give 15 lucky winners and their guests 'the evening of a lifetime' on Friday 7 July, when the restaurant hosts an exclusive Champagne reception and 10-course menu. To be in with a chance of winning one of only 15

golden tickets, all you have to do is send a stamped addressed envelope to: Mr Purnell's Golden Ticket Prize Draw, Purnell's Restaurant, 55 Cornwall Street, Birmingham, B3 2DH. The closing date for entries is Thursday 15 June (at 5pm). The 15 winners will receive their golden tickets the week beginning Monday 19 June.

For more information about Purnell's, visit purnellsrestaurant.com



Book Deals & Delicious Bakes

Bake Off's Candice Brown is launching a new cook book - and turning up at two of the Midlands' most mouthwatering food festivals!

"No-nonsense", "easy to make" bakes are on the menu for Great British Bake Off 2016 winner Candice Brown as she prepares to launch her brand new cook book, *Comfort: Delicious Bakes And Family Treats*, on Thursday 13 July.

But if you can't wait that long to get stuck into her recipes, then late this month, the brilliant baker will be offering a tantalising taste of what to expect at the hotly anticipated Foodies Festival in Birmingham's Cannon Hill Park, followed by an appearance at Shropshire's Newport Show in early July.

"I didn't even think I would get on Bake Off, or then past week one, week two, and so on," she says of her bemusement at acing the challenges and wowing judges and audiences alike on the hit BBC show. "Never in a million years (did I think I would win) - I still don't quite believe it!"

Since making the jump and giving up the day job to pursue her dream career, the former teacher has had more than just a book to keep her busy. As well as honing her cooking skills and earning money making food, she's also been contending with a calendar chock-full of high-profile events.

"Every opportunity is a blessing - I loved every second of the process and I'm loving every second now! I've been to some amazing events - Pride Of Britain, NTAs, Sports Personality - and met some incredible people - Fearné Cotton, Emma and Geri from the Spice Girls, Sir Chris Hoy and Barbara Windsor."

Those hoping to drop in on one of her demos should expect an emphasis on simple, traditional dishes, nostalgic flavours and accessible family fare, in line with the recipes featured in her forthcoming book - including toffee apple crumble, cornflake tart, triple layer berry cake, Christmas cake, perfect roast chicken, black pudding sausage rolls, tattie scones, pork and apple pasties and homemade pork scratchings.

"I love baking and cooking really homely, old-fashioned, comforting food and giving it my own spin. I'm all about big flavours, slices and invoking memories and nostalgia."

Little wonder, then, that fellow chefs who she admires include the late Keith Floyd and Tom Kerridge, particularly the latter's "hearty, homely pub grub" and "infectious" love for what he does.

Brown's own passion for cooking shines through for all to see, and however busy she becomes, she always tries to make time to do a bit of baking just for her own benefit.

"I bake whenever I have a spare hour! I just love it and am always thinking about what I could do or what ingredients I could use. I can't go too long without creating a flour tornado in the kitchen."

On the other hand, if she was heading to an event like Foodies Festival or Newport as a visitor, she'd avoid the urge to whip up something in advance, preferring instead to sample some mouthwatering morsels fresh from the festival market.

"My basket would be empty so that I could fill it with all sorts of wonderful things I find

at the show. Breads, olives, cakes, local wines, little jars of things - I love markets and food shows and finding gorgeous things to eat and taste and buy!"

And with exciting programmes lined up for both festivals, who could blame her? Expect Michelin-starred chefs and local restaurateurs, extensive markets with an amazing range of traders, wine, gin and craft beer tasting and even edible science experiments for the kids. Those looking to pick up some top tips for their own cooking will find them in abundance - but for aspiring bakers like she once was, Brown has this advice to offer;

"I don't feel any more experienced than anyone else but my advice is to always just go for it, enjoy what you do, smile and, if it goes wrong, don't panic - just turn it into something else and say it was meant to look like that or throw it away and don't tell anyone. And hard work pays off! It's so important to do something you love and feel good about it. Never feel you can't do it or allow anything to stand in your way.

"Baking shouldn't be scary or difficult, and I think my book will show this. It's been my absolute pleasure testing and writing recipes that I encourage you to try, change and make your own."

.....

Candice Brown is at Birmingham's Foodies Festival in Cannon Hill Park on Sunday 25 June and at the Newport Show, Chetwynd Deer Park, on Saturday 8 July.

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Elton John

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Wed 7 June

A much-cherished national treasure, Sir Elton is a man who wears his heart on his sleeve and doesn't take himself too seriously. The top chum of superstar celebrities the world over, he's earned his stripes as a much-respected musician by reason of spending over four decades in the upper echelons of a notoriously unforgiving business.

He this month returns to Birmingham for the 36th time, performing songs from his most recent album, *Wonderful Crazy Nights*, and hits from his stellar career.



YolanDa Brown

mac, Birmingham, Fri 23 June

Regarded as the premier female saxophonist in the UK, YolanDa's debut album - *April Showers, May Flowers* - reached number one on the iTunes and Amazon Jazz Charts. As well as performing across the world in her own right, YolanDa has also toured in support of The Temptations and Errol Brown, collaborated with artists including Julian Marley and Soweto Kinch, and appeared as part of the Jools Holland Rhythm & Blues Orchestra. She visits mac with her *Love Politics War* touring show.



Kraftwerk 3D

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 13 June

Founded in 1970 by Ralf Hütter and Florian Schneider, Kraftwerk have used innovative techniques, synthetic voices and comput-

erised rhythms to create a soundtrack for the digital age. A major international influence across a range of genres, including electro, hip-hop, techno, ambient and synthpop, their 3D concerts are described as 'gesamtkunstwerk' - a total work of art.

Flogging Molly

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Wed 28 June

Flogging Molly's latest album, *Life Is Good*, is their first release in six years. Available from the second of the month, it promises to feature the blend of raucous punk-rock combined with traditional Irish music for which the band have become best known. Fronted by Dave King, the seven-piece bring their adrenaline-fuelled live show to Birmingham as part of a UK tour.

Robbie Williams

Ricoh Arena, Coventry, Tues 13 June

With 10 of his 11 studio albums reaching the Official Album Chart's top spot and an entry in the Guinness Book Of World Records for selling over one-and-a-half million tour tickets in a single day, Midlands-born Robbie needs no introduction. Whether with Take That or as a solo artist, Williams is a powerhouse performer whose popularity has endured despite the passing of time. This month sees the still-shining star bring his highly anticipated stadium tour, *The Heavy Entertainment Show*, to the Midlands.

Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Wed 28 June

Following the triumphant and sold-out show at the Genting in June last year, Ritchie Blackmore takes to the stage once again to celebrate the era-defining music of Rainbow and Deep Purple. With a background in classical and R'n'B, Blackmore was a driving force behind Deep Purple's early successes. He left the group in 1973 to form Rainbow, who went on to sell in excess of 28 million albums.



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Oliver Knussen: *Songs Without Voices*
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Oliver Knussen: *Four Late Poems and an Epigram of Rainer Maria Rilke**
Harrison Birtwistle: *Secret Theatre*
Harrison Birtwistle: *dear dusty moth* (UK Premiere)

BCMG closes its 16/17 season with a concert celebrating three established masters of the British contemporary scene. Dazzling soprano Claire Booth joins BCMG to premiere Colin Matthews' latest Sound Investment commission. **Free pre-concert talk, 6.30-7pm.**

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Orchestra Of The Age Of Enlightenment

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 30 June

American-born French conductor William Christie here teams up with the Orchestra Of The Age Of Enlightenment (OAE) as they perform a repertoire entitled Bach And Beyond. Alongside performances of two of Bach's glorious orchestral suites, the concert also features music by Campra (Suite, Les Fêtes Vénitienes), Fischer (Le Journal du Printemps Op 1 No7) and Rameau (Suite, Indes Galantes).

Birmingham Bach Choir

Pershore Abbey, Worcestershire, Sat 17 June; Birmingham Cathedral, Sat 24 June

One of the city's oldest and most distinguished musical groups here gets its collective teeth into the world of all things French, from early 16th century music through to modern compositions. Paul Spicer conducts, with Martyn Rawles playing the organ, in a concert that showcases the soul-searching music of the little-known Dominique Phinot, a composer who was executed for 'homosexual practices' in 1556.

Works by Poulenc, Duruflé and Pierre Villlette also feature, as does Faure's peerless Requiem, a piece about which the composer himself commented: "It has been said that my Requiem does not express the fear of death, and someone has called it a lullaby of death. But it is thus that I see death: as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than as a painful experience."



Birmingham Festival Choral Society: Carmina

The Bramall, Birmingham University, Sat 17 June



The emotionally charged choral music of Carl Orff's Carmina Burana is instantly recognisable the world over, having featured in an untold number of movie soundtracks and television commercials. The hugely popular work is here presented by Birmingham Festival Choral Society in collaboration with Liverpool Welsh Choral.

The concert's programme is completed by Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms.

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

The Bramall, Birmingham, Sun 18 June

Michael Lloyd (pictured below) conducts the latest concert in Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra's 2017 programme.

One of the Midlands' best known and most admired non-professional orchestras, the Birmingham Phil here presents Wagner's Siegfried Idyll, created by the composer as a birthday (and Christmas) present to his wife.

The programme also features Bruckner's last completed symphony, a contemplative, dreamy and ultimately triumphant piece which is often associated with the apocalypse.



Ex Cathedra: Summer Music By Candlelight

Birmingham Cathedral, Tues 20 June

Jeffrey Skidmore once again picks up the baton to conduct Birmingham's highly rated early music ensemble.

Presented by candlelight as dusk falls, the concert brings together music and readings inspired both by birdsong and the summer season itself.

The evening's programme includes a new work by Alec Roth which has been commissioned by Ex Cathedra.



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The Acoustic Festival Of Britain

Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffs, Fri 2 - Sun 4 June

Standing out from the crowd of ever-louder electronic festivals, The Acoustic Festival Of Britain marks a welcome return to the basics of good-quality music. Stripped back, unplugged performances are the focus of this relaxed, friendly event. Beyond that, it's open to music of all genres. With five-star-rated camping infrastructure, glamping op-

tions, seated food tents and kids' play areas, it's the perfect way to spend a lazy weekend with the family.

Line-up includes: Fairport Convention (pictured below), Wishbone Ash, Nell Bryden, Hoosiers, Nick Harper, Seize The Day, Boy on a Dolphin, TV Smith, Ed Tudor Pole and The Bar-Steward Sons Of Val Doonican.



Lichfield Blues & Jazz

Lichfield Guildhall & other city centre venues, Fri 2 - Sat 4 June

Having launched in 2015, this growing festival is fast establishing itself as a firm fixture in Lichfield's cultural calendar. Taking place across multiple city centre venues, the long weekend celebrates the best in local jazz and blues talent, as well as showcasing the best in quality musicianship from further afield. Concerts can be booked individually, with an assortment of hands-on workshops and lively street bands to enjoy alongside the main acts.

Line-up includes: Remi Harris Trio, Sticky Wicket & his String Orchestra (pictured below), Masai Blues, Emma Johnson Boogie Woogie Quartet, Callum Roxburgh Swing Orchestra, Chris Gumbley & Anything Goes, Baxter - Dunnett Big Band and Blast Off



Supersonic Festival

Custard Factory, Birmingham, Fri 16 - Sun 18 June



After taking a year off in 2016, the UK's premier experimental arts and music festival is back with a bang.

Featuring a thrilling line-up of some of the most exciting, original and irreverent artists from Birmingham, Britain and beyond, the multidisciplinary Supersonic is guaranteed to stimulate the senses and engage curiosity with a mix of music, film, discussions, hands-on workshops and exhibitions. Intelligent, unique and often unpredictable, it's an absolute must for the adventurous festival-goer.

Line-up includes: Anna Von Hausswolff, Arbouretum, Colin Stetson, Jenny Hval, Laura Cannell, Melt Banana, Oxbow, Princess Nokia, Raime, Zu and Ex-Easter Island Head Ensemble

Asparafest

Ashdown Farm, Badsey, Evesham, Fri 2 - Sun 4 June

Celebrating the Vale of Evesham's long-standing reputation for asparagus crops, this not-for-profit food and music festival combines renowned guests with community spirit. Local and national music acts perform alongside demos from award-winning chefs, country crafts, vintage vehicles and family fun - including a specialist teen tent and appearances by children's TV stars. Look out for opportunities to taste asparagus-themed food and drink, too. More competitively minded visitors can take part in the traditional asparagus-eating contest.

Line-up includes: Dr Feelgood, 3 Daft Monkeys, The Bar-Steward Sons Of Val Doonican, CBeebies' Mr Bloom and Katy Ashworth (I Can Cook!), Felice Tocchini (Fusion Brasserie), Tom Court (Sticky Fig Catering) and Tom Sausage

El Dorado Festival

Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire, Fri 30 June - Mon 3 July

The centuries-long search for the magical land of El Dorado ends here. Nestled in the beautiful hills of Herefordshire, this intimate, boutique festival is the brainchild of urban clubbing innovators Cirque du Soul, best known for creating weird and wacky wonderlands packed with musical variety.

From freak shows and fire breathers to a floating Treasure Island stage, expect the unexpected in this exotic paradise, specially designed for playful, open-minded party-goers.

Line-up includes: Artful Dodger (pictured below), Groove Armada, Jax Jones, Hot 8 Brass Band, The Sugarhill Gang, Wolf & Chi, AJ Tracey, Dusky, Zak Abel, SG Lewis, Bon-dax, Shy FX, Solardo and Channel One





SHAUN RYDER

The Happy Mondays frontman talks about why his sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll days are now a thing of the past...

Happy Mondays are playing Nozstock this summer. What can fans expect from this headline performance?

I think we're doing something from all the albums. It's a 'greatest hits' sort of thing. We're not going out yet doing the entire Squirrel And G-Man Twenty Four Hour Party People album, but I'm sure sooner or later we will.

The band's groundbreaking album, Pills'n'Thrills And Bellyaches, was released back in 1990. Did you ever imagine that almost 30 years on, you'd still be headlining festivals?

You know, when I got into this business, I wanted to make a career out of it and do it for a lifetime, so I didn't imagine I'd be bailing out and getting a normal, proper job - no one would've given me one anyway. I thought I'd be in it for life.

Paul Oakenfold produced Pills'n'Thrills And Bellyaches. How did that come about?

Oakenfold at the time wasn't a producer. He was known for DJing in London and Ibiza. When I mentioned it to Tony and the manager at the time, Nathan, they started scratching their heads. The good thing was that we could've been making an album, an important album for the label, and if we'd asked for a not very well known DJ who'd never produced before, they'd just have told us to f*** off. Factory Records thought about it and gave him a b-side. The DJs in the know flipped it over and started playing Oakenfold's side. By the time we were ready to do the album, we'd convinced them that Oakenfold was right for the job.

Growing up in Manchester must've had a huge influence on your musical sound. Can you tell us a bit about the Madchester scene?

Oh god! Do you know what, I don't know whether it did have an influence on the sound. The only sort of scene that'd been in Manchester really, apart from Joy Division and The Smiths, was back in the '60s with The Hollies and stuff like that. The one thing that got us all together was that music was really sort of gangy and clangy back in the late '70s. If you liked punk rock, you couldn't

like Dean Martin, or if you were into mod music, you couldn't like funk. One thing about us was that we all appreciated different types of music. We would listen to Velvet Underground then The Snakes. In terms of our influence, we basically stole from everywhere and then tried to hide it.

Any particularly entertaining stories you'd like to share?

I can remember the 1960s better than I can the 1990s, so that'll tell you something.

How does life on the road nowadays compare to, say, in the early 1990s?

If someone had told me in the early '90s how easy it could be if you weren't off your tits, I'd have told them to f*** off. It's so easy now. I mean, we're all older, there's no sex and drugs anymore, it's just rock'n'roll. Even though the workload is greater, it just fits in. I go out and do what I want, when I want. It's really easy.

You're very open now about being a family man. What's the most important lesson you've passed on to your children?

When I first had kids, I was pretty much a kid having kids. I was building a career, so I never saw them and had nothing to do with them being brought up. Now I'm really lucky because I get to do it again as an adult. My girls love me; I'm just a great dad. I'm going off in a minute to do the school run.

How do you think your fanbase has grown over the years?

The ages go from about 11 and 12 to about 70, and a lot of that is to do with mine and Bez's dips into reality television. We both brought a lot of new people in on it. You still get kids at uni discovering us, like I discovered Velvet Underground or whatever - although I didn't go to uni. Back in the day, there were a lot of kids at uni who were into us and who are now lawyers. We have a proper mixed bunch.

Were there any particularly memorable shows?

Brazil was great! Years ago we did the Rocking Rio thing - we took the rain with us; it absolutely pissed it down. We should've been on with George Michael but our gear disap-

peared, so we ended up having to spend the next week in Brazil. I think we went on with A-Ha, and they put us and Guns 'n' Roses in a hotel miles away from everyone else, so that was pretty freaky.

Do you have any regrets?

I haven't got many. I've got one or two. Obviously spending 12 years in receivership was a bit of a bummer; I wouldn't advise that to anybody. That caused a lot of problems, as it would when 100% of your income is getting taken off you for 12 years. I should just have paid them the poxy 120 grand back in the day, but I didn't want to. That's my biggest regret. When you write your own stuff and you lose it all, you've got to stick it out - you can't go bankrupt. It took a long time to get out of that. Everything else, fine; I enjoyed getting off my face when I was a kid - it's what you do innit.

You were runner-up in the 10th series of I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here!. Are there any other reality TV shows that take your fancy?

I did the other one where we went off in the rainforest, although that was technically classed as a documentary. I get asked all the time to do that sort of stuff. In fact, another one has come in today, about me getting my family involved in something. If the right one comes around, I don't mind - especially when I've got an album to promote.

Finally, what does the future hold for Happy Mondays?

Well, the thing about The Mondays is that there are six of us, and everyone has got a say in the band. It's really difficult to organise. As Black Grape, it's just me and Kermit, so when we say, 'Let's go and make an album', we can just go and make one. When we're with The Mondays, it's really difficult. One lives in LA, one's in Canada - they're all doing their stuff and it's more difficult. We'll get a new album together sooner or later, though.

.....
Happy Mondays headline Nozstock Festival, which takes place at Rowden Paddocks, Bromyard, Herefordshire, from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 July



Ricky Gervais: Humanity

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Tues 27 & Wed 28 June

There's no doubting that Ricky Gervais has travelled a long way since his days playing bearded chubster David Brent in hit mockumentary *The Office*. Hollywood movies, an appearance on *The Simpsons* and a couple of gigs presenting the Golden Globes offer irrefutable evidence that he's made the big time. But even with all that success behind him, he still enjoys the high-pressure challenge of a live standup tour. This latest one is his first in seven years and sees him "moaning about everything in the world from the most privileged position imaginable".

Asperger's Are Us The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sunday 25 June

This Boston comedy troupe comprises four fellas who're on the autism spectrum but whose humour most definitely isn't defined by the fact. Oddball characters and clever wordplay are the meat and drink of their act, the troupe performing skits and monologues that reflect their thoughts, perspectives and offbeat sensibilities.

"We're the first comedy troupe composed of autistic people," the boys reveal. "We don't poke fun at Asperger's and we didn't form to prove that autistic people can be funny. We formed for the same reason anyone does comedy - to make you laugh! Please don't expect us to be anything like *The Big Bang Theory* or anything else that relies on making fun of people. Expect silly, deadpan sketches that appeal to Aspies and sympathetic others alike."

Jonny Awsum

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury,
Wed 7 June

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em, seems to have been the perspective taken by musical comic Jonny Awsum.

Having served as a barman at London's Chuckle Club for eight long years, Jonny decided it was high time he put down the pint glasses and picked up the microphone himself.

Now a regular on the UK comedy circuit, he's been the warm-up artist for ITV1 lunchtime series *Loose Women* and also featured in Cravendale's hugely popular 'cats with thumbs' advertising campaign, viewed more than a million times on YouTube.

Jonny's joined for this latest Henry Tudor House Comedy Club night by Josh Pugh and Mark Olver.

Joel Dommett

Stratford Artshouse,
Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 9 June

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

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



Stewart Lee: Content Provider

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Wed 21 June

Shropshire-born Stewart Lee makes a welcome return to the Midlands with a brand new, critically acclaimed show. Stewart first shot to fame courtesy of his partnership with Richard Herring, and then later scored a massive international hit with the musical, Jerry Springer The Opera. His style of comedy won't make for the most comfortable ride, but he's thought-provoking, funny and memorable, so suffering the odd moment that makes you feel awkward is a small price to pay for a great night out. Stewart is married to fellow comedian Bridget Christie, a woman whose career is very much in the ascendant... So is there an uncomfortable competitiveness in evidence between them, one wonders? "I was doing well before I even met Bridget," he insists, "when she was still dressing up as cheese rolls and bees and things. I don't know where you're getting these offensive questions from, to be honest..."

Deborah Frances-White

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 8 June



Deborah Frances-White reckons her regular podcasts are a worthwhile listen for anybody who's ever felt like they should be better at feminism. And it would seem there are plenty of people who've felt exactly that way, the various episodes having racked up between them an impressive two million-plus downloads.

This latest installment, recorded in front of a live audience, sees Deborah joined by a guest host for a discussion on topics that "all 21st century feminists agree on". Along the way, they'll be opening up about the insecurities and fears that underlie their 'lofty principles'.



Sommore

Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 17 June

With descriptions of her ranging from 'the new Whoopi Goldberg with makeup on' to 'Joan Rivers with a deep tan', queen of urban US comedy Sommore has also been hailed 'a force to be reckoned with' by no less a modern-day icon than Oprah Winfrey.

Tackling tough topics with intelligence and style, the New Jersey-born performer views her comedy as a form of self-expression. "Comedy is an expressive art," she explains, "It's not what you say, it's how you say it that counts." Sommore is joined on the night by Slim, Kane Brown and Marlon Davis. Gina Yashere comperes.

Katy Brand: I Was A Teenage Christian

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Thurs 8 June; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Fri 16 June; mac, Birmingham, Sat 17 June

A familiar telly face on programmes such as Have I Got News For You and her very own Big Ass Show, Katy here contemplates her self-imposed conversion and total immersion in evangelical Christianity at the tender age of 13. "I was an obnoxious, self-important dick," says Katy, "but at least I knew I was going to heaven. Now I'm not so sure..."

The show met with mixed reviews in Edinburgh last summer, with many critics surprised by the understated delivery of some fairly undramatic material. On a more positive note, the Guardian described it as 'an entertaining tale of a teenager's search for herself, and of the impulses that drive some of us into religion's comforting embrace'.





THE ADDAMS FAMILY

America's creepiest, kookiest clan arrive in the Midlands...

Their house may be a museum, but not everyone is itching to go over there and see 'em: for the lovestruck Lucas Beineke and his unwitting parents, the Addams Family's way of life is just mysterious, spooky and altogether far too "ooky" for their tastes. Yet romance is apt to overcome and blossom in the unlikelyst of circumstances, at least within the realms of musical theatre...

Out on its first ever UK tour following a successful Broadway run, Andrew Lippa's Addams Family musical presents a brand new chapter in the story of America's creepiest, kookiest clan, with the sometime sadistic Wednesday now 'all grown up' and ready to take on the wider world. Pity the planet then, but particularly the boy with the audacity to fall head over heels for her.

With the hapless Lucas having already secretly proposed, a desperate attempt at a civilised 'meet the parents' dinner party soon descends into exactly the disaster you'd expect. But all hope is not lost: with the help of some long-dead ancestors shut out of the family crypt, a fairy godmother of a sort is on hand to carry us out of the chaos - and he comes in the rather unexpected form of Uncle Fester, played with undisguised delight by Les Dennis.

"When I spoke to the director while we were still at the beginning of rehearsals, he gave me a key to the character by saying that Fester is almost like Puck [in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*]," Dennis explains. "He's the

matchmaker for this unconventional love between Wednesday and Lucas, the normal and the 'unnatural', and he champions that while in an unconventional love affair himself. I love that he gets the chance to bring all the pieces together - one of my favourite parts is when he's on the balcony watching the Beinekes in *Crazier Than You*."

The innocence and wide-eyed wonder of the character is perfect for this role: Fester is upbeat and optimistic enough to believe that rules can be broken and stories changed; generous and genuine enough to win the trust of anyone; and determined enough to make sure everything goes to plan.

"With Fester, you can kind of see how he is part of the family, but he resists the darkness," Dennis adds. "I've tried to make him quite silly and childlike."

Silliness is an important feature of this show, in everything from the madcap costumes and choreography of the undead extended family, to the weird, witchy old Grandma who might not actually be anybody's grandmother after all. But as Carrie Hope Fletcher, who's enjoyed portraying Wednesday's newfound womanhood, points out, as dysfunctional as the family might seem at first, beneath the surface, they're perhaps not as unusual as you'd think.

"The thing about the Addams Family is that they never actually do anything malicious," she says. "They've always got that edge to

them, but you never see them being mean or horrible."

"They think that they're completely normal," agrees Samantha Womack, who plays the ever-immaculate Morticia, "and that the outside world is just horrid and disintegrating into chaos, so they feel very proud of who they are"

"And they're not wrong, are they?" laughs Dennis.

This is the crux of Lippa's musical: though the Beinekes are initially unsure what to make of them, it's through their encounter with the Addams' unconventional habits that they're eventually able to acknowledge and liberate their true 'crazy' selves from self-inflicted repression. It's a journey that we, as viewers, are invited to go along on, too - there's certainly something to be envied about the Addams' total openness and lack of concern for what anyone else might think of them.

"They base their relationships on truth and honesty and nothing is taboo," says Fletcher. "The relationship that Morticia and Gomez have is so sexual and nothing's held back from the children."

"I always like doing characters where I get to try out a part of my personality that I might like to explore more if I was confident enough," says Womack. "I love the fact that Morticia doesn't make small talk and is very still and contained. I'm not like that. I have to

continued...



fill the gaps - I'm a people pleaser, so there's something quite liberating about this."

"I wish I was as confident as Wednesday," Fletcher admits. "They're all so sure of who they are."

Ultimately, this serves to make them a much stronger family unit - the love and loyalty they share is completely genuine. It's also the reason why the show has gone down such a storm so far, for all it might seem an odd choice for a Broadway musical. As much as it taps into the eccentric humour of its sources, there's also an emotionally resonant side to this story that will strike a chord with any family, however ordinary or crazy they might be.

"Parts of this story are so poignant, like in *Happy Sad*," says Fletcher. "You've got this crazy family with all of these ridiculous things going on, and then suddenly there's this amazing song about a father not knowing how to watch his daughter grow up and pass her on to another man. My dad watched the show last night in an absolute state!"

"Andrew Lippa talked to us about devising the lyrics," says Womack. "He explained how it doesn't all have to be happy and light. Sometimes you find the most beautiful answers in a place of pain and darkness, like

in the line where the bull says to the matador, 'I hate you. Well done.'"

Having accrued a huge following of young fans through her vlogging and writing as well as her performances, Carrie Hope Fletcher will have the privilege of introducing whole new audiences to the Addams Family. But as she can personally attest, there's also plenty in the show for existing Addams enthusiasts to enjoy.

"I love *The Addams Family*. I was obsessed with the movies as a child, and I really enjoy all the dark, Burton-esque type stuff. Dark stories rarely get made into musicals, and I think that's what makes this such a fun thing. There's just so much to play with!"

There's a definite care and respect for the source material in all aspects of this show, from the array of musical styles tailored to each character, to the attention to detail in the design and performances, partly drawn from the original Charles Addams sketches.

Having recently finished a long-running role in *EastEnders*, Womack was initially reluctant to jump straight into a major touring show, feeling that only something really special could tempt her. But after reading through the script, she was immediately sold.

"It's so much more than I expected it to be,

and when I started doing auditions the character just came to me really easily. Sometimes you pick something that you really want to do and it just doesn't come, but I felt *Morticia* coming through like tendrils."

For Fletcher, meanwhile, the whole thing has been a dream come true.

"I sobbed before I went on stage the first night," she laughs. "A few years ago, I got asked to do a concert with Andrew Lippa, who gave me *Pulled* from *The Addams Family* to sing, and I just completely fell in love with it. I couldn't believe I hadn't known there was a musical before, so I bought the soundtrack and devoured everything I possibly could. Then after the concert, I said to my agent, if there's ever a whiff of it coming to the West End, please, please make sure I'm first in line to audition for *Wednesday*. And it happened, unbelievably!"

.....

The Addams Family shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 6 to Saturday 10 June, and then at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 17 to Saturday 21 October



BRB: Three Short Ballets

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 21 - Sat 24 June

“Arcadia is a narrative piece,” explains Birmingham Royal Ballet’s Ruth Brill, who’s created the work for this BRB trilogy. “While not telling the full story of a single myth, it draws inspiration directly from Greek mythology. The characters are Pan, the nymphs and a chorus. I also wanted to evoke the landscape of Arcadia as a mountainous region of Greece, through the choreography for the chorus and through the designs.”

Arcadia boasts a new score composed by renowned saxophonist John Harle, and is performed in a programme that also features two other one-act ballets: *Le Baiser de la fée*, a ‘beautiful interpretation’ of a classic Hans Christian Andersen story; and *Pineapple Poll*, ‘a thoroughly English Gilbert & Sullivan tale’ set aboard the HMS Hot Cross Bun.

Northern Ballet: Goldilocks & The Three Bears

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, Wed 31 May;
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 14 June

Leeds-based Northern Ballet has developed a reputation for producing work that’s as much about storytelling as it is about dancing - a fact which is very much in evidence in its latest children’s production.

Goldilocks & The Three Bears follows on from the company’s hugely successful CBeebies TV adaptations of *The Ugly Duckling* and *Tortoise And The Hare*.

Forty minutes in length, the show has been designed as an enjoyable and absorbing introduction for young children to live ballet, music and theatre.



Breakin’ Convention

The REP, Birmingham, Fri 2 - Sat 3 June

Touring festival Breakin’ Convention is the brainchild of pioneering dancer, director and poet Jonzi D. Uniting top international acts with local talent in various locations, it aims to put hip-hop on an equal footing with more established art forms, offering a mix of professional development, youth and education projects in addition to its world-renowned events.

This year’s show is headlined by South Africa’s Soweto Skeleton Movers, Korean bboys Just Dance Productions and Canadian-Swedish dance duo Tentacle Tribe.

Also contributing are local groups Jigsaw Collective, Rhythm Junkiez, Street Dance Academy, Broken Silence, Marshons and Nuvo Origin.



Plan B For Utopia

The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 7 June

The notion of utopia and the role which imagination and creativity can play in effecting change, both within the individual and society, is explored in this playful work of dance theatre.

Presented by the Dundee-based Joan Clevillé Dance company, the show has been widely praised for its clever blending of the silly and the serious, mixing dance, theatre, storytelling and humour to excellent effect.

The production also features a number of classic songs, including *Some-where Over The Rainbow*, *When You Wish Upon A Star* and *What A Wonderful World*.





Running Wild

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 6 - Sat 10 June

On Boxing Day 2004, well in excess of 200,000 people perished as waves of up to 100ft engulfed the shores of South East Asia. Yet amazingly, some survived the now-infamous tsunami. Among them was a girl called Amber Owen, who'd been riding an elephant along the beach whilst holidaying in Thailand with her family. Unnerved by the strange activity in the water, the elephant pulled away from the

shoreline and ran away before the tidal wave hit, saving Amber's life in the process. It was this real-life story that provided the inspiration for Michael Morpurgo's delightful tale, here adapted for the stage by The Children's Touring Partnership.

"What you want for children is for them to work things out for themselves," says Michael. "In this particular case, I hope that they will go away asking questions about what's happening in the rainforest, about planting palm trees and about what's happening to elephants. But it's not being thrust down their throat."

The Tempest

Stafford Castle, Thurs 22 June - Sat 8 July

Shakespeare's last and most complete play, *The Tempest* also represents the culmination of his art, bringing together many of the themes that informed his greatest dramas. When a wild storm forces a royal ship onto the rocks of an enchanted isle, the castaways, separated from one another, find themselves slipping under the control of the mysterious Prospero.

Matters are further confused by the presence of supernatural spirit Ariel and the grotesque man-beast, Caliban...

This outdoor production is set in the 1930s, a golden age both for luxury cruise liners and Hollywood glamour, but which also welcomed in the dying days of vaudeville...

Blush

mac, Birmingham, Tues 20 June

Wildly talented collective Snuff Box Theatre certainly know how to score a theatrical hit; their first four endeavours - *Weald*, *Bitch Boxer*, *The Altitude Brothers* and *The Observatory* - were all suitably rewarded with glittering gongs aplenty. *Blush* has proved equally successful, claiming the Stage Edinburgh Award at last summer's fringe festival. Written by Snuff Box co-founder Charlotte Josephine, it presents five candid stories about revenge porn and its many victims. "Blush is written from a place of rage," explains Charlotte. "Rage at the men who commit revenge porn, rage at the slow-moving legal system that should protect women and rage at our archaic sex education in schools."

Our Man In Havana

Lichfield Garrick, Mon 26 - Wed 28 June

Hapless and Havana-based vacuum-cleaner salesman Jim Wormold is leading a less than ideal life; his wife has left him and his materialistic daughter, Milly, is seriously manipulative. So when MI6 offer him the chance to increase his meagre income by indulging in a little espionage on the side, Jim takes their bait. But with no information to send to London, he decides to fake his reports and invent a fictitious network of secret agents. Not surprisingly, it's a decision that sees his life becoming ever more complicated...

Creative Cow are the company bringing to life Clive Francis's lively stage adaptation of Graham Greene's hilarious, subversive and ever-popular novel.



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Shirley Valentine

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 6 - Sat 10 June; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 10 - Sat 15 July; Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire, Mon 24 - Sat 29 July

Willy Russell's classic play is a one-woman show about a Liverpool housewife who's had enough of her humdrum existence and dreams of pastures new.

With a wall of her kitchen passing as her best friend and closest confidant, Shirley determines to take control of her life while there's still time to effect significant change...

Jodie Prenger, whose previous roles include Calamity Jane, the Lady of the Lake in Spamalot and Nancy in Oliver! - the latter after winning BBC talent contest I'd Do Anything - stars in this major revival of the show, which last year celebrated its 30th anniversary.



Ursula Martinez: Free Admission

The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 15 - Sat 17 June

Ursula Martinez has been described as a performance provocateur - and anybody attending this latest show will find it easy to see why. Baring all as she sets about gaining a better understanding of the absurdity of modern living, she shocks and surprises with plenty of politically incorrect chat. She also builds a wall between herself and her audience using breezeblocks and cement, explains why she sometimes feels jealous of Catherine Tate, rails against the need to do admin and reveals she's got a bit of a thing about anal hygiene. She's not always a comfortable watch, but you'll certainly leave the theatre knowing you've experienced something just that little bit different.



Ugly Chief

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 6 June

Victoria Melody's theatre work is inspired by ethnography, the systematic study of people and cultures. Her unusual creative process

has so far seen her immersing herself in the worlds of pigeon fancying, championship dog handling, Northern Soul dancing, beauty pageants and now funeral directors.

Victoria's new show, a lighthearted contemplation on the subject of death, features her dad, daytime television antique dealer Mike Melody. After being diagnosed with a terminal illness, Mike allocated the job of planning his funeral to his daughter. But when he and Victoria then discovered that the doctors had made a misdiagnosis, they decided to go ahead with the funeral anyway - on stage and in front of a paying audience.

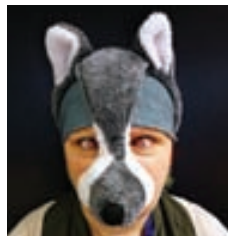
Eulogies, a congregation dressed in Blackpool Football Club tangerine and a New Orleans-style jazz procession all feature...

A Black Country Fairytale

The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 16 June; The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, Sat 17 June

Award-winning Midlands theatre company Fizzog Productions make a welcome return to the stage with a show they describe as 'another non-traditional tale of fantasy, perfected in a single afternoon's rehearsal!' Comprising Sue Hawkins, Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls - and occasionally featuring guest performers -

the company is best known for stage productions 50 Shades Of Fizzog and Freezin', and for its creation of internet sensations The Dancing Grannies.



Murdered By Murder

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 9 June

Highly rated madcap duo LoveHard make a welcome return to the Old Joint Stock. The comedy comes thick and fast with these fellas, so expect an impressively high laughter count in this brand new, 1930s-set show. When six old friends meet for a murder-mystery party at the ominously named Drenchblood Heights, it soon becomes apparent that what could've been the night of their lives might well turn out to be the night of their deaths...

Salomé

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 2 June - Wed 6 September

Oscar Wilde's lyrical drama, written in French and originally banned in England, recounts in a single act the biblical story of Herod Antipas's daughter, Salomé. Sexually rejected by imprisoned prophet Jokanaan (John the Baptist), her lust-driven desire for vengeance sees her demanding his head on a silver platter, as reward for her performing the dance of the seven veils...

Wilde was incarcerated in Reading Gaol when his play premiered in Paris in 1896; it would be 35 more years before it received its first public performance in England. Presented by the RSC to mark the 50th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in England and Wales, this contemporary take on Wilde's poetic masterpiece features nudity and scenes of a sexual nature.

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Theatre previews from around the region

The Graduate

Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire,
Tues 13 - Sat 17 June

In a tale well embedded in the cultural consciousness, the hapless Benjamin Braddock embarks on an ill-advised affair with the wife of his father's boss - and then proceeds to complicate matters further by falling for her daughter...

Terry Johnson's witty play is an adaptation of the celebrated 1967 movie starring Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft.

Olivier Award-nominated Catherine McCormack, whose films include Braveheart and Spy Game, plays the luminously seductive Mrs Robinson.



The Murderer

The Hive, Worcester, Tues 13 June; Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Tues 27 June

If you fancy enjoying a thought-provoking evening of theatre while at the same time lending your support to some fast-emerging local talent, this could well be the show to catch. It's presented by Clown Funeral, a West Midlands ensemble whose work - bringing together storytelling, physical theatre and clowning - is inspired by 'unusual stimuli', in this particular case a darkly comic poem by Luke Kennard.

A three-hander presented in Edinburgh last summer with a revolving cast of five, the show is set in a world in which the rehabilitation of criminals is achieved via care in the community. Focusing on the relationship between a murderer and her supervisor, who move into a flat together, the production features 'surreal humour, subtle physical theatre and noir-inspired scenes'.



The Country Wife

Ludlow Brewery, South Shropshire,
Wed 14 - Thurs 22 June; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 24 June

This fast-paced take on William Wycherley's Restoration comedy is presented by Rooftop Theatre. It focuses on the character of Harry Horner, a London playboy who's developed

an admirable plan that will enable him to continue any affair he wishes, without the unpleasant business of a husband's suspicions or jealousy getting in his way.



The Ramayana

The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 June

The spiritual and the secular are brought together by the Young REP 18-25 Company in their new adaptation of an ancient Indian epic poem.

Prince Rama, the earthly incarnation of Hindu god Vishnu, goes into a voluntary 14-year exile with his bride, Sita, and his brother, Prince Lakshman. But when Sita is abducted from their forest home by a 10-headed demon, the two princes set out on a dangerous quest to save her - aided and abetted in their efforts by an army of monkey people...



Around The World In 80 Days

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Fri 23 June - Sat 8 July

Jules Verne's famous story follows the adventures of Phileas Fogg and his French valet, Passepartout, as they attempt to circumnavigate the globe in only 80 days in order to win a £20,000 wager... This particular stage adaptation of the 1873 novel is presented by the New Vic in association with Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre.



As You Like It

Maples Hayes Hall Gardens, Lichfield,
Wed 21 - Sat 24 June

Shakespeare's highly likable comedy revolves around the character of Rosalind, banished by her usurping uncle to the Forest Of Arden, where her exiled father is already living. Revelling in the naturalness of their surroundings, Rosalind and her companions - cousin Celia and Touchstone the fool - find a happiness they hadn't known existed... This outdoor production is presented by Shakespeare In The Park.



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Theatre previews for younger audiences from around the region

Sarah & Duck's Big Top Birthday

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 3 June; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 10 June; mac, Birmingham, Sun 18 - Tues 20 June

Young fans of BAFTA award-winning CBeebies programme Sarah & Duck are sure to cry fowl (geddit?) if you fail to take them along to this new live version of the show. Puppetry, storytelling and music are imaginatively combined as seven-year-old Sarah and her somewhat manic companion set out on yet another adventure. This one sees them planning a birthday party for Scarf Lady, ably assisted in their endeavours by fabulous friends The Ribbon Sisters, The Shallots, Flamingo & John and Umbrella. The show comes from the same stable as the Charlie And Lola series.



Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 28 - Thurs 29 June; The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire, Sat 24 - Sun 25 June

The team behind Peppa Pig here present a stage version of another of their splendid creations. Originally a BAFTA award-winning television animation, it focuses on the adventures of fairy princess Holly and her best pal Ben, a wingless elf who flies on the back of Gaston the Ladybird. In this particular show, the two chums help Gaston clean up his messy cave, go on a trip into The Big World with tooth-fairy Nanny Plum and plan a surprise birthday party for King Thistle. Expect plenty of games, songs and laughter...



The Little Mermaid Jnr

The Old Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 15 - Sat 17 June

The award-winning Birmingham Youth Theatre take to the stage to celebrate their 30th anniversary. As well as their hour-long adap-

tation of Disney's The Little Mermaid, the talented ensemble also perform Memories - A Musical Montage, a show which takes a look back at some of their previous productions.

Don't Dribble On The Dragon

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire, Sun 4 June

The late Paul Daniels was the high-profile prestidigitator behind the marvellous moments of magic contained in this production, a brand new stage adaptation of the book by Steven Lee.

Taking as its theme the importance of family, the show is a musical adventure about a toddler named Tom who, as well as having an older brother, has a secret dragon and a dribbling problem.

When the young chap's endless drooling drives a slobbery wedge between him and his sibling, it's up to the dragon to try and resolve the problem - with a little help from that aforementioned magic, of course...

The Scarecrows' Wedding

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 30 June

This heartwarming Scamp Theatre adaptation of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's bestselling book tells the tale of two top scarecrows, Betty O'Barley and Harry O'Hay. When the loved-up couple decide it's time to tie the knot, Harry heads off in search of numerous wedding-day essentials. But there's trouble brewing back in the field. The farmer's now without Harry, so replaces him with the devilishly smooth but dangerous

Reginald Rake, a scarecrow who's determined to stake his claim for Betty...

Scamp present this well-reviewed show on the back of their critically acclaimed adaptations of two other Donaldson and Scheffler books - Stick Man and Tiddler And Other Terrific Tales.



Kid Carpet's Super Mega Rockin' Rock Show

mac, Birmingham, Sat 24 June

"I began making music with old keyboards, toys, computers, a sellotaped-up broken electric guitar and a punk-rock DIY attitude," reveals Ed Patrick in talking about the origin of his alter ego, Kid Carpet.

With a good few kids' shows behind him, the Bristol-based performer here reveals everything youngsters need to know if they fancy 'rocking out big-time'.

Stories, games, songs and opportunities for audience participation all add to the fun.

FEATURE

A close-up portrait of a man with short, dark hair and blue eyes. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. His face and neck are covered in a shimmering, golden body paint that catches the light, creating a dramatic, ethereal effect. He is wearing a small, round earring in his left ear. The background is a dark, muted greenish-blue.

SALOMÉ

The RSC presents a contemporary take on Oscar Wilde's poetic masterpiece

Fifty years on from the decriminalisation of homosexuality, Owen Horsley revisits Oscar Wilde's *Salomé* in a radical new RSC production.

On 25 May 1895, poet, playwright, novelist and internationally renowned wit Oscar Wilde was convicted of 'gross indecency' and sentenced to two years' hard labour. For years, Wilde had pursued same-sex love and romance free from interference, but somewhat inevitably for someone so much in the public eye, the draconian sexual morality laws of his time eventually caught up with him.

Though Wilde was never publicly 'out', as the prosecution in his trial underlined, the tell-tale signs of his sexuality are inscribed throughout his works in an array of unspeakable desires, from the yearning of painter Basil Hallward for his beautiful model in *The Picture Of Dorian Gray*, to the dizzying array of forbidden lusts alluded to in *Salomé* - including incest, adultery, murder, necrophilia, unrequited love for a social superior and desire for a celibate holy man, as well as subtle hints of homosexuality.

It's the latter that director Owen Horsley is setting out to radically reimagine at the RSC's Swan Theatre this season. Fifty years on from the decriminalisation of Wilde's 'love that dare not speak its name', the beautiful, bloodthirsty princess at the centre of the story will be portrayed for the first time by a male performer, Matthew Tennyson.

"One of the things we wanted to do at the RSC was to honour this anniversary year, and that led me to a way of viewing the play through a gay lens," Horsley explains. "In a sense, it's also looking at where we are now, because I think a lot of the arguments are now around gender. We're looking at it in terms of gender fluidity and ambiguity, so while Matthew isn't playing it as a girl, we're not changing things like 'she' or 'her'. We want to create a level of questioning in the audience."

This notion of gender as something slippery, constructed or even performed is highlighted through a focus on heightened theatricality, reflected in the style and design.

"I really wanted to embrace the idea of theatre, so the set is kind of an extension of the Swan. For example, we have a lovely wooden door which feels like part of the stage floor. I felt very strongly about creating a space in which the language can live, because it's so poetic and full of imagery that I think something that's a bit starker helps the words to come alive."

Nowhere is the self-referential emphasis on artifice and acting more apparent than in

Salomé's iconic dance - an erotic performance requested by her father-in-law, King Herod, in exchange for anything she asks of him. It's a particularly unsettling scene which leads the story to its violent climax, and one for which Wilde offers little written direction.

"We've always seen the dance as a way of Salomé sticking two fingers up at Herod - the way she leads him on and gives him what he wants in order to get what she wants. But there's also a moment in which the dance becomes about Salomé revealing who she is - a moment of exposing herself and being vulnerable. From that moment on, she has all the strength in the world."

Of course, a dance requires music, and Horsley found the ideal accompaniment for his production in the songs of contemporary artist Mark Hadreas, better known as Perfume Genius.

"I've been a fan for years and years, and it was actually one of the first decisions I made. There's a kind of mythic view on gender and sexuality in his lyrics that is to do with spirits, essence and feeling, which I think is so clear in Wilde's writing, too.

"We've always tried to find a song that is an extension of the person who's been speaking before, so it's like the song adds to the feeling. It's also a wonderfully unsentimental play, so I think it works that we've just used little bits and that the songs are sometimes cut off by the action."

For the dance itself, he's chosen the "muscular, heavy" number, *Grid*, which "builds [and] goes on a journey", reflecting the importance of the moment for *Salomé*.

Redefining a classic role for the 21st century required careful casting - a performer who could not only fully inhabit the part, but who could also get to grips with Wilde's language, and successfully bridge the gap between Ancient Rome, Victorian England and Britain today.

"I've worked a lot in classical theatre, which is very heightened and rhythmic, but the text in this play is very, very unique. It's a play that's filled with poetry, love, desire and also a lot of rage and anger. It takes a certain level of imagination, intelligence and wit to be able to deliver that, and Matthew Tennyson has that in spades."

Salomé's exploration of issues around gender and power ties in neatly with the themes explored in Shakespeare plays like *Antony & Cleopatra*, currently running at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre as part of an ongoing Rome season.

"I also love *Salomé* because it's so brilliantly

political - it feels like there's a whole political world about to crumble. Herod seems so much like a modern politician, especially when we live in a world with people like Trump. He has no filter, and that's dangerous, and when you see him and hear him in the play, you think, my God, this is a scary world we're in! He's so emotionally volatile."

This political angle is something being exploited much more openly in the National Theatre's concurrent production of *Salomé*, with Yaël Farber rewriting the play to tell the story of a Middle Eastern uprising against corrupt Roman leaders, with obvious overtones of this century's Arab Spring. Along with a Theatre Lab production at Hoxton Hall in February, Horsley's take will be the third version of *Salomé* this year - surprising for a play so often overshadowed by Wilde's more popular comedies.

"It's crazy! It's like buses - you wait for one for hours and then two come along at once. I find it so interesting that plays just seem to have a trend about them. But I love Yaël Farber's work and her version is very different, so I'm looking forward to seeing how another director interprets the play."

Despite a longstanding personal connection to its story, this year will mark the first time Horsley has ever seen the play performed on stage.

"I've never seen it, but it was in my house when I was a kid and I remember reading it when I was younger. I also remember going to the Met Museum in New York and seeing the Regnault painting of *Salomé*. My mum loved it and bought a print of it which still hangs in the house, so *Salomé* is one of those figures who has somehow always been present for me. Even though they're done more, I feel like I know this play better than Wilde's wittier comedies, and perhaps even know those plays better for doing this one."

While the ability to approach a text free from the influence of earlier productions can be a gift for a director, attempting to stage the play has given Horsley some insight into why it's so infrequently put on.

"It's a pretty tough play to do. It's brilliant but because it's just one act, it lacks the form that other plays give you for free. You push the ball off the hill and it just keeps rolling, so you have to embrace that and enjoy the process of doing something that seems to be constantly spiralling out of control."

.....
Salomé shows at the RSC's Swan Theatre from Friday 2 June until Wednesday 6 September

Wonderland

Curiouser and curiouser! Broadway composer Frank Wildhorn takes a tumble down the rabbit hole with his spectacular new musical



It was in 1886 that the wacky world of Alice's Adventures In Wonderland first made it onto the stage, in an adaptation that the novel's author, Lewis Carroll (otherwise known as Cambridge mathematician Charles Dodgson), had a hand in.

Within the writer's lifetime then, the topsyturvy story and its cast of colourful characters were already delighting audiences in performance, and a mere 17 years later, they were being interpreted through the exciting new medium of film.

One of the latest companies to join the long and noble tradition of reinventing Alice is led by Broadway composer Frank Wildhorn, whose work on shows like *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Victor/Victoria* and *Bonnie & Clyde* has earned him international acclaim. First performed in 2009, *Wonderland* has already enjoyed success in the States; now a reworked version with a British cast is touring the UK.

Following a sneak preview of some of the fabulous songs from the show, both cast and creative team were on hand to tell us more about what audiences can expect when the show visits the Midlands next month.

"In the late '90s, I was fortunate enough to have three shows on Broadway," says Wildhorn, "*Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and *Civil War*, and so I was living on the Upper West side in a big high-rise building. I have two sons, and the elevator up to our home was always broken. Eventually I was running out of stories to tell my kids about why they couldn't fix the elevator, and for some reason I told them that if anyone did manage to get on it, and take it all the way down through Macy's department store, they'd eventually get to *Wonderland*."

Wildhorn's kids are by no means an unusual source of inspiration for him. A previous family musical, *Excalibur*, came about as an attempt to engage his children with the story of *Camelot*, which his parents had loved and taught to him, but which his own kids didn't seem to "get". Departing somewhat from Carroll's vision, the story of *Wonderland* taps into this parent-child dynamic and the idea of the passing on of stories. Like the recent Tim Burton films, it sees Alice return to *Wonderland* as an adult, only this time

she's middle-aged, a mother going through a messy separation with her partner, as well as a schoolteacher with ambitions of becoming a children's writer. Much like the books then, it aims to present a child's-eye view of the complexities and contradictions of the grown-up world.

"It all starts with the idea of the child within us all," Wildhorn continues. "The opening lyrics of my song, *Finding Wonderland*, are 'We move too fast; we miss so much'. And it's true - there is a *Wonderland* in all our lives if we could only take a breath and notice it. In this particular adventure, Alice has to rescue her own child, and in doing so, she rediscovers the child within herself."

"Frank's taken the Lewis Carroll story and done something really exciting with it," adds Director Lotte Wakeham. "In the original, Alice doesn't really do very much - she's essentially a tourist in *Wonderland*. We've looked at how we can make the heroine of our show go on a great, energising adventure with her daughter and the audience."

Having conceived the show while living in New York, it's perhaps no surprise that Wildhorn chose the city as the setting for its original stage outing. Just like in his story to his children, Alice ends up back in *Wonderland* via the lift to her apartment.

"For the UK tour, we've gone back to the original story," says Wakeham, "and it will be UK based, with a relevant look and sound. Since the source material is so quirky and quintessentially British, this version of the show is exactly that, too."

"I've been inspired by the original illustrations and other incarnations of the story," explains Costume Designer Grace Smart, "but I've also tried to give it a fresh angle. I've been looking at a lot of the UK's eccentric celebrities, so that we can keep the British feel yet keep true to the original story."

For the cast, getting to put their own stamp on roles completely new to UK audiences, and with almost no precedent to turn to, has also been a thrill.

"My job is to be creative," says Wendi Peters, who plays the Queen of Hearts. "I don't like doing anything for too long, and I just love the process of reading

something off the page and thinking through how I can best tell the story. In the case of *Wonderland*, we've got nothing really to copy, and that's lovely. I don't think that any actor should ever copy what's been before, though of course if the material's out there you're going to have a sneaky look at what's been done previously! But apart from a performance by the Broadway cast at the Tony Awards, there's little else online - and I love that because I can think through the character myself and hopefully bring something new to it.

"It's always fun to play baddies, but you must find something in them that makes people like them a little bit. I'd like to think there's a bit of all my comedy heroes in my *Queen of Hearts*: Molly Sugden, Peggy Mount and Patricia Routledge, who played Hyacinth 'Bouquet' Bucket in *Keeping Up Appearances*. She's a monster, but part of you can't help loving her!"

While more than a century's-worth of adaptations might have made the characters familiar in other forms, the versions of them in *Wonderland* are unlike any you've previously encountered.

One of the most obvious breaks from tradition is the Mad Hatter, who will be played by a young woman, Natalie McQueen. There's a good reason for this change. Instead of the mad old man we're used to, McQueen's Hatter is feisty, edgy and full of attitude. For her, getting to play the part has been a dream come true.

"*Alice In Wonderland* is up there with *The Little Mermaid* as one of my favourite films," she gushes. "It's just completely bonkers and I love it."

Frank Wildhorn hopes that audiences from eight to 80 will be just as entranced by the magic of *Wonderland* as McQueen has been, and wants everyone who comes along to fully immerse themselves in the spirit of the show.

"We're hoping the audience will come dressed up as the characters," he laughs. "You should definitely encourage that!"

.....

Wonderland shows at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Mon 10 to Sat 15 July and at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Mon 31 July to Sat 5 August.

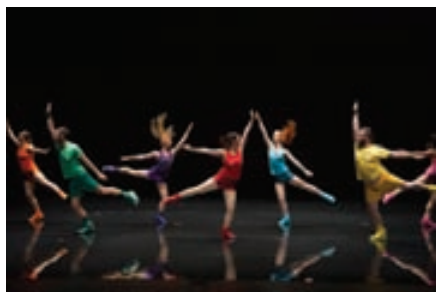


BE FESTIVAL

The soul of Europe in the heart of Birmingham...

Created in 2010 as a direct response to Birmingham's need for more international work, BE Festival annually brings together artists from across Europe to showcase a diverse range of contemporary theatre. The event is the brainchild of Miguel Oyarzun and Isla Aguilar. "We were invited to attend a conference organised by the Arts Council to look at how to improve diversity in the Midlands," recalls Miguel. "A recurring theme throughout the conference was the lack of international work visiting the region, so we suggested filling the void with a festival."

Asked to summarise what the BE Festival has done for Birmingham, Isla and Miguel offer a modest response: "It's about what the city has given to us, because it's quite a feat for two Spanish people to run a theatre festival here in Birmingham. The city is very welcoming to strangers. We've always felt very supported, and that's fantastic."



BE Festival 2017 highlights:

Asingleline

Frankfurt-based theatre & dance collective Mamaza look to 're-constitute the red line' by literally drawing a straight line between Birmingham's Ladywood area and The Rep, tracing the connection between the city and its spaces for public arts. A line will run through spaces such as parks, squares and high streets, as well as houses, restaurants and bars.

Aerobics! A Ballet In 3 Acts

Featuring seven dancers presenting a carefully choreographed performance structured across three distinct acts, Haptic Tide's production places aerobics in a different context. The company has been highly praised for its exploration of the connections between documentary theatre, oral history and dance.

Portraits And Short Stories

Dutch company Panama Pictures makes use of ropes, trampolines and acrobatics to explore the relationships that bind together families and different generations. The piece features six male performers aged between 20 and 60, unpicks father-and-son relationships and traces the lines bridging youthful bravado with quiet vulnerability.

Solitudes

Spain-based Kulunka Theatre Company's production explores the sense of disconnection that can accompany the experience of reaching old age. As with Kulunka's previous work, the cast wear masks which show 'striking, characterful expressions'. There's no dialogue, meaning that body language and movement become the key means by which the characters' relationships are explained.

Anatomia Pública (Public Anatomy)

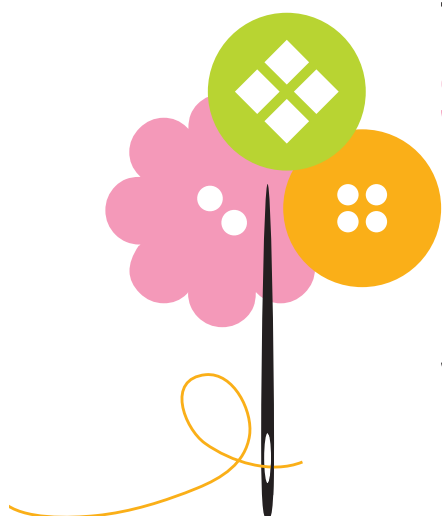
Man Drake / Tomeo Vergés
Man Drake's traditionally playful approach to their work is once again in evidence here, as the company recounts a story of strange and fractured relationships in the aftermath of war. The piece is performed in an intense style that bridges physical theatre and dance.

Revolt Athens

Odc Ensemble/Vyrsodepseio
Three politically-minded cast members offer insights into post-crisis Greece. The company behind the show, Odc Ensemble, provide a unique city guide to Athens, presenting through performance, video footage and music 'a multi-faceted window into the living and breathing reality of a place'. Odc Ensemble are an international, politically-orientated group whose work often incorporates non-actors in public spaces.

BE Festival shows at The REP, Birmingham, from Tuesday 4 to Saturday 8 July.
For more information, visit befestival.org

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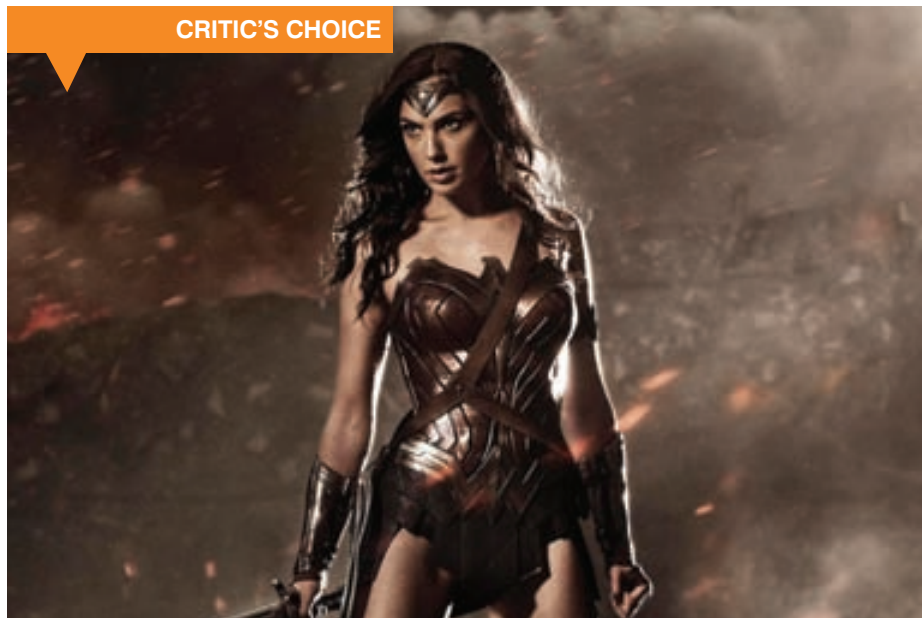
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Wonder Woman CERT 12a

Starring Gal Gadot, Chris Pine, Connie Nielsen, Robin Wright, Danny Huston, Elena Anaya, Lucy Davis, Saïd Taghmaoui, Ewen Bremner, David Thewlis Directed by Patty Jenkins (USA)

Princess Diana (Gal Gadot) is actually an Amazon living on the island nation of Themyscira. When a military pilot (Chris Pine) is washed up on the beach, she learns of the horrors of the First World War and so decides to go to London to do her bit. The fourth instalment in the so-called DC Extended Universe (the last was Suicide Squad), Wonder Woman adds a bit of feminine muscle. Of course, she did appear in Batman v Superman: Dawn Of Justice, but the new film is set considerably earlier in her heroic evolution. Good, too, to see the Solihull-born Lucy Davis (from The Office) in such stalwart company. In 3D.

Released Thurs 1 June



Film highlights released in June...



Baywatch CERT 15 (116 mins)

Starring Dwayne Johnson, Zac Efron, Alexandra Daddario, Kelly Rohrbach, Priyanka Chopra Directed by Seth Gordon (USA)

After the failure of CHiPS, Paramount has rushed this latest TV-to-film adaptation into cinemas. The Rock is the new Hoff, a strapping lifeguard who locks horns with a rival six-packer on the Bay. This time it's played for laughs, although the bods will remain hot.

Now showing

Berlin Syndrome

CERT 15 (116 mins)

Starring Teresa Palmer, Max Riemelt, Matthias Habich
Directed by Cate Shortland (Australia)

Australia's Cate Shortland doesn't make films very often but they're invariably exceptional. This one is based on the novel by Melanie Joosten and stars Teresa Palmer as an Ozzie backpacker whose one-night stand with a charismatic German man culminates in her enforced captivity.

Released Fri 9 June



My Cousin Rachel

CERT 12a (106 mins)

Starring Rachel Weisz, Sam Claflin, Iain Glen, Holliday Grainger, Andrew Knott
Directed by Roger Michell (UK/USA)

Rachel Ashley is something else. Her cousin believes she murdered his guardian, but the more he gets to know her, the more he finds himself succumbing to her allure... Based on the 1951 novel by Daphne du Maurier.

Released Fri 9 June

Film highlights released in June...

The Mummy CERT 12a

Starring **Tom Cruise, Sofia Boutella, Annabelle Wallis, Jake Johnson, Courtney B Vance, Russell Crowe**
Directed by **Alex Kurtzman (USA)**

The Mummy has had many incarnations. Universal Studios first unleashed the embalmed revenant in the form of Boris Karloff way back in 1932. Since then everybody from Lon Chaney Jr to Christopher Lee has played the Bandaged One. In the new

present-day version, Tom Cruise is our gun-toting adventurer who discovers the tomb of Ahmanet, an Egyptian princess who was buried alive two thousand years ago. Now she's ready to wreak her revenge.

Russell Crowe plays Dr Jekyll, another monstrous creation ready for his own spin-off franchise as part of the Universal Monsters Shared Universe [sic]. Seriously. In 3D.

Released Fri 9 June

CRITIC'S CHOICE



The Shack CERT 12a (132 mins)

Starring **Sam Worthington, Octavia Spencer, Tim McGraw, Aviv Alush, Radha Mitchell, Alice Braga**
Directed by **Stuart Hazeldine (USA)**

To Mackenzie Phillips (Sam Worthington), the shack is a place of pain and the memories of a father who submitted his mother and himself to regular beatings. It is perhaps ironic, then, that now he's a grown-up married man with three children of his own, his youngest daughter has nicknamed God 'Papa'. Then the shack takes on a whole new identity, producing emotions of untold intensity...

You don't come across a film like this every day. Not only is it profoundly old-fashioned but simply quite audacious.

Based on the novel by William Paul Young, it attempts to open the eyes of its audience to a whole new perspective of life – and of faith. Unfortunately, its soporific pace does it no favours and only the most devout and broad-minded are likely to embrace its message of saintly forgiveness.

Released Fri 9 June

Wilson CERT 15 (94 mins)

Starring **Woody Harrelson, Laura Dern, Isabella Amara, Judy Greer, Cheryl Hines, Margo Martindale** Directed by **Craig Johnson (USA)**

Adapted by Daniel Clowes from his own graphic novel, Wilson is the story of a neurotic and lonely divorcee who discovers that he has a teenage daughter. All things being equal, this should be a gift of a part for Woody Harrelson.

Released Fri 9 June



Gifted CERT 12a (101 mins)

Starring **Chris Evans, Mckenna Grace, Lindsay Duncan, Jenny Slate, Octavia Spencer, Glenn Plummer** Directed by **Marc Webb (USA)**

Films about child prodigies are usually decent value and this one features a seven-year-old with a rather good grasp of advanced calculus. However, matters are complicated when Mary's grandmother (Lindsay Duncan) hears of her abilities and decides to fight for her custody.

Released Fri 16 June

Churchill CERT PG (98 mins)

Starring **Brian Cox, Miranda Richardson, John Slattery, James Purefoy, Ella Purnell, Julian Wadham** Directed by **Jonathan Teplitzky (UK)**

With six months to go before Gary Oldman unleashes his portrayal of the British Bulldog in Joe Wright's Darkest Hour, we have Brian Cox chewing on the title role. A character study of the prime minister plagued by doubt, depression and foreboding, the film examines his 24 hours in office prior to D-Day.

Released Fri 16 June



Rock Dog CERT PG (90 mins)

With the voices of **Luke Wilson, Eddie Izzard, JK Simmons, Lewis Black, Kenan Thompson, Matt Dillon**
Directed by **Ash Brannon (China/USA)**

Based on the Chinese graphic novel Tibetan Rock Dog, this cartoon is a co-production between the People's Republic of China and the US. Luke Wilson is the voice of Bodi, a Tibetan Mastiff who is expected to follow the family tradition and become a guard dog. But all Bodi really wants is to be a rock star... In 3D.

Released Fri 16 June

Hampstead CERT 12a (103 mins)

Starring **Diane Keaton, Brendan Gleeson, James Norton, Lesley Manville, Jason Watkins, Simon Callow**
Directed by **Joel Hopkins (UK)**

The character Diane Keaton plays is made up, but Brendan Gleeson's is very much a true-life phenomenon. He plays a variation of Harry Hallows, an eccentric individual who lived for 20 years in a shed on Hampstead Heath. Then, when the developers moved in, he claimed his squatter's rights.

Released Thurs 22 June

Transformers: The Last Knight CERT tbc

Starring **Mark Wahlberg, Stanley Tucci, Isabela Moner, Josh Duhamel, Tyrese Gibson, John Turturro, Laura Haddock, Anthony Hopkins** Directed by **Michael Bay (USA)**

The fifth episode in the franchise based on the Hasbro toy, The Last Knight gives us more of the same. The most expensive instalment yet (\$260million), the film sees Mark Wahlberg's Cade Yeager team up with an Oxford professor (Anthony Hopkins) in order to find out why the Transformers keep on coming back to Earth. In 3D.

Released Thurs 22 June



Rough Night CERT tbc

Starring **Scarlett Johansson, Kate McKinnon, Jillian Bell, Ilana Glazer, Zoë Kravitz, Demi Moore** Directed by **Lucia Aniello (USA)**

In the tradition of Bridesmaids, Sisters, Bad Moms, et al, here comes another American movie in which its female protagonists are

not above a bit of bad behaviour. Here, five best friends from college reunite for a bachelorette weekend in Miami and accidentally kill a male stripper. It's played for laughs, of course.

Released Fri 16 June

The Book Of Henry CERT tbc

Starring **Naomi Watts, Jaeden Lieberher, Jacob Tremblay, Sarah Silverman, Lee Pace, Maddie Ziegler, Dean Norris**
Directed by **Colin Trevorrow (USA)**

Henry Carpenter is 11 years old and he's written a plan-of-action in his book. His scheme is to rescue his neighbour Christine from the clutches of her stepfather, the Police Commissioner (Dean Norris). Then Henry's mother (Naomi Watts) finds the book...

Released Fri 23 June



Despicable Me 3 CERT PG

With the voices of **Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker, Miranda Cosgrove, Jenny Slate, Steve Coogan** Directed by **Pierre Coffin, Kyle Balda and Eric Guillon (USA)**

The once-aspiring Greatest Villain of All Time, Gru (voiced by Steve Carell) is now fighting to

save the world from the clutches of an arrogant former child star (Trey Parker). Then Gru discovers he has a twin brother, the utterly charming Dru. Expect Minions. In 3D.

Released Fri 30 June

The House CERT 15

Starring **Will Ferrell, Amy Poehler, Jason Mantzoukas, Nick Kroll, Jeremy Renner**
Directed by **Andrew J Cohen (USA)**

Having wiped out their daughter's college fund, Scott and Kate decide to set up a casino in their basement to make the money back. It's got to be better than gambling, right?

Released Fri 30 June



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Mohsen is a world renowned artist living in Birmingham and has exhibited his paintings in more than 70 shows throughout the United Kingdom and Internationally.

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Visual Arts previews from around the region

Sheela Gowda

Ikon, Birmingham,
Fri 16 June - Sun 3 September

Banglahor-based artist Sheela Gowda's Ikon exhibition features sheets of flattened metal drums recycled into metal bowls. Called Bandlis, the bowls are used extensively in the Indian construction industry as a means of carrying concrete slurry, sand and other building materials.

Although the exhibition is a considered response to the gallery's architecture, Gowda is careful to avoid referring to it as a site-specific piece. "The work may initially be inspired by the space in which it's exhibited," she explains, "but its elements could take on other variants in other spaces."



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Sidney Nolan Aboriginal Art (1980)
Spray paint on canvas, © Sidney Nolan Trust

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Sheela Gowda @ Stanislav Falen (2015)

Sheela Gowda

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24 June – 10 September



One of Monet's most iconic images visits the Barber this summer
 Exciting programme of accompanying events

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Come and join the conversation

Visual Arts previews from around the region



Remember Me: Charlotte Hodes

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 3 June - Sun 3 September

A 12-metre-long frieze, consisting of 120 wall-mounted ceramic pieces, takes pride of place in Wolverhampton Art Gallery’s new Charlotte Hodes exhibition. The pieces have been arranged to create a single image that combines elegant historic patterns with contemporary and digital imagery.

A collection of intricate papercuts and a table-top installation of over 350 plates also feature in the exhibition, which perfectly exemplifies the way in which Hodes’ work crosses the boundary between fine art and craft practice.

Only Light And Shadow

The Barber Institute, Birmingham, Fri 23 June - Sun 22 October

Francisco de Goya’s career coincided with a politically turbulent period in Spanish history - and it was through his masterful treatment of light and shadow in his paint-

ings that the artist was best able to articulate his fears and observations about the world around him... Five of Goya’s most enigmatic works take centre stage in this new exhibition, which also features paintings by numerous other Spanish artists, including Picasso and Miró.

Thresholds

The Waterhall Gallery, Birmingham, Sat 17 June - Sun 3 September

“Thresholds is a very different type of photography project,” explains Mike Best, Board Director of Colmore BID, which is supporting the enterprise. “It will provide a unique way to learn about the significant role Birmingham played at the very dawn of photography.”

The virtual-reality art show celebrates the city’s contribution to the technology that revolutionised ‘the way we see, record, represent and understand the visible and invisible world’.

Showing in Birmingham prior to a short

tour, Thresholds is the work of artist Mat Collishaw and photographic historian Pete James. It will be presented in the gallery alongside a series of related events.



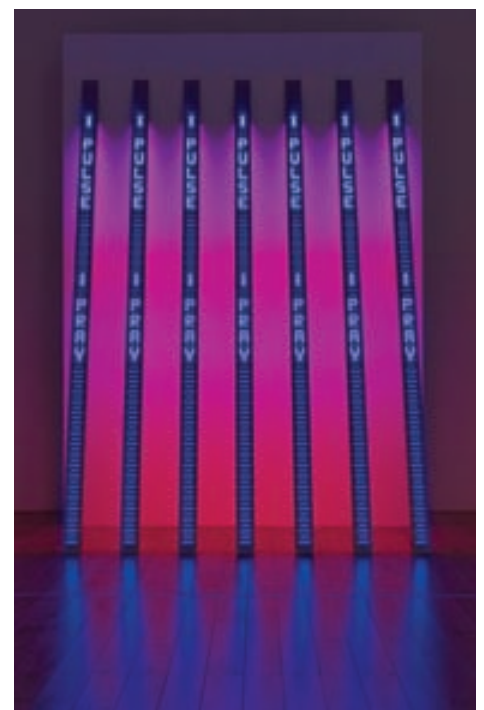
Artist Rooms: Jenny Holzer

mac, Birmingham, until Sun 10 September

Hailed as a pioneer of conceptual art, Jenny Holzer uses painting, projection and LED displays to produce highly political work that focuses on themes of violence, power, war, sex and money.

The highlight of this new exhibition of her art is the towering Blue Purple Tilt, a work comprising seven double-sided vertical LED displays.

The pieces included in the show have been drawn from the Artist Rooms collection of modern and contemporary art, which is shared with museums and galleries across the UK.



Antarctica: Life In A Hostile Land

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, Mon 5 June - Sun 17 September

A collection of prized historic exhibits and modern-day technology is brought together in this new interactive attraction. Designed to celebrate the wonders of the Antarctic continent, the exhibition features a 360° virtual-reality experience of Halley VI, the UK’s second largest research facility in Antarctica. Other exhibition highlights include original film footage, equipment from Antarctic expeditions, an outfit worn by a member of Sir Ernest Shackleton’s epic 1914/17 expedition and photos from celebrated wildlife photographer Ben Osborne.

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Images, left to right: Edward Burd Clocks, Morgan Strickland Decorative Arts and Jeroen Markies Art Deco

Events previews from around the region

The Stitching, Sewing & Hobbycrafts Show

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 30 June - Sun 2 July

An absolute dream for craft enthusiasts, this hugely popular event features talks and demonstrations, new product launches and plenty of inspiration for the thousands of visitors who pass through its doors.

Attractions at the 2017 edition of the show include jewellery-making and beading workshops, papercrafts and cardmaking, and the chance to learn how to sew.

Among the event's contributors are multi-media textile artist Elena Costello, who designs hand-knit garments for yarn companies, and Stephanie Redfern and Sue Bibby, both of whom base their work on the natural world. Other highlights of the show include a collection of ceremonial kimonos and accessories, and a new exhibition from Stitch In The Middle - the Midlands-located members of the Contemporary Quilt Group.



Dinosaurs In The Wild

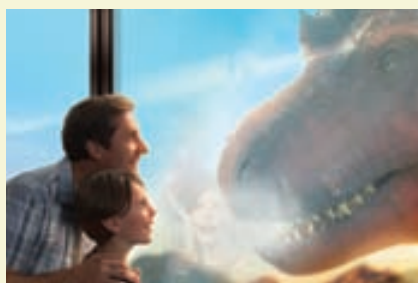
NEC, Birmingham,
Sat 24 June - Wed 23 August

Dramatic storytelling and high-end digital graphics and animatronics lie at the heart of this brand new show.

The 70-minute experience combines theatre, theme park fun and the very latest scientific research to create an immersive adventure that's 'designed to make you feel as though you're really there, in amongst the dinosaurs, in their world, at their time'.

The show has been created by the award-winning producers of the hit BBC TV series, *Walking With Dinosaurs*.

"Your Dinosaurs In The Wild experience will be like stepping into the most unforgettable yet educational story ever," they explain, "and we can promise a few incredible surprises along the way. So get yourself ready for the ultimate voyage of discovery!"



Step Back To The 1940s

Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth,
Sat 24 - Sun 25 June and Sat 1 - Sun 2 July

All aboard for a Severn Valley Railway train journey back in time to the 1940s.

The railway's lighthearted homage to wartime Britain features an impressive selection of attractions up and down the line.

Visitors are encouraged to get dressed up and join the event's costumed re-enactors, with 'Prime Minister Winston Churchill' and 'King George VI' both in attendance.

Taking place across two weekends, the festival includes firefighting reenactments, vintage bus rides, musical entertainment, a wartime newsreel, a vintage marketplace and a big band show featuring the Worcestershire Jazz Orchestra.

The Cosford Air Show

RAF Cosford, Sun 11 June

Regarded as one of the country's top aviation events, Cosford's annual air show attracts thousands of visitors and features spectacular flying displays, military exhibitions and static aircraft displays. Highlights of this year's event include celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the Royal Air Force Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

The show also focuses on the UK's involvement in space technology and includes numerous exhibits from several public displays.



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ABOVE & BEYOND



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'The Range Rover Story' includes two exciting new tours which take you through five decades of a truly British Icon from the swinging 1960's to the present day. Revealing previously unseen materials and artefacts, the Range Rover Story takes you through five decades of relentless progress. You'll travel back in time to see the earliest sketches, engineering mules, as well as a full size Range Rover prototype clay replica. See how those principles have evolved into the extended Range Rover family of today, and be one of the first to see the latest addition, the new Range Rover Velar. Price per adult: £49. Price per child: £39.

To explore this enthralling exhibition, book by calling 0333 733 3003 quote RR52017 or visit www.solihull.landroverexperience.co.uk/rangeroverstory



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The BBC Good Food Show

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 15 - Sun 18 June

Brimming with inspiration, handy tips and sure-to-be-welcome advice on how to create the perfect summer menu, the BBC Good Food Show returns to the NEC to provide a food experience 'like no other'.

In addition to the host of celebrities who're on hand to share their knowledge - including Michel Roux Jr (pictured), Mary Berry, James Martin, Nadiya Hussein and Birmingham's

very own Glynn Purnell - the four-day event also offers visitors an abundance of demonstrations, tastings, book signings and shopping experiences to enjoy. The BBC Good Food Kitchen and the Supertheatre make a welcome return too. A ticket to the show also provides access to the BBC Gardeners' World Live event, taking place at the NEC at the same time.



Dragonboat Festival

Brindleyplace, Birmingham, Sat 24 June

This well-established annual fundraiser sees members of the city's business community competing for first place on Birmingham's Fazeley Canal. This year, the organisers have set themselves the challenge of raising £100,000 for Birmingham-based blood cancer charity Cure Leukaemia.

The one-day event features numerous teams taking to the water - in fancy dress - in traditional Chinese longboats.

The festival also boasts plenty of entertainment away from the canal, with Brindleyplace's public squares being brought to life by traditional Chinese street entertainment and numerous family-friendly activities.

Summer In Southside

Birmingham Hippodrome, Sat 17 - Sun 18 June

Birmingham's Southside district once again plays host to a selection of free outdoor events this month, with dance, music and theatre performances all featuring in the festival's two-day programme.

The theme for 2017 is 'the great outdoors', so visitors shouldn't be surprised to see Farmer Giles in attendance, complete with five-bar gate and pearls of wisdom on all manner of subjects. Birmingham's original mega-folk favourites The Destroyers are on hand too, bringing their unique brand of madcap energy and musical virtuosity to the Southside stage.

Other attractions include Roots - a production centred on the experiences of two refugees living in the branches of a towering tree - A Country Fayre Picnic - an interactive storytelling adventure inspired by traditional folk tales - and Step Hop House, a quirky, colourful and energetic collision of dance and music.



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The Guardian

photo: Brooke DiDonato



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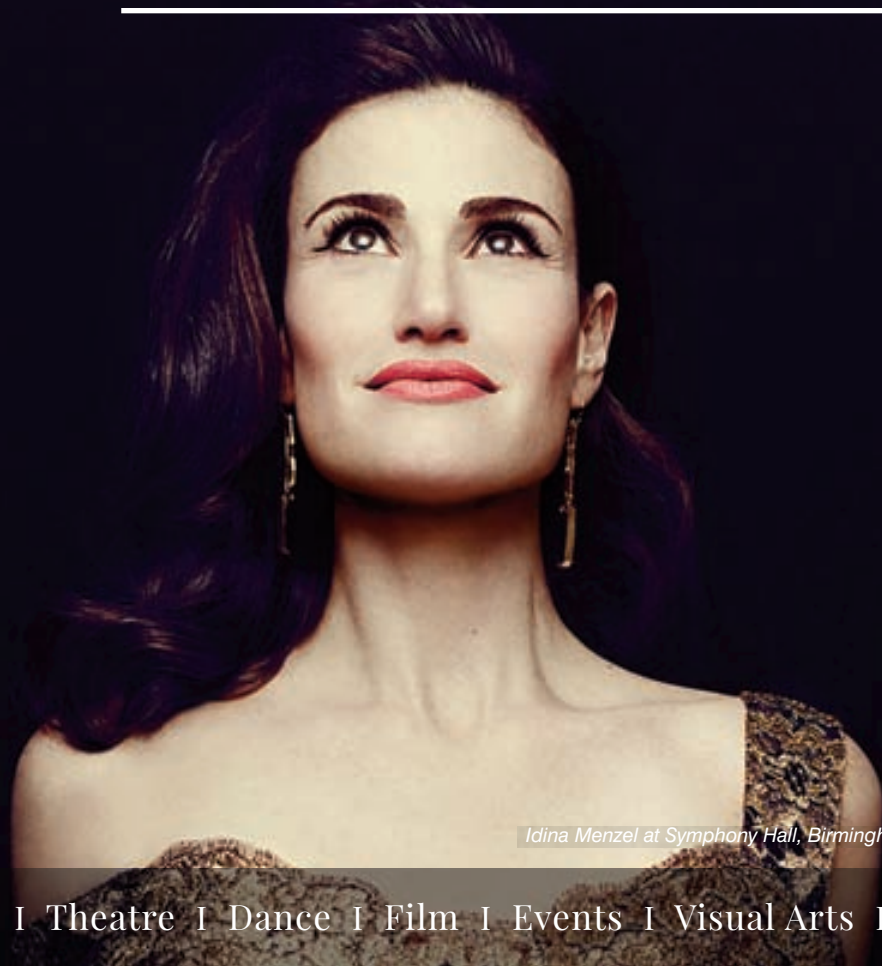
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Your week by week
listings guide
June 2017

the list



Idina Menzel at Symphony Hall, Birmingham - Monday 19 June

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

What's On

Thurs 1 to Sun 11 June



Summer Market at
The Bond in Digbeth
Sat 10 June

Mon 12 to Sun 18 June



Kevin & Karen dance at
Symphony Hall
Sun 18 June

Mon 19 to Sun 25 June



Foodies Festival at
Cannon Hill Park
Fri 23 - Sun 25 June

Mon 26 to Fri 30 June



Madam Butterfly at
Birmingham Hippodrome
Tues 27 - Fri 30 June

THROUGHOUT JUNE

Visual Arts

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

I WANT! I WANT!: ART & TECHNOLOGY A curated selection from the Arts Council Collection - with key loans from other major collections - that presents the work of contemporary artists using new technologies, until Sun 1 Oct

Ikon Gallery

NEW SIDNEY NOLAN One of the most important Australian artists of the 20th century, who lived the last 10 years of his life on the Welsh-Midlands border, Sat 10 June - Sun 3 Sept

RBSA Gallery

NEW TWO DISTANT VIEWS - JOHANNA ASHBY ARBSA AND MAJELLA O'NEILL COLLINS Close friends Johanna and Majella exhibit their different approaches to expressing in art their love of the West Cork coastline, Mon 12 - Sat 24 June

NEW NEW CURATORS: WATERCOLOUR New curator volunteers have selected a range of watercolours by RBSA artists to explore and champion this often-overlooked medium, Thurs 15 - Sat 24 June

NEW FRIENDS 2017 The annual display of artwork by the Friends promotes their range of artistic talents and acknowledges their importance to the Society, Thurs 29 June - Sat 22 July

The Barber Institute

NEW MORE REAL THAN LIFE This exhibition explores early photographic studio portraiture, including the popular carte-de-visite format, Fri 9 June - Sun 24 Sept

NEW WATER LILY POND - CLAUDE MONET

The Japanese bridge over the water lily pond in Monet's garden at Giverny is the subject of this spectacular painting, on loan from the Art Institute of Chicago, Sat 24 June - Sun 10 Sept

mac, Birmingham

NEW FUTUREMAKERS A summer-long programme which aims to inspire the designers and makers of the future through acts of playing, making and building. An exhibition of historical and contemporary examples of designing through play accompanies the residency programme, Sat 17 June - Sun 3 Sept

BOM (B'ham Open Media)

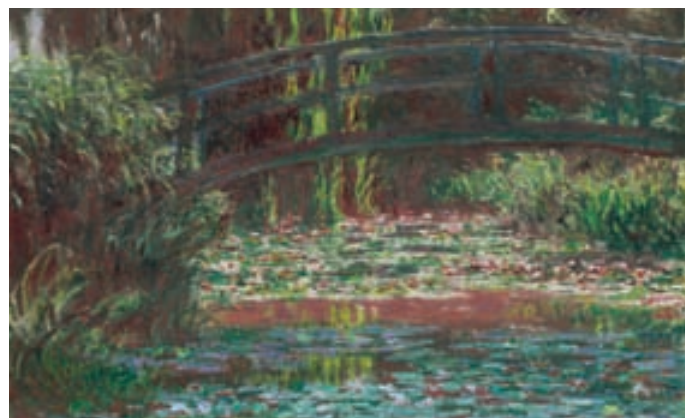
NEW A WHITE HOUSE ON PARADISE STREET Exhibition inspired by what may be the first Daguerreotype image made in Birmingham, and potentially the first in England using the Daguerreotype process (invented in 1839 by Louis Daguerre, using silver-plated copper), Sat 17 June - Sat 2 Sept

Other VISUAL ARTS

MAX EASTLEY - AEOLIAN HARP AND SCULPTURES FOR PERROTT'S FOLLY An installation involving eight lightweight Aeolian harps mounted on the roof of Perrott's Folly, a landmark 18th century tower in Birmingham's Ladywood district, until Sun 18 June, Perrott's Folly, Birmingham

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

TOTALITY (2015) BY KATIE PATERSON The artwork is large rotating mirror ball that illuminates and sparkles with over 10,000 images of the solar eclipse, Sat 27 May - Sun 1 Oct, Thinktank at Millennium Point, B'ham



Claude Monet's *The Water Lily Pond* - The Barber Institute, Birmingham

Gigs

CALE TYSON Thurs 1 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE CHRISTIANS Thurs 1 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

TAKE THAT Thurs 1 - Sat 3 June, Genting Arena, Birmingham

THE SESSIONS - A LIVE RE-STAGING OF THE BEATLES AT ABBEY ROAD STUDIOS Thurs 1 June, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

HARVEY SUTHERLAND Thurs 1 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RISCAS, KING PURPLE, THE REAL COOL & JUNIOR WEEB Thurs 1 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

INTO THE ARK Fri 2 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FRED'S HOUSE Fri 2 June, Artrix, Worcestershire

LEO SAYER Fri 2 June, Birmingham Town Hall

WRAPPED IN PLASTIC, ST LUCIFER & VIEON Fri 2 June, The Flapper, Birmingham

VAN ROCKMAN, ROLLIN' SIXES & THE CAROUSELS Thurs 1 June, The Flapper, Birmingham

JOHN SMYTHE Fri 2 June, Irish Centre, Birmingham

UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE Fri 2 - Sat 3 June, The Jam House, B'ham

CALLAGHAN Fri 2 June, The Glee Club, B'ham

BAD PENNY Fri 2 June, O2 Academy, B'ham

JAH WOBBLE'S INVADERS OF THE HEART Fri 2 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FREE AT LAST Fri 2 June, Route 44, Birmingham

YOUNG PILGRIMS, FO-FOULAH & DISTRICTS Fri 2 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BREAK STUFF Fri 2 June, The Asylum, Birmingham

ED GEATER, LADY SANITY AND ANDREW



The Hoosiers - Queen Square, Wolverhampton

SOUTER Fri 2 June, mac, Birmingham

FROM THE JAM Fri 2 June, The Robin, Bilston

ENJOY WOLVERHAMPTON LIVE! Featuring The Hoosiers, Toploader, Kevin Simm, Lucy Spraggan and C'Beebies' favourite Swashbucklers, Cook and Line! Sat 3 June, Queen Square, Wolverhampton

THE JACKOBINS Sat 3 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE SMYTHS Sat 3 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

QUILL Sat 3 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS Sat 3 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MAZ MITRENKO Sat 3 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JANE MCDONALD Sat 3 June, Wolverhampton

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

EMMA BLACKERY Sat 3 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

KICK UP THE 80'S Sat 3 June, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

WILL AND THE PEOPLE Sat 3 June, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

SUNJAY Sat 3 June, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

FAITH - THE GEORGE MICHAEL LEGACY Sat 3 June, Lichfield Garrick

DERMOT HEGARTY Sun 4 June, Irish Centre, Birmingham

NEON WALTZ Sun 4 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE MERSEY BEATLES Sun 4 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Sun 4 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MOSTLY AUTUMN Sun 4 June, The Robin, Bilston



Neon Waltz - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Classical Music

CBSO: BEETHOVEN'S SEVENTH Featuring Michael Seal (conductor) & Tasmin Little (violin). Programme includes works by Britten, Walton & Beethoven, Thurs 1 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE CHAMBER CHOIR Conducted by Paul Spicer & featuring Nicholas Morgan on organ, Thurs 1 June, Birmingham Conservatoire

AURORA ORCHESTRA Featuring Nicholas Collon (conductor) & Mary Bevan (soprano). Programme includes works by Richard Ayres & Brahms, Sun 4 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

TOM BINNS, HAL CRUTTENDEN, PETE TECKMAN & KEVIN DEWSBURY Thurs 1 June, The George Hotel, Lichfield

SCOTT CAPURRO, IAN MOORE & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 1 June, The Glee Club, B'ham

KUM-N-AVALOFF COMEDY NIGHT Thurs 1 June, Stourbridge Town Hall

MICKY FLANAGAN Thurs 1 - Sat 3 June, Barclaycard Arena, B'ham

SCOTT CAPURRO, IAN MOORE, JAMALI MADDIX & ANDY ROBINSON Fri 2 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham



CRAIG HILL, JOHN HASTINGS, IVO GRAHAM & MANDY KNIGHT Fri 2 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

AL MURRAY Fri 2 June, Lichfield Garrick

SUSAN MURRAY & TWO COMICS TBC Fri 2 & Sat 2 June, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

SCOTT CAPURRO, IAN MOORE, JAMALI MADDIX & ANDY ROBINSON Sat 3 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NICO YEARWOOD, SMASH, KANE BROWN & THANYIA MOORE Sat 3 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CRAIG HILL, JOHN HASTINGS, IVO GRAHAM & MANDY KNIGHT Sat 3 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

MR CEE, WILL-E, GERRY K & ARIELLE SOUMA Sat 3 June, mac, Birmingham

BEN VAN DER VELDE Sat 3 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

IAIN LEE Sun 4 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

COMEDY ALL DAYER Brum Radio comedy show featuring Josh Pugh, Stu Woodings, Gareth Berliner and more... Sun 4 June, Cherry Reds, Birmingham

Theatre

DIRTY DANCING The classic story of Baby and Johnny, two fiercely independent young spirits from different worlds, who come together to experience the most challenging and triumphant summer of their lives, until Sat 3 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

OLIVER! THE MUSICAL The Crescent Theatre Company present Dickens' classic Victorian tale, set to Lionel Bart's memorable score, until Sat 3 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE WITCHES New version of Roald Dahl's classic story, until Sat 3 June, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

JULIUS CAESAR Bloody story of conspiracy and murder, noble intentions and ignoble actions, until Sat 9 Sep, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

VICE VERSA 'Side-splitting' romp, lovingly ripped off from the Roman comedies of Plautus, until Sat 9 Sep, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

SCORCH Story of first love told through the eyes of a gender-curious teen, this is a story which examines how the human story often gets lost amidst the headlines, Thurs 1 - Fri 2 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

OTHER STORIES Through acutely observed and surreal conversations, Other Stories sees a beguiling world emerge that is both hilarious and humane, Thurs 1 - Sat 3 June, George Cadbury Hall (University Of B'ham)

SALOMÉ Owen Horsley directs Oscar Wilde's lyrical, one-act drama, Fri 2 June - Wed 6 Sep, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

FENCES (12a) Drama. Starring Denzel Washington and Viola Davis. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 1 June

LION (PG) Biography/Drama. Starring Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 1 June

IT WAS FIFTY YEARS AGO TODAY! THE BEATLES: SGT PEPPER & BEYOND (12a) Documentary. Starring Pete Best, Hunter Davies. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 1 & Fri 4 June

BELLEVILLE RENDEZVOUS (12) Animation. Highbury Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 2 June

WONDER WOMAN (12a) Action/Adventure. Starring Gal Gadot, Robin Wright. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, From Fri 2 June

GOLDFINGER (PG) Action/Adventure. Starring Sean Connery, Gert Fröbe. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 3 June

MY DOG TULIP (12) Animation/Drama. With the voices of Christopher Plummer, Lynn Redgrave. Highbury Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 3 June

PERSEPOLIS (12) Animation/Biography. With the voices of Chiara Mastroianni, Catherine Deneuve. Highbury Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 3 June

BOX OF DELIGHTS PROGRAMME 2 (U) Animation. Nine award-winning short films from the British Animation Awards, specially selected for 8-12yr olds. mac, Birmingham, Sat 3 June

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Thurs 1 June, showing at selected cinemas

WONDER WOMAN (tbc)

AFTER THE STORM (PG)

DAUGHTERS OF THE DUST (12a)

DOUGH (15)

MY LIFE AS A COURGETTE (PG)

Events

TAMWORTH CASTLE DRAGON HUNT Hafgrim, the brother of Ruby, Tamworth Castle's resident dragon, has gone missing - and it's your job to help find him, until Fri 2 June, Tamworth Castle

JURASSIC KINGDOM All-new outdoor animatronic dinosaur experience, until Sun 4 June, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

SUPERHEROES, SUPERPOWERS & SUPER DAYS OUT A week of superhero-themed activities, workshops and

demos across the Museum sites, until Sun 4 June, Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Shropshire

IN THE THICK OF IT: CHILDREN IN INDUSTRY Take a walk in the well-worn shoes of the Black Country's working children and experience the ups and downs of their day-to-day lives, until Sun 4 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

WHITSUN WEEK AT DRAYTON MANOR White-knuckle rides, gentler rides and plenty more to enjoy during the half-term holiday, until Sun 4 June, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Staffs

PIRATE WEEK Grab your crew and jump aboard for a swashbuckling adventure, until Sun 4 June, National Sea Life Centre Birmingham

KATE'S STORYTREE Starting with travelling Storybike and a treasure chest of props, children and adults are invited on a Storytime adventure, Fri 2 June, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

UK GAMES EXPO Featuring all aspects of the gaming hobby, Fri 2 - Sun 4 June, NEC, Birmingham

A VERY VIKING VOYAGE FAMILY DAY Jam-packed day full of exciting activities - storytelling, music, crafts - specially designed for the under '5's, Sat 3 June, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

COLLECTORMANIA 24 Sat 3 - Sun 4 June, NEC, Birmingham

Festivals

WYCHWOOD FESTIVAL Wychwood Festival is an annual music festival held at Cheltenham racecourse in Gloucestershire. Line-up includes Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark, The Levellers and Kanga Bongo Man, Fri 2 - Sun 4 June, Cheltenham Racecourse

ASPARAFEST Line-up includes 3 Daft Monkeys, The Bar-Steward Sons of Val Doonican, Fri 2 - Sun 4 June, Ashdown Farm, Evesham

LICHFIELD BLUES & JAZZ FESTIVAL Returning to Lichfield City Centre for 2017 with an explosive line up of new talent and seasoned performers from near and far. Line-up includes Climax Blues Band, Fri 2 - Sun 4 June, various locations in and around Lichfield

THE ACOUSTIC FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN 2017 line-up includes Fairport Convention, Wishbone Ash, Nell Bryden, Hoosiers, Nick Harper, Seize The Day, Boy On A Dolphin, Ed Tudor-Pole, Bar-Steward Sons Of Val Doonican, Fri 2 - Sun 4 June, Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire

VALEFEST Europe's largest student-run charity festival which this year celebrates its 13th year, Sat 3 Jun, The Vale, Birmingham



Martha Tilston - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Gigs

PHIL DOLEMAN & IAN EMMERSON Mon 5 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE GOON SAX & QUINN Mon 5 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BILL RYDER JONES Mon 5 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE BOOTLEG BEATLES Tues 6 June, Birmingham Town Hall

PIXX Tues 6 June, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

WHY? Tues 6 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THEA GILMORE Tues 6 June, mac, B'ham

THE WYZE GUYZ Tues 6 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

ROD STEWART Wed 7 June, Greenhouse Meadow, Shrewsbury

THE FLYIN' A'S & LEON GORMLEY Wed 7 June, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

FROTH Wed 7 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ELTON JOHN Wed 7 June, Genting Arena, Birmingham

KYSHONA ARMSTRONG PLUS ROBERT LANE Wed 7 June, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

TERRY REID Wed 7 June, The Robin, Bilston

LOW ISLAND Wed 7 June, The Sunflower

Lounge, Birmingham

MARTHA TILSTON Thurs 8 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CUBA, RUSSEL DEAN & TEK NOTICE & REAL ZEKs Thurs 8 June, The Flapper, B'ham

THE 3 SIXTIES Thurs 8 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

MIKE FLETCHER'S PICASSO Thurs 8 June, mac, Birmingham

BETH ROWLEY Thurs 8 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

MUMBO-JUMBO Fri 9 June, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

OASISH Fri 9 June, Eleven, Birmingham

RELAPSE WITH BRENDAN TOWEY Fri 9 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE UPBEAT BEATLES Fri 9 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

ROCKET Fri 9 - Sat 10 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE HIGH KINGS Fri 9 June, Irish Centre, Birmingham

NASHVILLE Fri 9 June, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

FRAN THE MAN Fri 9 June, Irish Centre, Birmingham

FLEETWOOD BAC Fri 9 June, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

THE DOORS ALIVE Fri 9 June, The Robin, Bilston

THE ORIGINAL BURNING FLAMES Sat 10 June, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE CISSY STONE BAND Sat 10 June, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

DIKEMBE Sat 10 June, The Flapper, B'ham

BURTON JOYCE Sat 10 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE MAJOR TOMS Sat 10 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BLUES CLUB WITH PAUL STEADMAN BAND Sat 10 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BABAJACK Sat 10 June, Artrix, Worcester

THE FATHER TEDS Sat 10 June, Irish Centre, Birmingham

T REXTASY Sat 10 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

SMALL FAKERS Sat 10 June, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

THE DIRTY DC - AC/DC TRIBUTE Sat 10 June, The Robin, Bilston

EYEDRESS & PHUNDO ART Sat 10 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

JOE BROUGHTON'S FOLK ENSEMBLE Sun 11 June, The Spotted Dog, Digbeth, B'ham

TONY KEARNEY Sun 11 June, Irish Centre, Birmingham

MULTI STORY Sun 11 June, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN PROM WITH THOMAS TROTTER Featuring Crispian Steele-Perkins (trumpet). Programme includes works by Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Burt Bacharach & George Gershwin, Mon 5 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: SCHUBERT'S UNFINISHED Featuring Nicholas Collon (conductor), Elspeth Dutch, Michael Kidd, Jeremy Bushell & Mark Philips (horns). Programme includes works by Sibelius, Schumann & Schubert, Thurs 8 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO CENTRE STAGE: CELLOS Programme to include works by Debussy, Rossini, Sibelius & J Strauss II, Fri 9 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

CELEBRATING THREE MASTERS BCMG closes its 16/17 season with a concert celebrating three established masters of the British contemporary scene - Oliver Knussen, Colin Matthews & Harrison Birtwistle, Sat 10 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

THE ORCHESTRA OF CLASSICAL OPERA - MOZART: APOLLO ET HYACINTHUS Featuring Ian Page (conductor), Sat 10 June, Birmingham Town Hall

BEN NORRIS, CHRIS KENT, ELEANOR TIERNAN & JIM SMALLMAN Fri 9 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CARL DONNELLY, CAREY MARX, MARK SIMMONS & ANDY ASKINS Fri 9 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

GEORGE ZACH Fri 9 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove



STEVE ROYLE & COMIC TBC Fri 9 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

STEVE GRIBBIN Fri 9 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

BEN NORRIS, CHRIS KENT, ELEANOR TIERNAN & JIM SMALLMAN Sat 10 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CARL DONNELLY, CAREY MARX, MARK SIMMONS & ANDY ASKINS Sat 10 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

JIMMY CARR Sat 10 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JOHN RYAN, GARY MEIKLE, SMUG ROBERTS Sat 10 June, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

Comedy

WV1 COMEDY Tues 6 June, Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton

DAVE FULTON, CAREY MARX Thurs 8 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

BEN NORRIS, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 8 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CAREY MARX, DAVE FULTON, THE RAYMOND AND MR TIMPKN REVUE & SUSAN MURRAY Thurs 8 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

Theatre

HICCUP PROJECT: MAY WE-GO-GO-ROUND Collision of fiercely energetic dance and comedic theatre, Mon 5 June, mac, Birmingham

THE CRUCIBLE Charlie Condou (Coronation Street) and Victoria Yeates (Call The Midwife) star in a new staging of Arthur Miller's classic tale, Mon 5 - Sat 10 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham



Running Wild - Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

EVERY BRILLIANT THING A Paines Plough and Pentabus Theatre production about depression and the lengths we go to for those we love, Tues 6 June, mac, Birmingham



RUNNING WILD The Children's Touring Partnership present a staging of Michael Morpurgo's story about love, loss, loyalty and 'living in the moment', Tues 6 - Sat 10 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN Amateur staging presented by the Trinity Players, Tues 6 - Sat 10 June, Lichfield Garrick

THE ADDAMS FAMILY Samantha Womack, Les Dennis and Carrie Hope Fletcher star in a brand new show based on the cult TV series, Tues 6 - Sat 10 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE PAJAMA GAME Bournville Musical Theatre Company present an amateur version of the timeless musical, Tues 6 - Sat 10 June, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

WAKE UP & DEIRDREALIZE Examination of the constructs of fame, self-help and image, Thurs 8 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

IDIOT CHILD: WHAT IF THE PLANE FALLS OUT OF THE SKY A tender, playful and unusual story about feelings - a show for anyone who's ever felt absolutely dreadful, Fri 9 June, mac, B'ham

LOVEHARD: MURDERED BY MURDER Brand new show which centres on a murder-mystery party at the home of Lord and Lady Titan, Fri 9 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE ENCHANTED PIG University of Birmingham students present a staging of a brand new love story filled with mud, mischief and magic, Fri 9 - Sat 10 June, The Barber Institute, B'ham

DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE? Performed and devised by Birmingham School of Acting, Fri 9 - Sun 11 June, mac, Birmingham

STADIUM Theatre maker Mohamed El Khatib explores why football inspires passion like nothing else, Fri 9 - Sat 17 June, The REP, Birmingham

AGATHA CRUSTY & THE VILLAGE HALL Derek Webb's comedy, 'packed full of wit and intrigue', Fri 9 - Sat 17 June, Hall Green Little Theatre, Sutton Coldfield

ZACH & VIGGO THUNDERFLOP Series of surreal and free-flowing vignettes showcasing the depths of stupidity to which this award-winning duo are

prepared to stoop, Sat 10 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SARAH AND DUCK'S BIG TOP BIRTHDAY Family-friendly theatre which brings the CBeebies' favourites to the stage for the very first time, Sat 10 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SHEBADA CELEBRATES 10 YEARS Brand new comedy show featuring 'Jamaica's favourite roots-play actor', Keith 'Shebada' Ramsey, Sun 11 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

PLAN B FOR UTOPIA Joan Clevillé Dance fuse theatre, dance and storytelling to explore how we choose to live our lives, Wed 7 June, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

Talks

EDDIE 'THE EAGLE' EDWARDS: TRY HARD Eddie talks through his incredible life journey - from self-learning ski-jumping and being shunned by the sporting establishment, to the extensive surgery to rebuild his face and body following years of spectacular crashes on the snow, Tues 6 June, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

AN EVENING WITH ARUNDHATI ROY Literary discussion with the winner of the Man Booker Prize-winner (pictured below), Tues 6 Jun, Birmingham Town Hall



WORLD WAR II TALK Aashique Iqbal explores the expansion of the Royal Indian Air Force during the Second World War, Thurs 8 June, University of Wolverhampton

MEET THE DIRECTORS Screening of live-action and animated short films, accompanied by discussions with the directors, producers and animators, Sun 11 June, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

DAVID CRYSTAL: WORDS An evening with the foremost writer, lecturer and broadcaster on the English language, Sun 11 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove



Stadium

The REP, Birmingham, Fri 9 - Sat 17 June

"Birmingham is lucky to have three football clubs, all with a huge, loyal following, so The REP is the perfect place for us to create Stadium," says the play's director, Mohamed El Khatib. "Football is full of drama, adrenaline and emotion, both on and off the pitch, and in Stadium we talk to the supporters who make the sport what it is."

Featuring footage presented on two huge screens and plenty of insight about the game from local personalities and inspirational characters connected to football, Stadium is part of The REP's Furnace project. The initiative provides local people with the opportunity to develop new talents, discover how theatre is made and create their own shows.

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

MONOCHROME (15) Drama/Thriller. Starring Cosmo Jarvis, Jo Woodcock. Followed by director Q&A. Electric Cinema, B'ham, Tues 6 June

VICEROY'S HOUSE (12a) Drama. Starring Gillian Anderson, Michael Gambon. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 6 - Fri 9 June

LOVING (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Ruth Negga, Joel Edgerton. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 9 June

WHITNEY: CAN I BE ME? (15) Documentary. Starring Whitney Houston. Followed by a live satellite Q&A with director Nick Broomfield. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 11 June

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 9 June, showing at selected cinemas

BERLIN SYNDROME (15)

FROM THE LAND OF THE MOON (15)

MY COUSIN RACHEL (tbc)

THE MUMMY (tbc)

THE SHACK (12a)

WILSON (15)

Events

INSPIRED FAMILY DAY From starring in your own TV show, jewellery making and designing your own building, to a family portrait experience, embroidery workshops and historical object handling, this Birmingham City University event has plenty to keep younger visitors entertained, Sat 10 June, Birmingham City University

SUMMER MARKET Expect a one day urban festival with the best of Birmingham's food, drink and artists, Sat 10 June, The Bond, Fazeley St, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM WILDLIFE FESTIVAL & PARADE From badgers to beetles and hedgehogs to hawks pop along and see what amazing wildlife exists right outside your front door, Sat 10 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham



CADBURY CHARACTER WEEKEND Meet Freddo, Caramel Bunny, Creme Egg & Mr Cadbury's Parrott at regular intervals throughout the day. There's also the chance to strike a pose and snap a photo with your favourite, Sat 10 - Sun 11 June, Cadbury World, Birmingham



CLASSIC AND VINTAGE COMMERCIAL SHOW Featuring over 400 pre-1997 commercial vehicles, Sat 10 - Sun 11 June, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

PERFORMANCE VAUXHALL SHOW Live action from the country's fastest Vauxhalls, Sun 11 June, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

Festivals

ENGLISH HAYDN FESTIVAL This festival focuses on Joseph Haydn's life in Vienna, in particular the years leading up to his death in 1809 and his friendship and influence on Beethoven and Schubert. Line up includes: Pavel Serbin, Steven Devine, The Salomon String Quartet, Simon Standage & Christophe Coin, Wed 7 - Sun 11 June, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

GATE TO SOUTHWELL FOLK FESTIVAL From its humble beginnings in 2007 as primarily an English folk music and dance festival, Southwell has evolved into one of the leading and most innovative folk events in the country. Line-up includes Jon Boden, Kate Rusby, Le Vent du Nord, Thurs 8 - Sun 11 June, Southwell, Nottinghamshire

DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL British rock festival. Line up includes Aerosmith, System Of A Down and Biffy Clyro, Fri 9 - Sun 11 June, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derbyshire



Inspired Family Day

Birmingham City University, Sat 10 June

Taking place at Birmingham City University's City Centre Campus, Inspired Family Day will welcome families for an action-packed day of free and fun-filled activities including; embroidery workshops, jewellery making, the chance to star in your own TV show and much more.

Taking place on Saturday 10 June between 10am-3pm, the event will officially open Birmingham City University's Inspired Festival, which is now in its fourth year.

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Hunter & The Bear - O2 Institute, Birmingham

Gigs

DARDEN SMITH Mon 12 June, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

KYLA LA GRANGE Mon 12 June, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham

EMMA STEVENS Mon 12 June, The Robin, Bilston

ROBBIE WILLIAMS Tues 13 June, Ricoh Arena, Coventry

KEITH SLATER'S SINATRA CELEBRATION Tues 13 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

KINGS X Tues 13 June, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

JONATHON BYRD Tues 13 June, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

KRAFTWERK Tues 13 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

KITE BASE + HOOPLA BLUE Tues 13 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CANCER BATS AS BAT SABBATH Wed 14 June, O2 Academy, B'ham

CARL SINCLAIR BAND Wed 14 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

MERCURY Wed 14 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

CHRIS BOWDEN Wed 14 June, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

THUNDERPUSSY Wed 14 June, The Robin, Bilston

THE ILLEGAL EAGLES

Thurs 15 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

HEATWAVE, ODYSSEY & VOICE OF ROSE ROYCE, GWEN DICKEY Thurs 15 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BLANK PARODY, UNDERGROUND STORM & FALL OF US Thurs 15 June, The Flapper, B'ham

JESUS JONES Thurs 15 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

DEP LEPPARD Thurs 15 June, The Robin, Bilston

SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK - THE ROD STEWART STORY Fri 16 June, Lichfield Garrick

REVAR THE THIRD SUMMER OF LOVE Fri 16 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ANNA VON HAUSSWOLFF Fri 16 June, Birmingham Town Hall

DUB FX Fri 16 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS Fri 16 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BARRY STEELE AS ROY ORBISON Fri 16 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

MOTOWN AND SOUL



Jesus Jones - The Jam House, Birmingham

NIGHT WITH DJ PAUL KELLY Fri 16 June, Irish Centre, Birmingham

HELLS BELLS Fri 16 June, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

HUNTER AND THE BEAR Sat 17 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DAMAGE PROTOCOL, KRYPTIC MENTACIDE & FREE SUN RISING Sat 17 June, The Flapper, Birmingham

BLUES CLUB WITH MIDNIGHT CITY SOUL BAND Sat 17 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DEGO (2000 BLACK) Sat 17 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SWIM WITH SHARKS Sat 17 June, Irish Centre, Birmingham

ROXY MAGIC Sat 17 June, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

LOS ENDOS Sat 17 June, The Robin, Bilston

CHASTITY BROWN & OTIS GIBBS Sun 18 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PAT JORDAN & FINIAN'S RAINBOW Sun 18 June, Irish Centre, B'ham

TOTALLY TINA Sun 18 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Classical Music

SEONG-JIN CHO IN RECITAL Programme includes works by Mozart, Debussy & Chopin, Tues 13 June, Birmingham Town Hall

PERFORMANCE PLATFORM FEAT. CHUN-CHIEH YEN (CELLO) Tues 13 June, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

STEVEN OSBORNE: TIPPETT Featuring the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra & Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor). Programme includes works by Stravinsky, Tippett & Beethoven, Wed 14 June, Symphony Hall, B'ham



ANNA VON HAUSSWOLFF Presents a performance on the Town Hall's 1834 organ in this opening performance of Supersonic Festival, Fri 16 June, Birmingham Town Hall

FESTIVAL VOICES Featuring Benedict Goodall (conductor). Programme includes works by Elgar, Gershwin arr. Roderick Williams, Kosma arr. Andrew Carter, Fri 16 June, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

2017 BRANT INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION Sat 17 June, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY Featuring Loretta Hopkins (soprano), Edward Harrison (tenor) & Wesley Biggs (bass), Sat 17 June, Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, Birmingham

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA: THE BEST OF BOND Featuring Peter Harrison (conductor) & Louise Dearman & Oliver Topmsett (guest singers), Sat 17 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor). Programme includes works by Wagner & Bruckner, Sun 18 June, Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, B'ham

Comedy

FOGHORN Wed 14 June, The Patrick Kavanagh, Birmingham

BETHANY BLACK & MAUREEN YOUNGER Wed 14 June, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

TOM GREEN Wed 14 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LAURENCE CLARK Wed 14 June, mac,

Birmingham

ROGER MONKHOUSE, CRAIG MURRAY & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINS Thurs 15 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CHRISTIAN REILLY, ALEX HYLTON, CHRIS BETTS & CHRIS PURCHASE Fri 16 June, Lichfield Garrick

ROGER MONKHOUSE, JOHN LYNN, SALLY-ANNE HAYWARD & COMIC TBC Fri 16 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL SINHA, ELLIE TAYLOR, MATT REED & STEVE SHANYASKI Fri 16 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

ROGER MONKHOUSE, JOHN LYNN, SALLY-ANNE HAYWARD & CRAIG MURRAY Sat 17 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL SINHA, ELLIE TAYLOR, MATT REED & STEVE SHANYASKI Sat 17 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, ANDY ASKINS & DAVID WARD Sat 17 June, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

SOMMORE, SLIM, KANE BROWN AND MARLON DAVIS & GINA YASHERE Sat 17 June, Birmingham Town Hall

KATY BRAND Sat 17 June, mac, Birmingham

AYESHA HAZARIKA Sat 17 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove



Theatre

OLIVER! Amateur staging presented by Queensbridge Musical Theatre Society, Tues 13 - Sat 17 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS All & Sundry presents its version of Richard Bean's English adaptation of Carlo Goldoni's Commedia dell'arte-style comedy play, Tues 13 - Sat 17 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE GRADUATE Catherine McCormack & Jack Monaghan star this new West Yorkshire Playhouse & Curve production based on the novel by Charles Webb, Tues 13 - Sat 17 June, Malvern Theatre

A GRAND MUSIC HALL Featuring Gill Jordan, Don Maclean & Ian Adams, Wed 14 June, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

THE SILENCE OF SNOW: THE LIFE OF PATRICK HAMILTON Kinetic solo show

Monday 12- Sunday 18 June

portraying the life of one of the great English writers of the inter-war years. Written & performed by Mark Farrelly, Thurs 15 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

URSULA MARTINEZ: FREE ADMISSION

Join the Olivier Award-winning performance provocateur as she returns to her dirty soap box, Thurs 15 - Sat 17 June, The REP, Birmingham

THE BEGGAR'S OPERA Birmingham Conservatoire presents a sophisticated take on John Gay's ever-popular folk opera, Thurs 15 - Sat 17 June, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. The award-winning Birmingham Youth Theatre celebrates its 30th anniversary with a musical double-bill, Thurs 15 - Sat 17 June, The Old Rep, Birmingham

SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK: THE ROD STEWART STORY Theatrical production celebrating the career of one of rock's greatest icons, Fri 16 June, Lichfield Garrick

A BLACK COUNTRY FAIRYTALE... AY IT!

The Fizzogs present a non-traditional tale of fantasy set in 1910, Fri 16 June, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

RE:PRODUCTION Intimate piece of the-

atre exploring women's choices, and the science behind those choices, when weighing up careers, motherhood, and where self-worth is found, Fri 16 - Sat 17 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BETWEEN THE TWO Based on the director's own family's experiences, Rochi Rampal & Daniel Tyler's story asks where do we belong when the maps are redrawn? Sat 17 June, Lichfield Garrick

AN EVENING OF BURLESQUE Reviving the classic variety artform for the 21st Century, Sat 17 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

SARAH AND DUCK'S BIG TOP BIRTHDAY Family friendly theatre which brings the CBeebies' favourites to the stage for the very first time, Sun 18 - Tues 20 June, mac, Birmingham

Dance

COPELIA Birmingham Royal Ballet present the timeless classic, which tells of the eccentric toymaker Dr Coppelius' attempts to bring his



Kevin & Karen Dance - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

greatest creation, the doll Coppelia, to life, Tues 13 - Sat 17 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET FIRST STEPS A feast of dance, music and costumes - a perfect introduction to ballet, Fri 16 June, Birmingham Hip-

podrome

KEVIN AND KAREN DANCE The Strictly duo embark on a sultry, hip-swinging journey through the waltz, cha cha, foxtrot, tango and salsa, Sun 18 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

20 - 22 June, 7.30pm	Belgrade Theatre, Coventry	Tel: 02476 553055
29 June, 7.30pm	Oakengates Theatre, Telford	Tel: 01952 382382
15 - 16 July, 7.30pm	Mac, Birmingham	Tel: 01214 463232
28 - 29 July, 7.30pm	Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford	Tel: 01332 258328

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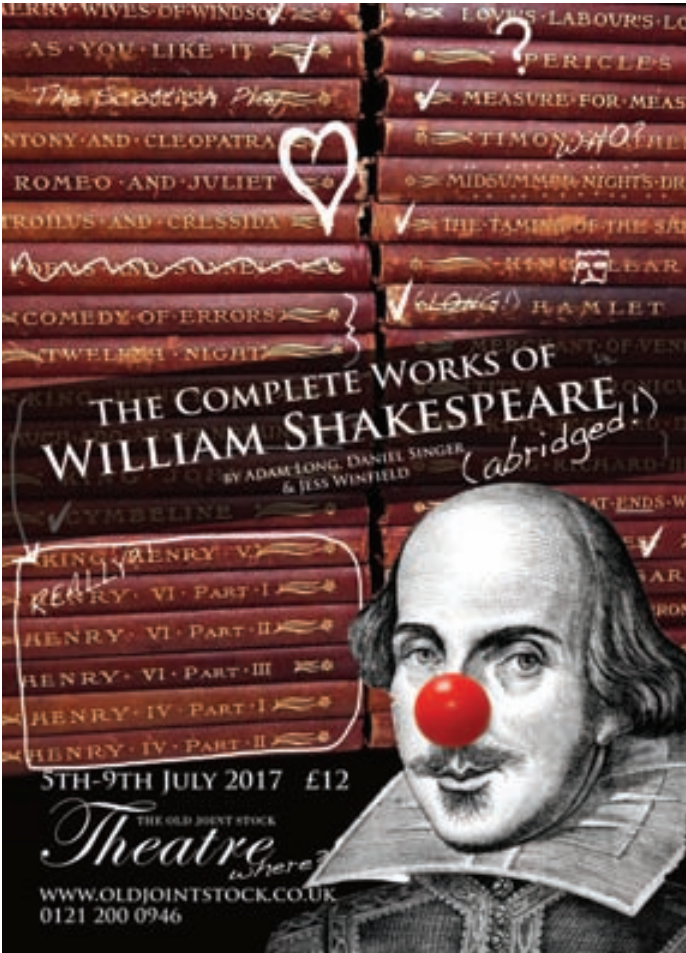
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Talks

LICENSED TO RHYME A monthly event mixing poetry, prose and, occasionally, music, Mon 12 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BRIGHT SMOKE: SPEAKING THE TRUTH Poetry night with a difference, an irreverent look at what matters the most... Fri 16 June, Susie's Cafe Bar, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

LOVING (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Ruth Negga, Joel Edgerton. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 16 June

CABARET (15) Drama/Musical. Starring Liza Minnelli, Michael York. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 18 June

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 16 June, showing at selected cinemas

BY THE TIME IT GETS DARK (12a)

CHURCHILL (PG)

DESTINATION UNKNOWN (12a)

GIFTED (12a)

NAILS (18)

ROCK DOG (U)

ROUGH NIGHT (tbc)

WHITNEY: CAN I BE ME (15)

HAMSTEAD (12a)

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT (TBC)

Events

TOWN HALL TOUR Learn more about the Town Hall's rich heritage and the changes it's seen since opening in 1834, Tues 13 June, Birmingham Town Hall

BARNARDO'S BIG TODDLE 2017 Short, sponsored walk for toddlers that raises money for Barnardo's vital work with the UK's most vulnerable under-fives, Tues 13 - Wed 14 June, Dudley Zoological Gardens

BBC GOOD FOOD SHOW Featuring top chefs and food experts, the latest culinary trends and topics, and a fantastic selection of independent and artisan producers selling their wares alongside big-name brands, Thurs 15 - Sun 18 June, NEC, Birmingham

BBC GARDENERS' WORLD LIVE Join the nation's favourite gardening experts, including Monty Don and Alan Titchmarsh, explore the inspiring show gardens and visit the impressive floral marquee. Plus, every ticket includes free entry to the BBC Good Food Show, so you can enjoy the tastes and flavours of summer too, Thurs 15 - Sun 18 June, NEC, Birmingham



INTERNATIONAL MODEL AIR SHOW Model aircraft enthusiasts from all over the UK and Europe demonstrate their impressive flying skills, Fri 16 - Sun 18 June, Weston Park, Staffs

DROITWICH SPA FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL One of the main events in the town, now in its third year, Sat 17

Oliver

The Core, Solihull, Tues 13 - Sat 17 June

Bringing to life the Dickens classic about the boy who dared to ask for more, Lionel Bart's brilliant show is here presented by Queensbridge Musical Theatre Society. So if you like your theatrical events to be big on gruesome gruel, raggedy street urchins and magnificently memorable musical numbers - including Food Glorious Food and You've Got To Pick A Pocket Or Two - then this is the production for you. Oh, and on this occasion it would definitely be acceptable if you fancied a second helping!

June, Droitwich Spa

MARTINEAU GARDENS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL A family-friendly day of storytelling, in the grounds of a beautiful community garden, presented by the Traditional Arts Team, Sat 17 June, Martineau Gardens, Birmingham

GRAND MEDIEVAL JOUST Feel the heat of the contest, as magnificent knights on horseback clash at the greatest event of medieval England, Sat 17 - Sun 18 June, Kenilworth Castle

FESTIVAL OF BLACK COUNTRY VEHICLES Wheeling into its 15th year, this annual gathering of cars, motorcycles and commercial vehicles, all built in the Black Country, features more than 100 models, Sun 18 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

FALCONRY DAY Sun 18 June, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

RETRO SHOW Take part in the racing and show & shine whatever type of retro machinery you have, Sun 18 June, Santa Pod Raceway, Northants

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON POETRY FESTIVAL 2017 The UK's longest-running poetry festival takes the theme Crossing Borders and features readings, performances and workshops, Sun 18 - Sun 25 June, Stratford Town Centre

Stoke Prior Country Club, Bromsgrove

LEAMINGTON PEACE FESTIVAL 2017 The Leamington Peace Festival exists to promote an understanding of international peace in all its aspects, including environmental harmony & living in co-operation with others, Sat 17 - Sun 18 June, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

KINETON MUSIC FESTIVAL 2017 Set in the beautiful countryside of south Warwickshire, and in sight of the historic Edgehill, Kineton Music Festival celebrates music, crafts, food & friendship. Line up includes Abba Chique, Copperhead Road, D-Day Dolls & Barney Newman, Sat 17 June, Kineton Sports & Social Club, Little Kineton, Warwickshire

TENBURY MUSIC FESTIVAL Featuring Mike Sanchez & His Band, Arcadia Roots & Sticky Wicket, Sat 17 June, Tenbury Wells



FOXTON LOCKS FESTIVAL Featuring 100 craft stalls, a large food village, real ale bar, fun fair and various arena attractions alongside live music on two stages. Line-up includes Edd Keane, The Ultraviolet & Johnny Oates Band, Sat 17 - Sun 18 June, Foxton Locks, Foxton, Market Harborough

WOLVESFEST 2017 Situated in the secluded grounds of Wolverhampton Rugby Club in a 1,000 capacity marquee, Wolvesfest showcases the best in Birmingham & Black Country talent, Sat 17 June, Wolverhampton Rugby Club

LUDLOW FRINGE FESTIVAL Independent arts, community and culture festival, Sat 17 June - Sun 2 July, Various venues, Ludlow, South Shropshire



Droitwich Spa Food & Drink Festival - Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire

Festivals

UKULELE FESTIVAL OF GREAT BRITAIN Now in its 8th year, this is one of the 'biggest and best ukulele festivals' in the world. Line-up includes Abe Lagrimas Jr, Oaks of Hazard, The Ukulele Uff Trio & The Poor Boys Of Worcester, Fri 16 - Sun 18 June, Cheltenham Town Hall

NOCTURNE LIVE Line up includes: Max Richter, Jamie Cullum, Gregory Porter & Corinne Bailey Rae, Fri 16 - Sun 18 June, Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire

SONIC ROCK SOLSTICE 15th anniversary line-up includes Doctor and the Medics, Heavy Metal Kids and Night of the Hawks, Fri 16 - Sun 18 June,

Gigs

IDINA MENZEL Mon 19 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MARK LANEGAN Mon 19 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LEE JONES QUINTET Tues 20 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

JAMES HICKMAN AND DAN CASSIDY Tues 20 June, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

KIEFER SUTHERLAND Wed 21 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LUCAS D & THE GROOVE GHETTO Wed 21 June, The Jam House, B'ham

CHRIS BOWDEN Wed 21 June, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

WHITNEY Wed 21 June, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham

JOHN VERITY BAND Wed 21 June, The Robin, Bilston

MATRIX CLUB MATRIX Thurs 22 June, The Jam House, B'ham

THE MANFREDS Thurs 22 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

PETER MYLETT Fri 23 June, Irish Centre, Birmingham

THE LEGENDS OF MOWTOWN Fri 23 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

TRU GROOVE Fri 23 - Sat 24 June, The Jam House, Birmingham



Cara Dillon - Artrix, Bromsgrove

BLUE SILK Fri 23 June, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

YOLANDA BROWN Fri 23 June, mac, B'ham

INZMINDS Fri 23 June, The Roadhouse, B'ham

WHITE TYGER Fri 23 June, The Robin, Bilston

TRIPLE BILL OF BLUES Sat 24 June, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

COUNTING COINS, POLLEN & FRANTIC ACTION Sat 24 June, The Flapper, Birmingham

BLUES CLUB WITH BONNYLOUISA KEENAHAN Sat 24 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE DANIEL WAKEFORD EXPERIENCE Sat 24 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RICK WAKEMAN Sat 24 June, Birmingham Town Hall

PAT BRESLIN Sat 24 June, Irish Centre,

B'ham

CARA DILLON Sat 24 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE STONES Sat 24 June, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

SEMANTICS, FOX CHAPEL, TELL ME I'M PRETTY, BALABAN AND THE BALD ILLEAGLES Sat 24 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

MONAGHAN BROTHERS Sun 25 June, Irish Centre, Birmingham

OLLY MURS Sun 25 June, Worcestershire Country Cricket Club

SIMPLY DYLAN Sun 25 June, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

DARLINGSIDE Sun 25 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SHOW ME THE BODY Sun 25 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme tbc, Mon 19 Jun, Birmingham Town Hall

CHRISTOPHER PARK PIANO RECITAL Programme includes works by Brahms, Chopin, Olga Neuwirth & Stravinsky, Mon 19 June, Birmingham Town Hall

EX CATHEDRA: SUMMER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Tues 20 June, Birmingham Cathedral

EBLANA STRING TRIO Programme includes works by Schubert & Britten, Tues 20 June, Birmingham Conservatoire



BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Michael Seal (conductor) & I-Hsuan Peng (piano). Programme includes works by Chloe Knibbs, Mozart & Mahler, Fri 23 June, Birmingham Town Hall

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA: SPACE SPECTACULAR - STAR WARS & BEYOND Featuring Anthony Inglis (conductor), Fri 23 - Sun 25 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: MOZART IDOMENEO Featuring Mirga Gražinyte-Tyla (conductor) & Ben Johnson (Idomeneo), Sat 24 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR Featuring Martin Rawles (organist) & Paul Spicer (conductor). Programme includes works by Mouton, Dominique, Phinot, Poulenc, Duruflé, Pierre Villette & Fauré, Sat 24 June, St Philips Cathedral, Birmingham

Comedy

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Mon 19 June, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

DANE BAPTISTE, STUART MITCHELL, THE RAYMOND & MR TIMPKINS REVUE & COMIC TBC Fri 23 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROB ROUSE, ALISTAIR WILLIAMS, GEOFF BOYZ & MARTIN MOR Fri 23 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

DANE BAPTISTE, STUART MITCHELL, THE RAYMOND & MR TIMPKINS REVUE & COMIC TBC Sat 24 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROB ROUSE, ALISTAIR WILLIAMS, GEOFF

BOYZ & MARTIN MOR Sat 24 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

IAN SMITH, ERICH MCELROY & COMIC TBC Sat 24 June, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

EDD HEDGES & ALICE MARSHALL Sat 24 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ASPERGER'S ARE US LIVE! Sun 25 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE LAUGHING SOLE COMEDY FOR KIDS Sun 25 June, mac, Birmingham

Theatre

THE DREAMBOYS The UK's top male glamour show, Mon 19 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG Fawltly Towers meets Noises Off in this multi award-winning West End smash hit comedy, Mon 19 - Sat 24 June, The REP, Birmingham

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET Amateur production presented by South Staffordshire College, Tues 20 June, Lichfield Garrick

BLUSH Award-winning new play by Charlotte Josephine which tells of revenge porn and its many victims, Tues 20 June, mac, Birmingham



THE LITTLE CREEPERS One woman show exploring the trials & tribulations of a teenage schizophrenic in the 21st century, Tues 20 - Wed 21 June, mac, Birmingham

MY FAIR LADY BMOS Musical Theatre Company present an amateur staging of the much loved musical, based on George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion, Tues 20 - Sat 24 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

ALL OR NOTHING: THE MOD MUSICAL Following in the footsteps of other '60s jukebox musicals about The Beatles and The Kinks, All Or Nothing tells the story of mod favourites the Small Faces, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE RAMAYANA The Young Rep 18-25 Company present an exciting Indian tale of gods, lovers, battles... and monkeys, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 June, The REP, Birmingham

PHEDRA Birmingham School of Acting present Racine's retelling of one of the most famous classical French dramas, Thurs 22 - 24 June, The



Idina Menzel - Symphony Hall

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

APPLY EVER AFTER Frantic Fox Theatre present a debut show which fuses original song & spoken word to explore themes of app-addiction, disillusionment & sexual assault within the gay community, Fri 23 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

TITUS ANDRONICUS Blanche McIntyre (The Two Noble Kinsmen) returns to the RSC to direct this bloody and brutal play, where the decay of Rome reaches violent depths, Fri 23 June - Sat 2 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon



UNCLE BEN Comedy play about a single father with a dysfunctional family, doing all he can to keep them together, Fri 23 - Sat 24 June, The Old Rep, Birmingham

MR B THE GENTLEMAN RHYMER Mr B continues his ongoing quest to reconnect Hip-Hop with manners and the Queen's English to Birmingham, Sat 24 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

STUFF Lead clown for Cirque du Soleil, Sean Kempton, mixes comedy, mime, clowning and the odd bit of dance in this absurdist show about love, Sat 24 June, Lichfield Garrick



KID CARPET'S SUPER MEGA ROCKIN' ROCK SHOW Theatre show for children featuring stories, games, songs and plenty of audience participation, Sat 24 June, mac, Birmingham

NEW YORK! NEW YORK! School of Theatre Excellence present numbers from Broadway themed shows, Sun 25 June, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

Open air Theatre

AS YOU LIKE IT - SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK Outdoor staging of Shakespeare's tale of lovesick shepherds,

gender-swapping disguises, exiled dukes and wrestling! Wed 21 - Sat 24 June, Maple Hayes Hall Gardens, Lichfield

THE TEMPEST Stafford Festival Shakespeare present an outdoor staging of The Bard's final play. Stephen Beckett (Coronation Street), Richard Gibson ('Allo 'Allo), Zephryn Taitte & Grace Carter star, Thurs 22 June - Sat 8 July, Stafford Castle

Dance

BRB: THREE SHORT BALLETS Comprising Le Baiser de la fee, Pineapple Poll & Arcadia, Wed 21 - Sat 24 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

LOVING (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Ruth Negga, Joel Edgerton. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 19 - Tues 20 June

RAPHAEL - LORD OF THE ARTS (12a) Biography. Starring Marco Cocci, Angela Curri. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 21 June

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (15) Comedy/Musical. Starring Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 23 June

20TH CENTURY WOMEN (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Annette Bening, Elle Fanning. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 23 June

THE STING (PG) Crime/Drama. Starring Paul Newman, Robert Redford. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 25 June

ON THE WATERFRONT (PG) Crime/Drama. Starring Marlon Brando, Karl Malden. Highbury Theatre, Birmingham, Sun 25 June

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 23 June, showing at selected cinemas

THE BOOK OF HENRY (tbc)

THE GRADUATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY (15)

Events

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW BBC One's ever-popular Sunday evening programme visits the museum, Wed 21 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley



Dean Edwards at Foodies Festival - Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

FAMILY FUN WITH THE COURTYARD THEATRE Games, theatre and family-fun activities, Sat 24 June, Croft Castle, nr Leominster

BACKSTAGE TOUR: FAMILY Discover the rarely seen backstage areas of the theatre, as The REP invites you to be an audience member, set builder, prosthetics maker or even an assistant stage manager, Sat 24 June, The REP, Birmingham

ARMED FORCES DAY Featuring live musical entertainment, action displays, children's adventure activities and a flypast, Sat 24 June, National Memorial Arboretum, Burton-on-Trent

SPARK YOUNG WRITERS GROUP Monthly group for young people interested in poems, plays, editing and writing dialogue, Sat 24 June, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

SOOTY'S BIRTHDAY BAKE OFF Sooty, Sweep and Soo bake a chocolate cake with a sprinkle of Cadbury magic, Sat 24 - Sun 25 June, Cadbury World, Bourneville

DINOSAURS IN THE WILD Travel back in time and experience what life was like

67 million years ago, surrounded by living dinosaurs in the wild, Sat 24 June - Thurs 24 Aug, NEC, B'ham

Festivals

UPTON UPON SEVERN JAZZ FESTIVAL Fusing a range of jazz styles with a dash of mainstream/modern and swing, traditional jazz and Dixieland foundations. Line up includes: Alan Barnes, Hotsy Tptsy, Jive Aces & Dart Valley Stompers, Thurs 22 - Sun 25 June, Upton-on-Severn, Worcestershire

FOODIES FESTIVAL The UK's biggest food festival returns to Birmingham with Great British Bake Off winner Candice Brown, Fri 23 - Sun 25 June, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

SHREWSBURY FOOD FESTIVAL Food, drink and craft exhibitors alongside cookery demonstrations, chef school, free kids entertainment and music line up all weekend, Sat 24 - Sun 25 June, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury



Gigs

TOM CLARKE FROM THE ENEMY Mon 26 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

DEAD KENNEDYS Mon 26 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

DREWSIF STALIN'S MUSICAL ENDEAVORS & TOSKA Mon 26 June, The Flapper, B'ham

CHRISTINA MARTIN Mon 26 June, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

ANNIE KEATING TRIO AND DANIELLE CAWDELL Tues 27 June, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

THE ACOUSTIC SESSIONS Tues 27 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

DR. DOG Tues 27 June, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham

JACKSON BROWNE Tues 27 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CHRIS HOLMES MEAN MAN Tues 27 June, The Robin, Bilston

FLOGGING MOLLY Wed 28 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

RITCHIE BLACKMORE'S RAINBOW Wed 28 June, Genting Arena, B'ham

OSCAR YOUNG & SWEET TOOTH Wed 28 June, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

CHRIS BOWDEN Wed 28 June, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

SON OF TOWN HALL Wed 28 June, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

CHANTEL MCGREGOR Wed 28 June, The Robin, Bilston

THE BOB DYLAN STORY Thurs 29 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

TALON - THE BEST OF EAGLES Thurs 29 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

DEL CAMINO Thurs 29 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

THREE BLIND MICE Thurs 29 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

JACK LUKEMAN Thurs 29 June, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

PAUPER KINGS Thurs 29



Jack Lukeman - Kitchen Garden Cafe

June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY CASH - KEEP IT CASH Thurs 29 June, The Robin, Bilston

THE WARLOCKS Thurs 29 June, The Rainbow, Birmingham

POPCAAN Fri 30 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

B'SPOKE Fri 30 June, The Jam House, B'ham

THE KILKENNYS Fri 30 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

ELBOW Fri 30 June, Delamere Forest, Cheshire

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Fri 30 June, New Alexan-

dra Theatre, B'ham

CABBAGE Fri 30 June, Institute, Birmingham

DEFINITELY BRITPOP Fri 30 June, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

LIMEHOUSE LIZZY Fri 30 June, The Robin, Bilston

ANI DIFRANCO Fri 30 June, Birmingham Town Hall

NEW DEVICE, SISTER SHOTGUN & TYRANOSAURUS NEBULOUS Fri 30 June, Route 44, Birmingham

DISCORDANCE Fri 30 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham



Ani Difrancu - Birmingham Town Hall



Our Man In Havana - Lichfield Garrick

Classical Music

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Peter Donohoe (piano). Programme comprises Schumann's Piano Concerto, 31', Wed 28 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

TOBY HUGHES IN CONCERT Programme includes works by Hindemith, Derek Bourgeois, Dvorak, Schubert, Bottesini, Frank Proto & Schumann, Fri 30 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT Featuring William Christie (conductor). Programme includes works by Campra, Fischer, Bach & Rameau, Fri 30 June, Symphony Hall, B'ham

Theatre, Birmingham

MADAM BUTTERFLY Welsh National Opera present a classic, traditional staging of Puccini's powerful tale of betrayal, Tues 27 - Fri 30 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES John Partridge, Adrian Zmed and Marti Webb star in a new touring production of the smash-hit musical, Tues 27 June - Sat 1 July, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

Comedy

RICKY GERVAIS Tues 27 - Wed 28 June, Barclaycard Arena, B'ham

ROB ROUSE, PAUL THORNE & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 29 June, The Glee Club, B'ham

ROB ROUSE, PAUL THORNE, RO CAMPBELL & GEORGE ZACH Fri 30 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MICKEY BARTLETT, ALLYSON JUNE SMITH, JOHN LYNN & SIMON BLIGH Fri 30 June, The Comedy Loft, B'ham

PIERRE HOLLINS, SEAN PERCIVAL & JOE ROWNTREE Fri 30 June, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham



OCTOPUS Post-Brexit satire exploring how it feels to be treated like a foreigner in your own land... and the power of punk, Wed 28 June, mac, Birmingham

DIE FLEDERMAUS Welsh National Opera present a staging of Johan Strauss' popular opera, Wed 28 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

FROM RAGS TO RICHES Birmingham Ormiston Academy presents an evening of singing, dancing and acting excerpts from stage and screen musicals, Wed 28 - Thurs 29 June, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

BEN & HOLLY'S LITTLE KINGDOM BAFTA Award-winning television animation, live on stage, Wed 28 - Thurs 29 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

DI AND VI AND ROSE Amelia Bullmore's play explores friendship's impact on life and life's impact on friendship, Wed 28 - Fri 30 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

FANNY. A NEW MUSICHALL A new play

Theatre

OUR MAN IN HAVANA Based on Graham Greene's hilarious, subversive and ever-popular novel, Mon 26 - Wed 28 June, Lichfield Garrick

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY Preview performance of the Crescent's stage version of Jane Austen's romantic novel, Tues 27 - Thurs 29 June, Crescent



Sense & Sensibility

The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 27 - Thurs 29 June; Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Sat 1 & Sun 2 July; Blakesley Hall, Yardley, Sat 8 & Sun 9 July; Selly Manor, Bournville, Wed 12 & Thurs 13 July & Harvington Hall, Kidderminster, Sat 15 & Sun 16 July

The Crescent's own theatre company is the ensemble performing this Jessica Swale adaptation of Jane Austen's popular novel. Regency-era sisters Elinor and Marianne Dashwood are the main protagonists of the story, busily making their first forays into the excitingly decadent world of 18th century high society, where the giddy excitement of love and the terrible pain of heartbreak await them...



Die Fledermaus

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 28 June

Hippodrome favourite Welsh National Opera (WNO) is committed to producing shows which are highly accessible for its audience members, whether they be seasoned opera-goers or people attending a performance for the very first time.

The life-affirming nonsense of the wonderfully frothy Die Fledermaus offers the company the perfect opportunity to show the uninitiated just how entertaining a night at the opera can be. John Copley's production - 'as opulent as a Viennese chocolate cake', according to WNO's promotional material - comes complete with posh frocks, marvellous masks and plenty of warm comedy.

by Carolyn Scott Jeffs which tells the funny and tragic story of her friend, Elsie, Thurs 29 - Fri 30 June, Lichfield Garrick

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Classic hits from the 1950s through to the '80s, Fri 30 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

RHYTHM OF THE DANCE

Featuring both traditional and current dance styles, Fri 30 June, Lichfield Garrick



Talks

THE ECLECTIC POETRY PAGODA Eight poets and one MC guide audiences through an afternoon of 'wonderful wordsmithery'. May contain adult language and themes, Sun 25 June, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

GERMAINE GREER: WOMEN FOR LIFE ON EARTH Candid evening with the agenda-setting author, Thurs 29 June, mac, Birmingham

DIAL MEDICINE FOR MURDER Join doctors Harry Brünjes and Andrew Johns as they delve into the murky world of two of history's most infamous homicidal physicians, Fri 30 June, mac, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

JACKIE (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Natalie Portman, Peter Sarsgaard. Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 26 June

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Tickets: bcmg.org.uk / 0121 780 3333

20TH CENTURY WOMEN (15)

Comedy/Drama. Starring Annette Bening, Elle Fanning. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 26 & Wed 28 June

IN THIS CORNER OF THE WORLD (12a)

Animation/Drama. With the voices of Non, Megumi Han. Foreign language, subtitled. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 28 June

BABY DRIVER (15) Crime/Thriller. Starring Ansel Elgort, Lily James. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 30 June

SING (U) Animation/Comedy. With the voices of Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 30 June

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Released from Fri 30 June, showing at selected cinemas

A MAN CALLED OVE (tbc)

ALL EYEZ ON ME (tbc)

ALONE IN BERLIN (12a)

DESPICABLE ME 3 (tbc)

Events

DUNSTALL CASTLE OPEN DAY Climb the steep staircase to the top of the tower to get views across the estate to the Rotunda and surrounding countryside, Wed 28 June, Croome Park, Worcester

THE STITCHING, SEWING & HOBBYCRAFT SHOW Find out more on page 47, Fri 30 June - Sun 2 July, NEC, B'ham

Festivals

BARN ON THE FARM FESTIVAL Line up includes Tom Odell, James Vincent, Lucy Rose & Amber run, Thurs 29 June - Sun 2 July, Over Farm, Gloucestershire



The Stitching, Sewing & Hobbycraft Show - NEC, Birmingham

NIBLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL Line-up includes Discount Columbo, The Lasting days, Silent Disco King, Fri 30 June - Sat 1 July, North Nibley

ALSO FESTIVAL Also gives you the chance to get up close and personal with the biggest ideas and brightest

speakers, alongside exceptional food, comedy and music. Line up includes Gabby Young, Eckoes, Mad Apple Circus & Lubiana, Fri 30 June - Sat 1 July, Park Farm, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Festival

18-25 JUNE 2017

Join us for an exciting line-up of readings, performances and workshops.

- Shakespeare's Fathers and Daughters with Oliver Ford Davies and Mariah Gale
- All the Business of War with Simon Russell Beale and Alexandra Gilbreath
- An evening with an Immigrant
- Shakespeare and the Islamic World
- Kurdish Poet Bejan Matur

Full listing and booking: SHAKESPEARE.ORG.UK

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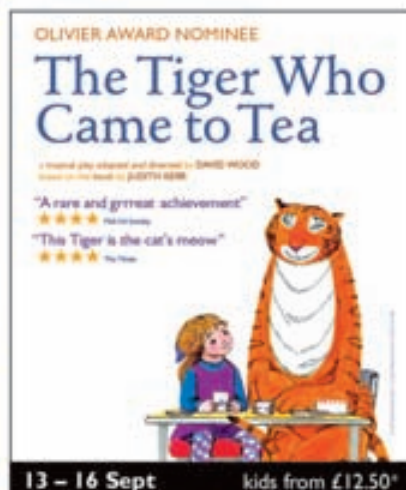
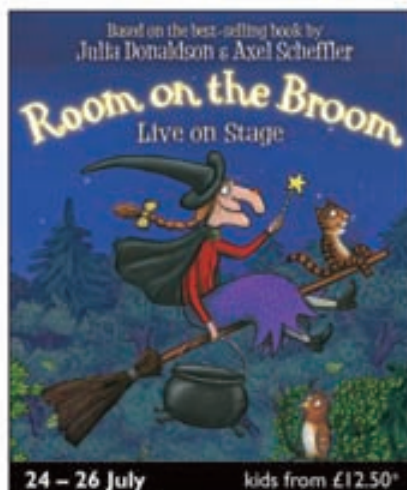
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Experience the splendour of this magnificent 17th-Century Jacobean mansion and relive its role in the English Civil War.



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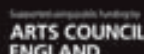
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