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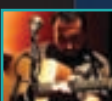
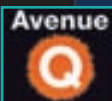
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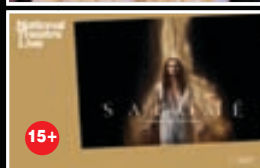
JULY HIGHLIGHTS



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Barbarella's Bang Bang - play Fuse Festival at Beacon Park more line-up info on page 19

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Reggie'n'Bollie headline Telford's AfroCaribFest

Ghanaian music duo Reggie Zippy and Bollic Babeface - aka Reggie'n'Bollie - are this month headlining a brand new festival at Telford's Oakengates Theatre.

The 2015 X Factor stars are joined by, among others, Dez Mensa and Mythical PSM for the venue's first ever AfroCaribFest.

As its name suggests, the festival brings together African and Caribbean cultures, with music, dance, arts and 'mouthwatering' ethnic cuisine all featuring.

The stated aim of the event is to build community and bridge social, cultural and economic gaps by inviting people of all ages and backgrounds 'to experience the richness of Telford's diverse communities'.

The AfroCaribFest is being held on Friday 28 July. For more information and to book tickets, visit theplacetelford.com

Diana Vickers to star in Dusty Springfield musical

Former X Factor favourite Diana Vickers is to star in a 'heartwarming' new musical showcasing the songs of Dusty Springfield.

Directed and choreographed by Strictly Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood, *Son Of A Preacher Man* visits the city's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday 12 to Saturday 16 September.

The production will feature a selection of the late singer's best-loved songs, including the famous title track with which she enjoyed a transatlantic hit in 1968.

Tickets for the show are on sale now and can be purchased at atgtickets.com/birmingham. For more information about the production, visit sonofapreachermanmusical.com



Calling all budding teen poets in Staffordshire...

Staffordshire Libraries & Arts Service is on the lookout for the next Young Poet Laureate. The service is offering teenage wordsmiths the opportunity to develop the role by coming up with new ideas for raising the profile of poetry within Staffordshire through performance and commissions.

If you're between the ages of 14 and 18, enjoy writing poetry and live, work or study in Staffordshire, visit staffordshire.gov.uk/libraries. The closing date for applications is Thursday 6 July (at 5pm).

New Vic to host free Open Day

Staffordshire's New Vic Theatre is holding a free-to-attend Open Day on Saturday 15 July. Visitors will have the chance to see how the theatre takes its home-grown productions from page to stage, explore the costume and design departments, discover the technical magic used to bring productions to life and find out secret 'tricks of the trade' from the stage management team.

There will also be workshops taking place throughout the day and a special treasure hunt for younger visitors.

Commenting on the event, New Vic Artistic Director Theresa Heskins said: "This theatre belongs to local people, so we want to invite

you to come in and have a look around in the secret places that we don't usually open to the public, to discover what goes on behind the scenes and see how we create our made-in-Staffordshire productions. We're really looking forward to sharing some secrets with audiences young and old, and there'll be lots on offer for all the family to enjoy."

The Open Day takes place from 10am to 4pm.



An American Werewolf in... Dudley Zoo!

Dudley Zoological Gardens is teaming up with Birmingham's Flatpack Film Festival to present an open-air cinema screening of cult horror-comedy *An American Werewolf In London* on Saturday 5 August.

The event has been organised following the success of the zoo's 2016 collaboration with Flatpack, which saw more than 600 people attend a screening of classic horror movie *The Bride Of Frankenstein*.

To purchase tickets for the Dudley Zoo screening, visit flatpackfestival.org.uk

Weston Park to host Kick Ass Endurance event

The team at Weston Park on the Shropshire/Staffordshire border may be bracing themselves for the August invasion of thousands of V Festival music fans, but they've also got the little matter of hosting the Kick Ass Endurance Weekender to occupy their minds this month.

Offering participants the chance to negotiate a muddy and obstacle-laden course, the event takes place on Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 July. It will also feature plenty of family-friendly entertainment, including a kids' version of the Kick Ass course and a special nighttime run. For more information, visit kickassendurance.co.uk

T'Pau to return to where it all began

Eighties favourites Carol Decker and T'Pau are heading back to Shropshire - the county where it all began for them back in 1986 - to play a special concert at Shrewsbury venue The Buttermarket.

The gig is one of a series of shows to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the band's best-known song, China In Your Hand, reaching number one in the UK music charts. Carol and co visit The Buttermarket on Friday 17 November. To book tickets, visit thebuttermarket.co.uk



Hit musical The Jersey Boys back in Wolverhampton

Massive jukebox musical The Jersey Boys is heading back to the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next month.

Telling the story of the rockin' and rollin' Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons, the show has picked up prestigious awards aplenty since debuting in 2005. Expect to hear all of the Four Seasons' greatest hits, including Big Girls Don't Cry, Sherry, December 1963 (Oh, What A Night) and Working My Way Back To You.

The Jersey Boys runs at the Grand from Tuesday 28 August to Saturday 2 September. To book tickets, ring 01902 42 92 12 or visit grandtheatre.co.uk.

Legally Blonde: It's a dog's life!

Now this is the kind of dog's life your four-legged friend may well appreciate...

Producers of a major new tour of smash-hit show Legally Blonde The Musical are on the lookout for two pooches to appear in the production.

Could *your* pet be one of them?...

Dog auditions take place at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from 9am on Thursday 20 July. For more information, contact the producers by email - at mail@ukproductions.co.uk - rather than the Grand Theatre directly.

Tickets for Legally Blonde The Musical, showing at the Grand from Tuesday 7 to Saturday 11 November, are now on sale. They can be booked by calling 01902 42 92 12 or online at grandtheatre.co.uk.

Bugs under the microscope - and in your mouth? - at the Newport Show



If you've ever fancied being on I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here! and taking on the bug-eating challenge, this year's Newport Show can make your dream come true. Well, the 'bug-eating challenge' bit anyway!

Specialists from Harper Adams University will be on hand to host a range of activities, including handling and, er, tasting live insects.

Visitors to the show, which takes place at Chetwynd Deer Park on Saturday 8 July, will be able to take up the edible bug challenge, inspect insects under the microscope and try their hand at making their own paper origami insect.

Other attractions at the one-day show include live performances from the bagpipe-playing Red Hot Chilli Pipers, numerous stalls, family entertainment and a craft fair.

Dudley museum is Forging Ahead

Dudley's Black Country Living Museum has been given the green light for a £21.7million project that will expand the size of the venue by 30%. BCLM: Forging Ahead will see the creation of a major historic 1940s-to-1960s development, new learning spaces and improved visitor facilities. The long-term project has recently secured a £9.8million grant from the National Lottery.



Chocks away for the Spitfire 10K!

Chocks away for the Spitfire 10K, making a welcome return to the RAF Museum Cosford on Sunday 3 September! The 2017 event will see 800 participants running 10K in the unusual setting of the Shropshire visitor attraction. The race's course begins in Hangar One before heading outside onto the airfield, continuing up and down the runway and then following a route around the museum's grounds and past a host of iconic aircraft.

At the end of the race, participants will be awarded an exclusive 2017 Spitfire 10K medal. For more information, visit rafmuseum.org.uk.

It's party time in the Potteries

Two days of free activities are taking place in Stoke-on-Trent's intu Potteries shopping centre on Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 July.

Walkabout ladybirds will be among the performers putting smiles on the faces of shoppers during intu's 'summer party' weekend.

Henna tattoos, crazy mirrors and performances by a vintage ukulele & vocal duo also feature.

Grease is the word at Staffordshire park's first summertime drive-in movie event

If you got chills, they're sure to be multiplyin' with the announcement that Beacon Park in Staffordshire has chosen hit '70s musical Grease as its first ever drive-in movie.

Fans of the John Travolta/Olivia Newton-John classic will be grabbing their leather jackets, piling into their cars and parking up in front of a giant inflatable screen on Saturday 12 August.

Movie snacks including popcorn, hotdogs and ice creams will be available to buy, to add to the drive-in atmosphere.

Gates open at 7pm, with the film beginning at 9pm. Admission is £20 per car with a maximum of four people (£5 extra per head). It's £5 per person on foot (which includes the hire of the headset) plus a £15 refundable deposit per headset on the night.

Local star Norman Pace back in the region

Dudley-born Hale & Pace star Norman Pace and former X Factor contestant Brenda Edwards will both be in the cast of Hairspray when the touring show stops off at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre early next year.

Pace will play Wilbur Turnblad and Edwards Motormouth Maybelle. The production visits the Grand from Monday 26 February to Saturday 3 March. Commenting on the news, Grand Theatre Press & PR Manager Scott Bird said: "Hairspray is a huge-hearted hit that's guaranteed to get audiences dancing in their seats. It will be wonderful to have local actor Norman Pace back alongside one of X Factor's most successful finalists, Brenda Edwards, who has built up an impressive theatre career." Tickets for Hairspray are now on sale and can be booked by calling 01902 42 92 12 or visiting grandtheatre.co.uk.

Are you ready for the Labyrinth Challenge?

The world's longest, continuous inflatable obstacle course is coming to Wolverhampton.

The Labyrinth Challenge is a series of wacky and interactive obstacles spread across five unique themed zones. It's accompanied by the Labyrinth Village, which comes complete with a large selection of attractions, games and rides, as well as bars and catering. The event takes place at Wolverhampton Racecourse on Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 July.

Daytime TV show to visit Walsall

Popular ITV daytime show Dickinson's Real Deal is holding one of its Dealer Days at The Hub at Walsall College on Saturday 8 July. Admission to the event is free, with locals encouraged to take along their antiques and valuables for a free valuation from the team of experts. Doors will be open from 8am to 5pm.

Stan's Cafe head for the hills

Experimental Birmingham theatre company Stan's Cafe are heading for the Shropshire hills this month - and you could camp out beneath the stars with them! Dressed as travellers from a post-silicon age, four of the company's actors will set up camp in Earl's Hill Nature Reserve, from where they'll invite visitors to share the experience, help with camp life, tell and listen to stories and 'reflect on lives past, present and future'.

The event runs from 5pm on 21 July to 5pm on the 23rd. There are a limited number of places available for those who wish to sleep over and bivvy outdoors (No tents). To book your place, visit nationaltrust.org.uk/carding-mill



LET THE SUMMER BE-GIN

Is there any better way to celebrate summer than by sipping an ice-cold G&T on a warm, sunny day? We think not. With that in mind, we've put together a list of the best gin bars across Shropshire, Staffordshire and Wolverhampton. From emporiums and palaces to pop-up bars, there are plenty of great venues to visit where it's always Gin O'Clock.



1 Gindifferent Bar

Gindifferent pop-up bar arrived in Shrewsbury's Market Hall to complement the town's Lifestyle Festival.

The popular bar is dedicated to gin africionados and those interested in learning about gin culture. It has more than 50 gins, plus wines, craft beers and fizz on tap, all paired with delicious, locally sourced charcuterie and snacks.

If that doesn't tempt you, we don't know what will.

Gallery Level, Market Hall, Shrewsbury, SY1 1QG



2 The Grain Store

Delve into the weird and wonderful world of this gin emporium & kitchen in the heart of the city, and enjoy working your way through over 40 different specimens of juniper and botanicals.

Whether you're looking to enjoy a meal with a loved one or a catch-up with an old friend - or maybe you just fancy trying something a bit different - The Grain Store is a great place to visit.

Every week they up the tempo with Friday Club and Saturday DJ, making it a perfect social hub for all occasions.

2-3 King Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ST



3 The Ten Green Bottles Co.

The Ten Green Bottles bar & bottle shop opened this year to complement the already popular Newcastle gin bar.

As well as browsing their selection of bottled beers from around the world - available to take away - you can also chill out in their seated area and enjoy a refreshing gin.

This fabulously chic cocktail bar has over 50 gins and liqueurs to choose from and frequently has a special 'Gin of the Week' to try - although in reality you'll probably want to sample them all...

Carlton House, 46 Merrial Street, Newcastle under Lyme, ST5 2AW

4 The Boathouse

This popular venue is located on the banks of the River Severn and boasts impressive views across Shrewsbury's picturesque Quarry Park.

One of the town's most historic pubs, The Boathouse is the go-to destination in the summer months, its outdoor terrace being the perfect place to soak up the sunshine while enjoying a G&T.

The county winner at the National Pub & Bar Awards, the venue will host a gin festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

New Street, Shrewsbury, SY3 8JQ

5 Hogarth's Gin Palace

A former town centre nightclub, Hogarth's Gin Palace serves an impressive 120 different types of gin. The Amber Taverns pub also offers 'gin trays' - a selection of up to five gins, mixers and accompanying fruit, served on a tray to customers who can then prepare their own drinks to suit their particular tastes.

The pub sells an extensive range of lagers, craft beers and spirits, too.

A large-capacity venue, it's an ideal place for private functions such as birthday parties and anniversary celebrations.

98 High Street, Newcastle under Lyme, ST5 1PT

6 Merckx Belgian Bar

Merckx is a bespoke bar offering a superb range of small batch gins with perfectly balanced tonics and garnishes.

Its drinks menu also includes 50-plus bottled Belgian beers, six draught beers and a range of wines and specialist soft drinks. Definitely a must-try venue...

27 High Street Eccleshall, Staffordshire, ST21 6BW

FEATURE



Faith, Folk & Anarchy

**Tom Robinson reunites with former bandmates
at Shrewsbury Folk Festival**

It's been 40 years since Tom Robinson shot to chart success with his first single, 2-4-6-8 Motorway, an anniversary he's set to celebrate with a new tour in October.

Since 1977, the singer, songwriter and bassist has gone on to enjoy a varied and prolific career working on both sides of the music industry. Now a familiar voice on BBC Radio 6 as well as the founder of the pioneering Fresh On The Net blog, he's spent the last few years cultivating a reputation for championing new music, though in 2015 he surprised fans by releasing his first studio album in nearly 20 years.

But it's as part of a much more short-lived trio that he's appearing at Shrewsbury Folk Festival this summer - a surprise rekindling of the Faith, Folk And Anarchy project that saw him collaborate with Martyn Joseph and Show Of Hands' Steve Knightley in the early noughties. Initially unsure about a reunion, the group were eventually won over to the idea by the organisers' enthusiasm.

"It was Shrewsbury's idea," says Robinson. "There was somebody in the management of the festival who thought, 'I remember that - it was great!'"

Faith, Folk And Anarchy was the title given to the only album the trio ever recorded, in 2001. The accompanying 2002 tour was then followed by a brief reunion two years later.

"It was a very special project because it was three lead singers, and I hadn't really been in that kind of situation since the early '70s. Steve and Martyn are also both fantastic songwriters, and so we had the output of three songwriters' brains instead of just one. There's a big difference between that and singing backing vocals or playing bass on someone else's songs. But almost immediately after that first tour, I got the job at 6 Music. Steve and Martyn both had busy schedules too, so it was hard to find time to put together any more dates. This is just a one-off, but in a way I think that's quite nice because it makes it all the more special."

Thirteen years after the band's last outing, Robinson is looking forward not only to working with his former bandmates again, but also to enjoying a good catch-up.

"I've never been as relaxed and at home on stage as I was on that first tour with Faith, Folk And Anarchy because the whole thing was founded on our friendship. When you're just on stage with your mates, none of you is trying to prove anything.

"Steve and I do bump into each other at folk events and occasionally get up and sing together, but I haven't seen as much of Martyn because he works across the Atlantic so much. He's gigging almost non-stop, except when he's rescuing children in remote parts of the world. He's an amazing man, Martyn - the activism and the charity work he does just puts the rest of us to shame."

As a keen folk fan himself, Tom's also hoping to check out some of the other acts appearing at Shrewsbury this year, though he confesses he hasn't yet had time to properly investigate the line-up.

"Musically, most of the really interesting stuff I hear coming through at 6 Music is roots and acoustic. There's a whole generation of folk artists in their 20s and 30s who are really innovating in terms of the noise they're making - people like Sam Lee or Eliza Carthy. Even an apparently traditional duo like Will Pound and Eddy Jay - they play harmonica and accordion, and you think, what could be more of a finger-in-the-ear, folky cliché than that? But technically and stylistically, they're really pushing the boundaries of those instruments, and it's absolutely breathtaking.

"I think there's a misperception and a great ignorance out in the wider world about what folk is and what it can be, partly because the BBC doesn't cover it enough. It only gives us one hour a week of folk music on Radio Two, which is nothing when you consider that there are more folk festivals in this country than any other kind of music festival. I think there are just under 400 every year in England alone, and then another hundred or so in Scotland, Wales and Ireland, so there's a phenomenal demand and appetite for this music out there, which the BBC should be paying more attention to."

Fortunately, as a BBC Radio DJ himself, Robinson has gone some way towards plugging this gap on his own show, although with around 200 tracks a week to listen to from across all different genres, folk can only account for a fraction of the music that he plays.

"I feel a bit like a poacher turned gamekeeper, having spent a good 30 years on the outside, knocking on doors and trying to get my own music onto Radio One. But to now be on the other side and to be the person making the calls about what gets included and what doesn't, I've learned so much about the mechanics of it, what's needed and why some things work or don't."

Anyone can submit a track to Robinson for consideration both on his show and on the independent Fresh On The Net blog he runs with a growing team of enthusiastic contributors.

"It's really nice having a separate outlet where we can get behind stuff that the BBC wouldn't necessarily play. We have 20 moderators, and about a dozen active in any given week, so anyone who sends us a track between Monday and Thursday will be listened to by those 12. I don't think there's anywhere else on the web that guarantees submissions will be heard by that many people of all different tastes. It provides a safety net, so there's little chance of anything getting missed in the deluge, and even if I don't like something, someone else might go completely crazy for it."

Not content with only operating a groundbreaking music blog, Robinson has fully embraced online media and its many tools, crowdfunding his last album, *Only The Now*, via PledgeMusic, as well as finding its graphic designer by networking on social media.

"It's the future for all of us now - I don't think music is different from anything else. We all have to find our way in a world where it's getting harder and harder to get paid for your work, but at the same time, your potential for finding a worldwide audience is expanding exponentially."

Promoting other people's work might take up most of his time these days, but as his family has grown up and moved out, he's found himself with more time to pursue new endeavours, leading to the release of his 2015 album. For now, however, he's focusing on a completely different project.

"Recently I've been trying to write a memoir, but I'm not getting very far with it at the moment. I've had quite a strange, very blessed life over the years, from my first nervous breakdown at the age of 16 to living in East Germany in my 30s, plus all the bizarre and interesting people I've met. So there is a story there that I'd like to get written down before I shuffle off this mortal coil. But it's hard because as you get into your 60s, it's a race against declining memory!"

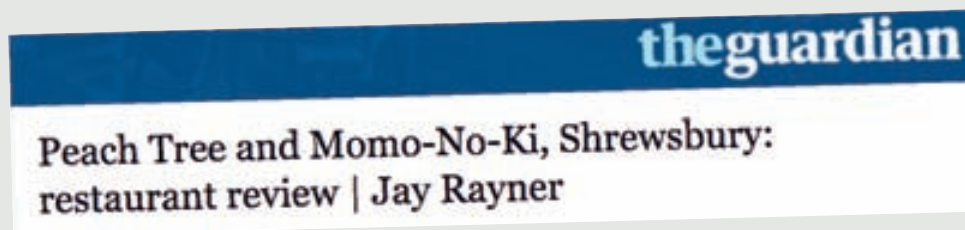
Tom Robinson performs with Faith, Folk & Anarchy at Shrewsbury Folk Festival on Monday 28 August.

For the full festival line-up, visit shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk

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All located opposite the historic and beautiful Shrewsbury Abbey!

New independent dessert restaurant offers Shrewsbury customers a Sweet experience

A new dessert restaurant has opened in Shrewsbury's Castle Foregate. Independent quality food brand Sweet boasts an extensive menu featuring a range of sundaes, jars, cakes, waffles, crepes, brownies, gelato, cheesecakes and milkshakes. Customers can either dine in or take away.

Having already opened restaurants in Aldridge, Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent, Walsall and London, the restaurant's tastebud-tantalising menu features, among other delights: Mixed berry & white chocolate cookie dough; Jack The Ripple alto shake - a raspberry & vanilla shake served with white chocolate sauce, a glazed donut and whipped cream; red velvet cheesecake and bananaberry crepes.

For patrons looking to share a dessert, there's Together Forever, a mouthwatering creation featuring chocolate fudge cake, fresh fruit, brownie pieces, vanilla milk chocolate and strawberry gelato, whipped cream, sprinkles and sauces.



REVIEW: The Waterfront, Walsall

Supersize portions the name of the game at family-friendly restaurant

Located alongside a 1,200-seat cinema and restaurant chains such as Pizza Express, TGI Fridays and Bella Italia, The Waterfront offers canal-side views and the chance to enjoy some al fresco dining.

Part of the Hungry Horse brand, the popular eatery is proud of the size of the portions it serves, its marketing blurb stating that 'while we keep our portion sizes generous, we don't supersize our prices'.

It certainly stuck to its word the

night we visited.

To start, my partner and I opted for the Meze Sharer, which comprised two oriental pork steamed buns, two large breaded squid rings, four chicken koftas with spicy sate peanut sauce and two floured tortillas with a yoghurt and mint dip. The buns - filled with shredded vegetables and topped with hoisin pulled pork rib meat and spring onions - were very tasty and by far my favourite element of the starter. The squid was cooked nicely, the

breadcrumbs light and in no way overpowering. The sate peanut sauce was delicious, but I personally felt that the koftas were slightly overdone. My partner, however, didn't agree. All in all, a successful starter.

No more than five minutes later, our main courses arrived. Although best known for its grill, The Waterfront's menu also features everything from burritos to pasta dishes, from salads to big-plate classics. For my main, I opted for the 100z double-dipped BBQ ribeye served on a bed of peppers and onions with a side of mac'n'cheese and fries topped with nacho cheese sauce, smoked steak bacon and jalapeños. Although the flavour of the meat was totally overpowered by the huge smothering of BBQ sauce, the steak was soft to the bite and very pleasant. The other elements of the dish served as the perfect accompaniment to the steak and, as promised, The Waterfront certainly didn't skimp on its portion sizes!

My partner chose the Quadzilla burger, which consisted of two beef burgers, two battered chicken fillets layered with smoked streaky bacon, cheddar cheese and nacho cheese served with a crown of onion rings, BBQ dip and chips. It was yet another monster of a main course and

definitely worthy of its £11.99 price tag. The beef burgers were seasoned well, cooked perfectly and showcased a nice, juicy texture. The chicken fillets were cooked perfectly too and played their part in making the burger one of the nicest I've tasted in quite a while.

We were too full to squeeze in dessert, but millionaires cheesecake, sticky toffee pudding, warm chocolate fudge cake and a selection of sundaes and sharing puddings were among the available dishes for those wishing to partake.

The Waterfront is very much a family-friendly eatery - some of the tables even feature their own individual television sets to keep the kids entertained. Boasting great value for money, faultless service and hearty portions, it's a perfect choice for families and groups of friends alike.

Lauren Foster

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

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Shrewsbury eatery offering a relaxed vibe

A new eatery has opened at the bottom of Shrewsbury's Wyle Cop, in the premises which previously housed the town's iconic Cornhouse.

House Of Grain is a relaxed bar & restaurant providing light snacks, three-course meals and 'everything in between'.

Using only organic, free-range produce, starters include cider-battered pork cheeks and bubble & squeak poppers, with main courses ranging from burgers, kebabs and salads to rump steak.

Every Sunday, the venue offers endless yorkshire puddings and gravy for £6 per person, and, for two hours, bottomless Prosecco for £18 per person.

New menu for Brum's Tom's Kitchen eatery

Designed by Tom Aikens, the restaurant's head chef, Tom's Kitchen at the Mailbox has introduced a host of exciting seasonal dishes with the launch of its brand new summer menu.

A key focus of the new menu is the introduction of a number of vegetarian dishes including; Norfolk asparagus with landcress salad, summer truffles, and a cacklebean egg yolk finished with spelt granola and a courgette dukkah and raw fennel salad, served with turmeric and saffron dressing. For the meat eaters, roast breast of duck and grilled baby spatchcock chicken are amongst the new additions. A full gluten-free menu is available on request.

Warehouse bar & grill to open this autumn

A new bar & restaurant is set to open on Shrewsbury's Claremont Street this autumn.

As well as serving brunch, lunch, dinner and cocktails, The Warehouse will also play host to live music.

The eatery is currently looking for front-of-house and kitchen staff. Anybody interested in applying for either role should email jobs@warehousebargrill.com for more information.



Cosford Food Festival aiming to fly high at RAF Museum

More than 80 local producers will be taking centre stage at this year's Cosford Food Festival.

Held in the grounds of the RAF Museum Cosford on Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 July, the event features an impressive selection of cuisine, from Indian, Italian and French to Caribbean, Cuban and Mexican. Other food on the menu includes gourmet burgers, flame-grilled chicken - and for those with a sweet tooth - traditional dairy ice creams, waffles, crêpes, milkshakes and smoothies.

The festival also features cooking demonstrations by top chefs and live music from, among others, the Cosford & Shawbury Military Wives Choir.

A special Kids' Corner includes cookery classes, pottery workshops, face painting, circus skills and an under-fives play bus.

£10million restaurant development set to open in Stoke

A £10million restaurant development in Stoke-on-Trent is expected to open before the end of the summer.

Located on former wasteland on the edge of the city centre, opposite Hanley's Octagon Retail Park and Premier Inn, the development is now nearing completion. Bella Italia, TGI Friday's and Nando's will all be opening restaurants on the site, while Costa Coffee is set to open a drive-through cafe. The restaurant development is expected to create around 140 jobs.

Marco Pierre White opens new Midlands steakhouse

Three times Michelin-starred celebrity chef Marco Pierre White has opened a new Steakhouse Bar & Grill restaurant in four-star hotel The Best Western Plus Manor, located in Meriden, near Solihull.

A popular venue for local food lovers and hotel guests, the restaurant's menu features signature MPW steaks, timeless English and French classics and a comprehensive selection of premium cocktails, all delivered with Marco's unique flair.



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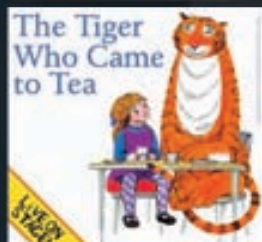
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Rick Astley

Cannock Chase Forest, Staffordshire,
Sat 8 July

Soulful-voiced pop icon and multi-million-selling artist Rick Astley celebrated his first number one in 29 years in 2016, pulling off one of pop's most remarkable comebacks.

Following on from a run of sold-out tour dates, the Never Gonna Give You Up star here performs songs from his latest album, 50, as well as his greatest hits.



Ezio

The Robin, Bilston, Wed 12 July

Italian-born Ezio Lunedei and Mark 'Booga' Fowell mix rock and folk with intelligent lyrics, rhythmic power and acoustic melodies.

Lead singer and composer Lunedei's line in perceptive songs, many of which contemplate such subject matter as the male condition, temptation and vulnerability, have established the duo as a force to be reckoned with on the acoustic scene.

Formed 27 years ago, their career famously received a boost in the mid-'90s from Tony Blair. While being interviewed on Desert Island Discs, Blair revealed that he would listen to Cancel Today - a track from second album Black Boots On Latin Feet - before heading to the House of Commons for Prime Minister's Questions.



Misha Mullov-Abbado Group

The Hive, Shrewsbury, Sat 15 July

Combining contemporary jazz and classical influences with swing, funk and groove-

based styles, Misha and his band visit Shrewsbury this month as part of their Cross-Platform Interchange tour. The band have recently performed at King's Place, the Barbican Centre and the Elgar Room as part of the BBC Proms Lates series.

Linkin Park

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Thurs 6 July

Hailing from Agoura Hills in California, rock band Linkin Park rose to international fame following the release of debut album Hybrid Theory in the year 2000. Best known for singles Numb, In The End and What I've Done, they're this month visiting Birmingham in support of new album One More Light.

The Dickies

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton,
Sat 22 July

The Dickies were among the first punk-rock bands to emerge from Los Angeles. They formed in 1977, after guitarist Stan Lee and then-bassist Billy Club saw The Damned on their first American tour.

Despite numerous line-up changes and various problems with drugs, which slowed them down considerably in the 1980s, they've continued playing and recording sporadically right up to the present day. Combining catchy melodies and deep harmonies with a comical style, they're visiting Wolverhampton as part of their 40th anniversary tour.

Blink 182

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Fri 7 July

Perhaps best known for their high-energy live shows and irreverent toilet humour, punk-pop favourites Blink 182 came to prominence in the early 1990s. The band have sold over 12 million albums in the US and more than 35 million worldwide. They're currently basking in the glory of their recent UK and US chart success, California.

Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls and The Front Bottoms support.



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The Hallé Orchestra

Lichfield Cathedral, Fri 7 July

The Manchester-based Hallé has been a real force to be reckoned with since performing its first concert over 150 years ago. Although the orchestra is renowned for its affinity with English music - particularly the works of Elgar and Delius - it turns its attention on this particular occasion to compositions by Strauss (Don Juan), Rachmaninov (Paganini Variations) and Beethoven (Symphony No3). The Hallé's Principal Guest Conductor, Ryan Wigglesworth, is the man with the baton; the pianist is the highly rated Andrew Tyson.

The Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Sat 22 July

'The Fron', as it's affectionately known, is one of the world's best-established male voice choirs, having formed 70 years ago in the village of Froncysyllte, near Llangollen in North East Wales. As might be expected of a choir with so long a history, its associations with big-name stars have been many and varied. In 1995, for example, the Fron hosted the Modena Choir, complete with Luciano Pavarotti.



Elysian Piano Trio

Wade Street Church, Lichfield, Mon 10 July



Violinist Emily Sun, cellist Jane Lindsay and pianist Jennifer Hughes met at the Royal Academy of Music, of which they are all alumni. It was while studying there that they discovered they had a shared passion for chamber music, and in particular for the piano trio repertoire.

This latest concert features a programme comprising Beethoven's Piano Trio in D Major Op70 No1 Ghost Trio, Brahms' Piano Trio No1 in B Major and Gershwin Themes from Porgy & Bess.

Ludlow Choral Society: New Directions

St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire, Sat 8 July

The Edge Chamber Choir here teams up with the LCS to present a concert featuring Bob Chilcott's A Little Jazz Mass, the premiere of Kubla Khan - a specially commissioned work by the Society's accompanist, Steve Dunachie - and the Birmingham Spirituals by Patrick Larley, who is now in his 20th year as LCS's Music Director.

Dame Evelyn Glennie

Lichfield Cathedral, Mon 10 July

There's certainly nothing middle of the road about Dame Evelyn Glennie. The Scottish-born 51-year-old was the first full-time solo percussionist in the world and the first classical musician to have her own website. She's also the proud owner of a staggering 2,000-plus musical instruments.

If you add to that list of fascinating facts numerous other terrific tidbits - she speaks 'Buchan tongue', a language used only in the North East of Scotland, plays the Great Highland Bagpipes and owns her own tartan, the delightfully named Rhythms Of Evelyn Glennie - it becomes clear that you'll be spending the evening in the company of a truly remarkable woman.

If you're looking for a musical experience which is just that little bit different, then this is most definitely a concert to catch.



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The Mostly Jazz Festival

Moseley Park, Birmingham, Fri 7 - Sun 9 July

Created by the Midlands masterminds behind Moseley Folk and Lunar Festival, Mostly Jazz, Funk And Soul does just what it says on the tin.

World-class artists come together with the leading lights of the local jazz scene in a laid-back, family-friendly event celebrating Brum's musical heritage.

Like its sister folk festival, it's located in the gorgeous Moseley Park, a stunning woodland glade tucked away behind busy Birmingham streets - making it the ideal retreat for music-loving city-dwellers.

Line-up includes: Chaka Khan, Soul II Soul, St Paul & the Broken Bones, The Sugarhill Gang, The Pharcyde, Craig Charles, Crazy P, Omar, Don Letts, Lee Fields & the Expressions, The Comet is Coming, Harleighblu, Marta Ren & the Groovelets, Too Many T's, Stuff

Fuse Festival

Beacon Park, Lichfield, Fri 7 - Sun 9 July

Now established as one of the Midlands' largest free music and arts festivals, Fuse returns to the beautiful Beacon Park with music, grassroots projects, family activities and more. Visit Panic Circus in their Big Top for shows, workshops and games; get hands-on with a junk orchestra, dance and graffiti art in the Imaginarium; or join choirs from across the district for the massive City Sing.

Line-up includes: The Assist, Born Again Beatles, People's Republic of Mercia, Marquis Drive, Pollen, Matuki, Hankks, Barbarellas Bang Bang, The Bar Steward Sons of Val Doonican, The Tuts, Ed Geater, Kissmet, China Shop Bull, Harry & the Howlers, Electric, The Ellipsis, Folklaw, Baraka



Middle Of Nowhere Fest

Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge, Staffs, Fri 28 - Sun 30 July



Having moved a few times before settling in its current home in 2012, Middle Of Nowhere welcomes revellers of all ages to enjoy a fantastic range of blues, rock and country acts, mixing tributes with original music. Kid-friendly features include a maize maze, adventure playground, the chance to meet a host of friendly farm animals and perhaps even enjoy a pony ride.

Line-up includes: The Taskers, Too Petty, Fleetwood Bac, Jump the Shark, Angels with Dirty Faces, The Blue Horizon, The Great Roper Rodeo Band, The Zeppelin 3, Black Rose, Gaz Brookfield, Glam 45, The Jake Henry Band, The Runawayz, Smashed

Godiva Festival

War Memorial Park, Coventry, Fri 7 - Sun 9 July

Proudly reaffirming its status as the UK's biggest and best free music festival, Godiva presents another bumper crop of top-notch talent as it returns for 2017. Veteran performers join emerging talent working across a dazzling array of genres. While the traditional Godiva procession continues today, the weekend's certainly come a long way since its 17th century origins as a celebration of the legendary medieval Countess of Mercia.

Line-up includes: The Stranglers, Cast, Example & DJ Wire, Carl Barat & the Jackals, The Darkness, Kate Nash, The Amazons, Malory Knox, Tom Clarke (The Enemy), Pulled Apart By Horses, Panjabi MC, Alabama 3 Acoustic, Lucy Spraggan, Badfinger, Lucy Rose, The Institutes





Nozstock

The Farm, Rowden Paddocks, Bromyard,
Fri 21 - Sun 23 July

Founded by a fun-loving family in the noughties and still overseen by Farmer Noz, this eclectic and eccentric festival invites visitors to indulge their curiosity with an off-the-wall, generically diverse array of talent. Nine stages and several intimate, secluded areas showcase a wide array of entertainment, from live music near the Tudor farmhouse and converted cowsheds, to after-dark, experimental comedy and cabaret in the 'Bantam Of The Opera' Theatre. Look out for arts and crafts, folk diversions, film screenings, dance workshops, sound art and much more.

Line-up includes: Seasick Steve, Hayseed Dixie, Happy Mondays, The Sugarhill Gang, Hazard & Eksman, Delta Heavy, Ocean Wisdom, Goldie Lookin' Chain, Mind Vortex, Frankee, Ferocious Dog, Levelz, General Levy

Warwick Folk Festival

Warwick School & Warwick Town Centre,
Thurs 27 - Sun 30 July

Attracting some of the folk scene's most seasoned performers as well as scouting out the best new talent, Warwick Folk Festival ranks among the UK's best traditional music events. Conveniently located in the grounds of Warwick School, with its indoor and outdoor performance space and plenty of indoor facilities, it also boasts one of the most comfortable festival sites. Folk dance, kids' activities, a friendly atmosphere and fringe acts in the town all contribute to making Warwick Folk one of the Midlands' most all-round enjoyable festival experiences.

Line-up includes: Oysterband, The Spooky Men's Chorale, Elephant Sessions, Andy Ker-shaw, Gaêlica, Goitse, Louvat Bros, Alistair Anderson & Northlands, Will Pound & Eddy Jay, Piaf: The Songs, Crows, Tilston Lowe, Birlinn Jiarg, Northern Company, Leif, Granny's Attic



MADE Birmingham

The Digbeth Triangle, Birmingham, Sat 29 July



From cutting-edge live music and dance to vibrant street art and design, the Metropolitan Arts & Dance Event (MADE Birmingham) compiles the best in contemporary urban and underground culture in the bustling heart of Britain's second city. Expect dynamic, award-winning performers, drum'n'bass, hip-hop, grime, techno and all-night DJ sets. Easy to access thanks to its inner-city location, this 18-plus festival takes place across Birmingham's Digbeth Triangle.

Line-up includes: Chase & Status + Rage, Giggs, Gorgon City, Sub Focus, Chris Lorenzo, Goldie, My Nu Leng, Charlie Sloth, Stefflon Don, Levelz, DJ Target, Jaykae, Dapz on the Map, Camo & Krooked, High Contrast, Friction, Shadow Child, Deetron, Cause & Affect, Patrick Nazemi

Splendour Festival

Wollaton Park, Nottingham, Sat 22 July

Since 2008, this family-friendly festival has built up a proud history of attracting national and international talent of the highest calibre to the city. In addition to an impressive two-stage line-up of pop and indie artists, expect a funfair, market stalls, kids' activities and a silent disco. Look out, too, for herds of red and fallow deer grazing in the beautiful yet easily accessible Wollaton Park.

Line-up includes: Kaiser Chiefs, Billy Ocean, Busted, British Sea Power, Buzzcocks, Tony Hadley, Gabrielle Aplin, Will Varley, Black Grape, Bud, Josh Wheatley, Yola Carter, Georgie





Simmer Down Festival

Handsworth Park, Birmingham, Sun 23 July

Over the last six years, the free-to-attend Simmer Down has grown to become one of the most popular and diverse festivals in Birmingham.

Featuring music, dance, spoken word, visual arts, commissioned work, outreach & young people's programmes, workshops and participation activities, the family-friendly festival celebrates the city's rich cultural diversity with a line-up of internationally acclaimed artists and homegrown talent.

Rooted in North Birmingham, Simmer Down pays tribute to the centrality of reggae and other musical genres that have contributed to Birmingham's growing reputation as an international city of culture.

Line-up includes: Freddie McGregor & Macka B, Black Voices, Ras Tweed, Ras King Bobo, Motown In Dub, Khaliq, Mikey Tuff, Robbie Levi, Iam Malakahi, Christina Adelsi

Lichfield Festival

various locations, Lichfield, Fri 7 - Sat 15 July

Each July, Lichfield plays host to one of the UK's most eclectic multi-arts festivals.

Established in the early '80s, the event has more than 35 years' experience in working with performers from across the world, as well as nurturing young talent from throughout the UK.

The nine-day festival features music, film, theatre, comedy, dance, family activities, visual arts, walks and talks.

Line-up includes: Armonico Consort, Seth Lakeman and Wildwood Kin, The Halle Orchestra, Rich Hall's Hoedown, Hal Crutten-den, Black Voices, Elysian Piano Trio, From The North Sea To Atlantic Shores, The Swingles



Three Choirs Festival

various locations in and around Worcester, Sat 22 - Sat 29 July



This year celebrating its 302nd birthday, the Three Choirs is the oldest non-competitive classical music festival in the world. The event brings together established favourites of the British classical choral tradition with works drawn from a broader, more international musical canvas. Choral and orchestral concerts feature prominently in a week-long programme that also includes cathedral services, solo and chamber music recitals, masterclasses, talks, theatre, exhibitions and walks.

Line-up includes: Roderick Williams, Lucy Russell, Hail Bright Cecilia, Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony, Paradise Remembered

Bromsgrove Folk Festival

Bowling Green Inn, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 July

Bromsgrove Folk Festival offers patrons the chance to enjoy intimate concerts by UK-based folk, roots and acoustic performers. Taking place at the town's Bowling Green Inn, the festival spreads across two marquees (one 350-seater and one 120-seater), with sessions and singarounds inside the pub.

Line-up includes: The Melrose Quartet, Quicksilver, Dan McKinnon, Gren Bartley Band, Patchwork Skies, Clive Brooks & Tom Perry, Anthony John Clarke, Three Daft Monkeys





THE SOUL OF EUROPE

BE Festival returns to the Birmingham REP this month with its annual celebration of international theatre, art and collaboration.

With last month's snap general election having yielded no clear victor, a disunited parliament now prepares to lead the country through Brexit, one of its toughest foreign policy challenges in decades. As chance would have it, 2016's Birmingham European Festival directly coincided with the UK's EU referendum on 23 June. Since then, shifting moods have repeatedly thwarted all attempts to predict political outcomes across the continent: these are certainly interesting times.

Now, with the nature of the UK's future relationship with Europe looking more uncertain than ever, BE Festival returns to the Birmingham REP with its annual celebration of international theatre, art and collaboration.

"This year we received 1,070 applications to perform, as well as several visual arts proposals," says Miguel Oyarzun, co-director of BE Festival. "Within the range of work we've seen in our scouting across Europe, artists have definitely been tapping into current socio-political issues - as of course they should do. Part of that is Brexit, but actually that's just one symptom of what's happening: there aren't any shows here talking about Brexit directly, but there are lots that address the wider situation in Europe and across the world. For example, we have a show about the economic and refugee crises in Greece, and we have another about how people can become extremists, which taps into fears about people coming into the

country, so it's all interconnected."

Aptly enough, the theme for the visual arts programme this year is 'Borders' - a topic which has only become more pertinent since it was selected a couple of years previously.

"We are living in a global society now," says co-director Isla Aguilar, "and I don't really understand why we keep trying to put up these walls to contain us and stop us from being close to each other. From a sociological point of view, I think it's important to have people from other countries coming here and enriching us with new cultures. We try to celebrate difference in the festival. But I also really liked the idea of crossing borders because I think it's the main ethos of the fes-

tival. In terms of artistic disciplines, crossing borders can help us to create something very rich.”

Among the most striking manifestations of the Borders theme will be Asingeline by German company Mameza. This community project-cum-interactive installation takes the form of a single, straight line of red tape, laid down by the artists over the course of a few days and arriving at the theatre in time for the festival opening.

“They go through shops, they go through houses - just about anywhere!” says Aguilar. “It’s a piece which tries to bring people into the theatre, but also works the other way by taking theatre out into the streets. They’ve done this in many cities around the world, but it’s never been done in the UK before, so I’m really looking forward to seeing how it works in Birmingham.”

“We’re offering free tickets for people whose houses are crossed by the line,” adds Oyarzun. “The idea is to connect up an area of the city with low artistic engagement to the venue, so in this case it will be going from Ladywood to the REP through Brindleyplace.”

Another interactive piece called *British Enough?* plays on the idea of national identity, taking its cues from official tests that non-British nationals must now pass in order to adopt UK citizenship.

“It’s a site-specific project made especially for the REP through a collaboration between Kristina Cranfield and Foolish People,” Oyarzun explains. “Audiences will go through a series of tests inspired by the British citizenship test, and depending on the results, they will then be taken to a series of secret locations in the building. It’s a great way to discover parts of the REP you’ve never seen before. Some of the staff have never even been to these places, so it should be really fun.”

But though the questions of identity, security and cohesion thrown up by the EU referen-

dum are still far from being resolved, after interviewing people on Birmingham’s streets, Oyarzun believes voters on both sides are now beginning to tire of the debate.

“Since Brexit has been in the news and everywhere constantly, the vision of Europe has become very politicised - when you think of Europe here, the first thing you think of is Brexit. But actually, it’s about many more things than that, and with this festival and the theme of Borders we’re trying to share with audiences another idea of Europe - one that is political, of course, but also one that is fun, that is about sharing and making connections and discovering things about ourselves through the eyes of other people.”

This spirit of playful interaction, conversation and co-operation extends to subverting traditional audience-artist relationships, both during the shows themselves and in the friendly, informal spaces between them where visitors, artists, programmers and organisers alike all come together to unwind, break bread and start discussions.

“One of the main aims of the festival is that everybody talks about what they’ve seen,” says Aguilar. “It’s not always easy to create a space where artists can talk with audiences directly, but I think it’s very important to open conversations and break down the barrier between them. Part of the reason artists want to bring their work here is that we create a kind of hub where they get to stay for the whole week, see all of the works and really experience the city.”

“The artists that come here do so with a spirit of sharing and trying to develop new audiences for contemporary work,” adds Oyarzun. “We encourage them to make themselves available to audiences and to really take on board their comments. I think that’s what’s lovely about this festival - there’s a different kind of ethos than you’d find at a normal event where you just go and see shows.”

As well as a dazzlingly diverse programme of

live art, drama, physical theatre, dance, circus and more, with opportunities to see four shows in a single day, there are also workshops running daily and post-show live music playing until late each night. And of course, BE Festival’s famous interval dinners are a crucial part of the schedule. Taking place between the second and third shows of the evening, they’re held in a large, open space, with unreserved bench seating at long tables, in a bid to encourage everyone to meet and talk to new people.

The warmth, friendliness and commitment to nurturing new talent at BE keeps both staff and visitors returning year on year, sometimes in very different capacities. Working with young people as part of 2017’s BE Next scheme is Anna Howard Himali, who has a long history with the event.

“Anna started as one of our volunteers when she was 17,” explains Oyarzun. “Then she worked with us as part of the organisation before becoming a REP Foundry artist. Now she’s working in London as a director!”

“It’s a beautiful thing,” adds Aguilar. “We’ve worked with lots of young people who’ve volunteered and gone on to run their own ventures. At that age, it can help to open a window, so if someone really wants to engage and come back, we always try to facilitate that.”

“There was a quote from one journalist who described BE as ‘an experience that goes beyond theatre’,” says Oyarzun, “and that really speaks to what we’re trying to achieve here. We try to put art at the centre of something even bigger, which is about the experience and the encounter and sharing and celebrating the crossing of borders together.”

.....

BE Festival takes place at the Birmingham REP from Tuesday 4 to Saturday 8 July.





Justin Moorhouse

The Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 8 July

Audience members catching Justin Moorhouse for the first time will find themselves in the company of a seasoned pro who knows exactly how to work a crowd.

Although his accent and style of delivery call to mind Peter Kay, Moorhouse is very much his own man, presenting an evening of well-honed, hugely enjoyable, adult-themed entertainment... Jokes include: "The women you see on Jeremy Kyle are so big they have to get their leggings on prescription."

Shrewsbury International Comedy Festival

Various venues around Shrewsbury, Fri 21 - Sun 23 July

Already a hotbed of food, flowers and folk music, Shrewsbury is this month tossing its hat into the comedy ring too. Four of the town's venues are co-hosting this inaugural festival of laughter, which offers top-drawer comedians the chance to preview their new material in readiness for the Edinburgh Festival.

The event comprises 15 hour-long performances and features comic turns from, among others, Joe Lycett, Terry Alderton, Spencer Jones, Barbara Nice and Irish hip-hop improv duo Abandoman.

The festival culminates with a Gala at the town's Theatre Severn, hosted by the hugely popular Greg Davis.

Commenting on the new event, its co-producer and one-time standup comic, Kevin Bland, said: "Shrewsbury has a great tradition of hosting festivals, including everything from street theatre to folk music, food to comics and beer to flowers. We reckoned it was high time we brought some comedy to the town as well."



Mark Thomas

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Mon 17 July

Mark Thomas is no ordinary comedian. Hugely witty and as savage as a rabid dog when it comes to putting hecklers in their place, he takes to the stage with the intention not only of making people laugh but also of exposing governmental and corporate exploitation in its many and varied forms.

Mark's latest show, a speculation on what the future might look like in the aftermath of recent political earthquakes, sees him collecting and examining his audience's predictions, and then gambling on their outcome.

Zoe Lyons

Lichfield Garrick, Mon 10 July

Zoe Lyons creates funny routines based on astute observation of life's absurdities. Her latest show, titled Little Misfit, looks back on her experiences as 'the awkward gay kid at school'. A severe bout of alopecia didn't help her situation any, particularly when she then adopted a less-than-attractive comb-over to conceal her hairloss.

She also harboured secret desires for Charlie's Angels - "The blonde one mostly," she admits, "but with a comb-over, who can afford to be fussy?" Described by one reviewer as 'Alan Bennett on speed', Zoe's jokes include: "The old blind fisherman liked nothing more than coming home and putting on a pair of his favourite kippers."



Jarred Christmas

The Glee Club, Birmingham,
Fri 21 - Sat 22 July

Kiwi comedian Jarred Christmas is delighted with the warm reception he receives from UK audiences. "I think it's the charming and 'sixy' New Zealand accent that does it," he jokes. "I think Brits are also great at laughing at themselves, so don't mind Johnny Foreigner making jokes about British stuff. In fact, they seem to love it."

A 2010 Chortle Award-winning compere, Jarred has some hard-hitting views about the business of being an MC. "A lot of comperes just don't get it," he observes. "They seem to forget that along with keeping the show moving and warming up the audience they still have to be funny. If they're not funny, then they should get the **** off the stage."



Adam Hess & Mat Ewins

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Wed 12 July

This work-in-progress preview show offers Birmingham audiences the chance to catch up with the comedy output of two fast-rising funnymen... Adam Hess has built his reputation on his penchant for quickfire gags - "In France, J-Lo is known as 'I have water'". Mat Ewins, meanwhile, has developed his act around an inventive use of technology and a host of comic characters.



Eleanor Tiernan



Luisa Omielan



Fin Taylor



Geoff Norcott

Edinbrum

mac, Birmingham, various dates

Yep, it's that time of year again, when all good comedians stop off in Birmingham to try out their new material en route to the Edinburgh Festival.

The venue's Thursday night line-up of mirthful merrymakers should certainly ensure a chuckle or several is never too far away. And the comedians in question will

no doubt be measuring the audience reaction to their every gag, as they frantically try to hone their material in preparation for their forthcoming trip to Bonnie Scotland.

macBirmingham's July Edinbrum shows are as follows: Brennan Reece & Eleanor Tiernan (6 July); Fin Taylor & Jayde Adams (the 13th); Luisa Omielan & Phil Nichol (the 20th); and Geoff Norcott & Carl Donnelly (the 27th).

Barry Castagnola

Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham,
Sat 29 July

The sharp and topical Barry Castagnola has been tickling funny bones for more than a decade now. Back in the early days of the 21st century, he was also one-third of spoof, anti-capitalist, eco-warrior, dance-music act Cyderdelic (with Marc Wootton and Liam Woodman).


Presenting a set that includes satire, farce, character comedy and the use of multi-media, Barry boasts a style that manages to be both easy-going and impressively physical.



FEATURE

The Heat is On...

Miss Saigon comes to the Birmingham Hippodrome

A man and a woman are shown in a dramatic, intimate embrace on a stage. The man, with curly hair and wearing a green jacket, is leaning towards the woman. The woman, with her hair in a bun and wearing a light-colored patterned blouse and a bright pink skirt, is looking up at him with an open mouth as if singing or shouting. The background is dark, with red lanterns and foliage visible, creating a theatrical atmosphere.

“ Things like the helicopter are just thrilling for any audience, regardless of whether you’re into musical theatre or not. ”

Associate Director Jean Van Der Spuy discusses the continued power and relevance of Boublil's and Schönberg's smash-hit musical.

On 30 April 1975, American soldiers fled the Vietnamese capital of Saigon, leaving the city to be reclaimed by opposing native forces. This dramatic day marked the culmination of a long and brutal conflict, passionately fought on both sides to defend not simply territory, but fundamentally opposing ideologies. But while thousands of Vietnamese celebrated the end of US occupation and the reunification of their country under communist leadership, city dwellers who had lived among the West-erners were devastated by their abandon-ment, left behind to face the harsh consequences of having been on the wrong side of the war.

It's against this fraught and politically com-plex backdrop that Les Misérables creators Alain Boublil and Claude Schönberg set their second most famous musical, Miss Saigon. In-spired by the plot of Puccini's classic opera, Madame Butterfly, it tells the tale of a doomed romance between American GI Chris and Viet-namese barmaid Kim, divided by the enforced evacuation.

Following critically acclaimed runs in Lon-don, New York and Tokyo, the show now em-barks on its first UK tour in more than a decade, with a spectacular new production heading for the Birmingham Hippodrome this month.

"It's geared to an age where we're seeing a lot of cinema and glossy HBO-type shows, so it's very cinematic and epic in scale," explains As-sociate Director Jean-Pierre Van Der Spuy. "The previous production was very operatic, whereas this really celebrates the intimacy of the story. It's quite brutal and gritty in places, and it feels very real."

Though it's been a while since regional the-atres have hosted an official touring produc-tion, those who've seen the show during its recent London run will have a good idea of what to expect, with much of the staging and design adopted from 2014's Prince Edward Theatre version. But with a new cast comes a fresh interpretation of the characters and the relationships between them.

"I think what's brilliant about something as well-written and well-constructed as Saigon is that there's always scope to find nuance and detail and colour that's never been seen be-fore," says Van Der Spuy. "There are lots of things about this and the Prince Edward pro-duction that are very similar, but I think peo-ple will find there's a slightly different focus

in terms of the storytelling.

"The cast we've assembled is incredibly excit-ing. It's quite young and edgy with a lot of en-ergy. There's maybe 30% of them who've done the show before, but on the first day of re-hearsals, I said that they needed to empty their minds of what the show had been before, so that everyone could start again together on page one."

Back in the '90s, early productions attracted criticism for their unenlightened casting choices, sparking protests against what's now colloquially known as 'whitewashing'. Today, however, properly reflecting the diversity of the characters themselves is top of the agenda, resulting in a vibrant multicultural-ism amongst the company which Van Der Spuy highlights as one of the joys of working on the show.

"Miss Saigon is kind of unique for a director because you get to work with a whole range of different people from all over the world. That coming together of people from completely different cultural backgrounds is very excit-ing. And challenging, too - you're having to deal with a lot of difficult topics. But it's thrilling when people start to really take own-ership and invest in stories like this."

Creating something that resonates truthfully and sensitively with the very real horrors of the Vietnam War and its aftermath was also massively important to the team behind the show, and both the cast and the creatives have taken time to fully immerse themselves in the world that the production seeks to represent.

"I'm a bit of a history geek, so I love tethering everything we do in it to truth, to the root of where these stories come from. We don't start with the script: we go back further than that first, and if you go into our rehearsal room you'll see the research material stuck all over the walls.

"Everyone has a job to find their own charac-ters, so every single GI and Vietnamese civil-ian writes a character breakdown. We're actually really lucky with Saigon because it's so easy to access resources. We watch loads of documentaries. We have Tuesday film nights. I've even got a load of Life magazines which are from the period, and what's interesting is not only the articles, but also things like the adverts for the cigarettes they would have smoked or the washing machines they might have had. It's those tiny details that help peo-ple to really understand the world."

It's partly the proximity of these events to our own lives and our general familiarity with the broad brushstrokes of the story that help to make this show so readily accessible. Admit-ting it's a slightly controversial claim, Van Der Spuy makes a strong case for Miss Saigon being an even more accessible work than its more famous cousin, Les Misérables.

"It's very relatable, and much closer in terms of our history. So many people think Les Mis is about the French Revolution, and it's not at all - it's actually about the later student upris-ings, so in a way it provokes a lot of questions. But with this, people know what the context is - they get who the characters are and why they're there without it needing to be ex-plained.

"I also think that even though it's a period piece it has a lot to say about where we are in our world today. Sometimes looking at some-thing through a slightly different prism is good for people, and that's why we need to be telling these stories now. I think Saigon has a real pertinence - and for me, that relevance is one of the reasons I love working on it and why I've continued to work on it."

Yet as serious and often tragic as both the real and fictional elements of this story are, there's also plenty in it offering straightforward enter-tainment and enjoyment, from the sharp sense of humour and wide-ranging musical styles, to the breathtaking design which has been lauded by critics and theatre-goers alike.

"If you look at something like Les Mis, from the first note to the last note it has a score that feels like it's in a single style, whereas in Saigon, there's a lot more variety within the writing. You've got musical theatre comedy in the shape of things like Bangkok and Ameri-can Dream, and you've also got those big, im-passioned duets like Last Night Of The World and Sun And Moon, which are typical of Schönberg and Boublil. So whoever comes, there's something in it that will appeal to them. It's also really exciting. Things like the helicopter are just thrilling for any audience, regardless of whether you're into musical the-atre or not."

.....
Miss Saigon shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Wednesday 26 July to Saturday 23 September



Funny Girl

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, Mon 24 - Sat 29 July

Debating on Broadway in 1963, featuring hit numbers *People* and *Don't Rain On My Parade*, and making a star of Barbra Streisand, *Funny Girl* tells the story of real-life Broadway legend and comedian Fanny Brice.

This critically acclaimed new version of the hit musical stars Natasha J Barnes in the title role, with Popstar To Operastar winner Darius

Campbell lending support as her ne'er-do-well husband.

"Fanny's a funny old character to play because she was a real person," says Natasha. "You don't want to do an impression, but there are certain things that you have to honour in the performance - like she was known for really big facial expressions and for being larger than life. She's a very strong woman, a real fireball and quite ahead of her time. She's also very funny and really wears her heart on her sleeve. She doesn't hide anything, so it's all about trying to be as open and as full of light as you can be."

Oddsocks: Macbeth

Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Sun 9 July; mac, Birmingham, Sun 16 July; Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 28 July

Having been spurred into action by the prophecies of three supernatural beings, Macbeth's desire to become king of Scotland sees him committing all manner of atrocities - including the murder of women and children...

Not that the finer points of Shakespeare's blood-spattered tragedy are likely to be overly important in this particular production, given that it's zany funsters Oddsocks who're at the helm! Expect plenty of madcap mayhem and laughter from this always-value-for-money ensemble.



The Tempest

Stafford Castle, until Sat 8 July

Shakespeare's last and most complete play, *The Tempest* brings 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 for luxury cruise liners and Hollywood glamour that also welcomed in the dying days of vaudeville...

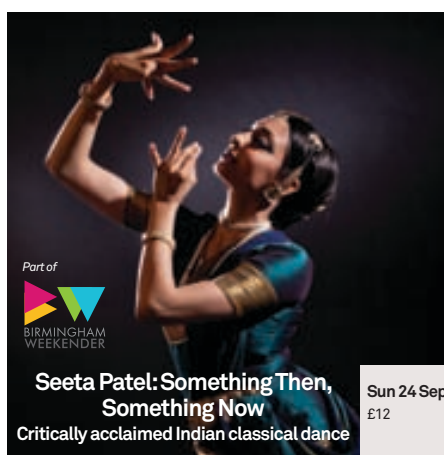
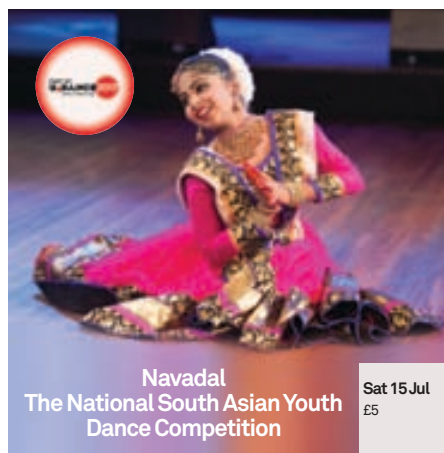
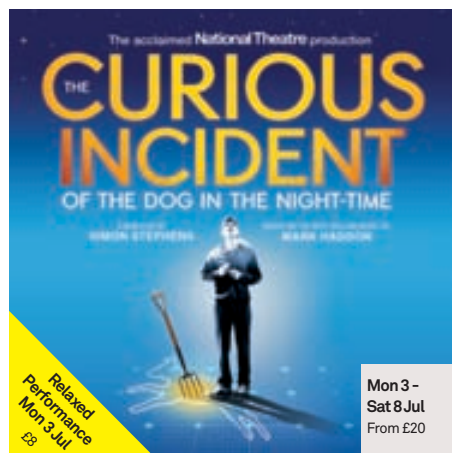


Sense And Sensibility

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 story's main protagonists, busily making their first forays into the decadent world of 18th century high society, where the giddy excitement of love and the terrible pain of heartbreak await them...





The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 4 - Sat 8 July

This National Theatre stage adaptation of Mark Haddon's award-winning novel bagged an impressive seven Olivier Awards in 2013 and has met with almost universal acclaim. At its centre is the character of 15-year-old Christopher, a boy who describes himself as "a mathematician with some behavioural difficulties".

Initially coming under suspicion after discovering the lifeless body of his neighbour's dog, Christopher decides to investigate the crime - and in so doing embarks on a journey that will change his world forever...



About A Goth

The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 27 July

Birmingham-based Gritty Theatre are the company behind this lively show. A 'rude and raucous' comedy, it follows the trials and tribulations of a gay Goth teenager struggling to meet the challenges of living in the 21st century. The show has an anticipated but subject-to-change running time of 45 minutes and includes partial nudity.

The Life And Death Of Marilyn Monroe

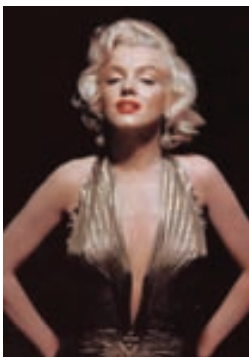
The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 14 - Sun 16 July

Marilyn Monroe was widely considered to be the sexiest female movie star of the 20th century - except maybe by Tony Curtis, who once said that making love to her was like 'kissing Hitler'.

The woman who began life as Norma Jeane Mortenson courted controversy throughout her Hollywood career, her troubled life ending at the tragically young age of 36.

Breatkthrough Theatre's new production

aims to take a peek behind the glitz and glamour of the Marilyn phenomenon, presenting the Some Like It Hot star as she sits alone in her dressing room 'stripped back and bare - just an ordinary girl telling her story'.



As You Like It

Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 14 - Sat 15 July; St. Andrew's Church, Droitwich Spa, Thurs 20 July; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 28 July; Arley Arboretum & Gardens, near Bewdley, Sun 30 July

Bromsgrove's very own Mad-Cap Theatre Productions are the ensemble behind this new version of Shakespeare's highly likable comedy. The storyline 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...



Bonnie And Clyde

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 20 - Sat 29 July

The Old Joint Stock Musical Theatre Company makes a welcome return after enjoying previous successes with productions of Rent, Avenue Q, Dogfight, American Idiot and Urinetown.

This latest musical tells the Great Depression-era story of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, two small-town nobodies destined to become one of America's most notorious couples. Blues, gospel, country, rockabilly and bluegrass music all feature.

The Third Policeman

mac, Birmingham, Sat 8 July



Flann O'Brien's 1967 comic masterpiece features a plot too strange to explain here; suffice to say the novel's world is a curious one in which all manner of strange things occur. Published the year after O'Brien's death, The Third Policeman secured for the author comparisons with some of the greats of Irish literature, including James Joyce and Samuel Beckett. Indeed, Joyce himself hailed the author 'a real writer with the true comic spirit'... Cornwall's long-established Miracle Theatre is the company presenting this stage version of O'Brien's novel. They describe the work as existing 'in a world somewhere between Alice in Wonderland and the Marx Brothers, where the earth is not round but sausage-shaped and night is actually an accumulation of black air'.



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Wonderland

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Mon 10 - Sat 15 July; Wolverhampton Grand
Theatre, Mon 31 July - Sat 5 August

It was during the lifetime of the book's author, Lewis Carroll, that the wacky world of Alice's Adventures In Wonderland first made its way onto the stage; in 1886, to be precise. A mere 17 years later, the topsy-turvy story and its cast of colourful characters 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 visits the Midlands this month. It's being led by Broadway composer Frank Wildhorn, whose work on shows like Jekyll & Hyde, Victor/Victoria and Bonnie & Clyde has earned him international acclaim. Wendi Peters, Dave Willetts and Kerry Ellis star.



The Mikado

Malvern Theatre, 4 - 8 July; Theatre Severn,
Shrewsbury, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 July

Local klutz Koko has risen to the post of Lord High Executioner, the highest rank a citizen can attain. He's lusting after the delicious Yum-Yum, but she's firmly set her cap at the freewheeling Nanki-Poo. And just to make matters worse for Koko, the Emperor of Japan is about to arrive, intent on finding out why there have been no executions in the town for over a year...

Set in the fictitious Japanese location of Titipu and poking wicked fun at revered institutions and the world of politics, The Mikado is one of Gilbert & Sullivan's best-loved works, boasting a bountiful score, witty lyrics and more than its fair share of toe-tapping classics.



Romeo & Juliet

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, Wed 12 July

Widely regarded as Shakespeare's fifth tragedy, this story of a forbidden and secret love tends to fair less well critically than the

rest of the playwright's high-profile works. Nonetheless, its popularity is ensured by its timeless themes and its regular appearance as a study text on the National Curriculum. This latest version of the play is helmed by The Watermill Theatre's new Artistic Director, Paul Hart, and features live music and an 'outstanding' new ensemble of actors.



Strictly Murder

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
Fri 14 - Sat 15 July

Brian Clemens, the man behind hit TV series The Avengers and The Professionals, is the fella who penned this fast-moving thriller. It's April 1939 and English couple Peter and Suzy are living in idyllic isolation in Provence, far away, it seems, from the rumblings of the coming war. Their peace is shattered from within, however, when Suzy discovers that she's been betrayed by the man she loves. And what's more, she may well be in mortal danger... One-time Corrie killer Brian Capron stars alongside Corrinne Wicks and Gary Turner in a production directed by Clemens' son.

Jane Austen's Persuasion

Stratford Artshouse, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Mon 24 July

Bringing to life Jane Austen's last and most personal novel, Chamber Opera Tours' critically acclaimed production comes complete with beautiful Regency costumes, projected scenery, a chamber orchestra and world-champion Irish dancers. The show's been touring the UK and US for the last four years, and returns to Stratford in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Austen's death.

The Play That Goes Wrong

Malvern Theatre, Mon 17 - Sat 22 July

Mischief Theatre Company's much-loved show arrives in the region on the back of a fantastic reputation and a couple of successful West End runs. For those not in the know, the play focuses on the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society's attempt to put on a 1920s-set murder-mystery. The only trouble is, the bumbling thespians are more than a little accident-prone - so much so, in fact, that they're not even sure they'll manage to reach the curtain call...



Theatre previews for younger audiences from around the region

Room On The Broom

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton,
Mon 17 - Wed 19 July; Belgrade Theatre,
Coventry, 24 - 26 July

Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, the creators of *The Gruffalo* and *We're Going On A Bear Hunt*, are the team behind this spell-binding tale. A witch makes the mistake of thinking she can fit a daft dog, a beautiful bird and a friendly frog - as well as her own cat - on her broomstick without it snapping in two. And when a hungry dragon appears, things really start to hot up...

Presented by Tall Stories, this Olivier Award-nominated show features 'songs, laughs and scary fun' for children aged three and older.



Peter Pan Jnr

The Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 22 July

Fly away to Neverland with the boy who wouldn't grow up, meet a real fairy, marvelous mermaids, wonderful Wendy and the down-on-their-luck lost boys. Oh, and beware the ever-so-wicked Captain Hook and a very hungry crocodile who goes tick-tock (he swallowed a clock!)... XcelShowbiz's brand new, all-singing, all-dancing version of JM Barrie's legendary story is here presented by some of the Midlands' best young talent, with performers ranging in age from six to 18.

Billionaire Boy

Bruton Park, Solihull, Tues 25 - Wed 26 July

Although Heartbreak Productions are best known for their outdoor presentations of Shakespeare plays, the company also tours a selection of other stage works, one of which is this adaptation of David Walliams' best-selling children's book.

Heartbreak have impressive form when it comes to Walliams' work, having previously presented critically acclaimed, under-the-stars versions of *Ratburger* and *Mr Stink*. For those unfamiliar with the book, it tells the tale of how Mr Spud made and lost his billions, and how his son, Joe, became the richest boy in the world... Suitable for children aged seven and older.



Curious Creatures

mac, Birmingham, Thurs 27 July

Performing fleas, skateboarding snails, gymnastic gerbils and all manner of other 'curious creatures' abound in this lively show that aims to uncover the mysteries of the animal kingdom. It's presented by Squashbox Theatre, which in reality is Penzance-based solo performer Craig Johnson. "Animals are amazing" explains Craig. "There are big ones, little ones, scaly ones, furry ones, friendly ones and scary ones! There are over eight million different species of animal on earth today, and in this show we're going to meet all of them! Well, okay, maybe not all of them but certainly quite a few!"

The production is suitable for children aged three and older.



How Time Flies

mac, Birmingham, Thurs 20 July

The company presenting this quirky new show is the well-regarded HandMade Theatre, an ensemble that specialises in interactive productions designed to engage audiences in unusual ways. Taking its inspi-

ration from the themes of archaeology, history and discovery, *How Time Flies* provides children with the chance to help an eccentric team of archaeologists uncover the hidden truth behind an ancient skeleton. The show combines original songs, puppetry and storytelling, and is suitable for youngsters aged between three and 11.

Mister Maker And The Shapes Live

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Sat 8 July

CBeebies presenter Phil Gallagher is out on tour with the character that made his name. Phil's Mister Maker combines slapstick comedy with all manner of art projects in the BAFTA-nominated children's television series.

He's joined for this latest live show by 'a fabulous supporting cast' who encourage the grown-ups as well as the kids to sing, dance and make some noise. A great way to inspire your youngsters to 'get crafty'.

The Showstoppers' Kids Show

Lichfield Garrick, Sat 15 July

This improvised musical show for children of all ages is presented by West End performers The Showstoppers.

"We take kids' ideas and turn them into marvellous, musical adventures from scratch," explain the Olivier Award-winning ensemble, "right away and in front of your very noses. Together, we'll explore magical kingdoms, as you decide where the story is set, what happens next and who the characters are. You can even join us on stage if you want!"

FEATURE

MAKING SPACE

Art and science collide in Thinktank's
out-of-this-world summer exhibits



Prepare to have your mind blown at Thinktank this summer...

Thinktank hopes to see its gravitational pull skyrocket this summer with both the sun and moon at the centre of a programme that is truly out of this world.

Alongside an array of artworks and artefacts from the Birmingham Museums Collection, the science-themed attraction is playing host to two captivating contemporary installations: Luke Jerram's Museum Of The Moon and Katie Paterson's solar eclipse-inspired Totality.

Opening on Friday 21 July, just as the school holidays begin, Museum Of The Moon comes to Thinktank fresh from appearances in London, Cork and Rennes.

Using breathtakingly detailed 120dpi, 5.5GB NASA images taken by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera, Jerram has created a spectacular three-dimensional replica model of the moon at a scale of 1:500,000.

Inspired by the tidal variations he observed looking out at the sea while cycling over the

Avon Cut in Bristol, Jerram began to explore the earth's relationship with the moon from an array of scientific and cultural perspectives. This led to the creation of Museum Of The Moon and a sister piece called Tide, both typical of his multidisciplinary approach.

Measuring an imposing seven metres in diameter, Museum Of The Moon is an immersive experience, combining striking lunar imagery with lighting effects and surround-sound music by BAFTA and Ivor Novello Award-winning composer Dan Jones.

Commenting on the installation, Lisa Stallard, Museum Manager at Thinktank, said, "Museum Of The Moon fits perfectly with the dynamic surroundings of our Science Museum. It really does have to be seen to be believed and is a beautiful spectacle that I know our visitors will enjoy. We have a jam-packed programme of events this summer, so families will have an extra-special visit with us during the holidays as there will be even more to see and do."

Having already opened to the public in late May, Katie Paterson's Totality offers a more abstracted, imaginative response to celestial activity, playing with the idea of perception and drawing on records of solar eclipses through the ages. A total of 10,000 contemporary and historical images of the same phenomenon are fixed to the glittering tiles of an illuminated, rotating mirror ball, light bouncing back from the solar haloes around the moon in each individual picture.

Complementing Totality is Looking Up, Looking Down: The Earth, Moon, Sun And Beyond!. The display brings together a fascinating selection of objects from Birmingham's collection that looks at the ways in which artists and scientists have explored the skies.

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Totality and Looking Up, Looking Down: The Earth, Moon, Sun And Beyond! are showing until Sunday 1 October. Museum Of The Moon is at Thinktank from Friday 21 July until Sunday 20 August.



ALSO AT THINKTANK...

Prepare to have your mind blown with fascinating facts and demonstrations in the action-packed science show Fly Me To The Moon, or take a look through the Science Garden's solar telescope to see the Sun in a whole new light.

Fancy something even more hands-on? Why not draw your own eclipse image to be projected onto the museum walls, create space art to take away, or take part in the Eclipse Challenge by using perspective to make objects disappear. Under-eights can also join the space crew engineering team to have a go at building moon buggies.

Other features to check out over the holidays include the expanded wildlife gallery, with its brand new Nature Detectives section and a whole host of amazing animals to discover. Geared up for kids of all ages to enjoy, the recent additions include opportunities to learn more about the wildlife inhabiting urban environments, the uses of natural history museums and their collections, and how various exhibits are preserved, as well as the impact of human activity on other species.

Dinosaur fans will be amazed by the massive triceratops skull and ichthyosaur skeleton, while those who like to get stuck in can try

communicating like a gorilla, explore how insects see plants differently, attempt to catch a moth using echolocation and build their own foodchains, or pick up a Wildlife Explorers trail card to hunt for animals in the museum. From polar bears to peacocks and pangolin to ptarmigan, there's plenty to see, including the skeleton of an enormous, extinct giant deer and a taxidermied fox that you can stroke!

Best of all, if you can make it during term-time, entry is reduced to just £3 after 3pm on weekdays.

Film

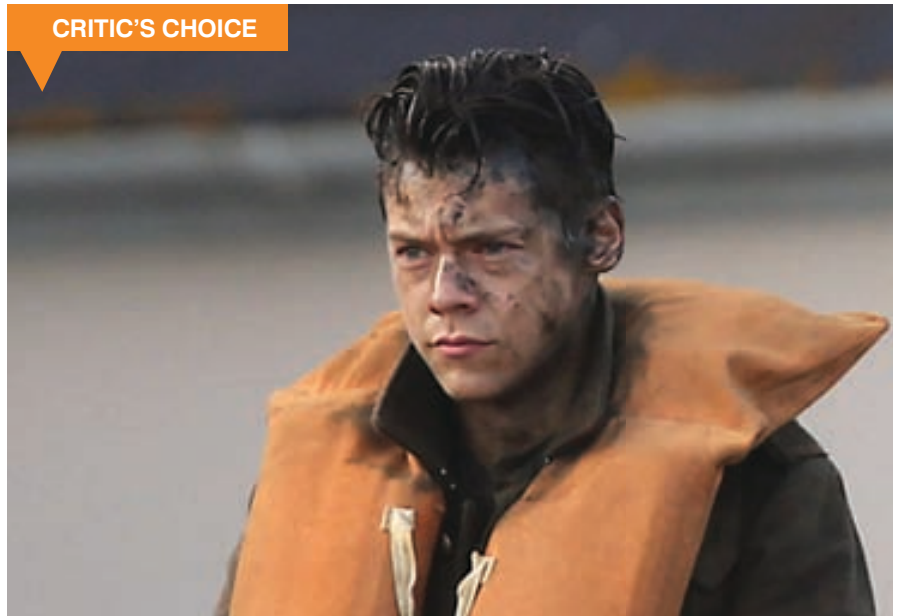
Dunkirk CERT 12a

Starring **Fionn Whitehead, Tom Glynn-Carney, Jack Lowden, Harry Styles, Aneurin Barnard, James D'Arcy, Kenneth Branagh, Cillian Murphy, Mark Rylance and Tom Hardy**
Directed by **Christopher Nolan**
(UK/USA/France/The Netherlands)

Any Christopher Nolan movie is an event, but this looks really, really special. Forget that the director is allegedly pocketing \$20million for his services, most of the budget should be up on the screen. Apparently, Nolan spent \$5million on a vintage German Luftwaffe plane which will be seen crashing in the movie, preventing its re-sale on eBay. This, of course, is the story of Operation Dynamo, when 300,000 British, French, Belgian and Canadian troops were surrounded by the German army on the eponymous French beach in 1940, necessitating a massive evacuation. We can't wait. In IMAX.

Released Fri 21 July

CRITIC'S CHOICE



Film highlights released in July...



Spider-Man: Homecoming

CERT 12a

Starring **Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Jon Favreau, Zendaya, Donald Glover, Tyne Daly, Marisa Tomei, Robert Downey Jr**
Directed by **Jon Watts** (USA)

Remember when all the Hollywood villains were played by Brits? Well, the London-born Tom Holland now joins the British rollcall of Christian Bale, Henry Cavill, James McAvoy and Benedict Cumberbatch to play yet another Hollywood superhero in this second re-boot of the Spider-Man film franchise. Here, following the events of Captain America: Civil War, Peter Parker struggles to balance his schoolwork with his new prowess as a web designer. In 3D.

Released Wed 5 July

The Last Word

CERT 15 (108 mins)

Starring **Shirley MacLaine, Amanda Seyfried, Anne Heche, Tom Everett Scott**
Directed by **Mark Pellington** (USA)

Harriett Lauler (Shirley MacLaine) has always been a control freak. She has even fabricated her own obituary for the local newspaper. So it's up to cub reporter Anne Sherman (Amanda Seyfried) to shake up the facts...

Released Fri 7 July



The Beguiled CERT 15 (94 mins)

Starring **Colin Farrell, Nicole Kidman, Kirsten Dunst, Elle Fanning, Angourie Rice, Oona Laurence** Directed by **Sofia Coppola** (USA)

While the American Civil War is raging, the residents of an all-girls' school in Virginia have been protected from the outside world. Then a wounded Union soldier (Colin Farrell) stumbles upon their mercy and unleashes a Pandora's Box. Winner of the best director award for Sofia Coppola at Cannes, this is actually a remake of a 1971 Clint Eastwood film. This version, though - adapted from the Thomas P Cullinan novel A Painted Devil - takes a decidedly more female perspective of the same events.

Released Fri 14 July

Film highlights released in July...

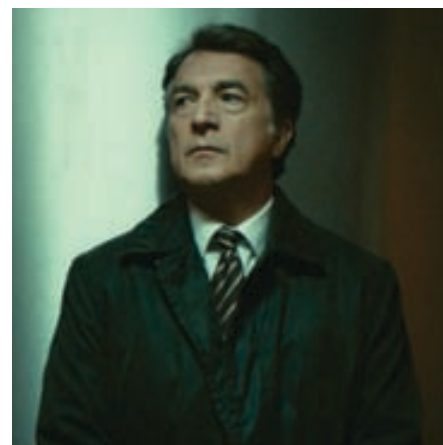
War For The Planet Of The Apes CERT tbc

Starring **Andy Serkis, Woody Harrelson, Steve Zahn, Amiah Miller, Karin Konoval**
Directed by **Matt Reeves (USA)**

In the third chapter of the Planet Of The Apes reboot, the tentative truce that was realised in the last film, Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes, is now a thing of the past. As Caesar, leader of the Apes, encounters the

aggressive tactics of the ruthless human Colonel McCullough (Woody Harrelson), he falls back on his own darkest instincts. It's a battle for the planet - and for a species. Matt Reeves' Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes was a worthy sequel to Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes and Reeves returns for the new instalment, which heralds the ninth Planet Of The Apes film. In 3D.

Released Tues 11 July



Scribe CERT tbc

Starring **François Cluzet, Denis Podalydès, Sami Bouajila, Simon Abkarian, Alba Rohrwacher**
Directed by **Thomas Kruithof (France/Belgium)**

What Duval (François Cluzet) is required to transcribe are telephone conversations tapped by the secret service. For him it's just a job, but the political repercussions prove treacherous... Fans of French cinema will recognise François Cluzet from such high-end titles as Tell No One, Little White Lies and Untouchable.

Released Fri 21 July



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Monster Island CERT tbc

With the voices of **Fiona Hardingham, Roger Jackson, Jennifer Beth Kaplan, Eric Larsen, Kaitie Leigh**
Directed by **Leopoldo Aguilar (Mexico)**

A seemingly normal kid must find his inner monster in order to survive the terrifying ordeals of the eponymous isle - and to save his monstrous new family. From those people who brought us Top Cat Begins (2015).

Released Fri 21 July



Girls Trip CERT 15

Starring **Regina Hall, Jada Pinkett Smith, Tiffany Haddish, Queen Latifah, Larenz Tate**
Directed by **Malcolm D Lee (USA)**

You know what girls are like. This friendly foursome heads for the Essence Music Festival in New Orleans and all sorts of mischief is unleashed. Expect a lot of dancin' and drinkin'.

Released Wed 26 July

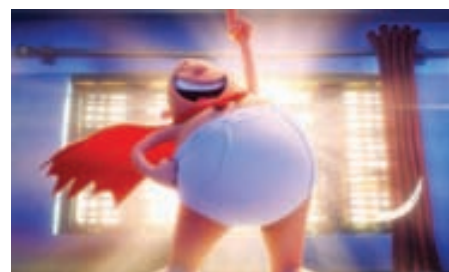
Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie

CERT U (89 mins)

With the voices of **Kevin Hart, Ed Helms, Thomas Middleditch, Nick Kroll, Jordan Peele**
Directed by **David Soren (USA)**

Children, you should be very, very careful of your hypnotic powers. Here, high schooler George Beard (Kevin Hart) uses the 3D Hypno Ring he finds in his cereal box to convince his principal that he's a dim-witted superhero called Captain Underpants. Quite what David Lean would think of the chutzpah of the title is another matter entirely. From DreamWorks Animation. In 3D.

Released Fri 28 July





THE BIG FEAST

Appetite's annual arts extravaganza promises two days of fun, frivolity and feistiness across Stoke city centre



Annual arts extravaganza The Big Feast is returning to the streets of Stoke-on-Trent city centre for its fourth year over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The event is being produced by Appetite, an Arts Council-funded Creative People & Places programme, led by the New Vic Theatre, which has the aim of getting more people in Stoke-on-Trent engaged in and inspired by the arts.

Gary Cicinskas, the programme manager for Appetite, said: "We aim to put high-quality arts and culture in front of people in Stoke-on-Trent who wouldn't normally get to see it.

"Money is a consistent barrier for people when it comes to accessing the arts, which is why we work with a huge range of organisations and artistic partners to bring that world-class content to the streets of Stoke-on-Trent for free."

Since 2013, Appetite has put on more than 650 performances and reached almost 40,000 audience members. They expect to reach as many as 12,000 people across The Big Feast weekend, from Stoke and beyond.

"To many people in the UK, Stoke-on-Trent is most likely not considered to be a cultural destination," says Gary, "but The Big Feast gives everyone the chance to engage with something that might have just been performed at the Edinburgh Fringe.

"These opportunities are vital for arts organisations across the UK. It pleases me that The



Big Feast is able to offer such a big menu of high-calibre acts on people's doorsteps."

The free two-day festival will showcase a variety of events from more than 20 performing companies, including Flatpack Film Festival and The Royal Opera House.

Traditional comedy and dance street performances, unusual interactive art installations and storytelling workshops all feature on the bill.

Sponsored by Realis Estates, The Big Feast will hold events across the weekend in non-traditional arts venues such as yet-to-be-used units and giant inflatable whales.

Speaking about this year's highlights, Gary says: "I know Urban Astronaut by Highly Strung Performance is going to go down really well. Seeing an astronaut suspended 20 feet in the air above the high street should be very engaging.

"Charlie O'Taney, Brooklyn Healer by The Miraculous Theatre Company does personal performances for audiences of up to only four people and it looks hilarious, as does Camper Van Of Love by New Art Club - a musical adventure about Cupid falling in love, based around a pink VM Camper Van.

"I'm also really looking forward to the DIY Drive-In Cinema from Flatpack - where children can build their own cars and watch animated shorts. It's something we haven't done before.

"Each year, we try to introduce new ele-



ments. We fine-tune our content, to make it relevant, appealing and interesting, by looking at feedback about performers at arts festivals across the UK from our research team, Supper Club.

"By having such a cross-section of Supper Club members, we get a much broader range of opinion and appeal. We take their feedback onboard and adapt our programme to make it appeal to all communities in the area."

Gary, who performed at Edinburgh Fringe in his youth, says it was through alternative arts routes that he first became interested in the industry. He believes that it's vital that people who aren't engaged in the arts still get a chance to be a part of it.

"My favourite thing about The Big Feast is that people can see an entertaining and unusual performance without feeling pressured to put their hands in their pockets or understand the theoretical background of it.

"It's two days of fun, frivolity and feistiness, where people can stumble upon world-class performances in unusual locations."

.....

The Big Feast returns to Stoke-on-Trent city centre on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 August. For more information, visit appetitestoke.co.uk



Fearsome Craftsmen: Discover The Artistry Of The Viking World

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery,
Coventry, Sat 1 July - Sun 24
September

A touring show from Jorvik Viking Centre, Fearsome Craftsmen offers visitors the chance to step back a thousand years to explore the story of the Vikings in Britain.

The exhibition includes the opportunity to learn about the people who settled in the country, and to explore Norse myths and legends in a family-friendly Viking settlement.

Also featured are real examples of Viking crafts and a replica 15ft fishing boat, decorated with designs which exemplify 'the true creative spirit of the Viking Age'.



Wildlife Photographer of the Year
Wolverhampton Art Gallery
22 July - 1 October

WILDLIFE
PHOTOGRAPHER
OF THE YEAR

Nosy Neighbour © Sam Hobson

For full details of tickets and pricing information,
please visit: www.bit.ly/WildWolvesTickets

Wildlife Photographer of the Year
is developed and produced by the
Natural History Museum, London.

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King Edward VII Queen Alexandra by James Watson & Sons, 1890s © National Portrait Gallery, London

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Visual Arts previews from around the region



Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 22 July - Sun 1 October

After last summer hosting the exhibition for the very first time, Wolverhampton Art Gallery is this month welcoming back the prestigious Wildlife Photographer Of The Year show. Now in its 52nd year, the competition received more than 40,000 submissions from amateur and professional photographers in just shy of 100 countries.

The exhibition is displayed in an ultra-modern lightbox format and features awe-inspiring images capturing fascinating animal behaviour and breathtaking landscapes. It visits the Midlands after premiering in London.

Sidney Nolan

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, until 3 September

Ikon's exhibition forms part of a nationwide programme of events to celebrate the centenary of Sir Sidney Nolan's birth.

Considered one of the most important artists of the 20th century, the Australian-born Nolan is best known for a series of paintings featuring legends from Australian history - including, and most famously, the outlaw Ned Kelly.

This Birmingham show features a selection of spray-painted portraits depicting individuals who had a strong personal significance for Nolan, including close friend Benjamin Britten and fellow artist Francis Bacon.

"The portraits, made mainly with spray paint on canvas, exemplify the unflagging inventiveness of Nolan," explains Director of Ikon, Jonathan Watkins. "Large and stylistically very free, they're like spontaneous breathings of colour, artistic conspiracies that conjure up likenesses mainly

of people staring wide-eyed out of their pictorial space. Like ghosts wanting to make contact, they seem to interrogate us, spectrally, with their gaze."



Seurat To Riley: The Art Of Perception

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Sat 8 July - Sun 1 October

The ways in which visual perceptions have been explored by artists is the theme of this thought-provoking summer exhibition.

The colour theories of scientific thinkers such as Michel Eugène Chevreul have long been of interest to artists, among them Georges Seurat. The French post-Impressionist's pointillist works featured colours other than those actually painted on the canvas, generated in the eye of the viewer via the application of small dots of primary colour.

Optical art continues to fascinate. Indeed, as recently as the 1960s, a high-profile 'Op art' movement was established, with famous exponents such as Bridget Riley developing and exploring new possibilities.

Works from Seurat through to Riley and beyond are included in a wide-ranging show that's well worth catching.



Unknown Legacy

Artifex Gallery, Birmingham, Sat 1 - Sun 30 July

Birmingham-based artist Dr Mohsen Keiany draws heavily on his Iranian heritage to create paintings which are 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 artwork is deeply influenced by my Persian background and covers a range that encapsulates spiritual contemplation, humans and the natural world, and human mythical suffering."

FURNACE, FIRE AND STEAM

Shropshire celebrates **50 Years** of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust



Venture out into the Shropshire countryside around Telford and you might just find yourself journeying back in time to the cradle of the Industrial Revolution.

From the elegant family home of the pioneering Darby family to the Old Furnace and iron-works through which they rose to fortune, and from the China works and beautifully painted tiles of the Jackfield Museum to the Broseley Pipeworks and 914 metre-long underground Tar Tunnel, there's a whole wealth of history to explore in and around the famous Blists Hill Victorian Town in Ironbridge Gorge.

One of the UK's first attractions to be designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in 1986, Ironbridge has long been internationally recognised as offering an invaluable insight into Britain's industrial past. A total of 10 separate museums, 36 scheduled ancient monuments and several listed buildings over a six square-mile area are managed by the Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust, placing it among the world's largest independent museum operators. Formed by the Dawley Development Corporation in 1967, the trust this year celebrates an incredible 50 years, and in honour of this milestone, visitors will be able

to enjoy a range of brand new features and special events throughout the summer. With something to cater for all interests and ages, the Coalbrookdale site looks set to be one of the Midlands' hottest holiday destinations for 2017.

Following a six-month programme of extensive redevelopment, the 50th anniversary celebrations began in April with the reopening of the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron. Long before the advances of the Victorian age, iron had been at the centre of the Ironbridge story for thousands of years.

Located in a bright, expansive building not far from the original 18th century furnace, the museum follows the evolution of the area through the ages, from the abundant limestone, iron ore and low-sulphur coal seams forming its distinctive geology, to the first entrepreneurs to take advantage of its rich and readily accessible raw materials. In particular, it celebrates the groundbreaking work of Abraham Darby, who helped to catalyse the industrial revolution by smelting iron ore with coke instead of charcoal.

Later in the 19th century, the Coalbrookdale Company he created went on to become the

country's leading foundry for domestic and decorative cast iron products, with many of its magnificent designs now on display in the museum.

But the Museum of Iron's redevelopment is only the first phase of an ongoing "Coalbrookdale Masterplan", an ambitious scheme aiming to raise a total of £15million for use across the site. Over the coming months and years, the trust will be developing new exhibitions, increasing educational opportunities and putting currently redundant space to practical use.

Nearby, the National Design & Technology Centre, Enginuity, is also set to undergo an expansion and full redesign, bringing it up to date with the latest in digital tech to inspire a greater understanding of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and maths) subjects. But if you can't wait for all of that to start, the centre already offers plenty to enjoy in its present state. Continuing Ironbridge's proud engineering legacy, Enginuity invites curious minds to explore and interact with the technology of the past, present and future in a scientific wonderland. Bright colours, sounds and hands-on exhibits create



50th anniversary events will fill the school holidays in the form of a Furnace, Fire and Steam series!

a sensory feast guaranteed to spark kids' imaginations.

Throughout the summer holidays, there'll also be opportunities to try your hand at new skills in a series of exciting drop-in Enginuity workshops. From 26 to 30 July and 7 to 13 August, you can decorate a copper keyring with enamel beads, then watch as the high temperatures of the mini-furnace fix them in place. From 31 July to 6 August and from 14 to 20 August, you can make your own pewter medalion by carving a design into foam to produce a mould, then watch as it gets filled in with molten metal. Finally, from 21 August to 3 September, kids will be able to make a working paddleboat.

As always, the picturesque and ever-popular Blists Hill Victorian Town plays host to themed events, family fun and academic conferences throughout the summer. The July programme kicks off on Saturday the first with the town's first ever Steampunk Festival. Beautifully preserved shops, streets and more provide the perfect backdrop for Victorian-inspired fancy dress, while the area's rich industrial history taps into the subculture's science-fiction influences. So grab your gog-

gles and top hat, browse the market for accessories, and stick around after dark for a Wild West-themed evening extravaganza, featuring shootouts, saloon girls and zombie outbreaks! Meanwhile, those who prefer their entertainment more traditional and free of 'the undead' can kick back with a night of 1930s nostalgia in the Forest Glen Pavilion on Friday 28 July. Dust off your vintage gear and enjoy the hits of Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire and Judy Garland over a delicious meal, finished off with tea or coffee and a classic sherry trifle dessert.

But a special occasion calls for special celebrations, and unique 50th anniversary events will fill the school holidays in the form of a Furnace, Fire and Steam series. Between 26 July and 3 September, vintage steam machines will be up and running in Blists Hill. These will include the newly restored Winding Engine and an accurate replica of Trevithick's 1802 Coalbrookdale locomotive, believed to be the world's very first steam locomotive.

At the Jackfield Tile and Coalport China Museums, you can create your own unique designs inspired by the 'fire and furnace' theme, while on Wednesday mornings, there'll even be a

chance to see the furnace blazing and watch spectacular casting demonstrations in the town's iron foundry.

The highlight of the series will be a special Steam Weekend on 19 & 20 August, when the town will come alive with a dazzling array of steam machines. In addition to the Coalbrookdale locomotive, discover the Merry Weather fire pump, Fielding oil engine and various portable and ploughing engines. 'Billy', the fantastic 1903 Wallis & Stevens roadroller, will also be in operation, alongside the Blists Hill steam hammer and ironworks engines, complete with a 27-tonne fly wheel.

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Blists Hill Victorian Town, Enginuity and other Ironbridge museums are open from 10am to 4pm daily, with special events sometimes running outside normal hours. An annual passport ticket, allowing unlimited entry into all 10 attractions, costs just £25 for adults and £15 for children, with concessions and family discounts also available.

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Tamworth Castle



Summer Holiday Events
For all the family

Tales of knights and princesses, enchantment, magical characters and history coming alive!

Storytelling

Tues 25th to Thu 27th July
11.30am-4.00pm

The storyteller will be in residence to tell tales of knights, dragons and princesses. Visitors are invited to come along dressed in their favourite costumes and listen to stories or have a go at telling their own. There will also be craft activities available for those who want to get creative.



NO BOOKING REQUIRED

Saxons at the Castle

Tues 15th to Thurs 17th August
11.30am-4.00pm

Come and find out what life was like for those living in Tamworth during Saxon times. Try your hand at archaeology, learn about the warrior princess Aethelflæd and Saxon battle tactics, then see if you can solve our runic puzzles!



NO BOOKING REQUIRED

Enchanted Castle

Mon 31st July to Fri 11th August
11.30am-4.00pm

Follow our marvellous trail through the Castle and see what magical adventures you encounter. Meet knights, help make the Giant's armour, discover the wishing tree and look out for the mischievous pixies! Lots to do and see, expect to be enchanted!



NO BOOKING REQUIRED

Medieval Living History

Tues 22nd to Thurs 24th August
11.30am-4.00pm

Discover what life was like for our Medieval characters. Visit Lady Freville and learn about the activities that would fill her days. Encounter the laundress and help her prepare clothes for washing the medieval way and meet the Armourer to find out how maille was made and how medieval weapons were fashioned.



NO BOOKING REQUIRED

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

SUMMER OF FUN

With the school holidays once again upon us, parents across the Midlands will no doubt be looking for places to visit and things to do with their kids during the long summer break.

We've taken a look at what's happening where and have come up with a few suggestions to get you started...



All aboard for Severn Valley Railway summertime fun

Kidderminster, DY10 1QR, Tel 01562 757900

With its exciting steam trains, fantastic events and equally fantastic ticket offer, Severn Valley Railway has everything you need for a great family adventure this summer. And from 22 July to 3 September, families can enjoy a day out on the railway for just £44!

Visitors can hop on and off to explore any of SVR's six historic stations, while the Flag &

Whistle Food Stop is the perfect destination to refuel. The unlimited travel pass also provides entry to The Engine House Visitor Centre, complete with its wealth of interactive exhibits, including brand new exhibition Floods Of 2007 - Ten Years On. There's also the Coalyard Miniature Railway at Kidderminster and the Paddock Garden Miniature at Hampton Loade to enjoy. For further information and forthcoming events, visit svr.co.uk

Arty escapades and vintage fun at Compton Verney

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, CV35 9HZ
Tel 01926 645500

Set in 120 acres of classical parkland landscaped by Capability Brown, Warwickshire's 'best art gallery and park' offers a summer-long programme of boredom-busting events to keep visitors entertained during the six-week school holiday.

For art lovers, Compton's summer exhibition, Seurat To Riley: The Art Of Perception, runs from 8 July to 1 October (see page 37 for more info). Aviation enthusiasts, meanwhile, can observe scaled models in action in Wings And Water on 23 July, while those wishing to step back in time can do so on 5 August, when Compton returns to the Swinging '60s with a celebration of Motown, Mods and Michael Caine. For all summer events, opening times and further information, visit comptonverney.org.uk



Plenty on offer for young adventurers at Avoncroft

Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, B60 4JR
Tel 01527 831363



There's action and adventure aplenty on offer at this Bromsgrove living history museum during the summer.

Themed activities include: Wilderness Warriors, where young adventurers can get back to basics and learn survival skills; Traditional Games, allowing visitors to play boardgames, fly kites and enjoy an abundance of outdoor fun; and Folklore, where more-adventurous visitors can seek out the mythical beasts that dwell within the museum grounds. Pony & train rides, have-a-go archery and 19 acres of park-like grounds offer plenty more reason to visit this popular venue.

And when you're ready for some rest and relaxation, the Edwardian Tea Rooms provide an ideal setting in which to enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake. For information on all forthcoming events, prices and opening times, visit avoncroft.org.uk



Motoring treasures at British Motor Museum

Banbury Rd, Gaydon, Warwickshire, CV35 0BJ
Tel 01926 641188

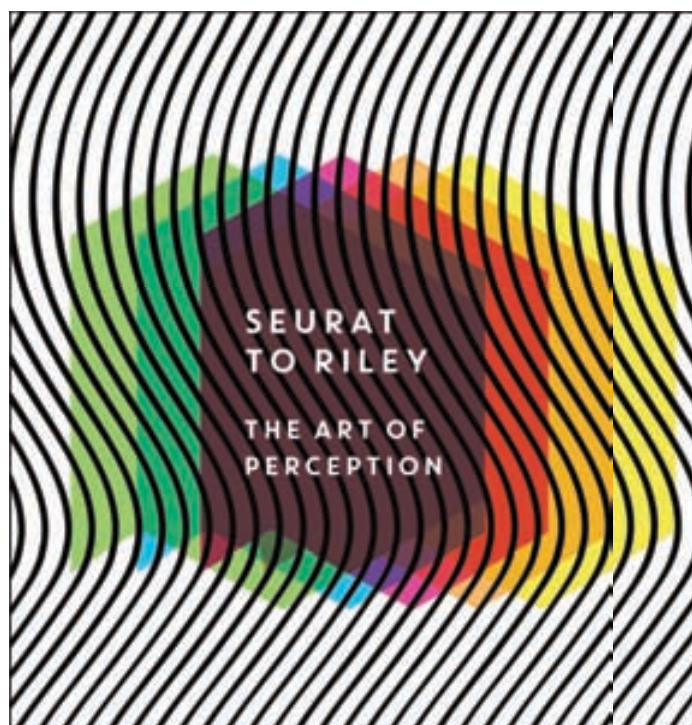
From family tours with costumed guides to an abundance of themed craft activities, this award-winning museum is geared up to host a 'treasure trove' of child-friendly activities over the summer holidays.

Meet costumed explainers who'll talk through

the history of exhibits every Monday, or take part in crafty workshops (Tuesdays to Saturdays) in which you're invited to create your very own motoring treasure to take home.

Meanwhile, My First Car Project invites visitors young and old to create a drawing or compose a few words about their first vehicle - and yep, that does include pedal cars!

For information about all summer events, visit britishmotormuseum.co.uk



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TO RILEY
THE ART OF
PERCEPTION

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1 OCTOBER

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Until 28th June

VIP TICKETS:
Plus Meet & Greet & After Party - £60
Plus After Party VIP Lounge - £80

For More Information About The Event, Visit WWW.AFROCARIBFEST.CO.UK

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

MORE SUMMER FUN...



Mythical tales and Saxon history at Tamworth Castle

The Holloway, Tamworth, Staffs, B79 7NA
Tel 01827 709626

Join Tamworth's resident storyteller this summer for mythical tales of knights, dragons and princesses. Visitors are invited to attend and get involved with the numerous craft activities on offer.

Throughout July the castle is hosting an Enchanted Trail, along which families can discover the wishing tree and encounter mischievous pixies.

In August the focus shifts to the Saxons, with activities revolving around hands-on archaeology, runic puzzles, history lessons about warrior princess Aethelflaed and Saxon battle tactics.

Visitors can also meet the laundress and help her prepare clothes for washing the medieval way, while the castle's armourer will explain how maille was made and medieval weapons fashioned.

For further information and forthcoming events, visit tamworthcastle.co.uk

An action-packed summer at Twinlakes Theme Park

Melton Spinney Rd, Melton Mowbray, Leicester, LE14 4SB Tel: 01664 567777

All-action theme park Twinlakes is offering plenty of family-friendly fun this summer holiday. The popular East Midlands venue has weird and wonderful attractions aplenty to explore, including a birds of prey centre, a creepy-critter zone and a vast indoor arena of family-orientated activities. And that's not all.

August sees three action-packed shows taking place at the Melton Mowbray theme park: Mad Science (on the 3rd), Meet Rex The T-Rex (8th to the 12th) and Titan The Robot (28th). For more information, visit twinlakespark.co.uk



A summer of science at award-winning Thinktank

Millennium Point, Birmingham, B6 6JD. Tel: 0121 348 8000

This award-winning science museum is packed with things to see and do during the summer holidays. Static features include the Spitfire Gallery - showcasing the innovative design and cutting-edge technology that played such an important role in World War Two - and the Marine Worlds Gallery, exploring animals past and present that have adapted to life in the sea. There's also the Planetarium, presenting regular shows about astronomy and space. Elsewhere, the outdoor Science Garden is packed with fun things to do, with more than 30 hands-on exhibits bringing to life the subjects of engineering, mechanics and transportation.

For further information, visit birminghammuseums.org.uk

The metal's not heavy at the British Ironworks Centre

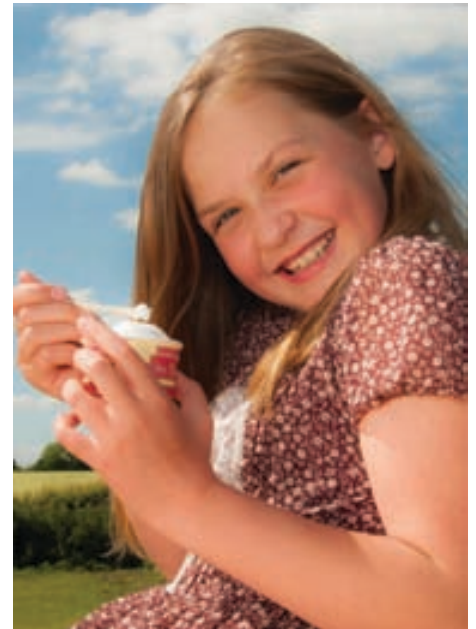
Whitehall, Aston, Morda, Oswestry, SY11 4JH
Tel: 0800 688 8386

The British Ironwork Centre boasts a varied collection of beautifully decorative metal items for the home and garden, some of which are faithful reproductions of ironwork no longer seen today.

There's also a collection of animal sculptures to admire - including a majestic silverback gorilla - and indoor show areas featuring a treasure trove of trinkets and interior adornments. The venue's outdoor area, meanwhile, is home to an impressive array of carefully crafted architectural structures and sculptures.

The centre also features an exotic zoo and hosts numerous family fun days throughout the year, with scavenger and ladybug hunts, vintage car rallies, motorbike meets and balloon festivals among the attractions featured on the events calendar.

For information about what's on at the venue this summer, visit britishironworkcentre.co.uk



Get active at Malvern Outdoor Elements

Old Hollow, West Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 4NR Tel: 01684 574546

There's no shortage of exciting activities for youngsters to enjoy at Malvern Outdoor Elements.

A not-for-profit organisation based in nine acres of woodland in the beautiful setting of the Malvern Hills, this outdoor adventure site offers a wide range of fun

pastimes for children aged between seven and 13. Activity days start from £35 per person, with an 8% discount if you book for five days.

So if you have an adventurous youngster chomping at the bit for some adrenaline-fuelled action over the summer holidays, check out malvernoutdoors.co.uk for more information.

Activities include hill walking, abseiling, kayaking, canoeing, high & low ropes, king swings, orienteering and problem solving.

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EVENTS 2017

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birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk

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Events previews from around the region

Steampunk Festival

Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Sat 1 - Sun 2 July

This first ever steampunk festival at Blists Hill forms part of Ironbridge Gorge Museum's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Steampunk is a subgenre of science fantasy that reimagines modern technology powered by 19th century steam.

Highlights of the festival include an exhibition of steampunk art, costumes and sculptures, a living history encampment, inflatable dinosaurs featuring in an interactive event, the chance for youngsters to track down fairies hidden in a garden, and a craft area in which kids can make their own steampunk items.

The Saturday evening sees Blists Hill transformed into a fantastical science-fiction Western World, complete with zombie outbreaks, shootouts and saloon-bar girls.



JQ Festival

Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, Fri 28 - Sun 30 July

Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter Festival returns for a third year this month.

Organised by the Jewellery Quarter Business Improvement District (JQBID) and supported by local businesses, the festival features 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

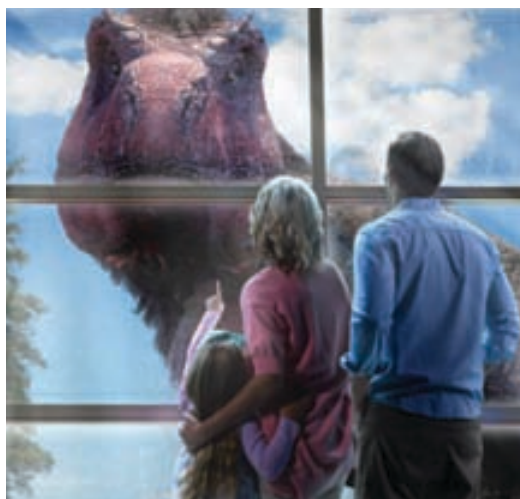


Dinosaurs In The Wild

NEC, Birmingham, until 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.



Formula One: British Grand Prix

Silverstone Circuit, Northamptonshire, Fri 14 - Sun 16 July

The main event needs no introduction, with Lewis Hamilton hoping to win his fifth British Grand Prix as he attempts to reclaim his World Champion crown. Away from the fast lane, this three-day Silverstone spectacular offers plenty of attractions to keep visitors fully engaged.

Sara Cox headlines the Friday night entertainment, presenting a DJ set called Just Can't Get Enough '80s, while Reef & The Hoosiers are the top attraction at the Saturday night concert. The RPJ Band play the Grand Prix after-party on the Sunday.



Kids
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Shrewsbury Flower Show

Friday 11th & Saturday 12th August 2017



130th
Flower Show

Flowers, Fireworks & Entertainment

London Community Gospel Choir – Friday

The Overtones – Saturday



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Membership: Adult from £45 Children £5

*when accompanied by an adult

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or visit www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk



Antiques For Everyone Summer Fair

NEC, Birmingham, Tues 20 - Sun 23 July

With more than 200 specialist dealers showcasing their wares, Antiques For Everyone is one of the largest events of its kind in the UK. This latest edition of the show features as its centrepiece an exhibition celebrating 'the wonderful world of gadgets, gizmos and thingamajigs'. The display comprises an impressive range of obscure and unusual objects, including a number of eccentric labour-saving devices, ladies accoutrements and World War Two escape buttons.

The featured items have been loaned to the show by Maurice Collins, whose interest in collecting began in the 1970s when he would accompany his son on bottle-digging trips to old Victorian rubbish tips.

WIN TICKETS!

Visit: whatsonlive.co.uk



Step Back To The 1940s

Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
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 Hive At Five

The Hive, Worcester,
Sat 8 July

Worcester venue The Hive this month celebrates its fifth birthday with a series of special events. Anniversary highlights include cake-making competition The Great Hive Cake-Off, a 'creation station' featuring treasure hunts, storytelling and craft activities, and a dance performance by Watch Out Worcester Dance Fest. There's also an exhibition about the venue on show from the 3rd to the 10th of the month.

Shropshire Family Vintage Show

The Greenhouse West Mid
Showground, Shrewsbury,
Sat 1 - Sun 2 July

Hundreds of vintage motorbikes, cars, tractors and military vehicles are on display at this popular family show, which also features a children's activity centre, steam-powered carousel, and numerous displays and demonstrations.

Admission for children under the age of 16 is free.

Brindleyplace Film Festival

Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
Mon 17 - Sun 23 July

Taking place for a sixth year and once again free to attend, the Brindleyplace Film Festival features a selection of hit movies selected by the general public.

"There are some fantastic films on the shortlist this year," says Brindleyplace Marketing & Events Executive Nathan Sanghera. "Whether you love the classic romance of Top Gun, want to see the Avengers Assemble on the big screen, watch Men In Black save the galaxy or bring Charlie's Angels to Central Square, make sure you vote!"

Events

1940s Weekend BCLM

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,
Sat 15 - Sun 16 July

The sights and sounds of wartime Britain are recreated in the region this month, courtesy of this nostalgic weekend.

BCLM's largest-ever celebration of all things 1940s, the event offers visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in a wartime atmosphere.

Attractions include vintage memorabilia markets, the chance to say hello to some 1940s characters and the opportunity to 'get handy' in make-do-and-mend workshops. Air-raid scenarios take place throughout the weekend, and there's plenty of food and drink to enjoy too, including American-style cuisine from a GI bar.



Viking Weekend

Arley Arboretum & Gardens, Bewdley,
Sat 1 - Sun 2 July

Telford's Raudr Vagr Vikings group are this month setting up camp on the front lawn of the Arboretum to present a weekend-long Living History experience. Over the course of the two days, the reenactors will be demonstrating a variety of Viking Age crafts, skills, games and pastimes. They'll also be engaging in numerous combat displays and chatting to visitors about all things Viking.



Dinosaur School

Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
Mon 31 July - Fri 4 August

Dinosaur lovers get the chance to learn all about their favourite prehistoric creatures at this week-long get-together.

Featuring dinosaur facts, fossils, art, model making and stories, the children-only event is suitable for youngsters aged between seven and 11.

Highlights include the chance to make a baby dinosaur nest, create a dinosaur sculpture and learn to make fossil drawings.

Truckfest

Three Counties Showground, Malvern,
Worcestershire Sat 1 - Sun 2 July



Making a welcome return to Malvern, Truckfest showcases a range of family entertainment, a programme of main-arena events and 'all that's best in the road haulage industry'. Highlights include appearances by celebrity truckers, live music from Cheltenham-based rock, boogie and blues four-piece Hot Tubes, monster truck action and a family funfair.

The Fast Car Festival

Donington Park, Northamptonshire, Sun 2 July

Making a full-throttle return to Donington after enjoying a record-breaking year in 2016, The Fast Car Festival aims 'to capture the essence of all that's great from the past, present and future of the motoring industry'. The event features thousands of on-display vehicles, including Supercars, Hypercars, perfectly restored barn finds, rallycross champions, quarter-mile demons and vintage classics. Stunts, demos and appearances by racing legends further add to the fun.

Hands On History: Medieval

Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire,
Mon 24 - Sun 30 July

Wannabe knights and young princesses are sure to enjoy a day out at Kenilworth Castle.

And if you're thinking of popping along there this summer holiday, why not coincide your visit with the residency of the Hands On History crew, who'll be bringing the past to life and revealing the ingenious secrets of castle-building.

Other attractions at the 900-year-old one-time medieval fortress include the chance to scale the heights of the tower built to woo Queen Elizabeth I, check out the mighty Norman keep, explore the exhibition in the Gatehouse and visit the majestic Great Hall, a room that would once upon a time have played host to all manner of medieval monarchs and early Tudor kings.





Moscow State Circus: Gostinitza - Hotel Of Curiosities

Becketts Farm, Wythall, Birmingham, Fri 7 - Sun 9 July

The Moscow State Circus is very possibly the best-known circus in the world, based on over 200 years of tradition. When animals became an unpopular aspect of circuses, this flexible family favourite adapted to survive by moving the emphasis to astonishing displays of

human skill and endurance - many of which are evident in this current production. Highlights of the show include unicycling, foot juggling, trapeze acts and high-wire acrobats. Award-winning clowns The Chervotkins Duo are the audience's guide for the evening.

Camper Jam

Weston Park, Shropshire,
Fri 7 - Sun 9 July

One of the most anticipated and highly regarded shows of its kind, Camper Jam is marketed as a fun-filled family-friendly event with a chilled-out, take-it-easy vibe. Weekend highlights include live bands, hundreds of traders, a 'tastebud-tantalising' food village, numerous children's activities, a funfair and the always-popular 'cooking in a camper' competition. The show is this year celebrating its 10th anniversary.



READER OFFER! Present advert on **page 52** to save £1 off ticket price

Stratford-upon-Avon River Festival

Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire,
Sat 1 - Sun 2 July

The award-winning Stratford River Festival features a wide range of entertainment for the local community to enjoy.

Among the two-day event's highlights are live music, a host of fun activities taking place in the family & charity zone, a display of narrowboats, an artisan craft market, numerous global food stalls and a 'spectacular' firework display on the Saturday night.



Pirates Day

The Potteries Museum & Art
Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, Sun 9 July

Well shiver yer timbers and splice the mainbrace if there ain't a packed programme of piratical pursuits awaitin' visitors to the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery this month!

Families can join in a sea shanties singalong, settle back for stories of seafaring adventure, participate in a cutlass drill at Pirate School and enjoy a puppet presentation of Blackbeard The Pirate.

There are even a number of real parrots in attendance - although that other great pirate staple of bottles of rum may be harder to come by!



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www.camperjam.com

Your week by week
listings guide
July 2017

the list

Black Voices at Lichfield Cathedral - Friday 14 July

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

What's On

Sat 1 to Sun 9 July



Fuse Festival at
Beacon Park, Lichfield

Fri 7 - Sun 9 July

Mon 10 to Sun 16 July



Mega Kickass Weekender at
Weston Park

Sat 15 - Sun 16 July

Mon 17 to Sun 23 July



Cosford Food Festival at
RAF Cosford

Sat 22 - Sun 23 July

Mon 24 to Mon 31 July



Funny Girl at Wolverhampton
Grand Theatre

Mon 24 - Sat 29 July

THROUGHOUT JULY

Visual Arts

New Art Gallery - Walsall

NEW ARTIST'S STUDIO - GLASSHOUSE

Five artists spend time in residence in the gallery's Artists' Studio, Tues 4 July - Tues 22 Aug

Potteries Museum & Art Gallery - Stoke-On-Trent

NEW MINI MUSEUM Reflecting all the collections held by the museum, this family-friendly exhibition asks visitors about their favourite objects and how they would like to see them displayed, Sat 29 July - Sun 3 Sept

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

ANTARCTICA: LIFE IN A HOSTILE LAND

Insight into our relationship with the most hostile continent on Earth, until Sun 17 Sept

The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

NEW THE BREWHOUSE OPEN The Annual Open Exhibition is an opportunity for all artists in the region to exhibit their work. Showcasing an interesting mix of styles, techniques and media, ranging from traditional paintings to film, Fri 7 - Sat 29 July

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

NEW MINI WOLVES EXHIBITION The largest public art event ever to take place in Wolverhampton features 30 wolf sculptures which will be located at key city centre sites and in West Park. To celebrate the public art, schools across the city, along with 10 artists, have joined together to turn mini wolf sculptures into artwork, Sat 8 July- Sun 24 Sept

NEW DINOSAUR ART Exhibition championing the work of four palaeoartists, who merge cutting-edge science and art, Sat 15 July - Sun 8 Oct

NEW WILD WOLVERHAMPTON: WILDLIFE FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Fantastic wildlife photos and videos produced by Wolverhampton residents, Sat 15 July - Sun 8 Oct

NEW WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2017 Famous exhibition showcasing the world's very best nature photography, Sat 22 July - Sun 1 Oct

NEW THIS WAY UP! CREATIVE HEALTH CIC Celebration of the artistic talents of people living in Wolverhampton and Staffordshire who took part in the This Way Up creative wellbeing project in 2016/17, Sat 29 July - Sun 27 Aug

Other VISUAL ARTS

NEW SANDWELL BLOOMIN' LOVELY ARTS TRAIL Celebrate local talent as paintings, drawings and photographs go on display around the borough, created by local amateur artists, schools and organisations around the theme of the natural world and Sandwell in bloom. The trail runs from July to September across Sandwell. Find out where you can see the artwork and follow the trail at sandwell.gov.uk/joinmuseums, Sat 1 - Fri 14 July, Sandwell Valley Country Park, West Bromwich

NEW MID SUMMER COAST Exhibition by Richard Bawden and other artists, Sat 1 July - Sat 5 Aug, Twenty Twenty Gallery, Much Wenlock

NEW PAULINE FURNIVAL A solo exhibition featuring a selection of Pauline's most recent works. The artist uses her own special mixture of fluid pouring acrylic paint and varnishes, which, when dry, reflect some of nature's wonderful rock stratas, Thurs 6 July - Mon 7 Aug, Qube Gallery, Oswestry

NEW SUMMER OPEN EXHIBITION An annual exhibition showcasing work by regular artists and new talent and featuring a wide range of media and subject matter, Sat 8 July - Sat 12 Aug, The Willow Gallery, Oswestry

NEW THREE COUNTIES OPEN ART 2017 Showcasing work from artists based in Staffordshire, Cheshire and Shropshire, Sat 22 July - Thurs 31 Aug, Burslem School of Art, Stoke-on-Trent



Antartica: Life In A Hostile Land - Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

Gigs

GARETH GATES Sat 1 July, Lichfield Garrick, Staffordshire

OPIUM LORD, WREN, FVNERALS & KHOST Sat 1 July, The Flapper, Birmingham

SHOOT THE SYMPHONY, THE MOJO FILTERS & MIDDLE SPACE Sat 1 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

MUNCH Sat 1 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

INSTAJAM THE REUNION SUMMER Sat 1 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MOTOWN'S GREATEST HITS - HOW SWEET IT IS Sat 1 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

OUR WORLD BELOW Sat 1 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

KICK UP THE 80'S Sat 1 July, The Robin, Bilston

TOM JONES Sat 1 July, Delamere Forest, Northwich, Cheshire

U2 2 Sat 1 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE VAMPS Sat 1 July, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA Sun 2 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

AMERICAN YOUNG Sun 2 July, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

SOULUTIONS Sun 2 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE ASTOR BIG BAND AND SINGERS Sun 2 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

GLADYS KNIGHT Sun 2 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JUST FLOYD Sun 2 July, The Robin, Bilston

RICK ASTLEY Sun 2 July, Delamere Forest, Northwich, Cheshire

LOW LILY Mon 3 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

TONY BENNETT Mon 3 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CROW BLACK CHICKEN



Elbow - Cannock Chase Forest

Mon 3 July, The Robin, Bilston

JESSE MALIN Mon 3 July, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

TRAVIS SCOTT Tues 4 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE PAT MCMANUS BAND Tues 4 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

BLACK PEAKS Wed 5 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

ELECTUS Wed 5 July, The Robin, Bilston

LINKIN PARK Thurs 6 July, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE DANBERRYS Thurs 6 July, SpArC, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

T'PAU FEATURING CAROL DECKER Thurs 6 July, The Robin, Bilston

JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHESTRA Thurs 6 July, Robin Park Leisure Centre, Cannock Chase

JOYCE SIMS Thurs 6 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RHINESTONE COWBOY Fri 7 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

WHITESNAKE UK AND WHITE TYGER Fri 7 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

THE SMYTHS Fri 7 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

THE SEX PISSED DOLLS Fri 7 July, The Robin, Bilston

ELBOW Fri 7 July, Cannock Chase Forest

THE UB40 EXPERIENCE Fri 7 July, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

SOWETO KINCH Fri 7

July, Birmingham Town Hall

CHRIS BOWDEN Fri 7 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BLINK 182 Fri 7 July, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

MICHAELA WYLDE Sat 8 July, Havana Republic Bar and Restaurant, Shrewsbury

QUARRY FEST Sat 8 July, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

TOUR OF THE VALKYRIES Sat 8 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

TITAN OF TITANS Sat 8 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ROXY MAJIC Sat 8 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE TONY FARRELL BIG BAND Sat 8 July, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

CRAIG CHARLES - FUNK & SOUL SHOW Sat 8 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE JAR FAMILY Sat 8 July, Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley

RICK ASTLEY Sat 8 July, Cannock Chase Forest

STRAIGHT FOR THE SUN Sat 8 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE THEATRE COLLECTIVE Sun 9 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

KONSTANTINOS KOUFOS Sun 9 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TOM JONES Sun 9 July, Cannock Chase Forest

ROCK 'N' ROLL BACK THE YEARS WITH DAVID HAMILTON Sun 9 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Classical Music

BRANT INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION: THE FINAL Sat 1 July, Birmingham Town Hall

YOUTH CHORUS SUMMER SHOWCASE Features Julian Wilkins (conductor). Programme includes works by Brahms, Britten, Elgar, Fauré, Holst, Mendelssohn and John Rutter, Sat 1 July, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

LABORATORIUM PIESNI: WORKSHOP AND CONCERT Sun 2 July, Hermon Chapel Arts Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

SPOTLIGHT ON BROADWAY Espressivo Chorus presents songs from Broadway classics to contemporary hit shows, Sun 2 July, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

IGOR LEVIT PIANO RECITAL Programme includes Shostakovich Preludes and Fugues Op 87, 170, Wed 5 July, Birmingham Town Hall

THE HALLÉ ORCHESTRA Featuring Ryan Wigglesworth (conductor) and Andrew Tyson (conductor). Programme includes Strauss' Don Juan, Rachmaninov's Paganini Variations and Beethoven's Symphony No.3, Fri 7 July, Lichfield Cathedral

LUDLOW CHORAL SOCIETY: NEW DIRECTIONS Sat 8 July, St Laurences Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

DOMONKOS CSABAY PIANO RECITAL Programme includes works by Mozart, Schubert, Bartók, Copland and Debussy, Sat 8 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

MR MCFALL'S CHAMBER GROUP Programme includes works by Haydn, Calixto Alvarez, José White, Dvorak and Fabio Landa, Sat 8 July, St Michael's Greenhill Church, Lichfield

A CELEBRATION OF RICHARD ROGERS Sat 8 July, Lichfield Cathedral

ESTUDIO NOORTEKOR Sun 9 July, Lichfield Cathedral

Comedy

ROB ROUSE, PAUL THORNE, RO CAMPBELL & GEORGE ZACH Sat 1 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MICKEY BARTLETT, ALLYSON JUNE SMITH, JOHN LYNN & SIMON BLIGH Sat 1 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

PIERRE HOLLINS, JOE ROWANTREE & SEAN PERCIVAL Sat 1 July, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

BARBARA NICE, GARAGHTY AND THOM Sat 1 July, mac, Birmingham

GEORGE EGG Sat 1 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

FIN TAYLOR & KIRI PRITCHARD-MCLEAN

Wed 5 July, The Glee Club, B'ham
DANIEL TOWNES, IAN COPPINGER & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 6 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BRENNAN REECE & ELEANOR TIERNAN Thurs 6 July, mac, Birmingham

MARCUS BIRDMAN, ZOE LYONS, PHIL REID & GEORGE ZACH Thurs 6 July, The George Hotel, Lichfield

KUM-N-AVALOFF COMEDY NIGHT Thurs 6 July, Stourbridge Town Hall

DANIEL TOWNES, IAN COPPINGER, TOM HOUGHTON & MAFF BROWN Fri 7 - Sat 8 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MATT REED & CERY S NELMES Fri 7 - Sat 8 July, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

EDDIE BRIMSON, DARIUS DAVIES, STUART GOLDSMITH & PHIL ELLIS Sat 8 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

JUSTIN MOORHOUSE Sat 8 July, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

NOREEN KHAN, GUZ KHAN, AATIF NAWAZ, ALI OFFICIAL & NABIL ABDULRASHID Sun 9 July, The Glee Club, B'ham

PATRICK LIVE AT THE SANDY HOLES Hotel Sun 9 July, mac, Birmingham

SCOTT BENNETT, TOM LITTLE, STEVE HARRIS & DAN NIGHTINGALE Sun 9 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Theatre

THE HOLLOW Shawbury Village Players present an amateur staging of Agatha Christie's whodunnit, until Sat 1 July, Acton Reynolds Hall, Hadnall, North Shropshire

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

AVENUE Q Little Theatre Company present an amateur staging of the Tony Award-winning musical, until Sat 1 July, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM Amateur staging of Michelle Margorian's wartime classic, until Sat 1 July, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

THE TEMPEST Outdoor staging of Shakespeare's last and most complete play, until Sat 8 July, Stafford Castle

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS New Vic production of Jules Verne's famous story, until Sat 8 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

TITUS ANDRONICUS Bloody and brutal play in which the decay of Rome reaches violent depths, until Sat 2 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre,

Stratford-upon-Avon

SALOMÉ 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, until Wed 6 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA Shakespeare's tragedy of love and power, until Thurs 7 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

VICE VERSA Phil Porter's 'side-splitting' comedy romp, until Sat 9 Sept, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

CARMILLA Stage27 present Sheridan La Fanu's gothic novella, Fri 30 June - Sat 1 July, mac, Birmingham

THE TALES OF DR SEUSS Crazy tomfoolery for younger audiences, fusing music, rhyme & magical characters, Fri 30 June - Sat 1 July, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

DER ROSENKAVALIER Welsh National Opera present a staging of Strauss' sumptuous comedy. Sung in German with English surtitles, Sat 1 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

SHELL SHOCK A personal realisation of one soldier's experience of learning to cope with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Sat 1 July, Ludlow Brewery, Ludlow, South Shropshire

MORE UNBEARABLE PLEASURES OF BEING A WOMAN With Joana Eden and Leigh McDonald, Sat 1 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

COMEDY OF ERRORS All-male theatre group The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's farce, Sat 1 July, Dudmaston Hall, Nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY Outdoor staging of the Crescent Theatre's version of Jane Austen's romantic novel, Sat 1 - Sun 2 July, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

THE MAGIC FLUTE Heritage Opera North West present an open-air version of Mozart's mystery-drama, Sun 2 July, Stafford Castle

A JUDGEMENT IN STONE A brand new staging of Ruth Rendell's classic thriller, Mon 3 - Sat 8 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT TIME Highly acclaimed National Theatre production based on Mark Haddon's award-winning novel, Tues 4 - Sat 8 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

POPCORN & PROSECCO A night of entertainment featuring 'the very best in musical theatre', Wed 5 - Thurs 6 July, Newhampton Arts Centre,

Wolverhampton

LITTLE RED Page-2-Stage Productions brings its usual madcap spirit and style to a new adaptation of a classic family story, Wed 5 - Fri 7 July, Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Rollercoaster romp through all of Shakespeare's plays, Wed 5 - Sun 9 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

CATS Youth Theatre production of the Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber classic, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 July, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

MORBID CURIOSITIES Don't Go Into The Cellar present an original stage thriller, featuring all-new adaptations of The Yellow Wallpaper, The Old Nurse's Story and John Charrington's Wedding, Fri 7 July, Lichfield Garrick

THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY Using huge projection photos and original film footage, this 50th Anniversary celebration features a full live band performing many of the duo's hits, Fri 7 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS PRESENT GOSTINITSA: HOTEL OF CURIOSITIES Brand new show featuring award-winning clowns, jugglers, unicyclists and trapeze artists, Fri 7 - Sun 9 July, Beckett's Farm, Birmingham

WEST END STORY Musical revue featuring tunes from some of the world's best musical theatre productions, Sat 8 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

BEYOND THE WATER'S EDGE Captivating series of portraits presented through the words of some of the world's best poets, Sat 8 July, Lichfield Garrick

THE THIRD POLICEMAN Flann O'Brien's comic masterpiece, Sat 8 July, mac, Birmingham

THE FIRST HIPPO ON THE MOON Les Petits Theatre Company present a staging of David Walliams' explosively funny space adventure for children aged three-plus, Sat 8 July, Lichfield Garrick

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY Outdoor staging of the Crescent Theatre's version of Jane Austen's romantic novel, Sat 8 - Sun 9 July, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

SECRET GARDEN Heartbreak Production's outdoor staging of the classic children's tale, Sun 9 July, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire

PATRICK LIVE AT THE SANDY HOLES HOTEL Join seaside cabaret legend Patrick as he recreates his summertime spectacular from the infamous Sandy Holes Hotel, Sun 9 July, mac, Birmingham

MADAGASCAR - A MUSICAL ADVENTURE Theatretrain Hagley present an amateur show based on the popular animated movie, Sun 9 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

RICHARD III The Malachites present a new take on Shakespeare's history play, Sun 9 July, Lichfield Guildhall

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

HAMPSTEAD (12a) Drama. Starring Diane Keaton, Brendan Gleeson. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Thurs 6 July

CHURCHILL (PG) Biography/Drama. Starring Brian Cox, Miranda Richardson. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, until Thurs 6 July; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Thurs 6 July

THE BIG KNIGHTS (U) Animation. With the voices of Alexander Armstrong, Brian Blessed. mac, Birmingham, Sat 1 July

A DOG'S PURPOSE (PG) Comedy/Drama. Starring Josh Gad, Dennis Quaid. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 1 July

KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD (12a) Action/Adventure. Starring Charlie Hunnam, Jude Law. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 1 July; Wern Town Hall, Shropshire, Fri 7 July

UNLOCKED (15) Action/Thriller. Starring Orlando Bloom, Noomi Rapace. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, Sat 1 July

MEAN GIRLS (12) Comedy. Starring Lindsay Lohan, Jonathan Bennett. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 1 July

EGGHEAD (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Shailashree Mulki, Shreya. Foreign language, English subtitles. mac, Birmingham, Sat 1 July

SEXY DURGA (15) Drama/Fantasy. Starring Rajshri Deshpande, Bilas Nair. Foreign language, English subtitles. mac, Birmingham, Sun 2 July

SUPERMAN (PG) Action/Adventure. Starring Christopher Reeve, Margot Kidder. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 2 July

HACKSAW RIDGE (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Andrew Garfield, Sam Worthington. Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 3 July

THE KING AND I (U) Biography/Musical. Starring Yul Brynner, Deborah Kerr. A dementia friendly film showing. Wern Town Hall, Shropshire, Mon 3 July

MINDHORN (15) Comedy. Starring Kenneth Branagh, Essie Davis. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, Mon 3 July

WHISKY GALORE! (PG) Comedy/Romance. Starring James Cosmo, Naomi Battrick. Ludlow Assembly

Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 3 - Tues 4 July

HIDDEN FIGURES (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer. Foxlowe Arts Centre, Staffs, Tues 4 July

THE PROMISE (12a) Drama/History. Starring Oscar Isaac, Charlotte Le Bon. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 4 - Thurs 6 July

L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (18) Crime/Drama. Starring Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 5 July

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING (12a) Adventure/Sci-Fi. Starring Tom Holland, Chris Evans. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 5 - Thurs 20 July

STAND BY ME (15) Adventure/Drama. Starring Wil Wheaton, River Phoenix. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 5 July

THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (18) Comedy/Drama. Starring Judi Dench, Bill Nighy. Includes wine tasting with Soul Tree Wines. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 6 July

ALIEN: COVENANT (15) Horror/Sci-Fi. Starring Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 8 July

ROCKY (12) Drama/Sport. Starring Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 9 July

LA TRAVIATA (U) Opera/Drama. Starring Francesca Dotto. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 9 July

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Wed 5 July, showing at selected cinemas:

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING (12a)

A CHANGE IN THE WEATHER (PG)

IT COMES AT NIGHT (15)

THE LAST WORD (15)

THE MIDWIFE (12a)

TOMMY'S HONOUR (PG)

Events

BIRMINGHAM INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL Europe's largest Indian film festival, often referred to as the 'punk-rock of Indian cinema', until Sun 2 July, various locations throughout B'ham

THE STITCHING, SEWING & HOBBYCRAFT SHOW Featuring talks and demonstrations, new product launches and plenty of inspiration, until Sun 2 July, NEC, Birmingham

BRASS BANDS IN THE GARDENS until Sun 13 Aug, Trentham Estate, Stoke-on-Trent



Dinosaurs In The Wild - NEC, Birmingham

DINOSAURS IN THE WILD Featuring dramatic storytelling and high-end digital graphics and animatronics, until Wed 23 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

SUMMER HOLIDAYS Summer of fun featuring magicians and ventriloquists, until Sun 3 Sep, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

MISS ELIZABETH BOAT TRIPS Take a gentle cruise along the mile-long lake aboard the Miss Elizabeth, until Mon 4 Sep, Trentham Estate, Stoke-on-Trent

ART COURSES until Sat 14 Oct, Arley Arboretum, Bewdley

MADE IN SHROPSHIRE CRAFT MARKET A showcase for local artists, designers and artisan food producers from Shropshire, Sat 1 July, Ludlow Market, Ludlow, South Shropshire

SUMMERFEST Featuring live music, food & refreshments, rides, games, stalls and a classic car show, Sat 1 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

BBQ CLUB Featuring expert chefs, butchers and delicious BBQ food, Sat 1 July, Battlefield 1403 Farm Shop & Cafe, Shrewsbury

ST CHAD'S CHURCH FETE Sat 1 July, Pattingham Playing Fields, Pattingham

JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK Learn about the history of the area, its buildings and businesses, Sat 1 July, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

METAL WORKING EXPERIENCE Join the skilled metalworkers for a day of heat and hammers, Sat 1 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

MAKE YOUR OWN STAFFORDSHIRE CAT Workshop teaching the basics of needle felting, Sat 1 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP Pop along to the Monkey Forest and get snapping, Sat 1 July, Trentham Monkey Forest, Stoke-on-Trent

STEAMPUNK FESTIVAL Corsets and clogs at Ironbridge's first ever Steampunk gathering, Sat 1 - Sun 2 July, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

BIRMINGHAM SANDWELL WEST MIDLANDS FIESTA 2017 Celebration of Filipino cultures and heritage, Sat 1 - Sun 2 July, Lightwoods Park, Smethwick, Birmingham

THE VINTAGE SHOW Hosted by the Mid Shropshire Vintage Club, Sat 1 - Sun 2 July, West Midland Showground, Shrewsbury

VIKING WEEKEND! Raudr Vagr Vikings group re-creates the lifestyles of the Viking and Anglo-Saxon peoples, Sat 1 - Sun 2 July, Arley Arboretum, Bewdley

STEP BACK TO THE 1940S All aboard for a Severn Valley Railway train journey back in time to the 1940s, Sat 1 - Sun 2 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

FERN TRAIN TRIPS Take a trip on the Trentham Fern, the resident diesel engine that chuffs along the lakeside, Sat 1 - Tues 4 July, Trentham Estate, Stoke-on-Trent

SANDWELL BLOOMIN' LOVELY ARTS TRAIL Celebrate local talent as paintings, drawings and photographs go on display around the borough, Sat 1 - Fri 14 July, Sandwell Valley Country Park, West Bromwich

WENLOCK OLYMPIAN GAMES Celebrate the founding of the Olympic Games with this annual event, Sat 1 - Sun 16 July, Much Wenlock, Shropshire

LAVENDER MONTH Learn about the historical uses of lavender, then try out some lavender tea and cake in the tearoom, Sat 1 - Sun 30 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

THE BLACK COUNTRY ROAD RUN First ever Halesowen Elite 5k Timed Race, specifically for those who can complete a 5k in under 30 minutes, Sun 2 July, Halesowen Library, The Cornbow



Upstairs Downstairs Tour - Weston Park, Staffordshire

LUDLOW SMALL GARDENS FESTIVAL

Some of Ludlow's smaller gardens, outside the town centre, open for visitors to wander around and enjoy, Sun 2 July, Various Locations around Ludlow, South Shropshire

EID MELA Fun-filled day celebrating Eid Mela, with activities including Henna, live bhangra and music, face painting, crafts, sports and a bouncy castle, Sun 2 July, Soho House, Handsworth, Birmingham

GARDEN TOUR Discover the history of the Italian Garden, Sun 2 July, Trentham Estate, Stoke-on-Trent

ANTIQUE FAIR Sun 2 July, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

LABORATORIUM PIESNI: WORKSHOP AND CONCERT Songs from all over the world, performed using traditional polyphonic singing, Sun 2 July, Hermon Chapel Arts Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

LET'S FEED BRUM - SUMMER SLEEPOVER Idyllic setting? Check. Delicious street food? Check. Sky full of stars? Check. With that, the scene is set for Let's Feed Brum's first summer fundraiser, Sun 2 - Mon 3 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham

A TASTE OF AUSTRALIA: WINE TASTING Enjoy a specially selected range of premium wines originating from Australia. With expert guest speaker Simon Grayson, Thurs 6 July, The Peach Tree, Shrewsbury

HERITAGE TALK - GEORGE CADBURY Bournville Village Trust Chairman Duncan Cadbury gives a talk on businessman and philanthropist George Cadbury, Thurs 6 July, Selly Manor, Bournville, Birmingham

BISHOP'S CASTLE REAL ALE TRAIL Based in and around the town's six historic pubs and two real ale breweries, Fri 7 - Sat 8 July, Bishops Castle, South Shropshire

MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS Fri 7 - Sun 9 July, Beckett's Farm, Wythall, Birmingham

MONTHLY SHREWSBURY ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET Sat 8 July, The Square, Shrewsbury

LUDLOW 10K A night run around the

town centre on closed roads, Sat 8 July, Ludlow Town Centre, Ludlow, South Shropshire

WIMBLEDON AFTERNOON TEA Get into the Wimbledon spirit with Afternoon Tea served with a glass of Prosecco, Sat 8 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

NEWPORT SHOW One of Shropshire's largest one-day events, the agricultural show offers a varied programme of family entertainment, Sat 8 July, Chetwynd Park, Newport

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON FESTIVAL OF FOOD & DRINK Bringing together a selection of the UK's finest street food traders with the best of local chefs, restaurants and bars, Sat 8 - Sun 9 July, Wolverhampton City Centre

VINTAGE IN THE PARK A full weekend of vintage and handmade things, live entertainment, dancers and music, Sat 8 - Sun 9 July, Lightwoods Park, Smethwick, Birmingham

FUR AND FEATHER WEEKEND A chance to meet some of nature's beautiful creations and talk to some special guests, Sat 8 - Sun 9 July, Hawkstone Park & Folies, Shrewsbury

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS Learn about the amazing story of the Hippodrome, Sat 8 July, Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre, Birmingham

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL Watch as teams race each other along the River Severn in 40ft Dragon Boats, Sun 9 July, Shrewsbury School, Shrewsbury

'UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS' BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR Delve deeper into the rich history of the House and family of Weston Park, Sun 9 July, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal

MACMILLAN SUMMERTIME WALK A 12-mile walk following the South Telford Heritage Trail, Sun 9 July, Telford Town Park, Telford

TELFORD LIONS DAY Exhibition of classic cars, car clubs, military and service vehicles. Family fun day with funfair, arena events, stalls etc, Sun 9 July, Bowring District Park, Wellington

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME Discover hidden gems including a Mediterranean-inspired garden, Sun 9 July,

Selly Manor, Bournville

DRAGONFLY WALK See how many dragon and damselflies you can spot, Sun 9 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

RACE FOR LIFE A 5k event, Sun 9 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

PIRATES DAY Packed programme of piratical pursuits, including singalong sea shanties, storytelling, 'Pirate School' and puppet show Blackbeard The Pirate, Sun 9 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

Festivals

BARN ON THE FARM FESTIVAL Line-up includes Tom O'Dell, Lucy Rose & Benjamin Francis-Leftwich, until Sun 2 July, Over Farm Market, Highnam, Gloucester

KINGS HEATH FAKE FESTIVAL Line-up includes tribute bands Oasis, Blondie & Green Day, Sat 1 July, Kings Heath Park, Birmingham

LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD Featuring Manic Street Preachers, Gregory Porter & Bryn Terfel, Mon 3 - Sun 9 July, Royal International Pavillion, Llangollen, North Wales

LLANFEST Line-up includes Roving Crows, Buddy Holly & The Black Jacks, Army of Skanks & the Delta Radio Band, Mon 3 - Sun 9 July, Royal International Pavillion, Llangollen, North Wales

BE FESTIVAL Featuring a diverse range of contemporary theatre from across Europe, Tues 4 - Sat 8 July, The REP, Birmingham

2000TREES FESTIVAL Line up includes Slaves, Nothing But Thieves, Pulled Apart By Horses, Jamie Lenman & Feed The Rhino, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 July, Upcote Farm, Cheltenham

NOISILY FESTIVAL Line-up includes Gabriel Ananda, Zen Mechanics,

Beardyman & The Prototypes, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 July, Coney Woods, Noseley Hall, Leicestershire

TECH FEST 2017 Line up includes Northlane, The Black Dahlia Murder, Obscura, The Faceless & Beyond Creation, Thurs 6 - Mon 10 July, Newark Showground, Newark

NAPTON MUSIC FESTIVAL 2017 Line up includes Zinc Zebra, Behind The Settee, The Occasional Orchestra & The Dylan Rythmn Band, Fri 7 - Sat 8 July, Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire

FUSE FESTIVAL Line-up includes Born Again Beatles, Pollen, The Assist, Bud Sugar & Barbarellas Bang Bang, Fri 7 - Sun 9 July, Beacon Park, Lichfield

LINTON FESTIVAL Line-up includes, Billy Walton Band, Band of Friends, Willie & The Bandits & Hayseed Dixie, Fri 7 - Sun 9 July, The Alma Inn, Ross-on-Wye

GODIVA FESTIVAL Line-up includes The Darkness, Tom Clarke (The Enemy) and The Stranglers, Fri 7 - Sun 9 July, War Memorial Park, Coventry

MOSTLY JAZZ FUNK & SOUL FESTIVAL Line up features Chaka Khan, St Paul & The Broken Bones & Soul II Soul, Fri 7 - Sun 9 July, Moseley Park, Birmingham

CAMPER JAM Line-up includes: UK Foo Fighters, Hey Beatles & Doc Brown Trio, Fri 7 - Sun 9 July, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal

LICHFIELD FESTIVAL 2017 Annual music & arts festival featuring theatre, folk & classical music performances. Fri 7 - Sat 15 July, various locations throughout Lichfield

QUARRY FEST Line-up includes 3 International live tributes to ABBA, Bruno Mars and Madness, Sat 8 July, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

WHY FESTIVAL Line up includes reggae giants Gabbidon (ex Steel Pulse), Khaliq, Remi Fox Novak, Angryfish, & Church of Elvis, Sat 8 July, The Crossing, Digbeth, Birmingham



Dragon Boat Festival - Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

What's on...



Thursday 31st August, 7.00pm
**BLACK MAGIC -
THE LITTLE MIX SHOW**



Sunday 3rd September, 2.00pm
THE THEO THE MOUSE SHOW



Thursday 7th September, 7.30pm
THE ILLEGAL EAGLES



Friday 8th September, 7.30pm
FLEETWOOD BAC



Friday 15th September, 7.30pm
GENESIS CONNECTED



Saturday 16th September,
11am & 3pm
HIGH SCHOOL ROCKS



Wednesday 20th September, 7.30pm
RHYDIAN, RICHARD AND ADAM



Friday 22nd September, 7.30pm
BEE GEES FEVER



Saturday 23rd September, 2.00pm
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£12, £10 Students



11 JULY

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£14, £10 Child



31 JULY - 5 AUGUST

THE DREAMING

£12.50 - £17.50



25 - 28 AUGUST

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KICK UP THE 80'S
SUN 1 JUL - SUPPORT ATLANTIC 54

JUST FLOYD
SUN 3 JUL - AFTERNOON DOORS 13noon

BLACKMORES BLOOD
SUN 3 JUL - EVENING DOORS 7.30pm
A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF
BITCHIE BLACKMORES, DEEP PURPLE
+ RAINBOW

CROW BLACK CHICKEN
MON 4 JUL - BLUES FROM IRELAND
+ PRIMER + THE HAND AND THE FLOWER

AN AUDIENCE WITH MARTIN KEMP
TUE 4 JUL - WITH HOST PAUL FRANKS

ELECTUS
WED 5 JUL - WAKEDOWN + CROWS & CROSSES + MARK PRITCHARD

T'PAU
THU 6 JUL - FEAT CAROL DECKER

SEX PISSED DOLLS
FRI 7 JUL - NAKED SUNDAY + ABANATHUS

THE SMITHS
SAT 8 JUL - TRIPLE T TRIBUTE BILL

JOY DIVISION
SUN 9 JUL - THE SMITHS LTD

KNIGHT AREA
MON 10 JUL - DUTCH NEO-PROGRESSIVE ROCK

HEAVEN AND BEYOND UK
WED 13 JUL

EZIO
THU 14 JUL - TRIP TO THE FILM AND MUSICAL

THE ROCK OF AGES EXPERIENCE
FRI 15 JUL - AGES AT 1995 PRICES £3.50

ROBIN 1 25th ANNIVERSARY PARTY
WITH SOUL SURVIVORS

WHO'S WHO + SMALL FAKERS
SAT 16 JUL - FIVE O'CLOCK HERO

HUE & CRY
SUN 17 JUL - FULL BAND SHOW

LEE AARON
MON 18 JUL - WITH HER BAND

LISA MILLS
WED 19 JUL - FROM THE USA, MISSISSIPPI

BLOBBIE WILLIAMS
THU 20 JUL

THE SUPERSKAS
FRI 21 JUL - + THE EMPTY LINES + JOHNNY COLE

BON GIOVI
SAT 22 JUL - + WMD

SeYes
SUN 23 JUL - LIVE ON STAGE 8.30pm

PETE KENT
WED 24 JUL - + FERN FOX PALMER

GRAHAM BONNET BAND
THU 25 JUL - + EVLYTIDE

JEAN GENIE
FRI 26 JUL - + THE ASSIST

DAVID BOWIE
SAT 27 JUL - + REBECCA DOWNES

MAGNUM
SUN 28 JUL - + HILH FOUNDATION

ALMOST EAST - THE LIGHTNING THUNDER
+ JODIE LONGA + SALLY ANNE TEJ + COW ON THE HORIZON + JORDAN MURRAY PHILIPS

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MOUNT PLEASANT - BILSTON
WOLVERHAMPTON - WV14 7LJ

Gigs

LEMURIA Mon 10 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

TRAPT, FALLEN STATE & CONFESSIONS OF A TRAITOR Tues 11 July, The Flapper, B'ham

COUNTRY SUPERSTARS EXPERIENCE Wed 12 July, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

KEVIN DEVINE Wed 12 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE SWINGLES Wed 12 July, Lichfield Garrick, Staffordshire

DORJA, CHARLES DEXTERWARD, ARAMANTUS, KILLER BOB & GENESIS ARC Wed 12 July, The Flapper, Birmingham

VO FLETCHER Wed 12 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MARTHA WAINWRIGHT Wed 12 July, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

EZIO Wed 12 July, The Robin, Bilston

DAVE ONIONS Thurs 13 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

TRISTAN & HESTON Thurs 13 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RED JUMPSUIT APPARATUS Fri 14 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SAMANTHA WRIGHT QUINTET Fri 14 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LOTTO BOYZZ Fri 14 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

URBAN INTRO Fri 14 - Sat 15 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

TEQUILA MOCKINGBYRD Fri 14 July, The Flapper, Birmingham

WITTERQUICK Fri 14 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

THE SOUL SURVIVORS WITH MEL DAY Fri 14 July, The Robin, Bilston

THE SPOOKY MEN'S CHORALE Fri 14 July, Birmingham Town Hall

LEGEND - LEGENDS OF ROCK Fri 14 July, The



Mary J. Blige - O2 Academy, Birmingham

River Rooms, Stourbridge

ANDREW WEATHERALL Fri 14 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

QE2 - THE VERY BEST OF QUEEN Fri 14 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

FOLK MUSIC EVENING Fri 14 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

MARY J. BLIGE Sat 15 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

CLAUDE VON STROKE, MARC SPENCE, TOM SHORTERZ Sat 15 July, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

MISHA MULLOV-ABBADO GROUP Sat 15 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury

IVOR & LYN'S CLASSIC ROCK NIGHT Sat 15 July, Route 44, B'ham

ULTRA 90'S Sat 15 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE STEVE GIBBONS BAND, Sat 15 July, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

THE DIRTY DC - AC/DC TRIBUTE Sat 15 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE AC30'S Sat 15 July, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

MICHAELA WYLDE Sun 16 July, The British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA Sun 16 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

FRENCH BOUTIK Sun 16 July, The Wightman Theatre, Shrewsbury

BIG BAND CONCERT Sun 16 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

ANTI-CLONE Sun 16 July, The Flapper, Birmingham

JACEK STACHURSKY Sun 16 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

HUE AND CRY Sun 16 July, The Robin, Bilston

HANNAH ALDRIDGE Sun 16 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham



Michaela Wyld - The British Ironworks Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

Classical Music

ELYSIAN PIANO TRIO Featuring Emily Sun (violin), Jane Lindsay (cello) & Jennifer Hughes (piano). Programme includes works by Beethoven, Brahms & Gershwin, Mon 10 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

EVELYN GLENNIE Mon 10 July, Lichfield Cathedral

ISAAC COLLIER CELLO RECITAL Programme includes Richard Arnell's Cello Suite Op 48 "Cello Sonata No.2," Arron Minsky's "10 American Cello Etudes," Isaac Collier's Improvisation on "Jewish Prayer" by Ernest Bloch and Ernest Bloch's Suite No.1 for Solo Cello, Wed 12 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

THE SIXTEEN Programme includes works by Poulenc and Palestrina, Thurs 13 July, Lichfield Cathedral

FERIO SAXOPHONE QUARTET Thurs 13 July, Swinfen Hall Hotel, Lichfield

DOMINIC DEGAVIN PIANO RECITAL Programme includes Beethoven's Sonata Op.31 No.1 in G Major, Rachmaninov's Corelli Variations, Op. 42, Liszt's Mephisto Waltz No.1 and works by Ligeti, Fri 14 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

BLACK VOICES Fri 14 July, Lichfield Cathedral

BLAKE Re-inspired by the classic trio harmonies of The Three Tenors, The Bee Gees and Boyz-II-Men, Sat 15 July, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

CBSO VIBRANT VOICES Featuring Ula Weber (conductor), Marc Hall (children's chorus conductor), CBSO SO Vocal, CBSO Children's Chorus and musicians from the CBSO, Sat 15 July, Birmingham Town Hall

ORGAN PROMS Experience the magnificence of the 4 Manual Conacher-Willis Organ with a showcase of the world's finest organists, Sat 15 July, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

OLIVER WASS HARP RECITAL Sat 15 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

Comedy

ZOE LYONS Mon 10 July, Lichfield Garrick

SPENCER JONES, BRENNAN REECE Wed 12 July, The Glee Club, B'ham

ADAM HESS & MAT EWINS Wed 12 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

JO ENRIGHT, ALLYSON JUNE SMITH, KERRY LEIGH & MAUREEN YOUNGER Wed 12 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe,

Birmingham

ALISTAIR BARRIE, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 13 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

FIN TAYLOR & JAYDE ADAMS Thurs 13 July, mac, Birmingham

CARL HUTCHINSON Fri 14 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

STAND UP COMEDY SHOWCASE Fri 14 July, mac, Birmingham

ALISTAIR BARRIE, DAN NIGHTINGALE, MAUREEN YOUNGER & DAN THOMAS Fri 14 - Sat 15 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

GEOFF BOYZ, DAVID MORGAN Sat 15 July, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

JOHN FOTHERGILL, JARLETH REGAN, ALEX BOARDMAN & SALLY-ANN HAYWARD Sat 15 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

STAND UP COMEDY SHOWCASE Sat 15 July, mac, Birmingham

RUSSELL KANE Sat 15 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

RAYMOND MEARNES, JOHN LYNN, TEZ ILYAS & DAMION LARKIN Sat 15 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

Theatre

ON THE RUN & SMALL STEPS GIANT LEAPS Theatrical double bill performed by Central Youth Theatre, Mon 10 July, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

WONDERLAND Wendi Peters, Dave Willetts & Kerry Ellis star in Frank Wildhorn's musical adaptation of Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures In Wonderland and Through The Looking Glass, Mon 10 - Sat 15 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

SHIRLEY VALENTINE Jodie Prenger stars in Willy Russell's classic play, Mon 10 - Sat 15 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



AUSTEN'S WOMEN Thirteen of Jane Austen's heroines come to life in a bold revisiting of some of literature's most celebrated works, Tues 11 July, Lichfield Garrick

THE SCARECROW'S WEDDING Family show based on the book by Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler, Tues 11 July, Lichfield Garrick

SEVEN Amateur performance presented by Central Youth Theatre, Tues 11 - Wed 12 July, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT Amateur performance presented by The King's CE School, Tues 11 - Thurs 13 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

ROMEO & JULIET New production of Shakespeare's immortal tale of an all-consuming love, Wed 12 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

POLICE COPS: THE PRETEND MEN Action-packed hour of 'adrenaline-fuelled physical comedy, cinematic style and uncompromising facial hair', Wed 12 July, Lichfield Garrick

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY Outdoor staging of the Crescent Theatre's version of Jane Austen's romantic novel, Wed 12 - Thurs 13 July, Selly Manor, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM ORMISTON ACADEMY COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE Bringing together music, dance and acting, Wed 12 - Thurs 13 July, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

TWELFTH NIGHT Shakespeare's magical tale is reimagined in the 1920s, with prohibition rife and Europe still reeling in the wake of war, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

TRANSITIONS New play by Lorna French which follows the fortunes of a group of students and teachers from four school as they battle for survival, Thurs 13 - Tues 18 July, The REP, Birmingham

SPENCER Nick Hall brings humour to the story of Spencer Percival, the only Prime Minister ever to be assassinated... Fri 14 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

MRS OSCAR WILDE The story of the wife of one of the Victorian era's most famous writers, Fri 14 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Juliet Stevenson narrates Jane Austen's classic love story in honour of the bicentenary of the author's death. Music by Carl Davis is performed by pianist Ashley Wass & violinist Matthew Trusler, Fri 14 July, Lichfield Garrick

CATS Amateur staging by Performing Stars Academy, Fri 14 July, Brew-house Art Centre, Burton-on-Trent

WEST END TO BROADWAY The Ludwig Academy of Musical Theatre present their first showcase, Fri 14 - Sat 15 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

STRICTLY MURDER Brian Capron (Coronation Street), Corrine Wicks (Doctors/Emmerdale) & Gary Turner (Emmerdale) star in Brian Clemens' fast-moving thriller, Fri 14 - Sat 15 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE LIFE & DEATH OF MARILYN MONROE

Breakthrough Theatre explore the life of one of history's most iconic women, Fri 14 - Sun 16 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

OLD KING COLE Derek Webb's show for children, Fri 14 - Sat 22 July, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

ROMEO & JULIET Oddsocks breathe new life into Shakespeare's classic tale by giving it a Mods & Rockers theme, Sat 15 July, mac, Birmingham

JUMPROV 2 - THE SEQUEL Unique comedy sketch show completely made up on the spot and 100% improvised, Sat 15 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

A BLACK COUNTRY FAIRYTALE... AY IT! Fizzogs present a non-traditional tale of fantasy set in 1910, Sat 15 July, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

ALL THE FLOWERS DYING Three In One Productions presents Roger Price's play, which explores how love and hate, peace and violence can exist side by side, Sat 15 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ELSIE GREY One-woman show in which Susanah Hallcroft explores the issues that cause people with dementia to seemingly disappear... Sat 15 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE SHOWSTOPPER'S KIDS SHOW Improvised musical show for kids of all ages, presented by Olivier Award-winning West End improvisers, Sat 15 July, Lichfield Garrick

BUGSY MALONE Stage2 Performing Arts Academy presents its version of the much-loved musical comedy, Sat 15 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

JEKYLL AND HYDE Amateur staging presented by The Arts Centre Telford (TACT), Sat 15 - Sun 16 July, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY Outdoor staging of the Crescent Theatre's version of Jane Austen's romantic novel, Sat 15 - Sun 16 July, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

MILKSHAKE LIVE! THE MAGIC STORY-BOOK With songs, stories and an abundance of audience participation, Sun 16 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MACBETH Oddsocks fuse laughter and witchcraft in a unique take on Shakespeare's dramatic story of ambition turned bad, Sun 16 July, mac, Birmingham



Dance

U-DANCE Showcase of work by youth dancers from across the UK, Fri 14 - 16 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

NAVADAL Akademi's national South Asian youth dance competition, run this year in partnership with One Dance UK, ISTD and Sampad, Sat 15 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

Talks

SARAH OUTEN: DARE TO DO The rower and adventurer talks about picking herself up after a fall and finishing what she set out to do, Mon 10 July, The George Hotel, Lichfield

BRIAN CLEGG: THE REALITY FRAME Afternoon talk hosted by the acclaimed science writer, Mon 10 July, The George Hotel, Lichfield

JANE AUSTEN: THE BANKER'S SISTER Professor Emma Cleary delves into new research about the Austen family relationship, exploring how the actions of Jane's brother informed the novelist's writing and career, Thurs 13 July, Lichfield Garrick

WATLING STREET Author John Higgs takes audiences on a journey along one of Britain's oldest and 'most enchanting' roads, Fri 14 July, The George Hotel, Lichfield

SIR TONY ROBINSON IN CONVERSATION Join the Blackadder and Time Team star as he shares tales from an illustrious career, Sat 15 July, Lichfield Garrick

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

GOLD (15) Drama/Thriller. Starring Matthew McConaughey, Edgar Ramirez. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 10 July

MY COUSIN RACHEL (12a) Drama/Mystery. Starring Rachel Weisz, Sam Claflin. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 10 July

LA LA LAND (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone. Foxlowe Arts Centre, Staffs, Tues 11 July

CASABLANCA (15) Drama/Romance. Starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman. Wightman Theatre, Shrewsbury, Tues 11 July

KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD (12a) Action/Adventure. Starring Char-

lie Hunnam, Jude Law. Wem Town Hall, Shropshire, Tues 11 & Thurs 13 July

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE (18) Action/Adventure. Starring Sean Connery, Robert Shaw. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 13 July

THINGS TO COME (18) Drama. Starring Isabelle Huppert, André Marcon. Foreign language, English subtitles. The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 14 July

NAPOLEON (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Albert Dieudonné, Vladimir Roudenko. mac, Birmingham, Sat 15 July

'FEEL GOOD' FILM FEST Highbury Theatre, Birmingham, Sun 16 July

SLOW WEST (15) Western. Starring Kodi Smit-McPhee, Michael Fassbender. Highbury Theatre, Birmingham, Sun 16 July

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Tues 11 July, showing at selected cinemas:

WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES (tbc) **CARS 3 (U)**

THE BEGUILLED (15)

THE LAST WORD (15)

THE MIDWIFE (12a)

TOMMY'S HONOUR (PG)

Events

VIP TOURS A fascinating tour of the property, Tues 11 July, Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent

SUMMER OUTDOOR LIVING EXHIBITION Event bringing together leading manufacturers of garden products and showcasing exciting new developments, Tues 11 - Thurs 13 July, NEC, Birmingham

VALUATION DAY WITH BIDDLE AND WEBB AUCTION HOUSE Take along your heirlooms and valuables along to the museum for an Antiques Roadshow-style valuation day, Thurs 13 July, Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery, Wednesbury

TREVANION & DEAN AUCTIONS Regular monthly auctions of fine art, antiques and collectables, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 July, Trevanion & Dean, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

GIN JAMBOREE Featuring more than 100 different gins, with hundreds of tonic/garnish combinations to try out, Fri 14 July, The Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury

GIN-TASTING EVENING Discover the history and science behind one of the nation's most popular drinks, Fri 14 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

Monday 10 - Sunday 16 July

THE ANNUAL TRANSPORT RALLY Sat 15 July, The British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

THE KICKBACK MOTORBIKE SHOW & WORKSHOP FAIR Featuring over 50 customs, cafe racers and classic motorcycles, as well as around 20 suppliers providing parts, accessories and much more, Sat 15 July, The Custard Factory, Digbeth, Birmingham

1940S EVENING Don't forget to dress up! Sat 15 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

COILED POT MAKING WORKSHOP Sat 15 July, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

WOLVERHAMPTON FIESTA Featuring giant fun fair, Monster Truck displays, moving T-Rex dinosaur, live music, licenced bar, food courts & more..., Sat 15 - Sun 16 July, West Park, Wolverhampton

LARGE MODEL AIRCRAFT RALLY Air show in miniature, taking place on the airfield, Sat 15 - Sun 16 July, RAF Cosford, Cosford, Shifnal

THE KICKASS BIG WEEKENDER Three events over two days, Sat 15 - Sun 16 July, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal

THE ECKFORD SWEET PEA SOCIETY'S 29TH ANNUAL SHOW One of the largest sweet pea shows in Britain, Sat 15 - Sun 16 July, Wem, North Shropshire

EXOTIC ANIMALS WEEKEND Featuring an array of exotic animals, including owls, lizards and a meerkat, Sat 15 - Sun 16 July, Trentham Monkey Forest, Stoke-on-Trent

OSWESTRY FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL Sat 15 - Sun 16 July, Various Locations around Oswestry, North Shropshire

OCTONAUTS OCTO-GLOW EXPLORERS A brand new deep-sea adventure where you can see the ocean in a whole new light, Sat 15 July - Sun 13 Aug, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

OPEN GARDENS FOR THE BRITISH RED CROSS Ten Ludlow old-town gardens open for the British Red Cross, Sun 16 July, various locations around Ludlow, South Shropshire

shire

BRIDGNORTH STREET FESTIVAL Specialist street food, general traders, buskers and children's funfair, Sun 16 July, Various locations in Bridgnorth, Shropshire

GOING UNDERGROUND Follow the winding passageways beneath the House and discover the purposes of the cellar in times gone by, Sun 16 July, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal, Shropshire

BONSAI DEMO Experts demonstrate best care and practice for Bonsai trees, Sun 16 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham

CLASSIC MOTOR DAY All categories of classic vehicles are invited to attend, Sun 16 July, Apley Farm Shop, Shifnal, Shropshire

VICTORIAN DAY Millers make flour in the watermill, plus children's crafts and outdoor fun and games, Sun 16 July, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

Festivals

BROMSGROVE'S FOLK FESTIVAL Line-up includes The Melrose Quartet, Quicksilver and Dan McKinnon, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 July, The Bowling Green, Bromsgrove

BIRMINGHAM FEST Annual showcase of new theatrical productions from across the UK, Fri 14 - Sun 30 July, Various locations across Birmingham

FLASHPOINT FESTIVAL Line-up includes Sophie Ellis-Bextor, KT Tunstall, Hue and Cry and ABC, Fri 14 - Sun 16 July, Rockingham Castle, Market Harborough, Leicestershire

BIRMINGHAM & SOLIHULL JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL Line up includes Brush with the Blues, The Broom-busters, C-Jam, Suzi Woods, Roy Forbes Trio, The Catfish Kings, Books Williams, The Whiskey Brothers and many more, Sat 15 - Sun 23 July, various locations across Birmingham & Solihull



Octonauts Octo - Glow Explorers - National Sealife Centre, Birmingham

WHAT'S ON AT THEATRE SEVERN...

FRIDAY 7 - SATURDAY 8 JULY



SONS OF PITCHES

Return with a brand new themed show SOPTV! For an A Capella adventure through the world of television!

SUNDAY 9 JULY



DJ and broadcasting legend 'Diddy' DAVID HAMILTON hosts this Fab 50s and Swinging 60s live music show with amazing band THE FUGITIVES and the sensational TIFFANY GIRLS.

MONDAY 10 - SATURDAY 15 JULY



Jodie Prenger stars in Willy Russell's heart-warming comedy about a Liverpool housewife's escape to the sun.

FRIDAY 14 JULY



Fresh from supporting Chris Ramsey on tour, join Carl as he attempts to put the world to rights in his brand new hour of stand-up.

THURSDAY 20 - SATURDAY 22 JULY



An inventive new production of this most popular opera brought to you by Sasha Regan's All Male ensemble.

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Hayseed Dixie - William Aston Hall, Wrexham

Gigs

BEEBE KWARTET Tues 18 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

HAYSEED DIXIE Tues 18 July, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

GURDAN THOMAS Wed 19 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

DUCKING PUNCHES Wed 19 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE ELVIS YEARS, "THE STORY OF THE KING" Thurs 20 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

HOLDING ABSENCE Thurs 20 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

MICHAEL WESTON KING Thurs 20 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

WBS MUSIC CONCERT Thurs 20 July, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

JOEY LANDRETH Thurs 20 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TOPLOADER Thurs 20 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

BOBBIE WILLIAMS Thurs 20 July, The Robin, Birmingham

COUNTRY SUPERSTARS EXPERIENCE Fri 21 July, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-

Trent

SUMMER TERRACE SESSIONS Fri 21 July, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

PUNJABTRONIX Fri 21 July, mac, Birmingham

SOLID SOUL Fri 21 - Sat 22 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

VOICE OF THE HEART - KAREN CARPENTER Fri 21 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

DEFINITELY MIGHTBE & ADORED Fri 21 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE SUPERSKAS Fri 21 July, The Robin, Bilston

LOU WHATLING Fri 21 July, Havana Republic Bar and Restaurant, Shrewsbury

BUCK AND EVANS Fri 21 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

DESPERATE MEN Sat 22 July, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

SACRED SOUNDS-SIKH MUSIC TRADITIONS AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR Sat 22 July, Birmingham Town Hall

THE DICKIES Sat 22 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

DARKZY, USSY, DJ CHEF Sat 22 July, The Rainbow Venues, B'ham

TUNDE JEGEDE & THE ART ENSEMBLE OF LAGOS Sat 22 July, mac, Birmingham

PARTY IN THE PARK Sat 22 July, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

ABI KELSEY BAND Sat 22 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Birmingham

BON GIOVI Sat 22 July, The Robin, Bilston

THE WEST COAST EAGLES Sat 22 July, The Roadhouse, B'ham

INTO THE SHADOWS Sat 22 July, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Sat 22 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

KIOKO Sat 22 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PHIL DOLEMAN & IAN EMMERSON Sun 23 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SHAPLA SALIQUE Sun 23 July, Birmingham Town Hall

THE JAYS AND ANDY B GOODE Sun 23 July, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

AMYTHYST KAH PLUS AMIT DATTANI Sun 23 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

SEYES Sun 23 July, The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

MUSIC SERVICE GALA CONCERTS Mon 17 - Fri 21 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FRONCYSYLTE MALE VOICE CHOIR 70th anniversary concert, Sat 22 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

LEGENDS: SUPERHERO SYMPHONIES The People's Orchestra showcase soundtracks from a series of well known superhero films including Superman, Spiderman and Batman, Sat 22 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Comedy

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Mon 17 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

MARK THOMAS Mon 17 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

LUCY PORTER & RHYS JAMES Wed 19 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JARRED CHRISTMAS & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 20 July, The Glee Club, B'ham

LUISA OMIELAN & PHIL NICHOL Thurs 20 July, mac, Birmingham

DANNY MCLOUGHLIN Fri 21 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

ADAM ROWE Fri 21 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

JARRED CHRISTMAS, OWEN O'NEILL, KATE LUCAS & STEVE SHANYASKI Fri 21 - Sat 22 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KEVIN MCCARTHY, TREVOR CROOK & COMIC TBC Sat 22 July, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

LUISA OMIELAN, MICK FERRY, CARL HUTCHINSON & PETE OTWAY Sat 22 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

KEITH FARNAN Sat 22 July, Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury

MILO MCCABE AS TROY HAWKE Sat 22 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

TOM WRIGGLESWORTH Sat 22 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

TONY COWARDS Sat 22 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

PIPPA EVANS Sat 22 July, Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury

MATT RICHARDSON Sat 22 July, Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury

GLENN WOOL Sat 22 July, St Nicholas Cafe Bar, Shrewsbury

CHARLIE BAKER Sat 22 July, St Nicholas Cafe Bar, Shrewsbury

GEIN'S FAMILY WORKSHOP Sat 22

July, St Nicholas Cafe Bar, Shrewsbury

PHIL NICHOL Sun 23 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

PAUL 'SILKY' WHITE Sun 23 July, Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury

ABANDOMAN'S ROB BRODERICK Sun 23 July, Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury

JOE LYCETT Sun 23 July, St Nicholas Cafe Bar, Shrewsbury

JOE LYCETT, TERRY ALDERSON, ABANDOMAN, SPENCER JONES, MRS BARBRA NICE & GREG DAVIS Sun 23 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Theatre

ROOM ON THE BROOM Tall Stories' musical adaptation of the classic picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, Mon 17 - Wed 19 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

A JUDGEMENT IN STONE A brand new staging of Ruth Rendell's classic thriller, Mon 17 - Sat 22 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE WIZZ Brit Youth Theatre presents a funky modern version of The Wizard Of Oz, Tues 18 - Wed 19 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

REMEMBER, REMEMBER The Young REP presents Grace Barrington's play, which recounts three different versions of the same event, Tues 18 - Thurs 20 July, The REP, B'ham

JANE EYRE Chapterhouse Theatre Company present an outdoor staging of Charlotte Bronte's classic novel, Wed 19 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

INTO THE WOODS Get Your Wiggle On present an amateur staging of Stephen Sondheim's musical masterpiece, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

REQUIEM FOR GROUND ZERO Stage2 present an amateur staging of Steven Berkoff's acclaimed eulogy to the thousands of victims of 9/11, Wed 19 - Sat 22 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

P.A.T.S Yellow Collective present a movement-based piece which contains elements of performance art and combines texts in Spanish & English, Thurs 20 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

HOW TIME FLIES Handmade Theatre presents an original and quirky show inspired by the intriguing world of archaeology, Thurs 20 July, mac, Birmingham

A JOURNEY THROUGH WAR On The Floor Theatre Company explore life in the trenches and the wartime role of women, Thurs 20 - Fri 21 July, Selly Manor, Birmingham

THE MIKADO Sasha Regan's all-male version of Gilbert & Sullivan's popular opera, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

BONNIE & CLYDE The sounds of blues, gospel, bluegrass, country and rockabilly provide the backdrop for this 'gripping and sexy' production, which charts the journey of America's most renowned folk heroes, Thurs 20 - Sat 29 July, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

FRANKENSTEIN: MAN OR MONSTER Mad Tom Theatre presents a gothic comedy featuring madness, a monster and a teddy bear... Fri 21 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE MARRIAGE OF KIM Ambitious retelling of Mozart's Marriage Of Figaro in which comparisons are made with Kim Kardashian's marriage to NBA star Kris Humphries, Fri 21 - Sat 22 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

ANNIE Brit Youth Theatre presents its version of the much-loved family musical, Fri 21 - Sat 22 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

DES O'CONNOR & JIMMY TARBUCK LIVE Sat 22 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SECRET GARDEN Heartbreak Productions' outdoor staging of the classic children's tale, Sat 22 July, Walsall Arboretum

A JOURNEY THROUGH WAR On The Floor Theatre Company explore life in the trenches and the wartime role of women, Sat 22 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

PETER PAN JNR XcelShowbiz presents its version of the popular Disney musical, Sat 22 July, The Old Rep, Birmingham

Dance

XPOSE A showcase to celebrate Year 12 Dance students' achievements at Birmingham Ormiston Academy, Tues 18 - Wed 19 July, The Old Rep, Birmingham

THE RED SHOES Matthew Bourne's acclaimed production returns to the Midlands, Wed 19 - Sat 22 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE JUNGLE BOOK 'Spectacular' street dance and 'breathtaking' circus combine to bring Kipling's classic tale crashing into the 21st century, Wed 19 - 22 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

MOONLIGHT (15) Drama. Starring Mahershala Ali, Shariff Earp. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 17 July

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (PG) Family/Fantasy. Starring Emma Watson, Dan Stevens. Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 17 July

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: SALAZAR'S REVENGE (12a) Action/Adventure. Starring Johnny Depp, Geoffrey Rush. Wem Town Hall, Shropshire, Fri 21 - Sat 22 July

Events

BRINDLEYPLACE FILM FESTIVAL Mon 17 - Sun 23 July, Brindleyplace, B'ham

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP Thurs 20 July, Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-trent

SHREWSBURY CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL Thurs 20 - Sat 22 July, Shrewsbury Sixth Form College

ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE SUMMER FAIR Enjoy loved styles and treasures while learning about their origins from the enthusiastic experts, Thurs 20 - Sun 23 July, NEC, Birmingham

CULTURALLY SENSITIVE MEMORY CAFE The cafe supports individuals with early to moderate dementia. Suitable for anyone living with dementia or memory-related concerns and their caregivers, family and/or friends, Fri 21 July, Soho House, Handsworth, Birmingham

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT CHARITY EVENT Run, walk or cycle between the Princess Royal Hospital (Telford) and the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to raise money for charity, Sat 22 July, various locations around Shropshire

KINGS BROMLEY SHOW Featuring a funfair, a craft fair with demonstrations, a food fair and non-commercial stands, Sat 22 July, Show Field, Kings Bromley, Staffordshire

MIDSUMMER WAKES CARNIVAL Featuring a parade, artisan market and other entertainment, Sat 22 July, Newcastle-under-Lyme

SILK PAINTING COURSE Workshop exploring how unusual and often startling effects can be achieved when painting and dyeing silk, Sat 22 July, Selly Manor, Bournville, B'ham

PARTY IN THE PARK Relaxed family music festival, now in its eighth year, Sat 22 July, Bishops Castle, South Shropshire



A Judgement In Stone - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre & Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY Meet Roman soldiers and step inside the Viking world of Val and Halla, Sat 22 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

THE VICIOUS VIKINGS Interactive, comedic, storytelling show following the rise and fall of the Viking armies as they roamed, rampaged and pillaged their way around Europe, Sat 22 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

JAPANESE TAIKO DRUMMING Hands-on workshop, Sat 22 July, The Priory School, Shrewsbury

COSFORD FOOD FESTIVAL Featuring more than 90 local producers, Sat 22 - Sun 23 July, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

WILD SHROPSHIRE RESTAURANT AT PITCHFORD HALL Unique event featuring a tour of one of the country's finest Elizabethan buildings plus drinks in the world's oldest treehouse and a surprise multi course evening meal in the venue's orangery, Sat 22 - Sun 23 July, Pitchford Estate, Shrewsbury

LET'S GET SPORTY! Discover how the Black Country keeps fit over the summer as you race, jump and skip your way through some traditional sports, Sat 22 July - Sun 3 Sep, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

MAISY'S MAIZE MAZE Getting lost can be more fun than you'd imagine! Sat 22 July - Fri 29 Sep, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

'UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS' BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR Delve deeper into the rich history of the House and family of Weston Park, Sun 23 July, Weston Park, Staffordshire

LUDLOW DOG DAY Sun 23 July, Stoke-say Court, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

SHEEP DOG TRIALS Sun 23 July, The

British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

STOKE-ON-TRENT ROTARY CLUB BELL BOAT RACE Proceeds to local charities, Sun 23 July, Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent

Festivals

DEERSTOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL Line-up includes Doggen All Star Band, K.O.G & the Zongo Brigade, Transglobal Underground, Inner Terrestrials & Devils Prefects, Fri 21 - Sun 23 July, Newton Cross Country Course, Nottingham

NOZSTOCK Line-up includes Seasick Steve, Happy Mondays, General Levy, Ocean Wisdom, Mungo's Hi-Fi & Beans on Toast, Fri 21 - Sun 23 July, Rowden Paddocks, Bromyard, Herefordshire

BUG JAM FESTIVAL Line up includes Reverend and The Makers, Wham!Duran & South Church, Fri 21 - Sun 23 July, Santa Pod Raceway, Northamptonshire

SHREWSBURY INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL Featuring Greg Davies, Joe Lycett & Terry Alderton, Fri 21 - Sun 23 July, Various locations, Shrewsbury Town Centre

L FEST Music, arts & comedy festival featuring Sian Evans, Fri 21 - Mon 24 July, Prestwold Hall, Loughborough

BURTONFEST 2017 Line-up includes Union J and X Factor 2016 winner Matt Terry, Sat 22 July, National Brewery Centre, Burton-on-Trent

SPLENDOR FESTIVAL Line-up includes Kaiser Chiefs, Tony Hadley, Billy Ocean, Busted, Gabrielle Aplin, British Sea Power, Georgia & Black Grape and many more, Sat 22 July, Wollaton Park, Nottingham



Celine Dion - Barclaycard Arena

Gigs

INDIGO GIRLS Mon 24 July, Birmingham Town Hall

CHUCK PROPHET & THE MISSION EXPRESS Tues 25 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE CISSY STONE BAND Wed 26 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

CHARLOTTE BERG Wed 26 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PETE KENT Wed 26 July, The Robin, Bilston

CELINE DION Thurs 27 July, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

JAKE MITCHELL Thurs 27 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JESSICA LYNN Thurs 27 July, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

THE KUT Thurs 27 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MILK TEETH Thurs 27 July, The Flapper,

Birmingham

JOE MCELDERRY - SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES LIVE! Thurs 27 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

GRAHAM BONNET BAND Thurs 27 July, The Robin, Bilston

UFO Thurs 27 July, Birmingham Town Hall

DEL CAMINO Thurs 27 - Fri 28 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

REGGIE N BOLLIE AFRO-CARIBFEST 2017 Fri 28 July, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

THE VIOLENT HEARTS, DISJOY & BARE PALE Fri 28 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

PALESTINE JAZZ: NAI BARGHOUTI, MOHAMED NAJEM & FRIENDS Fri 28 July, Birmingham Town Hall

KEITH EMERSON A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF LIFE Fri 28 July, Symphony Hall, B'ham

TEDDY MATHEWS BAND

Fri 28 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

THE SEX PISTOLS EXPERIENCE Fri 28 July, The Roadhouse, B'ham

JEAN GENIE - TRIBUTE TO DAVID BOWIE Fri 28 July, The Robin, Bilston

ABSOLUTE BOWIE Fri 28 July, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

ELECTRIC CIRCUS UK Fri 28 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

ULTIMATE 40 - UB40 TRIBUTE Fri 28 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

OUT OF TIME... MOD WEEKENDER Fri 28 - Sat 29 July, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

JOHN COGHLANS QUO Sat 29 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

GARY EDWARD JONES Sat 29 July, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

THE BLUETONES Sat 29 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THIS ELEGANT CHAOS, MALLEN & ANGELS & IDOLS Sat 29 July, Route 44, Birmingham

TOROUS Sat 29 July, O2 Institute, B'ham

MAGNUM Sat 29 July, The Robin, Bilston

LIONIZE Sun 30 July, The Flapper, B'ham

ENERGY + MISS VINCENT Mon 31 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham



Pete Kent - The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA ACADEMY Featuring Michael Seal (conductor) and Michael Petrov (cello). Programme includes works by Shostakovich, Barber and Stravinsky, Sun 30 July, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy

CARMEN LYNCH & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 27 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

GEOFF NORCOTT & CARL DONNELLY Thurs 27 July, mac, Birmingham

CARMEN LYNCH, JAMES DOWDESWELL & COMIC TBC Fri 28 - Sat 29 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROBERT WHITE, JAVIER JARQUIN & JASON PATTERSON Fri 28 - Sat 29 July, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

GAVIN WEBSTER, ANDY ROBINSON, HELEN BAUER & KEVIN GILDEA Sat 29 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

COMEDY IN THE MET Sat 29 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

TOM BINNS, WILL MARS Mon 31 July, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

Theatre

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Chapter-house Theatre Company present an outdoor staging of the classic riverbank tale, Sun 23 July, Powis Castle & Garden, Welshpool, Powys



ROLE PLAY Taking Chances present a new comedy about a couple who think they may have a 'seven-year itch', Sun 23 - Tues 25 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

DERREN BROWN: UNDERGROUND Latest stage show from the award-win-

ning master of psychological illusion, Mon 24 - Wed 26 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

FUNNY GIRL Natasha J Barnes stars as Fanny Brice in this touring production of the critically acclaimed West End musical, Mon 24 - Sat 29 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MISS SAIGON Cameron Mackintosh's acclaimed new production of Boubli & Schönberg's legendary musical, Wed 26 July - Sat 23 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS An outdoor staging of the classic riverbank adventure featuring Ratty, Mole, Badger and Mr Toad, Thurs 27 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

ABOUT A GOTH Gritty Theatre present a rude and raucous comedy about the trials and tribulations of being a 17-year-old gay Goth in the 21st century, Thurs 27 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

CURIOUS CREATURES Squash Box Theatre fuse puppetry, slapstick, live music and lots of amazing natural-history facts to uncover the mysteries of the animal kingdom, Thurs 27 July, mac, Birmingham

WOLFIE AND THE SHOWGIRL New musical by Carolyn Scott-Jeffs - a story of love, crime and killings, Fri 28 July, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

THE CURTAIN CALLS Students of World Of Hands Theatre, a summer school for British Sign Language users, showcase their talents, Fri 28 July, mac, Birmingham

THE CHILD WHO SAID NO Spoken-word theatrical play about recovery. Written by and starring Goddess Education campaigner Alice Smith, Fri 28 - Sat 29 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

IN THE MIDST Play based around the Burt family and its secrets, Sat 29 July, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

THE OVER COAT Enact Academy present a new work of youth theatre adapted from Nikolai Gogol's classic, Sat 29 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

LITTLE RED Page-2-Stage Productions brings its usual madcap spirit and style to a new adaptation of a classic family story, Sun 30 July, Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent

CIRCUS DAY: TAKING FLIGHT Rogue-Play present a family-friendly piece of aerial theatre created for visually impaired audiences, Sun 30 July, mac, Birmingham

WONDERLAND Wendi Peters, Dave Willetts & Kerry Ellis star in Frank Wildhorn's musical adaptation of Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures In Wonderland and Through The Looking Glass, Mon 31 July - Sat 5 Aug, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: SALAZAR'S REVENGE (12a) Action/Adventure. Starring Johnny Depp, Geoffrey Rush. Wern Town Hall, Shropshire, Mon 24 July

MY COUSIN RACHEL (12a) Drama/Mystery. Starring Rachel Weisz, Sam Claflin. Wern Town Hall, Shropshire, Mon 25 July

A STREET CAT NAMED BOB (PG) Biography/Comedy. Starring Luke Treadaway, Bob the Cat. Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Thurs 27 July

JURASSIC PARK (12a) Adventure/Sci-Fi. Starring Sam Neill, Laura Dern. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 30 July

A DOG'S PURPOSE (PG) Comedy/Drama. Starring Josh Gad, Dennis Quaid. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, Mon 31 July

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Wed 26 July, showing at selected cinemas

GIRLS TRIP (15)

ANGELS IN AMERICA PART TWO: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES (NT LIVE)

HOUNDS OF LOVE (tbc)

THE BIG SICK (15)

THE WALL (tbc)

WISH UPON (tbc)

Events

ABSTRACT LANDSCAPES WORKSHOP Explore colour, form and expressive paint techniques to produce abstract landscapes in a range of paints and inks, Mon 24 - Tues 25 July, Royal Birmingham Society Of Artists, B'ham

HANDS ON HISTORY: MEDIEVAL The Hands On History Crew bring the past to life, Mon 24 July - Sat 26 Aug, Stokesay Castle, South Shropshire

OVER AND OUT Workshop as part of the Animal Agents Summer Reading Challenge, Tues 25 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, South Shropshire

SUMMER POTTERY PAINTING Paint a piece of pottery made on site at the museum. Tuesdays to Saturdays and Bank Holidays. Tues 25 July - Sat 2 Sep, Gladstone Pottery Museum,

Stoke-on-Trent

IMPROVING YOUR IMAGES Receive step-by-step guidance on how to edit and organise images of your artwork using a range of imaging tools, Wed 26 July, Royal Birmingham Society Of Artists, Birmingham

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC Every Wednesday of the summer holidays. Take your little one along for a day of play and a picnic lunch, Wed 26 July, Apley Farm Shop, Shifnal

PAW PATROL Pop along and see Marshall & Chase at intervals throughout the day. Perfect for little ones, Wed 26 July - Wed 30 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham

FIRE, FURNACE & STEAM Celebrate the power and innovation behind the Industrial Revolution with a variety of events, workshops and trails, Wed 26 July - Sun 3 Sep, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Coalbrookdale, Telford

ENAMELLING, PEWTER CASTING OR PADLEBOAT MAKING WORKSHOPS Discover more, through a variety of hands-on activities, about how furnaces, fire and steam were used in the Industrial Revolution, Wed 26 July - Sun 3 Sep, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

GNOME ALONE Kids' trail around the grounds of Himley Park. Norris the Gnome is lost in the wilds of the estate - help his friends to find him, Thurs 27 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

BRICK CARVING Join the workshop to carve your own design into an unfired house brick, Thurs 27 July, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

FLOWERS IN MIXED MEDIA Explore a mix of inks, watercolour and collage to create a final piece of art, Fri 28 July, Royal Birmingham Society Of Artists, Birmingham

POTTERY WORKSHOP Take part as a family in a creative workshop, learning a variety of techniques using real clay, Fri 28 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

WATER FOOLS An outdoor show performed entirely on the lake. Featuring performers walking on water, floating cars, bikes and beds, with no spoken word, Fri 28 - Sat 29 July, Central Forest Park, Stoke-on-Trent

LET'S MAKE ROBOTS WORKSHOP Hands-on workshop explaining how to assemble a robot with pens for legs that will draw for you, Fri 28 July - Fri 1 Sep, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

BEAR-ILLIANT NEW 5K Attendees are encouraged to get sponsored to stroll through Sutton's beautiful parkland, before enjoying the event's dedicated Activity Zone, Sat 29 July, Boldmere Gate, Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield

EXPERIMENTS IN VIRTUAL REALITY Join



Princess & Superhero Party - The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

James Alliban, designer, programmer and visual artist, for a 'fun, interactive and sensory treat', Sat 29 July, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

FLOATING PATTERN Stitched textile workshop exploring the manipulation of fabric and paper elements in a free and relaxed way to produce a personal pattern-based piece of work, Sat 29 July, Royal Birmingham Society Of Artists, Birmingham

FREE DAY AT THE MUSEUM OF THE JEWELLERY QUARTER Explore this extraordinary time capsule on a lively guided tour, Sat 29 July, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

CRITTERISH ALLSORTS Featuring a variety of exotic creatures, all tame and safe to handle, Sat 29 - Sun 30 July, Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent

RSPB WORKSHOP Join the RSPB and learn how to make bug homes, Sat 29 - Sun 30 July, Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent

CLASSIC VEHICLE DAY Classic vehicles from yesteryear, on display at stations along the line, Sun 30 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Worcs

PRINCESS & SUPERHERO PARTY Sun 30 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

MEDIEVAL OPEN DAY See knights do battle on the ruins, learn about the medieval history of the castle and take part in craft activities, Sun 30 July, Weoley Castle Ruins, B'ham

PLANT HUNTER'S FAIR Featuring specialist nurseries with thousands of unique plants. Funds raised will go to Hope House Children's Hospice, Sun 30 July, The British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

MUSICAL THEATRE CAMP Week of workshops, rehearsals and fun. Full show, with costume and makeup, on the Thursday evening, Mon 31 July, Cordingley Hall, Telford, Shropshire

SAND SCULPTORS Head to the lake-side activity area to see a stunning sand sculpture come to life, Mon 31 - Sun 2 Aug, Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent

DINOSAUR SCHOOL Bonkers about brachiosauruses? Mad about microrap-

tors? Then head over to Dinosaur School - a week packed with dinosaur facts, fossils, art, model making and stories, Mon 31 July - Fri 4 Aug, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Wolverhampton

Festivals

WARWICK FOLK FESTIVAL Line-up includes Oysterband, Spooky Men's Chorale, Andy Kershaw & Gaëlica, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 July, Warwick School, Warwick

CARFEST Line-up includes Deacon Blue, Dodgy, Manic Street Preachers, Melanie C, Rick Astley, Seasick Steve, Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Texas & Tom Odell, Fri 28 - Sun 30 July, Bolesworth Castle, Tattenhall, Cheshire

BAREFOOT FESTIVAL Line-up includes The Brandy Thieves, GoldWater, The River Chickens, Siobhan Mazzei, Alex Taylor, The Mojo Slide & The Tom Browne Band, Fri 28 - Sun 30 July, Prestwold Hall, Loughborough

BIRCHFIELD JAZZ FESTIVAL Line-up includes Milton Godfrey, Kate Luxmoore, Handsworth Community Choir and African Roots Fusion Band, Fri 28 - Sun 30 July, St Mary's Church, Birmingham

MADE FESTIVAL Line-up includes Chase & Status, Giggs, Gorgon City, Sub Focus, My Nu Leng, Chris Lorenzo, High Contrast, Camo & Krooked, Nu:Logic, Danny Byrd, DJ Hype, DJ Hazard, Gorgon City & Cause & Affect, Sat 29 July, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham

SHARDFEST Line-up includes Lucy Spraggan, 5 After Midnight, DJ Luck & MC Neat, Sat 29 - Sun 30 July, Norman Chamberlain Playing Fields, Birmingham

CHURCH STRETTON ARTS FESTIVAL Line-up includes 4 Girls 4 Harps, Frith Piano Quartet, Harmoniemusik, Planet ABBA, Kabantu and many more, Sat 29 July - Sun 13 Aug, vari-



Little Angel Theatre
presents **ME**



Blue Woman presents
**STORIES IN
THE MIDDLE
OF THE NIGHT**



Blackeyed Theatre presents
**THE STRANGE
CASE OF DR JEKYLL
AND MR HYDE**



Peoples Theatre
Company presents
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