

Coventry & Warwickshire

ISSUE 380 AUGUST 2017

What's On

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RSC
ROYAL
SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY

WHEN LOVE DESTROYS

CHRISTOPHER
MARLOWE
DIDO
QUEEN OF
CARTHAGE

SWAN THEATRE
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
15 SEPTEMBER –
28 OCTOBER

Photo by Paul Stewart

inside:

thelist

Your 16-page week
by week listings guide

CHEERY STUFF

Ian Dury-inspired musical
opens at the Belgrade



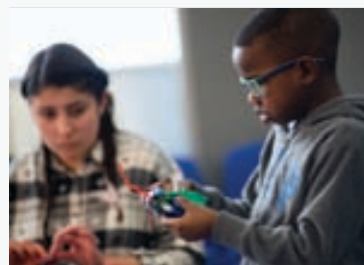
LULU

reveals her beauty secrets...
interview inside...



GET CREATIVE!

with car workshops at
Coventry Transport Museum



2017 Summer Holidays

AT COVENTRY MUSEUMS



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Saturday 2 September 2017
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A touring exhibition from
JORVIK
Vikings in the Heart of the North



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Simon Amstell



talks about his new approach to stand-up comedy
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Former Young One to star in Twelfth Night at the RSC

One-time Young Ones actor Adrian Edmondson is set to star as hoodwinked steward Malvolio in the Royal Shakespeare Company's forthcoming production of Twelfth Night.

Adrian will be joined on stage by TV favourite Kara Tointon in a show directed by Christopher Luscombe.

"The great challenge of Twelfth Night is to reconcile its melancholy and joyful elements," says Christopher. "I'm delighted to say that we've found an exceptional cast who, I believe, can do full justice to the play's dazzling emotional range. I can't wait to start work with them."

The show runs at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre from 2 November until 24 February.

For more information or to book tickets, visit rsc.org.uk



Grammy nominee 'To The Bone' at Coventry venue

Four-time Grammy nominee Steven Wilson is to kickstart a new tour at Warwick Arts Centre in Coventry.

The Porcupine Tree frontman's spring 2018 show will be in support of fifth album *To The Bone*, released this month. Steven performs live at the venue on Thursday 15 March.

To book tickets, visit warwickartscentre.co.uk



Choose your top song as Godiva Rocks in Coventry

With a new musical featuring songs by Coventry artists heading for the Belgrade, the theatre has launched a campaign to name the city's number one song.

Godiva Rocks shows at the venue from Saturday 7 to Saturday 21 October. Telling a boy-meets-girl story set in 1964, the production will highlight Coventry's rich and vibrant

Solihull's summer festival makes a welcome return

After the success of last year's inaugural event, Solihull Summer Fest is making a welcome return this month, complete with a line-up of entertainment that includes performances by Peter Andre, Lulu, Gabrielle, Feeder and Toploader.

The festival also features a kids' picnic, a cheese & wine-tasting event and an evening Sundowner session, with Prosecco and nibbles to enjoy.

Taking place on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 August, the event is raising money for local cancer support charity Help Harry Help Others.

To purchase tickets, visit solihullsummerfest.co.uk.

musical history and feature a soundtrack of more than 20 classic songs, performed by a live band.

The accompanying campaign to name the all-time favourite song by a Coventry & Warwickshire artist runs until Thursday 31 August.

Voters choose from a list of 34 top-ten hits and can make their selection online at belgrade.co.uk/covsong or in person at the Coventry Music Museum.

Tickets for Godiva Rocks can be purchased by calling the Belgrade box office on 024 7655 3055 or by visiting the theatre's website.

Kids go free this month at Coventry Music Museum

Parents and guardians can take their children to the Coventry Music Museum free of charge this month.

The award-winning venue is offering free entry to youngsters - when accompanied by a paying adult - as part of an initiative designed to introduce children to the city's rich musical history. Attractions at the museum this month include Teen Twitter Takeover Day on the 11th,

inviting young people to post their own tweets from the museum's official Twitter account.

Coventry Music Museum is open 10am to 4pm, Thursday to Sunday.



Coventry railway museum to close

A popular Coventry attraction celebrating its 10th anniversary looks set to close later this year. The Electric Railway Museum on Rowley Road, near to Coventry Airport, has not had its lease renewed by the council, which has earmarked the site for commercial development. The museum's collection of electric trains represents over a century of technological progress. It includes examples of commuter trains, battery-electric locomotives, underground carriages and high-speed express units.



A summer safari at Arley Arboretum

It's all happening at Arley Arboretum this month. The popular venue is building its summertime attractions around the theme of 'summer safari' - and there's certainly no shortage of encounters with animals of all shapes and sizes to enjoy!

There's a new animal trail, a woodland creature trail for pre-school children and fairy and dinosaur trails for older kids. Pony rides and mini zoos feature on selected days, while Mr Toad and his pals turn up on Monday 28 August in a production of *Wind In The Willows*. For more information, visit arleyarboretum.co.uk



image of previous B2 production

Belgrade celebrates B2 anniversary with Russian satire

The Coventry Belgrade Theatre will next month celebrate the 10th birthday of its B2 auditorium by staging the world premiere of a cult Russian satire.

Georgi Vladimov's *Faithful Ruslan - The Story Of A Guard Dog* is based around the real events that followed the death of Josef Stalin and the closure of the Russian prison camps.

The play forms part of a 10th anniversary programme of shows taking place in B2, which opened back in 2007 following an extensive refurbishment of the Belgrade. The auditorium was created as a more-intimate second space in which to host live drama, music, comedy and dance.

Faithful Ruslan shows in B2 from Saturday 2 to Saturday 16 September. Tickets are available now by calling the Belgrade box office on 024 7655 3055 or by visiting belgrade.co.uk

Enjoy a summer of outdoor family fun

Getting all hot and bothered at the thought of having to keep the kids entertained for six long holiday weeks?

If you are, then chill out - and head for the Oakland Outdoor Activity Centre in Hanbury, Worcestershire, where special family fun sessions are available throughout the school summer holidays.

"We want to offer families an alternative to the large, busy theme parks this summer," says Mark Treverton, who runs Shooting 4 Fun, the company coordinating the sessions. "Our rural setting is a peaceful, safe environment where families can enjoy time outside together, having fun and learning a new skill."

The family fun sessions run until 2 September and pre-booking is essential. For more details, call Mark on 01527 575141 or visit the facebook page @S4Fun.

Fun for all at Worcester's festival

Worcester's well-established festival returns this month at venues and locations across the city, offering another fortnight of activities and entertainment for the whole family to enjoy.

The festival programme includes walks, talks, workshops, exhibitions, arts & crafts, markets, treasure trails, live music, tours, performances, open days, competitions, classes and a wide range of children's events.

"August is always an exciting time in Worcester, and this August will be no exception," says Festival Director Chris Jaeger. "The Worcester Festival is a people's festival. It offers a wide range of eclectic events for all the family to enjoy, and many of those events are free. What

could be better at holiday time? It's a great opportunity to try an event at a venue you've never been to before, or perhaps to try something you've never done before. We really hope as many people as possible come along and get involved. Let's get celebrating!"

The Worcester Festival takes place from Saturday 12 to Monday 28 August. For more information, visit worcesterfestival.co.uk



Craig Charles to DJ at Birmingham Weekender

BBC Radio 6 Music presenter Craig Charles is one of the high-profile DJs confirmed to appear at next month's Birmingham Weekender. Along with David Rodigan (1Xtra) and Don Letts (6 Music), Craig will be inviting members of the public to take part in the event's Square Dance, produced in association with the Moseley Folk Festival and taking place in the city's Victoria Square from 22 to 24 September. Commenting on the announcement, Moseley Folk's Gerv Havill said: "Confirmation of such heavyweight headline DJs is fantastic news for Square Dance and Birmingham Weekender. What better way to spend your weekend than dancing on our huge dancefloor and enjoying these live DJ sets. And what's more, it's all absolutely free!" For more information, visit birminghamweekender.com



Dig out your pink gladrags to fight breast cancer

Midlanders are being urged to dig out their pink gladrags this October, to take part in Breast Cancer Now's flagship fundraiser, Wear It Pink. Taking place on Friday 20 October, the event is calling on people to ditch their everyday colours and pull on something pink instead. The fundraiser, back for its 16th year, encourages supporters to hold events in their homes, schools and workplaces to raise money for Breast Cancer Now. The donations will go towards helping the charity achieve its aim of ensuring that, by the year 2050, nobody will die from breast cancer. To take part in the event, visit wearitpink.org.



Soul diva aiming to make pantomime wishes come true in the Midlands

Midlands-born soul-singing superstar Beverley Knight will make her pantomime debut at the Birmingham Hippodrome this Christmas, starring as the Fairy Godmother in a spectacular version of Cinderella. Beverley will be joined in the show by Strictly Come Dancing's Danny Mac, Hippodrome panto favourite Matt Slack and one-time Hear'Say singer Suzanne Shaw. Ceri Dupree and Phil Randall take on the roles of The Ugly Sisters, with pantomime veterans The Grumbleweeds bringing their own particular brand of humour to proceedings. Cinderella runs at the Hippodrome from Tuesday 19 December to Sunday 28 January. To book tickets, visit birminghamhippodrome.com



Theatre to audition for its panto chorus

Coventry's Belgrade Theatre is on the lookout for talented young performers to appear in this year's pantomime production of Cinderella. The popular venue is holding auditions for the show's junior chorus on Sunday 3 September and is inviting along children aged between nine and 16. For more information, visit belgrade.co.uk. Cinderella runs at the venue from Wednesday 22 November to Saturday 13 January. Earlybird tickets are available until 31 August. To book your seat, call the box office on 024 7655 3055 or visit the website, where tickets are cheaper.

Villa's European Cup heroes in charity fundraiser

Members of Aston Villa's legendary 1982 European Cup-winning team are getting back together for a big charity fundraising dinner. Players including Tony Morley, Gary Shaw and Gordon Cowans will talk about the season 35 years ago when the club conquered Europe. Proceeds from the event - which takes place at Chung Ying Central on Thursday 14 September - will go towards local children's charity free@last. Tickets cost £60 per person and can be booked online at tickettailor.com

Cancer research funding boost for local university

The University of Warwick's Cancer Research Centre has received £8,500 from a former Lord Mayor of Coventry. Councillor Lindsley Harvard raised the cash at a number of fundraising events, having selected the research centre as one of his official charities when he first took office. Commenting on the donation, Councillor Harvard said: "It was such a privilege to be Lord Mayor of our city, and one of the outstanding highlights for me was being able to support the Cancer Research Centre. The centre works so hard and does so much for the people of our city and further afield, and I'm delighted that we were able to raise such a great amount to further their work." To donate directly to the Cancer Research Centre at the University of Warwick, visit warwick.ac.uk/cancer-appeal



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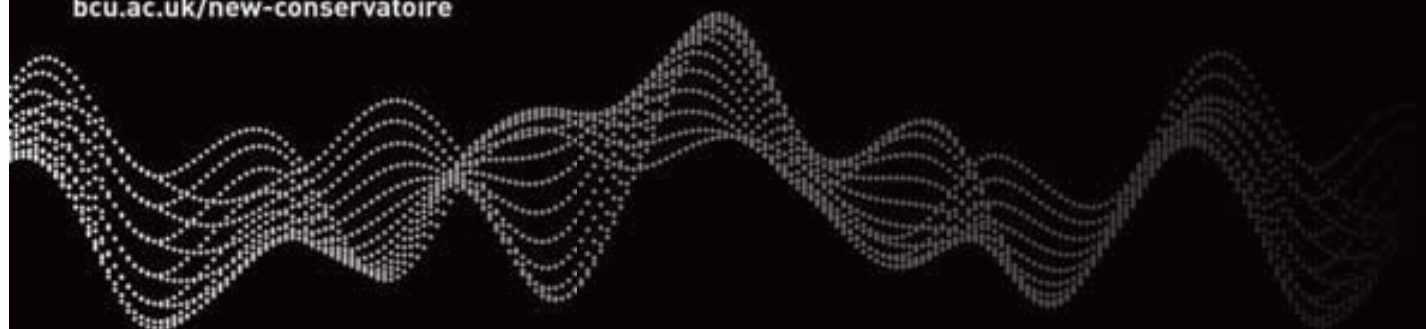


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REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL...

The ultimate Ian Dury and The Blockheads musical makes its debut at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre

In 1981, a cheesed off Ian Dury penned the provocative *Spasticus Autisticus* in response to the UN's International Year of Disabled Persons. Himself disabled, Dury reacted in typical sardonic fashion to what he saw as patronising appeals from various charities.

But while he might have had little time for campaigns painting disabled people as helpless victims, he was more than ready to support those he deemed worthy - among them the groundbreaking performance company Graeae, which, nearly 40 years after its founders met in Coventry, continues to be one of the most dynamic, innovative and exciting forces in British theatre today.

Years after Dury's death, the company now pays tribute to its illustrious patron with a show that's inspired by his music - and heading for the Coventry Belgrade Theatre next month.

Set in 1979 at the height of Ian Dury & The Blockheads' fame, *Reasons To Be Cheerful* follows the attempts of teenager Billy and his best mate Colin to get Billy's terminally ill dad to a Blockheads gig for a "final, fantastic night out". Along the way, there's romance, music and mishaps galore as Billy's crush, Janine, joins the crew, the car breaks down en route, and the characters perform their own riotous renditions of Blockheads hits. In the words of Graeae's Artistic Director, Jenny Sealey, musical this may be, but conventional "musical featah" it is not.

First staged in 2010, the show went on to tour again in 2012, after an excerpt featured at the London Paralympics Opening Ceremony. Since then, concert versions have toured both nationally and internationally, but this new production will be the first in a while, and may also be the last...

"The gang still loves doing it, but they're getting older now," says Sealey. "It's a very high-energy show, and I'm not sure how much longer they'll be able to do it, so we decided we'd try one last time for a full UK

tour. We're calling it the last ever tour of *Reasons To Be Cheerful*, although in my heart I don't think it will be. I think right now, given the state of our world, we all need a reason to be cheerful."

Best known for its radical approach to accessibility, Graeae puts features like signing, captioning and audio description at the heart of its productions, making them part of the story for everyone to enjoy, instead of sidelining them as added extras.

"Every Graeae show is different," continues Sealey. "We never add access on. It comes from looking at the script, who the characters are and what we're trying to say, and thinking about what access brings to that."

"In this show, a lot of the songs are really fast, and the lyrics often have names and places in them, which would have to be finger-spelled if you signed them. Obviously that doesn't read very well in theatre, so we came up with this concept where Colin has made a series of short films with the lyrics and images, so there are still pictorial representations of the words for deaf people who find reading English difficult. But interestingly, we've actually had a lot of hearing audience members saying that it's brilliant having the lyrics in writing because they hadn't previously picked up on everything. Some of the songs are also signed - signing is really embedded within the choreography - and also because Colin is deaf in the story, him and Billy sign to each other.

"For blind audiences, we've got Pickles, who uses a 1970s payphone to talk to the audience through their headsets - and throughout the play, other characters will come over and say hello. And because it's live, if something goes really tits up on stage, they can also relay what's happened."

With Sealey having been deaf herself since the age of seven, directing a musical might not seem like the most obvious choice. Like

the rest of her team, however, she's someone who relishes a challenge.

"It's funny! It is a bit bonkers, but you know, I've also recently done an opera for the first time, which is even more ridiculous. But it's been really interesting to re-educate myself and re-learn how to feel music."

Although she lost her hearing before the Blockheads formed, Sealey was nevertheless a big fan in her youth, owing partly to her sister's help - and even more to her dad's disapproval.

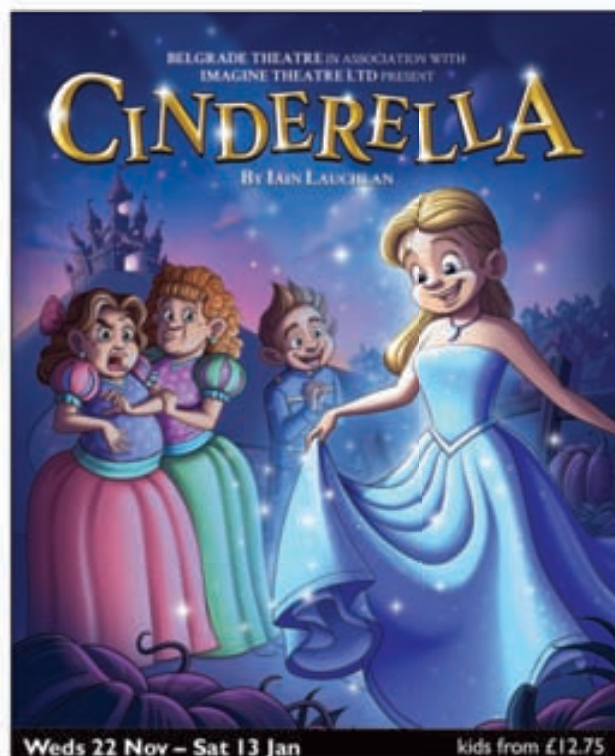
"On Top Of The Pops, Ian Dury always had a microphone in front of his mouth, which made it even harder to work out what he was saying, but my sister was brilliant! She'd spend hours writing down the lyrics so that I could have access to music. But also my dad hated Ian Dury, so of course that made me like him even more."

With her memories of the punk era, Sealey sees clear parallels between the time the play is set and our own austerity Britain, pointing to things like pressure on public services, reinforced class divisions and the exploitation and dismissal of young people. These links perhaps go some way to explaining the show's enduring, cross-generational appeal.

"It's been extraordinary. I remember the first time we did it, all these men in suits arrived and it seemed bizarre. But as soon as the music started, their ties were undone, their jackets were off and they were drumming away - once a punk, always a punk, I suppose! But I think a lot of the songs have real resonance again now, and what's also been brilliant is that we've had a whole load of young people who're on their phones downloading the music as soon as they leave the theatre."

.....
Reasons To Be Cheerful shows at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre on Friday 8 & Saturday 9 September

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REVIEW: Valles at The Basement

Imaginative dishes and an abundance of charm at new South Leamington eatery

Discreetly tucked away from the nearby parade, nestled beneath street level like some delicious and closely guarded secret, this bijoux hideaway oozes charm from the moment you first open the door til the moment you leave.

The brainchild of brother-and-sister team Antonella and Filippo Valle - previous owners of the delightful and much-missed Case Valles Restaurant in Regent Street - this highly desirable and suitably quirky addition to South Leamington's independent restaurant scene prides itself on its rich Italian heritage, authentic approach to Modern European cuisine and passion for locally sourced ingredients.

Channelling the baroque-like detail of a late 19th century European wine bar or jazz lounge, oak-panelled flooring, candle-lit crevices and grape-coloured walls combine to create a uniquely intimate atmosphere, whilst the addition of modern wall art, exposed stone fireplaces and accents of mustard offer a tasteful nod to the contemporary and to the venue's quirky bohemian roots.

Add to this an unobtrusive

soundtrack of slow-jazz and a glass or two of The Valles' excellent choice of house wine and you'd be hard pressed to find a better spot to sit back, relax and forget the world outside.

This same loving attention to detail was evident in The Valles' excellent choice of dishes - at once reassuringly traditional and refreshingly inventive in outlook. A brief glance at the menu revealed a range of hearty Mediterranean classics such as ravioli of the day, risotto with prawns and corn-fed chicken with pancetta and Parmentier roast potatoes. Eastern-inspired specialities also featured, including spinach falafel patty in flatbread and lamb tagine with apricots, preserved lemons and split peas - a far cry from your run-of-the-mill high street 'tapas' restaurant and highly affordable too, at a price of just £17.50 for two courses and £20.50 for three.

Opting for a starter of duck and wild boar terrine and paprika crisp bread served with clementine and quince jam - served with quiet pride and genuine warmth by the venue's small yet attentive waiting team - the quality of ingredients was second to none.

Rich, gamey and executed with panache, the earthiness of the pate found its perfect companion in the zesty yet subtle notes of the clementine and quince jam.

By contrast, my partner's choice of ravioli with mascarpone and asparagus was a textbook example of an Italian classic executed to perfection, served on a bed of Mediterranean dressed salad with a careful eye for portion-size and oozing freshness with every bite.

For an authentic taste of the Mediterranean, The Valles also offers a sharing-platter option at a very reasonable £12.50.

Moving on to the main course, it's a well-known fact that, when it comes to traditional Italian cuisine, wars have been fought over less than the secret to a good risotto. So imagine my joy (and relief!) to discover that The Valles' own offering of 'risotto with saffron, prawns, chilli and lime' was not only delicious but every bit the authentic taste of Northern Italy.

Infused with the subtle heat of saffron and paprika and cooked in a refreshingly light broth, this was home-cooking executed to an exceptional standard - beautifully fresh yet nuanced in flavour. By the same token, my partner's choice of lamb tagine with apricots, preserved lemons and split peas served with flat-

bread was a masterclass in full-bodied flavour combinations - the tried-and-tested coupling of savoury and sweet married perfectly with the sour kick of the preserved lemon. There was plenty of flatbread on standby too, to mop up that rich tomato, apricot and paprika-infused sauce.

Rounding off a perfectly indulgent evening in style, my dessert of lemon tart with a caramelised citrus topping served with winter berries was the perfect palate-cleanser after so rich an offering. Presented with signature flare and glazed with a zesty berry compote, I only wish I'd left room for seconds - a feeling echoed by my partner, whose choice of chocolate fondant with morello cherry ice cream was every bit as decadent as it sounds.

As if an excuse were needed to start planning a return visit, The Valles also offers its own series of acoustic jazz nights featuring live music and a three-course a la carte meal for just £30 - and speaking from personal experience, it's hard to think of a venue better suited to the job.

Offering an utterly unique ambience, as far removed as can be from any high street chain you care to name, this pint-sized independent comes complete with great service, imaginative dishes, exacting standards of delivery and an abundance of charm.

A hidden gem in South Leamington's culinary crown. Make no mistake, this is one secret well worth sharing. *Katherine Ewing*

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

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The Ivy to open in Brum

World famous celebrity haunt The Ivy is set to open in Birmingham.

The upmarket bar & brasserie will launch in early 2018 at 67-71 Temple Row, a premises currently occupied by Louis Vuitton.

Having been a firm fixture on London's dining and social scene since being founded in 1917, The Ivy's list of celebrity diners includes Madonna, Tom Cruise, Angelina Jolie, Simon Cowell and David & Victoria Beckham.

New venue opens in Leamington Spa

A new venue has opened in Leamington Spa following a £285,000 investment.

Primarily aimed at students and young people, The Clarendon offers a quality and affordable food menu inspired by the street food movement.

Cocktails, craft beers, bottomless coffee and entertainment throughout the week add to the venue's appeal.

Popular chef launches new food & drink expo

The UK's largest indoor African and Caribbean food & drink expo will take place at the Quantum Exhibition Centre in Digbeth, Birmingham, from 29 September to 1 October.

Organised by Chef Lorenzo Richards, Culture Cooking Expo recently enjoyed a VIP launch at his restaurant, The Wildmoor Oak, near Bromsgrove. The project will bring together restaurants and celebrity chefs to help raise the profile of African and Caribbean cuisine.



Double award win for popular Warwickshire gastropub

One of Warwickshire's favourite gastropubs has a double reason for celebration after winning two high-profile awards.

As well as taking home the title of Hospitality Business of the Year at the Touch FM Pride of Warwick District Awards, the Rose & Crown has also won Britain's Best Brigade.

"Winning this competition is simply fantastic - and a bigger deal than any of us could've realised," said Head Chef Leon Higham. "When you look at how many great brigades from across the industry entered, it's a really great achievement to win, and we're all honoured to be winners. I think it shows what our pub and our company is all about. When you recruit a team and put the effort in, you get it back in spades."



Leamington's food festival in new 'best baker' search

Now in its 10th year, the Leamington Food & Drink Festival returns to the town's Royal Pump Gardens on Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 September. Featuring over 150 exhibitors, the free event was voted one of the best Autumn food & drink festivals in the UK by the Telegraph newspaper in 2013. Last year's event attracted 25,000 visitors across the two days.

New for this year is a competition to find the town's best amateur baker. The contest is being co-launched by BID Leamington and award-winning chocolate specialist Sweet As Cake Em-

porium.

Home bakers of all ages are being challenged to put their skills to the test, with 'fabulous' prizes up for grabs. Jenny Hudson, chef director and founder of Sweet As Cake Emporium, will be one of the judges.

Hoping to top last year's record crowd, the festival will showcase an action-packed programme featuring new attractions and established favourites. Highlights include the live cookery theatre, a BBQ masterclass, a make & bake kids cookery school and a taste trail.

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Céline Dion

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
Thurs 3 August

Best known for number one hit and Titanic theme tune *My Heart Will Go On*, five-time Grammy Award winner Céline Dion brings a live tour to the UK for the first time in eight years. Expect a multitude of smash hits from a 30-year career which has produced a staggering 250 million album sales.



GoGo Penguin

mac, Birmingham, Sun 20 August

Although predominantly an acoustic piano trio, GoGo Penguin's music draws from many areas of contemporary electronic music and jazz. The band received plenty of critical acclaim following the release of their debut album, *Fanfares*. Their 2014 follow-up, *v2.o*, was named one of the Barclaycard Mercury Prize Albums of the Year. In early 2015, they signed a three-album deal with Blue Note Records, releasing debut record *Man Made Object* in February 2016.



Curtis Eller's American Circus

Tin Music & Arts, Coventry, Tues 22 August

If this is your first experience of Curtis Eller's *American Circus*, you're in for a stimulating and somewhat unusual evening. The

band have variously been described as 'brutish', 'inelegant' and 'specialising in gospel music for atheists and dance fads for amputees'. The banjo-playing Eller very much leads from the front, presenting imaginative songs about subjects that range from pigeon racing to presidential assassinations.

Regina Spektor

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 5 August

Russian-born American singer-songwriter and pianist Regina Spektor began classical piano training at the tender age of six. She self-released her first three records before signing to Sire Records, where she began achieving mainstream recognition. Spektor visits Birmingham in support of critically acclaimed seventh album *Remember Us To Life*.

The Flaming Lips

The Rainbow, Birmingham, Sat 12 August

Psychedelic rock band The Flaming Lips formed in Oklahoma in 1983. Melodically, their sound contains multi-layered, psychedelic rock arrangements; lyrically, their compositions feature elements of space rock.

Best known for hit tracks *The Yeah Yeah Yeah Song*, *Do You Realize??* and *Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots Part 1*, they visit Birmingham to appear in new open-air festival VMS Live Presents *InnerCity*, alongside support act Public Service Broadcasting.

Parquet Courts

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Thurs 31 August

Comprising Andrew Savage, Austin Brown, Sean Yeaton and Max Savage, Parquet Courts are an American indie rock band hailing from Brooklyn, New York. Well known on both the UK and international festival circuits, the four-piece have enjoyed appearances at Latitude, Glastonbury, Bilbao BBK Live in Portugal and the Lollapalooza and Pitchfork music festivals in Chicago, to name but a few. Their fifth studio album, *Human Performance*, was released earlier this year through Rough Trade.



LULU

talks music, family
& beauty secrets...

“ When you have success at a young age - the pop star sort of thing - you think you're invincible, so it's a shock to see that you're not ”

How do you keep your shows exciting for you and the audience?

First of all, I've only been with this band for around four years, and that's helped shake things up. They're all younger than me, so there's a young energy, which I love. The great thing is that these guys are influenced by the same music that I was - and still am - but they have a new slant.

Where does your energy come from?

I guess I was blessed with a lot of energy, and I think if you're healthy you have a lot of energy. Some people love it, but some would prefer you to shut up and sit down. It's all about how you use your energy for the positive. And as you get older, it's about pacing your energy - and for that, I do meditation and Chi Gong.

What was the first concert you ever performed at?

It was in a theatre or small hall, and I was very, very young. I sang Smoke Gets In Your Eyes and forgot the words. I just repeated the first verse and wanted to die, but nobody mentioned it afterwards. I thought it was the worst thing I'd done in my whole life. I was probably about six! I remember that I had a sticky-out frock, and I think I was so pleased with myself that the excitement affected my memory!

What was the first concert you went to?

I remember going to a really dirty club to see Alex Harvey (Shout) when I was just about 13. I don't know if that was my first show. I wasn't allowed to go to those places because I was so young, but my mother wangled it so I could go. I used to sing in a band at the weekends, so the boys in the band had to look after me. Alex came backstage dressed in black leather, with jet-black hair, and sang Shout. It was the first time I'd ever heard it, and I went out the next day and bought the record by The Isley Brothers. The rest is history.

In 1966, you were one of the first female artists ever to play an Eastern bloc country. What was the experience like, considering you were only 17 or 18?

I was with The Hollies and it was scary. It was cold, the place was very rundown and there were bullet marks on buildings. There was debris and a lot of poverty. It was also memorable because when we did the concerts, there were guards everywhere, watching the audience to make sure they didn't stand up or get

excited. When they started to get excited, the guards slapped them down.

If someone had told your 15-year-old self that you had this life ahead of you, what would you have thought?

I would've said, 'Are you having a laugh?' because I've had such an amazing life! How could a 15-year-old have predicted the way my life was going to unfold? It's been a rollercoaster. I thought I was going to be a singing hairdresser who never left Glasgow!

Anything else you wish you'd known at the beginning of your career?

I wish I'd known I could write songs.

In your experience, what gets easier as you get older?

Most things become easier because I live from a position of having gratitude. I've become philosophical, and as tough as it is for me not to knee-jerk into a negative place when things go wrong, I always have a way of getting back and looking at acceptance of what is and what I can't change. It doesn't happen in a flash. It's a process, and I now have the support and the tools to process.

And what gets tougher?

Maintenance. It's a bitch! There's a big piece of acceptance in growing older. I look at myself and go, 'Oh my God!' You never really thought this would happen. When you have success at a young age - the pop star sort of thing - you think you're invincible, so it's a shock to see that you're not.

If you, Paul McCartney and Mick Jagger went on stage together, who do you think would be the last one standing?

I think that would be very difficult because you hear endless praise about Jagger doing his amazing run at the end of every gig The Stones play, and I don't see Macca giving up any time soon, so that would be a very tough race.

What makes you really proud?

At the weekend, I was with my son and my grandchildren. We were making birthday cards and a poster for their mum, who was about to return from a few days away with her girlfriends. It was such a sweet moment, and I sat back and thought, 'Wow, didn't Jordon do well, and I get to share it!'. That was a proud moment.

If a film were to be made about your life, who would you like to have play you?

Jennifer Lawrence.

Do you think today's young female bands and artists are under too much pressure to look good?

Yes! Now it's 'world domination or nothing', and that's tremendous pressure. And you'll be dropped like a hot potato if you don't sell a certain amount of records.

What are your 'must haves' in the makeup bag?

Good skin care. Thank God for TimeBomb. Before you put anything on your skin, it has to be in the best condition it can be. You have to make sure you're hydrated internally and externally and make sure you get lots of sleep so your face looks like it's alive instead of dead. You've got to - as opposed to a young person, where it doesn't really matter because they always look gorgeous. I have to have the right stuff underneath: good foundation, the right blusher and lots of eyelashes - and my favourite thing is to try and get the J-Lo lips! Really, for me, she just kills it. That's what I try to do, those luscious lips! Everything is off before I go to bed.

Who's given you the best advice about your voice?

I met Frank Sinatra in Las Vegas, and he asked if I made it a habit to warm up my voice, and if I did vocal exercises before a show, which I didn't back then. I was there with Maurice (Gibb), and Frank offered to teach me, but I never followed it up because I was too shy. And then, of course, I went off and hurt my voice, so now I'm religious about looking after it. So yes, Frank, I eventually took your advice!

Is there anyone you'd still like to work with or duet with?

Bruno Mars, Calvin Harris - and I'd love to do something with Steven Tyler from Aerosmith. And so many more!

Lulu plays Solihull Summer Fest on Saturday 26 August.

Other artists performing over the weekend include Peter Andre, Feeder, The Pigeon Detectives and The Wonder Stuff. For more details, visit solihullsummerfest.co.uk



THE OVERTONES

From pop and soul to doo-wop and crooning, there's no denying the appeal of the UK's 'favourite' five-piece vocal harmony group. Lauren Foster caught up with the band's Timmy Matley ahead of their mid-month Shrewsbury Flower Show gig...

You're playing Shrewsbury Flower Show this month. What can your audience expect from your Saturday evening performance?

We'll be there, looking sharp. The shoes are shined and everything's ready. I'm looking forward to sitting down and sorting out the set list - we're going to put a really strong set

list together. We're really looking forward to getting people on their feet - and for that time we're on the stage, we want everyone to get up, forget all their cares and worries, and just enjoy themselves.

You were discovered by a Warner Bros talent scout in London while singing in

your tea break...

It sounds a bit like a fairytale when you describe it like that, but that's what it is really. We'd been together four years as a group. We set up this small painting & decorating company, just so we could get some cash-in-hand work, and basically got overheard singing. We were invited down to

Warner Music, but it wasn't just a 'here's a five-album deal' type of thing. We got invited down and we got to sing for some of the guys there. Then they wanted to hear us on a record and see what we were like, so we recorded six songs - and that was like another audition round - and then, after that, we got offered the five-album deal. It was an absolute whirlwind, but it's so lovely waking up every day and just doing a job that, ultimately, is the best job in the world. I'm getting paid to do something I love to do, and I think that's all you can ask for in life.

How did you all originally meet?

We're all from different parts of the UK, but we all moved to London to fulfil our dreams, whatever that meant. There's so much going on in London in terms of music. I met the lads when we were on the auditioning circuit. Instead of auditioning for other groups, we decided to start our own. It was another four years before we got discovered, but you've got to put the work in.

There are five of you in the group. Do you generally have the same musical opinions when producing new material?

All of us are actually into different styles of music. The brilliant thing is that we all come together, and I think that formula works. These songs that we sing, they have a classic feel to them, but we like to give them the Overtones spin and make them feel a bit modern. The best way for us to get anything done is a show of hands - we always go with the majority. We're grown men and it's a lovely, natural way of working, which is great.

What's your earliest musical memory?

I'd say when I first became aware that singing had emotion attached to it. My Auntie Janette, she's a really lovely lady. When we were kids, you've got your traditional Irish songs and my Auntie Janette would get up and sing. She has a really good voice. I would say I was six or seven, and the first time I heard her sing - I still remember to this day - it actually made me cry. I look back now and realise I was crying because it just moved me. Whether music makes you laugh, cry, smile or dance, it's always attached to emotions.

What do you do to prepare yourself pre-show?

I do a vocal warm-up before the sound check which will last around 15 minutes. I play it through my phone and the boys will join in.

Your voice is an instrument and you have to really take care of it. I won't be having a drink leading up to the show. I'd say the main bulk of getting ready for a show is making sure I've packed the right suit, shoes, tie or bowtie, and making sure I do a nice vocal warm-up.

What advice would you give to the young musicians of today who're trying to get themselves heard?

We got signed seven years ago, but even how people are being discovered has gone into another realm since then. It was YouTube at the time. Since YouTube you've got people being discovered on Instagram and all sorts of networks. You've got to get your music out there and put yourself out to wider audiences, such as the internet. Also, being a good singer is one thing, but you've also got to be a good entertainer. If you think of any of those living legends - your Stevie Wonder, your Chaka Khan, Céline Dion - these people have had careers spanning decades because they're entertainers as well as great singers. Getting out there in front of people is also important. There are some great open-mic nights around the country. Get out there, get that experience and get rid of those nerves. You can question yourself a lot when you're starting out, but it's a waste of time even listening to that. Throw yourself into it wholeheartedly and enjoy everything that you do.

Which artist has inspired you the most?

I went to see Stevie Wonder perform live three years ago and he was just incredible. He's just a music legend. All his music brings people together, and he really believes in the power of that. I feel that because of his music, my world is a better place. Stevie Wonder, for me, is such an inspiration. He's no spring chicken, but he can still sing it exactly how he did in his 20s.

What's the strangest experience you've had in terms of your fans?

I feel like I could set up a Tunnock's teacake afternoon with, like, 200 people! Basically, I tweeted that I really love Tunnock's teacakes because they remind me of going round to my nan's when I was a kid. Now, every time we're on tour, the fans give me Tunnock's teacakes. It's so sweet, and I really do enjoy them. It's really thoughtful. Sometimes, people are so excited to see you that they either clam up or they start crying, and it's just the sweetest thing. We just give them a lovely hug.

You like to knit in your spare time. What's your most impressive piece of work?

I love to knit! I really haven't moved on from scarves, but I know how to do the little stringy things at the end. I haven't advanced more than that, but I like to do it in the winter. It's actually really therapeutic.

What's been the highlight of your career?

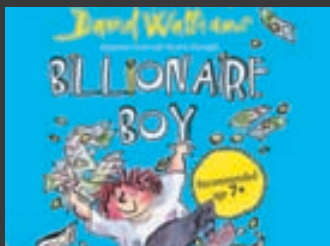
Because I'm an Irishman living in the UK, and because I was very proud to be up there, it was when Gary Barlow asked us to do a 15-minute warm-up slot for the Diamond Jubilee concert. We got to experience that whole moment of being on that amazing stage. We weren't televised, but we were there with something crazy like two million people at Buckingham Palace, and we felt very proud to be there. We got invited to the palace afterwards for a cocktail and it was lovely. Prince William and Kate were there, and they were just wandering around. Not only that, there was Stevie Wonder, Paul McCartney, Jessie J, Ed Sheeran - and this was going back to when we first started. It was such a special day. I just remember feeling like I was walking on clouds and wondering how it had all actually happened.

Finally, what does the future hold for The Overtones?

Well listen, I'm a very, very keen gardener, and I'm really excited to be at the Shrewsbury Flower Show. I love my garden! I post shots of it on my Twitter account. I've got a little veggie patch, a little seating area and a lovely flowerbed. It's all very manageable - and full of beautiful colours at the moment; so bright and vibrant. What does the future hold for The Overtones? We've got a really exciting announcement coming in the next few weeks. I know that's being really vague, but we're hoping, as always, to be releasing new music, to be on the road and to be enjoying what we do - it makes people really happy. You know, since I've been diagnosed with melanoma, I'm really, really taking care of my health. The plan is to be healthy and happy.

The Overtones play Shrewsbury Flower Show on Saturday 12 August.

Shrewsbury Flower Show takes place at the town's Quarry Park on Friday 11 & Saturday 12 August. Further information can be found on page 45



SAT 9 SEPT, 3pm & 6.30pm

BILLIONAIRE BOY

Join Mr Spud and his son Joe, for a very specific garage sale (they used to own 500 garages) - they will be selling their final belongings to raise some money to buy food! The Formula 1 racing car has already been taken by the bailiffs, but there might be something interesting left so who knows what you might find...



WED 20 SEPT, 7.30pm

GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY

In the early hours of Thursday 8th August 1963, the heist of the century was under way. Whilst the world was tucked up in bed, 15 men put a finger up to the government and stole 2 million British pounds from Her Majesty's Royal Mail train. Five days later the first clues were found, the gang was busted and the rest is history. But what about the ones that got away...?



WED 27 SEPT, 7pm

NOCTURNES

Internationally acclaimed imitating the dog come to the Bridge House Theatre with their latest production! Nocturnes is a multi-media twist on a 50s spy thriller set during the height of the cold war - two operatives holed up in a Berlin apartment in the Russian Zone await instructions. As time passes their relationship to each other and to the orders they receive from their superiors falls apart. Performed on what appears to be a film soundstage, two actors voice a film they can't see and never acknowledge. But who is in control?



WED 4 OCT, 7.30pm

ANTIGONE

A brother condemned to walk forever in the shadow of death. A family teetering on the brink of catastrophe. A world where one girl dares to take a stand. This blistering new adaptation sees Sophocles' tragedy reimagined in a dystopian landscape, where fate is written in code and where drones flock across the skies. Brought to life by innovative theatre company Actors of Dionysus, this production combines bold ideas with passionate and visceral physical theatre.



TUE 10 OCT, 7.30pm

NOT ABOUT HEROES

This production won a Best Actor accolade at the Wales Theatre Awards for Daniel Llewelyn Williams, who reprises his role here as Sassoon. The show is on the first part of a world tour commemorating the centenary of both the meeting depicted in the play, and of the Armistice. The show is presented by acclaimed Welsh company Flying Bridge and Olivier Award winning producers Seabright Productions. ver acknowledge. But who is in control?

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Shrewsbury Folk Festival

West Midland Showground,
Fri 25 - Mon 28 August

Shrewsbury Folk has certainly made an impression on the region's festival-goers - the well-established event was named Best Midlands Music Festival in this year's What's On Readers' Awards. It took second place in the Best Shropshire Festival category too, so congratulations are definitely in order!

A highlight of any folk fan's calendar, this four-day fest brings together centuries of musical tradition in one setting.

Steeped in history, the border town of Shrewsbury makes an ideal backdrop for the festival's mash-up of modern, medieval and everything between, where grassroots cultures collide in dynamic fusion styles.

Bring along the whole family for dance and workshops as well as live music.

Line-up includes: The Young'uns, The Unthanks (pictured), Loudon Wainwright III, The Transports, Jon Boden, Chris Difford, Oysterband, Le Vent du Nord, Sam Carter and Faith, Folk & Anarchy

Creamfields

Daresbury Estate, Halton, Cheshire,
Thurs 24 - Sun 27 August

Celebrating 20 years in 2017, Creamfields unleashes the energy of Cream's Liverpool club nights in the open space of Halton's Daresbury Estate. Cutting-edge live acts unite with world-class DJs in a hedonistic four-day dance party. Since launching in Winchester, the brand has evolved into an international phenomenon, beloved of ravers, trailblazers and experimenters the world over.

Line-up includes: Faithless (DJ set), Fatboy Slim, Annie Mac, Chase & Status (DJ set), deadmau5, Disciples, Andy C, Duke Dumont, Danny Howard, Eric Prydz, DVBBS, Gorgon City, Dusky, Hannah Wants, Idris Elba, MistaJam, Wilkinson, Pendulum and Stormzy



Farmer Phil's Festival

Gatten Farm, Ratlinghope, Shropshire,
Fri 11 - Sun 13 August



Launched in a corner of one of Farmer Phil's fields near Shrewsbury, this boutique gathering aims to offer something for everyone, covering rock, dance, acoustic folk and everything between. Camping for the full week, from 7 to 14 August, is included in the ticket price. A brilliant opportunity to enjoy a summer getaway with the family.

Line-up includes: Ferocious Dog (pictured), The Quireboys, Rev. Peyton's, Doctor & the Medics, The Urban Voodoo Machine, Gaz Brookfield & the Company of Thieves, Rusty Shackle, The Bar-Steward Sons of Val Doonican, Talisman and Funke & the Two Tone Baby.

Brecon Jazz Festival

Various locations, Brecon, Wales,
Fri 11 - Sun 13 August

After a successful reinvention in 2016, Brecon Jazz continues with the smaller-scale, more collaborative and community-led approach which transformed past difficulties into an opportunity for positive change.

Expect headline performers, emerging talent, workshops and social and folk activities, all curated by Brecon Jazz Club.

Line-up includes: Annette Gregory (pictured) & Friends, Atsuko Shimada Trio, Gerard Cousins Project, Darius Brubeck Quartet, Nigel Price, Ross Stanley Trio and Hannah Vivian-Byrne Trio



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Lakefest

Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire,
Thurs 10 - Mon 14 August

Priding itself on putting family first, Lakefest's story began with a giant cider festival at Croft Farm Waterpark. Though expansion has led to a relocation to the beautiful Eastnor Castle, it retains its friendly, West Country vibe. This year, the festival goes Hawaiian, so bring your best beach-themed fancy dress and get ready for an eclectic line-up of music, BMX biking and more.

Line-up includes: Feeder (pictured), Wilko Johnson, The Charlatans, Alabama 3, Aswad, Turin Brakes, Imelda May, Seth Lakeman, Badly Drawn Boy and Roving Crows



Camper Calling

Ragley Hall, Warwickshire,
Fri 25 - Sun 27 August

Following a warmly received debut in 2016, Camper Calling returns to the stunning grounds of Warwickshire's Ragley Hall for its second family-friendly outing. This year's event boasts a superb line-up of Britpop legends and contemporary music stars, now covering three nights instead of two!

Line-up includes: Cast (pictured), Reef, Space, The Ordinary Boys, Musical Youth, Lucy Spraggan, Backbeat Soundsystem, Scott Matthews, Afro Cluster, Barbarella's Bang Bang, BETSY, The Undercover Hippy, CC Smugglers, The Elephant Trees, Lakuta, The Atlantic Players and Grafton Ash



Sunshine Festival

Fish Meadow, Upton-upon-Severn,
Worcestershire, Fri 25 - Sun 27 August

Back with a fantastic mix of big-name pop acts and retro favourites, the heart of England's 'favourite family festival' returns to Upton-upon-Severn for its eighth year. As well as featuring a line-up assembled to appeal to every generation, there's also a disco, karaoke and a range of fun activities for kids. Fancy dress is encouraged, with prizes for the best dressed.

Line-up includes: Paul Young, Blue, Sophie Ellis-Bextor (pictured), Atomic Kitten, Kim Wilde, Heatwave, Modern Romance, Jaki Graham, Sonia, The Wurzels and Union Gap (UK)

Green Man Festival

Brecon Beacons, Wales,
Thurs 17 - Sun 20 August

Known for its ethical business model and quality line-ups, Green Man has scooped up numerous awards and accolades during its 15 years in operation. Alongside an amazing array of folk, world, indie, electronic and psychedelic music, it also boasts literature, film, comedy, theatre, ceilidhs, all-night bonfires and secret gigs, all surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of the Brecon Beacons.

Music line-up includes: PJ Harvey (pictured), Ryan Adams, The Shins, Kate Tempest, Sleaford Mods, Ride, Shirley Collins, Conor Oberst, Saint Etienne, British Sea Power, Alasdair Roberts Trio,

Comedy line-up includes: Josie Long, Jarred Christmas, Laura Lexx, Lolly Adefope and Rob Deering



SHREWSBURY

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FOLK FESTIVAL

- ★ Ceilidh Bands ★ Concerts
- ★ Morris Teams ★ Workshops
- P@ndemonium! Children's Festival
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SARAH JAROSZ

Le Vent Du Nord



- ★ Chris Difford ★ Jon Boden ★ The Unthanks
- ★ Seth Lakeman ★ The Transports
- ★ Jim Moray presents Upcetera
- ★ Andy Fairweather Low and The Low Riders
- ★ Sam Carter ★ Cara
- ★ Joe Broughton's Folk Ensemble
- ★ Jamie Smith's Mabon ★ The East Pointers
- ★ The Fitzgeralds ★ Sam Kelly & The Lost Boys
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- // STEAMCHICKEN // LASAIR
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 Shrewsbury Folk Festival
 @shrewsburyfolk

more acts to be announced! see website for latest...

www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk

Festivals



V Festival

Weston Park, Staffordshire,
Sat 19 - Sun 20 August

Featuring an impressive line-up of world-class performers in one epic, cross-country weekend, Virgin's V Festival was born in 1996 when Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker hit on the idea of uniting musicians in two locations over two days.

Chart-topping acts of all genres join a host of comedy talent on stages in Staffordshire and Chelmsford, visiting one on Saturday and the other on Sunday.

Music line-up includes: Pink, Jay-Z, Ellie Goulding (pictured), Pete Tong & the Heritage Orchestra, Stormzy, Raye, Jason Derulo, Nadia Rose, Dizzee Rascal, Clean Bandit, Example & DJ Wire, Pink, Craig David, Jess Glynne, George Ezra, Madness, Ella Eyre, Busted, Sean Paul, and The Vamps

Comedy line-up includes: Joe Lycett, Joel Dommett, Lee Nelson and Seann Walsh

Pershore Jazz Festival

Pershore College, Avonbank, Pershore,
Fri 18 - Sun 20 August

From humble beginnings, Pershore College's annual jazz festival has achieved UK-wide renown, showcasing formidable musical talent on local, national and even international levels. Though the event errs on the side of the traditional, young musicians and audiences are encouraged to come along and share fresh ideas.

A friendly, not-for-profit get-together run by a passionate and dedicated team.

Line-up includes: Fret & Fiddle (pictured), Jeff Barnhart's Sweet & Hot, Clark Tracey Sextet, Dorine de Wit's Brit Band, Digby Fairweather's Half Dozen, John Hallam's Blue Three, New Orleans Heat, Slide by Slide, Graham Smith Shades of Jazz and Keith Nichols' Washingtonian



Towersey Festival

Thame, Oxfordshire, Fri 25 - Mon 28 August



Folk spirit goes to the heart of Towersey Festival, which traces its roots back to 1965, when local villagers united to buy a field from wealthy landowners.

After raising funds to drain, plough and reseed the area, they started an event which has gone on to become one of the UK's finest folk festivals.

In honour of its origins, profits are paid back into village facilities and local charities.

Line-up includes: KT Tunstall (pictured), Newton Faulkner, Eliza Carthy & the Wayward Band, Foy Vance, Jon Boden, Lindisfarne, Show of Hands, The Blockheads, The Demon Barbers XL, The Spooky Men's Chorale, Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman, Andy Cutting and Mawkin

Beermageddon

Stoke Prior Country Club, Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire, Fri 25 - Mon 28 August

Billed as the best-kept secret in British metal, Beermageddon returns to showcase the rising stars of the UK's alternative music scene. The music might be hard and heavy, but the set-up is comfortable and civilised, with indoor stages and facilities, hot food, affordable beers and free entry for under-14s who're accompanied by any paying adult. Beermageddon also boasts free camping.

Line-up includes: Outright Resistance (pictured), Totengefluster, Stahlsarg, Ace Of Spades, Zephyra, Warlord, Godslave, Aklash, Unlight, Wolfbastard, Acid Trial, Master's Call and Krysthla, Scars Of Sense, Countless Skies, Footprints In The Custard, Isarnos and Deep Throat Truama



FEATURE

OCEAN COLOUR SCENE



Ocean Colour Scene frontman Simon Fowler chats to What's On ahead of the band's headline performance at new Birmingham festival Beyond The Tracks...

Ocean Colour Scene are headlining brand new festival Beyond The Tracks next month. What can your audience expect from your Saturday evening performance?

We'll be doing all the songs that people hopefully know. It's the audience's day out, isn't it? It's the audience's gig, so we'll oblige.

You'll be sharing the stage with the likes of Maximo Park, The Coral and The Twang. Who are you most looking forward to seeing?

Carl Barât is there, isn't he? I've never met Carl, so I'm looking forward to meeting him. Steve knows him a bit. I know that he and Pete (Doherty) grew up listening to us, which is quite amusing! So yeah, I'll go and give him some tips on taking drugs - like, "don't take them, young Carl."

The band are well known on the festival circuit. Do you have a favourite festival?

Oh blimey! I quite like the one at Puchestown in Ireland - it used to be called Oxegen. That's really nice - it's at a race-course and it's got the poshest facilities of any festival I've ever been to. Glastonbury I always used to find terrifying, just because it's Glastonbury. It's a bit like playing the Albert Hall - it's the Albert Hall, however hard you try to pretend it isn't! I like festivals; I think there's a lot less pressure. We played at a castle up near Chepstow last weekend, which was nice.

Last year you played a series of special gigs around the UK to celebrate the 20th anniversary of your hit 1996 album, Moseley Shoals. The tour included dates at Moseley Park and Birmingham's Irish Centre. What's it like playing to a home crowd? Do the shows feel more special?

They've always been lovely to us, Birmingham. There's always a word around that Birmingham is a dull audience, but I've never found that - ever. I think that comes from people who're in dull bands. We've always gone down great in Birmingham. This was our launch pad. The Jug of Ale, as it was, in Moseley was our HQ, and the first time I met Liam was down there. It's always been special to us. Even before that, in my bands before that, the Irish Centre was always a great place, and before that, the Barrel Organ. When you were in a local band, you knew that once you arrived at the Barrel Organ, you'd made it! Next stop, the NEC! Birmingham's always been special to us. We're all

from the area, so there's a hell of a lot of people we know in the city, and we have the Birmingham sensibility, I think. Not too much of a show-off.

You took the anniversary tour to Australia, too. What was it like playing there for the first time?

We're actually going back there at the end of the year. We're doing Australia and New Zealand this time. We've been together for 28 years, and how the hell we'd never played in Australia before, I just don't know. They were really, really welcoming, so basically we're going back and playing much bigger venues because those gigs were only 800-capacity venues and they sold out literally within an hour. We had no idea that was going to happen!

Why do you think Ocean Colour Scene have managed to survive for so long?

The crowd - our crowd. Also, we've never been fashionable. If you're fashionable, by the very nature of that statement, you're going to not be fashionable in a year, or maybe even six months. We've never been fashionable, we've always been a traditional rock, blues, folk band who you either like or you don't. People have stuck with us, and it's our crowd who've kept us together. We're not going to make an album that's going into the top 10 anymore, but we go and play to 12,500 people, and I think we treasure that more now than chasing the charts. I don't even know how they work now! I don't know how you can have nine singles in the top 10! It's just nonsense. That means nothing to me at all. So we'll play to our crowds and Ed Sheeran can have 10 songs in the top five.

If you could go back in time to Ocean Colour Scene's inception, is there anything you would do differently?

I'd write more, that's all. I wouldn't change anything, really. There are probably arguments that we could've avoided, but that's the way life is. I wouldn't change the fact that we struggled for seven years because that's when we learned to do what we do, and that's when we learned to be a band. It does you good being punched in the face once or twice, so long as you don't lose your teeth.

What's your first musical memory?

A load of old singles my older brother used to listen to that were like family heirlooms -

things like Speedy Gonzales by Pat Boone. My favourite early song was called Seven Little Girls (Sitting In The Back Seat). Google it - it was probably dreadful. It was by a band called The Avons, and that was about 1960. It was my favourite record, and my brother and I had an argument. I'd have been about five and he'd have been seven, and he threw the single across our lounge. It hit a chair leg and shattered. That's my earliest musical memory.

What's the biggest change you've seen in the music industry over the years?

The way that records are now almost a by-product that allows you to tour. You used to make an album - looking back at it, at ridiculous costs - and then you would tour to promote that album. It's the other way round now. Unless you're a mega-selling, streaming person, I wouldn't like to start a band now and have to work out what to do. Having said that, I've never used a computer, I've never streamed - I don't even know what that really means - so if I was a young person now, I'd have grown up with a different mentality. Album art, album covers, who gives a toss about them anymore, but that used to be one of the things that made an album so special. Opening it up on the bus home, reading the credits. There's none of that now. Christ, I'm sounding old, aren't I?!

What's the most memorable performance of your career?

Obviously supporting Oasis at Knebworth was pretty special - and petrifying! One of my proudest moments was when we played the Albert Hall in February '97. There it was, our name, up in lights at the Albert Hall, and I walked in and thought, 'Jesus Christ, we've done it!' Another memorable moment was the first time we played the NEC. That was pretty remarkable.

What does the future hold for Ocean Colour Scene?

I need to write and we need to record an album!

.....

Ocean Colour Scene play the Saturday headline slot at Beyond The Tracks, which takes place from Friday 15 to Sunday 17 September at Eastside City Park, Digbeth, Birmingham.

Milton Jones

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
Wed 30 August

With a style of humour that's mainly based around puns and one-liners, Milton Jones has established himself as one of Britain's most in-demand funnymen.

"If my comedy's working well, I put a cartoon in people's heads that surprises them," explains Milton. "So you start off and they're thinking one thing, then you surprise them by changing the ending as you go along. It's not political or particularly edgy, it's just daft. It's a sort of verbal practical joke, but some people really hate that.

Milton's gags include: "Militant feminists - I take my hat off to them. They don't like that," and "Recently, on a flight to America, all the way across my wife was going, 'Why don't you get an upgrade, why don't you get an upgrade?'"

"It took a bit of time, but in the end I got a better wife."



Three of the best...

Paul Tonkinson

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury,
Wed 16 August; Regent Theatre,
Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 19 August

Time Out Comedy Award winner Paul has been a regular on the UK laughter circuit since the 1990s. He's perhaps best known from The Big Breakfast and The Sunday Show. Regularly booked by the UK Armed Forces, Paul was the first comic to perform in Iraq after the war officially ended. He's since used his experiences there as inspiration for his comedy.

"When I told my wife I'd spent much of the time lying on the floor," he says, "all I got in response was 'well we all like a lie down, don't we?'"



Joe Bromehead

Jongleurs Comedy Club,
Birmingham, Fri 25 August

"Take a look at the video clips on my website," urges Joe Bromehead. "And if you like what I do, do tell me because, as all comedians are, I'm often crippled with self-doubt, seeking the approval of complete strangers in order to fill some kind of void in my soul!"

Joe's feelings of self-doubt should certainly be on the decline nowadays, given how many of those 'complete strangers' - that's his audience we're talking about there - offer him the approval he's seeking whenever he plays a gig. A cheeky chappie with a penchant for props-led comedy, Joe's a real rising star on the UK comedy circuit and well worth a look.



Steve Hewlett

The Core, Solihull, Sat 5 August

The days when people delighted at the likes of Keith Harris fitting his hand up the bottom of a curious-looking puppet and seemingly making it talk are long gone.

Well, at least until recently they were. But now there's one man in particular who's doing his bit to change the widely held view that ventriloquism acts are old hat, tired out and alarmingly frayed at the edges...

That man is Steve Hewlett, Britain's Got Talent finalist 2013, whose most popular puppet partners include Chi Chi the dog, Pongo the skunk and cheeky old geezer Arthur Lager. Expect to meet all three. The puppets of Simon Cowell and Sinitta, which Steve used during his Britain's Got Talent run, might also get the hand-up-bottom treatment on the night.



Simon Amstell

asks What Is This?

From writing and directing films to converting to veganism, and from finding love to taking spiritual medicine in a shamanic ritual, Simon Amstell has been on quite a journey since his Never Mind The Buzzcocks days. Following the broadcast of his critically acclaimed directorial debut on BBC Three, a new tour sees him return to stand-up with a fresh outlook inspired by his own personal and professional transformation. Ahead of its arrival in the Midlands in October, we asked him to shed a little light on the huge question that its title poses - What is this?

"I think this is a question that inevitably comes up at some point if what you do for a living is stand up on stage talking about yourself," he says. "At some point, you say, 'What is this? What am I doing? What are any of us doing? Why are we alive?' But I don't think it's an answerable question. In the end, I suppose the best you can say is, perhaps it doesn't matter."

Known for his candid, almost confessional style of comedy, Amstell is open about how his stand-up career began in part as a way of seeking validation - a kind of defence against his own anxieties. But with new work opportunities opening up to him, and his life now moving in a more positive direction, is stand-up something he'll continue to find time for? "It's a question I asked myself, because I definitely came to a place where I felt like I didn't need to have so much attention from people any more. But what I realised was that I quite enjoyed being funny and making people laugh, so now it comes from a place of real curiosity and joy. While I thought as a child that fame would make me safe, I discovered that it's actually connecting with people that makes me feel okay in the world. And I suppose all I've really wanted all along is the kind of intimacy that I was using stand-up as a way of avoiding."

This newfound intimacy is something he's still settling into - on some level there's a kind of baffled wonder to his question, 'What

is this?' But fans should rest assured that, while the impetus behind his new show might be different, his distinctive wry humour is still very much the same.

"All the stand-up I've done so far has been deeply personal in that I go up on stage and say terribly embarrassing things that I'm worried about saying out loud. If anything, this show goes even deeper, perhaps because I'm a bit older and it isn't just constant anxiety. I'm having to deal with things like happiness now..."

"Being in a relationship is a complicated affair. Where previous shows have dealt more with being lonely, I think there's a lot about intimacy here and being able to be in the moment with another human being without worrying."

The path to contentment hasn't only been by way of investing in another human being, however. In the depths of despair, Amstell acted on a recommendation to travel to Peru to take ayahuasca, an ancient psychoactive brew that many people - Amstell among them - swear has changed their lives.

"I was so desperate for something to make me feel better - or just to make me feel something - that the only moment when I felt a bit worried was when the shaman entered the room and I thought, 'Oh no, what have I done? These men are wearing matching outfits and I'm about to drink a vision-inducing plant medicine that I haven't researched enough! But apart from that, I felt very well looked after, both by the shaman and by the medicine herself."

Anyone who's seen his recent docu-drama, *Carnage*, will already be aware of his other major lifestyle change of late. While he owns that veganism perhaps isn't the most obvious subject for a sci-fi comedy, reviews have, perhaps surprisingly, been almost universally positive.

"We did everything we could to make it as funny as possible so that people wouldn't feel annoyed, because on the surface, what you eat is quite a personal thing. But what we discovered while making it was that we'd all just been indoctrinated by nonsense characters like Captain Birdseye and Ronald McDonald - not only into thinking that this is what we should be eating, but also that it's fun. Like, if you want to be happy, here is a Happy Meal. I felt very angry watching old adverts from my childhood, like I'd been tricked."

Set in 2067, the film imagines a future where



the killing of animals has been outlawed and young people look with horror on an older generation coming to terms with its meat-eating past. So does he really think that's where we'll be in 50 years, or is the film over-optimistic?

"I don't know. I think now all the information's out there on the internet, it's just going to get more and more awkward, so at some point there has to be a shift. But there's a quote I quite like from James Baldwin - 'I have to be optimistic because I'm alive.'"

In between testing out material for his show, Amstell's also been working on a second film (details of which remain tightly under wraps) as well as writing his first book, *Help*, which will combine past stand-up routines with general musings on "how to be a person in the world". So once it's published, is he worried that old Buzzcocks guests will be popping up to read bits of it out to him? Fittingly, the genuine laugh this prompts feels pretty validating.

"Oh that's funny! Yeah, that's fine. I welcome it!"

Simon Amstell's What Is This? shows at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, on Saturday 7 October and Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday 15 October

FEATURE

JOINING THE LONELY HEARTS CLUB

**Diana Vickers talks
about starring in
brand new musical,
Son Of A Preacher Man**



“...if you love the music of the era and are a bit of a sucker for love, it's the perfect place to go.”

New musical *Son Of A Preacher Man* channels the Swinging '60s music of Dusty Springfield and is named after her 1968 chart hit.

As well as featuring Springfield's sensational smash-hit singles, this new production also boasts a star-studded cast.

The plot follows the story of three lovesick individuals from different generations. The trio seek solace at the original site of Soho's legendary Preacher Man hang-out, a once-happening joint where youngsters with fresh ideas, a craving for the latest sounds and an aspiration for love would dance until they dropped - or maybe seek love advice from the Preacher Man himself.

But those days are long gone, and it's uncertain whether the Preacher Man's son can help these broken hearts.

Diana Vickers, who stars in the show, originally came to the public's attention in the 2008 series of *X Factor*. She went on to storm the UK charts with hit albums *Songs From The Tainted Cherry Tree* (2010) - which reached number one - and *Music To Make Boys Cry* (2013).

In *Son Of A Preacher Man*, she plays the youngest of the three unlucky lovers, alongside Ian Reddington and Debra Stephenson.

"It's basically a musical about the Lonely Hearts Club," says Vickers. "Lonely hearts who've been hurt and are trying to seek advice."

For a few years, Vickers led two very different lives - one in the recording studio and on the road, the other on stage and television.

"I guess theatre is a form of escapism," she explains. "I really loved doing gigs, it was so much fun, but it's a very different environment to theatre. At gigs it's my own music - it's just me. I transitioned into doing more theatre and TV because I really love taking on the role of another person and getting into their world."

Although it was a difficult decision for Vickers, and one not taken lightly, she decided to make the move from pop princess to stage-and-screen performer a more permanent one, believing it to be in the best interests of her career and happiness.

"After my second album, I had a decision to make about either going back into the studio and writing another album or concentrating on my acting. I think I just always felt that every time I took on an acting role, whether

that be in the theatre or on TV, I just felt really happy! I was content with doing things with a group of other actors, rather than writing an album alone and gigging as a solo artist. You're by yourself a lot doing those things. I felt like this was the right move for me. I needed to put all my eggs in one basket, so I chose acting. Even before I went on *The X Factor*, I always wanted to be an actress. That was my main goal."

Vickers' stage debut came in a 2009 production of Jim Cartwright's *The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice*, a show in which she impersonated numerous music icons, including Dusty Springfield. It was an experience that she firmly believes helped her bag her latest role.

"It certainly made me so excited, especially when I got the script. Immediately I felt a connection there! This is always so important. I understand a lot about Dusty. She was described as 'the great white lady of pop', and I knew about her success and her music. I went into the meeting with a lot more knowledge about her and what her sound was. In my audition, I felt like I was naturally channelling her when I sang her music. I will probably have to pull out of that when I actually perform because I'm not actually meant to be her, so I need to note that to myself."

The love affair between Vickers and the music of Springfield predates her acting career.

"I've certainly gone through my eras in fashion. I love the mini skirts and the really big, bold, cute, patterned shift dresses. The gorgeous makeup with the big eyelashes is always a winner. It's not something I channel on a daily basis, but certainly for an event I would. Yesterday, my mum and I were playing all the '60s hits, so I feel like the music is very much around in my daily life. My mum loves Dusty and used to play her music when we were younger. I remember when I was at school, we had a '60s day and had to sing a '60s song, so we sang Dusty - I remember mum being so excited about that! From a very young age, I was very aware of Dusty's music."

Son Of A Preacher Man is written by world-renowned lyricist Warner Brown and directed and choreographed by *Strictly Come Dancing* favourite Craig Revel Horwood. This made for an audition that was not only exciting and nerve-wracking for Vickers but also a bit bizarre.

"When I auditioned, I was in a room of 10 people, including Warner and Craig, and it's very scary to have all eyes on you. I looked up Warner before my audition, and it was quite daunting. He's worked with loads of important people, including on Broadway, and done so many great things. Craig was so welcoming and sweet but also really tested me. I had to take a regular scene and play it in order to seduce the pianist while singing one of my songs. Then, with another scene, I had to perform a monologue towards a music stand and pretend that I was attacking the music stand with a knife! It was absolutely bonkers! Craig was doing it with me and he was fantastic - really fun and encouraging. It was a bit intimidating, but he was just so lovely and welcoming. I think I'll be on a bit of a crazy ride with him. To be working with such fantastic people and such a great team certainly makes it more exciting."

Vickers admits that she finds the theatre, film and television industries incredibly challenging. Even so, she continues to set new goals for herself. When *Son Of A Preacher Man* has concluded, she'll have done three musicals in the space of two years and would like to delve into other waters.

"I'm just going to keep striving to move forward. I would maybe like to move onto a straight play or a bit of television - maybe some comedy. But in this industry everything is so unpredictable, so you just take whatever comes your way."

For now, though, all of her energies are focused on *Son Of A Preacher Man*.

"It's a show that takes you back to the Swinging '60s - so if you love the music of the era and are a bit of a sucker for love, it's the perfect place to go. It's humorous, heartfelt, fun and uplifting, with iconic music. So if you like any or all of those things, please come and see the show!"

Son Of A Preacher Man shows at the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from 12 to 16 September and the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from 10 to 14 October. It then returns to the region in 2018, showing at the Coventry's Belgrade Theatre from 13 to 17 February, Malvern Theatre from 20 to 24 February and Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn from 13 to 17 March.



Miss Saigon

Birmingham Hippodrome, until Sat 23 September

If you're a fan of Les Misérables, bag yourself a seat for Miss Saigon asap - just like Les Mis, it's written by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg.

Focusing on an American GI and his romance with a young Vietnamese woman, the story unfolds against the backdrop of the American evacuation of Saigon in 1975, at the end of the Vietnam War. "This new production is geared to an age where we're seeing a lot of cinema and glossy HBO-type shows," explains Associate Director

Jean-Pierre Van Der Spuy, "so it's very cinematic and epic in scale. It's quite brutal and gritty in places, and it feels very real."

Van Der Spuy makes a strong case for Miss Saigon being a more accessible work than its famous cousin, Les Misérables.

"It's very relatable and much closer in terms of our history. People know what the context is - they get who the characters are and why they're there, without it needing to be explained. 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 something through a slightly different prism is good for people, and that's why we need to be telling these stories now."



Mother's Ruin: A Cabaret About Gin

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Thurs 31 August - Sunday 3 September

Story and song combine in a theatrical cabaret that stops off in 18th century London, the Australian bush, a few New York speakeasies and the jungles of Peru.

At its heart is the story of gin, presented by two of Australia's rising cabaret stars via the contribution of numerous characters, from sailors and barmaids to bootleggers and master distillers.

The show comes complete with music originally performed by, among others, Amy Winehouse, Nina Simone, Martha Wainwright, The Popes and The Pretenders. It visits Birmingham direct from the Edinburgh Fringe.

Brassed Off

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Wed 23 August - Sat 2 September

This lively stage adaptation of the award-winning movie of the same name is the Grand Theatre's first in-house show for more than 40 years.

The lifeblood of Grimley's community is threatened when its pit looks set for closure, leaving 1,200 miners redundant. With the future of the colliery's close-knit brass band also shrouded in uncertainty, conductor Danny Ormondroyd is determined to see that the ensemble continue to play, and that they do so regardless of loyalties, political pressure and other issues - namely, the arrival of an attractive new flugelhorn player named Gloria Mullins... Hi-de-Hi's Black Country-born Jeffrey Holland stars.

Murder In Bloodford Village

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 25 - Mon 28 August

Murder-mystery company Big Adventures' latest offering includes a picnic from Masterchef Simon Smith - a fun touch that says much about the ensemble's imaginative approach to their work. They've been in business for 17 years now, and are justifiably proud of the fact that all of their clients have re-booked them - an impressive record that speaks volumes for the quality and level of professionalism they bring to their shows. This latest offering sees the peace and tranquillity of Bloodford village shattered by the murder of millionaire resident Charles Van Mortem.

It's up to the audience to solve the case, so be sure to take along your thinking cap...



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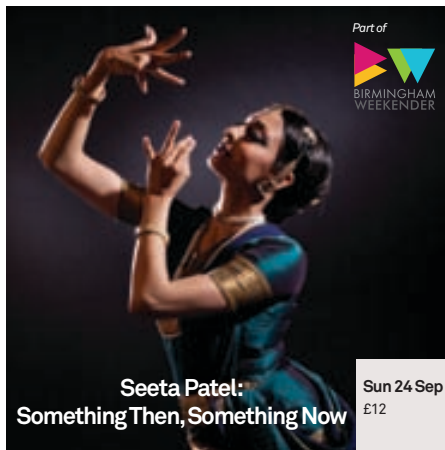


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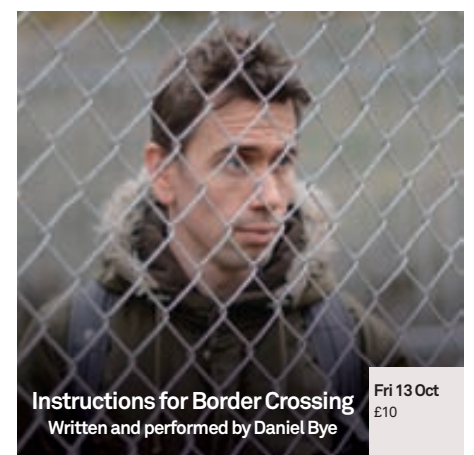


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The Railway Children

Malvern Theatre, Tues 22 - Sun 27 August; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 11 - Sat 16 September

Edith Nesbitt's famous tale, best known from the 1971 film version, tells the gentle story of an Edwardian family whose life is unexpectedly turned upside-down.

Days stretch endlessly for Bobbie, Peter and Phyllis in their new home of Three Chimneys, a house near a railway in a Yorkshire village.

Mysteriously separated from their father, the children set about the business of carving out a new way of living for themselves. They pass their time by watching trains on the nearby railway line, waving to the passengers and enjoying the company of Albert Perks, the station porter.

They also get to know an old gentleman who regularly takes the 9.15 train, but are unaware of the remarkable impact that he's set to have on their future happiness...



Dracula: The Bloody Truth

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 15 - Wed 16 August

Audience members as young as eight could well be saying 'fangs for the advice' after watching this cautionary tale about the dangers of vampires.

Presented by highly regarded theatre company Le Navet Bete, it follows the desperate and comic - attempts of Dracula's nemesis, Professor Abraham Van Helsing, to warn the audience not to tangle with the prince of the undead.

Sound advice, we'd say, and delivered with plenty of family-friendly laughs along the way. It's probably best to pack some garlic, though - just in case...



The Secret Garden

The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 5 - Sat 12 August

Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic children's story centres on the character of young orphan Mary Lennox. Sent from India to England at the age of 10 to live with her uncle, she finds herself residing in a bleak ancestral manor in Yorkshire.

Life for Mary seems dull and boring - until, that is, she makes the startling discovery of a hidden garden...

Trespass

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 15 - Sat 19 August

Casualty favourite Rebecca Wheatley takes top billing in this latest production of Welsh playwright Emlyn Williams' supernatural tale.

Christine's belief that her husband's unexpected death is simply a hiatus in their relationship sees her hiring an Italian medium to bring him back to life.

But the reassuring Saviello may not be all that he seems to be...

Exploring some unusual aspects of the supernatural, theatre company Talking Scarlet warn that their production 'may well have you looking carefully around your bedroom before you reach out for the light switch'.

Strictly Eric

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Mon 21 August - Sat 2 September

New Vic favourite Eric Smith here makes a welcome return to the stage, this time to assist Arthur Strictly in organising the 1969 World Ballroom Championships in Blackpool...

Actor David Graham's delightfully dysfunctional character has certainly earned his place in the hearts of New Vic audiences down the years, having made his first appearance at the venue way back in 1999. And this latest comic adventure in the hugely popular franchise looks certain to see Uncle Eric further ingratiate himself with the theatre-going Potteries public.

A selection of memorable Swinging '60s numbers should ensure that the evening provides plenty of toe-tapping fun for Eric's legion of dedicated fans to enjoy.

Salomé

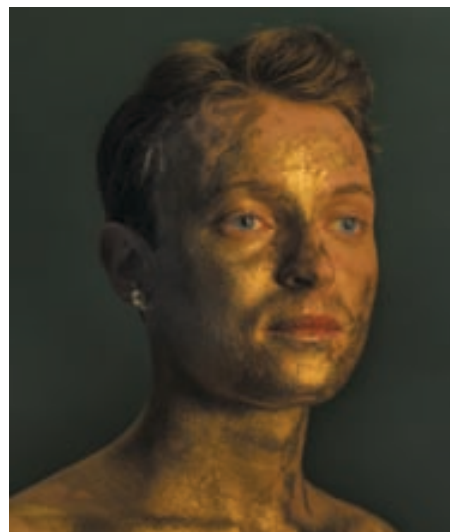
Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Wed 6 September

Oscar Wilde's lyrical drama, written in French and originally banned in England, recounts in a single act the biblical story of Herod Antipas's daughter, Salomé.

Sexually rejected by imprisoned prophet Jokanaan (John the Baptist), her lust-driven desire for vengeance sees her demanding his head on a silver platter as reward for her performing the dance of the seven veils...

Wilde was incarcerated in Reading Gaol at the time of his play's Paris premiere in 1896; it would be 35 years before it received its first public performance in England.

Presented by the RSC to mark the 50th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in England and Wales, the production features nudity and scenes of a sexual nature.



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Landscapes

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 9 - Sat 12 August

Widely hailed as a truly mesmerising work of theatre, this 50-minute, non-verbal show is set inside a beautiful white dome and visits four lovingly realised landscapes - the desert, the rain-forest, the ocean and Antarctica.

It's presented by the award-winning two-person 35-year-old Mimika Theatre company. Bringing together puppets, an original musical score and impressive visual effects, the show is a celebration of the atmosphere, rhythms, sounds and movements of the natural world.

"Our work is always gentle and highly original," explains Mimika. "Performances integrate movement, puppetry and unusual theatrical effects. We attempt to combine traditional and contemporary techniques to create an experience that's rich in content and detail."

The show is suitable for children aged four to 11.



The Wiggles Big Show

Birmingham Town Hall,
Wed 2 - Thurs 3 August

"We love touring the UK," says founding Wiggle Anthony Field. "It's the favourite part of our year. We're all looking forward to seeing our old friends, as well as meeting some new ones."

And friends certainly aren't in short supply for the Australian fab four, who've taken the children's entertainment world by storm over the last few years.

Although they've only come to significant international attention relatively recently, The Wiggles are actually more than a quarter of a century old. Expect to get wiggling to classic hits such as Hot Potato, Do The Propeller! and Rock-a-Bye Your Bear.



Ariel On The Cliff

mac, Birmingham, Thurs 24 August

Cloud Cuckoo Land describe their show as 'a celebration of all things breezy', bringing together puppetry, sensory storytelling, original acoustic music, movement interaction and 'big deep breaths'.

Standing front and centre of the production is the daydreaming Ariel, perched at the top of a cliff from where she introduces airborne chums Buzz the Bee and Squawk the Seagull. But when her down-to-earth friend Pebble spots storm clouds on the horizon, the race is on to help Ariel's pals return to the safety of their homes... A commission by the Royal Shakespeare Company and Birmingham's Stan's Cafe, the show is suitable for children aged between two and six.

Dogs Don't Do Ballet

The Core, Solihull, Thurs 31 August

This big-hearted adventure is a late replacement for Dotty The Dragon, whose wings have sadly been unable to fly her to the Midlands this month.

Based on the award-winning children's book by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie, Dogs Don't Do Ballet tells the delightful story of Biff, a marvellous mutt who'd prefer to be wearing a tutu and dancing to Swan Lake than doing typical dog things like scratching his fleas and weeing on lampposts. Music, songs and handcrafted puppets are cleverly combined in a show that's described as 'a perfect treat' for children aged between three and seven.

The Tiger Who Came To Tea

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Fri 4 - Sun 6 August; Malvern Theatre, Thurs
24 - Sun 27 August; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Wed 13 - Sat 16 September

The tea-guzzling tiger is back in town, dropping in on Sophie and her mum just as they're settling down for an afternoon cuppa...

Adapted by David Wood OBE from Judith Kerr's 1968 book, this 55-minute show comes without an interval, features singalong songs and boasts plenty of magic - not to mention a big, stripey tiger, of course!

Suitable for youngsters aged three and older.

Half Moon Presents Three

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 15 August

This collaboration between Yorkshire-based performers Wrongsemble and the long-established Half Moon theatre company has been designed as a pop-up show, allowing it to be performed in all manner of venues and locations.

The production features a trio of fairytales - Rumpelstiltskin, Goldilocks and Grimm's Three Wanderers - and brings together flamboyant performances, original singalong songs, live music and impressively inventive storytelling.

Suitable for kids aged between three and eight, the show lasts for 50 minutes (with no interval) and is followed by an interactive 'meet the performers' session.



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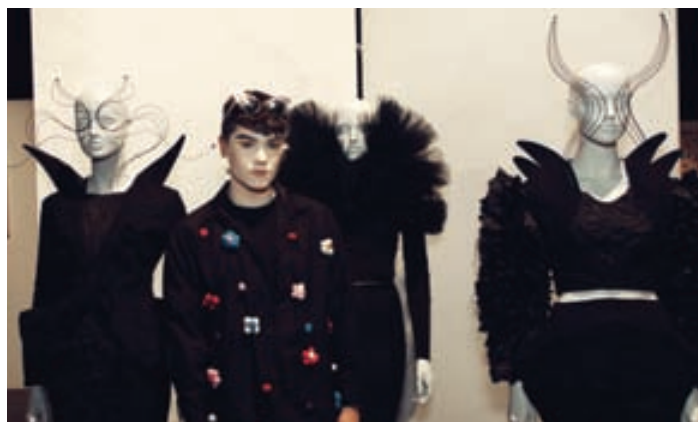
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REACH FOR THE STARS!

What's On visits Birmingham's Ormiston Academy to find out how dreams are made...



Ever pictured yourself treading the boards in the West End? Or perhaps you'd prefer to dress stages than perform on them? Or maybe you're interested in operating the lights that keep the stars shining? Whatever your talents, if you dream of a career in showbiz, Birmingham Ormiston Academy (BOA) might just be the place to start rehearsing.

Each year, young hopefuls aged between 14 and 19 join the school to study specialised GCSE and A-Level-equivalent Pathway courses in subjects ranging from dance to digital arts. Six years after the school first opened, BOA is now beginning to claim big success stories, with former students embarking on their first jobs in the industry. Among them is Musical Theatre Pathway alumnus Alexandra O'Reilly (pictured below), currently working on *Mamma Mia!* in the West End.

"I just started my contract in May, and it's been going really well so far," says O'Reilly.



Alexandra O'Reilly

"The cast are great and I'm having the best time living in London!"

After leaving school in 2014, O'Reilly earned himself a full scholarship at Laine Theatre Arts. He wasted no time in gaining as much experience as possible, training from 8.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday, working on professional events and training under top choreographers like Matthew Flint, Andrew Wright and Stephen Mear. But while hard work, ability and a bit of good luck certainly helped him land such fantastic opportunities, he still feels that the support and education he received at BOA played a big part in his making a success of them.

"I learned so much while I was at BOA - there was a whole combination of things that really helped me to grow as a performer. The teachers were brilliant, especially singing with Mr Bannon."

"I think the key advantage for students who

come here is the amount of time they get to spend on their chosen subject," explains Assistant Principal and Head of Performing Arts Michael Penn. "In Keystage Four, they spend seven hours a week on their Pathway subject, and in Keystage Five, that goes up to 14 hours, which is more than any other place I know of around here. Plus, there are the industry experts they get to work with, and the shows they do. Our students have done curtain-raisers for Matthew Bourne, and they've performed at *Move It* at London's ExCel Centre.

"It's a slightly longer day. The students start at 9am and finish at 4.15. But the school is usually open until quite late in the evening because there'll be students using the practice rooms and recording studio. They'll be doing the radio show or rehearsing for performances even after the day is over. This year, with the exception of exam period, there's been a show on pretty much every week in one department or another. It's non-stop!"

Alex O'Reilly's success isn't unusual. Other musical theatre alumni have already gone on to bag roles in shows such as *The Wind In The Willows* and *Matilda*. And it's testament to how much students value their time at the academy that when things take off, they tend to stay in touch.

"We have a dedicated Alumni Association, which is growing at the moment," Penn continues, "and we do encourage them to let us know what they're doing. This year, we've also had ex-students come in to do workshops with current students and talk to them about how to go onto the next stage. One of them is doing artist recruitment and development in the music industry, and she had some amazing stories to tell about the people she'd been working with."

Students who decide that performing might not be for them often discover unexpected routes into the industry. Take Amy Stutz, for example - a prominent arts and lifestyle blogger and communications assistant at Birmingham Hippodrome.

"When I left, I went to study journalism," explains Stutz. "I then continued blogging and started reviewing all around the country, and have even been flown out to Berlin to review shows twice! I think BOA helped in the sense that I got a 360-degree look at the industry. Working with professional directors and learning the craft gave me an appreciation of the way everything in theatre is created."

Stutz may have started out with a view to becoming a performer, but others are investigating different options from the moment they enrol, with technical and digital arts courses

proving so popular that two new dedicated academies are now in the works. But as much as anything, it's the emphasis on things like teamwork, independence and creativity that leave students well-equipped for the world of work, as well as ensuring they have a fantastic learning experience.

"Students here are really mature," says Penn. "They work really well together across all different disciplines, and you'll see a creative approach to all the subjects they have to do. So even with core subjects like English and maths, if you go into one of those lessons, you might see them using roleplay or video recordings to learn the topics."



Amy Stutz

"It's completely different to studying at a generic school because it's so much more creative and individual," O'Reilly agrees. "One memory that always sticks in my mind was soon after I started, when someone was playing a guitar in the cafe. Other people started joining in, till eventually pretty much the whole school was there singing along!"

"I loved BOA!" Stutz gushes. "We all formed really close bonds because we were in such an intense learning environment together. It was hard work, but I met some of my best friends there, people who are now friends for life. People can't really understand BOA unless they go there, as people will be singing on the stairwell and tap dancing in the canteen!"

To find out more about Birmingham Ormiston Academy, visit their website: boa-academy.co.uk

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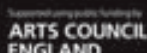
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A Ghost Story CERT 12a (92 mins)

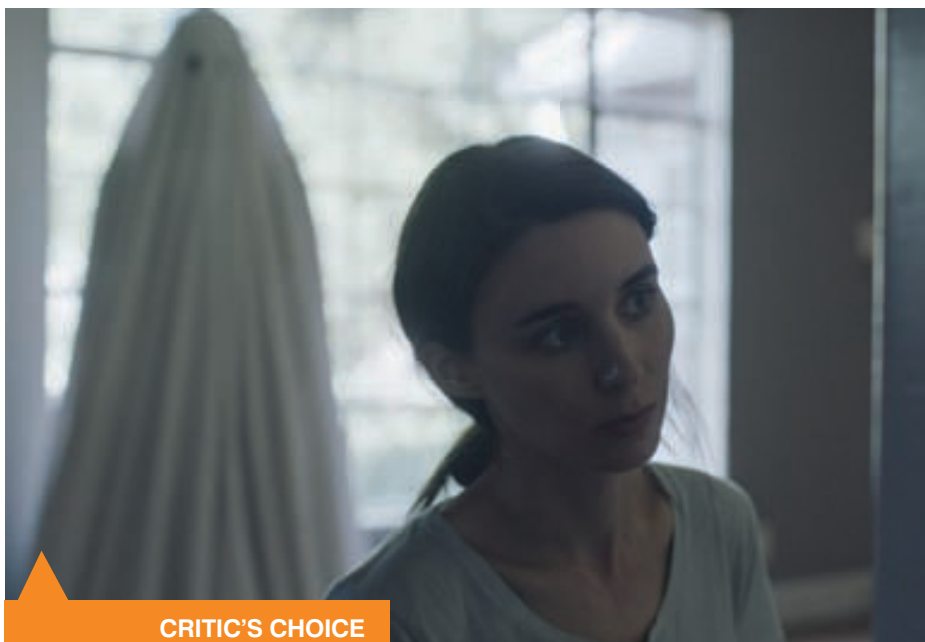
Starring **Casey Affleck, Rooney Mara, Will Oldham, Sonia Acevedo**
Directed by **David Lowery (USA)**

This year Casey Affleck won the Oscar for best actor.

Here, he's teamed up with double Oscar nominee Rooney Mara, with whom he previously co-starred in the 2013 crime drama *Ain't Them Bodies Saints*, reuniting them both with the writer-director David Lowery. A fiercely personal meditation on loss, grief and time itself, *A Ghost Story* is unlike any film you'll see this year. And like most works of singularity, it is likely to divide viewers. Is it a profound, daring and cosmic-altering experience or a self-indulgent and pretentious vanity project?

Either way, one won't forget the single take in which Rooney Mara devours the better part of a large pumpkin pie.

Released Fri 11 August



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Film highlights released in August...



Valerian And The City Of A Thousand Planets

CERT 12a (137 mins)

Starring **Dane DeHaan, Cara Delevingne, Clive Owen, Rihanna, Ethan Hawke, Rutger Hauer**
Directed by **Luc Besson (France)**

Adapted from the sci-fi comic *Valérian And Laureline*, this big-budget French blockbuster is set in the 28th century. There, a handsome pair of special operatives are dispatched to the multicultural metropolis of Alpha, populated by species from all over the universe. But there's a dark force there causing a right rumpus and threatening the very future of the cosmos. FYI: The original comic was a major inspiration for *Star Wars*.

Released Wed 2 August

The Emoji Movie: Express Yourself

CERT PG

With the voices of **TJ Miller, James Corden, Anna Faris, Maya Rudolph, Steven Wright, Christina Aguilera, Patrick Stewart**
Directed by **Tony Leondis (USA)**

Set in the mysterious world of your mobile phone, this comedy from Sony Pictures Animation explores the emotional status quo of your regular emoji. Actually, there's nothing regular about Gene, an emoji with a whole gamut of emotions. Of course, he just wants one facial expression like everybody else... Jumping into a parallel universe like those explored by such groundbreaking cartoons as *Wreck-It-Ralph* and *Inside Out*, this has the potential to rock.

Released Fri 4 August



Maudie CERT 12a (116 mins)

Starring **Sally Hawkins, Ethan Hawke, Kari Matchett**
Directed by **Aisling Walsh (Ireland/Canada)**

Maud Lewis was one of Canada's foremost folk artists, who recorded the Nova Scotia landscapes of her childhood. But before then she was an arthritic cleaning lady beset by unsubstantiated local gossip. This is her story.

Released Fri 4 August

Film highlights released in August...

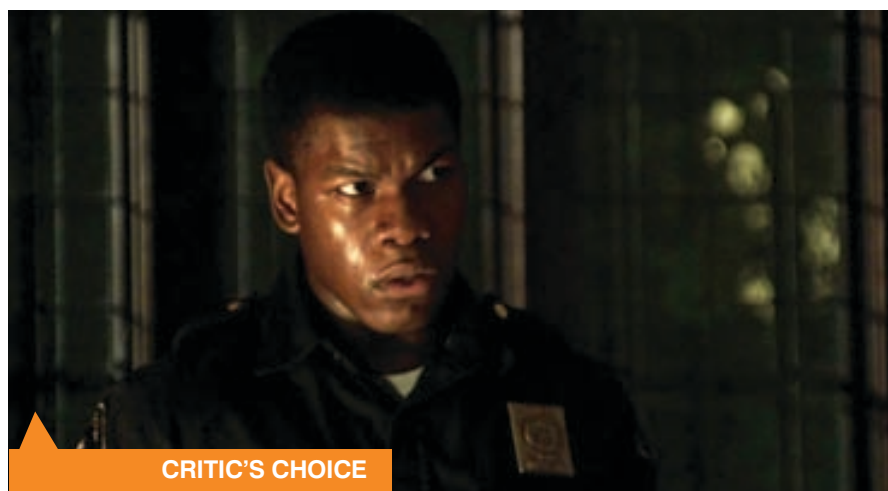
Detroit CERT 15 (143 mins)

Starring **John Boyega, Will Poulter, Algee Smith, Jason Mitchell, John Krasinski, Anthony Mackie, Jack Reynor**
Directed by **Kathryn Bigelow (USA)**

On 25 July in 1967, the Detroit police force responded to a call stating that a group of gunmen had been seen near the Algiers Motel. The events that followed are chronicled in this drama focusing on the police brutality that fanned the flames of the notorious Detroit riots. There is already Oscar

buzz for the film, which is helmed by Kathryn Bigelow, the first female director ever to receive an Academy Award (for *The Hurt Locker*). Besides the incendiary subject matter, further controversy should arise from the fact that the two leading characters are played by English actors, namely John Boyega and Will Poulter. Boyega, who was born in London, previously played Finn in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

Released Fri 25 August



CRITIC'S CHOICE



6 Days CERT 15 (94 mins)

Starring **Jamie Bell, Abbie Cornish, Martin Shaw, Mark Strong, Emun Elliott, Tim Pigott-Smith** Directed by **Toa Fraser (UK)**

It was six days that placed the SAS at the centre of the global consciousness. When, in April of 1980, Arab gunmen stormed the Iranian Embassy in London, the British Army was forced to act with both tact and precision.

Released Fri 4 August



Atomic Blonde CERT 15

Starring **Charlize Theron, James McAvoy, John Goodman, Til Schweiger, Eddie Marsan, Sofia Boutella, Toby Jones**
Directed by **David Leitch (USA)**

For *Atomic Blonde* read Lorraine Broughton (Theron), arguably the best female spy M16 has ever produced. It's now the Cold War and in 1989 Broughton is dispatched to Berlin to investigate the murder of a fellow spy. Based on the 2012 graphic novel *The Coldest City*.

Released Wed 9 August

England Is Mine

CERT 15 (94 mins)

Starring **Jack Lowden, Jessica Brown Findlay, Laurie Kynaston, Adam Lawrence, Jodie Comer** Directed by **Mark Gill (UK)**

The son of Irish Catholics from Dublin, Steven grew up in Manchester and in the 1970s found himself out of work. He then joined the punk band *The Nosebleeds* (as a vocalist) and went by his surname, Morrissey. This is his story at the time - before he went on to form *The Smiths*.

Released Fri 4 August



The Nut Job 2: Nutty By Nature CERT PG

Featuring the voices of **Will Arnett, Katherine Heigl, Maya Rudolph, Bobby Moynihan, Bobby Cannavale, Peter Stormare, Jackie Chan**
Directed by **Cal Bruner** (South Korea/USA/Canada)

Surly, the purple squirrel, must motivate the other animals of Liberty Park to stop the mayor's scheme to bulldoze their home to make way for a dubious amusement park. Let's just hope this is more endearing than the crude and cacophonous first film.

Released Fri 11 August

Pawn Sacrifice

CERT 12 (112 mins)

Starring Tobey Maguire, Peter Sarsgaard, Liev Schreiber, Michael Stuhlbarg, Lily Rabe, Robin Weigert

Directed by Edward Zwick (USA/Canada)

Another film set during the Cold War, this one focuses on the chess champion Bobby Fischer (Tobey Maguire). Here, the grandmaster challenges the Soviet Empire (and Boris Spassky) at a highly sensitive time for the two superpowers. Interestingly, production on the film was completed in December of 2013.

Released Fri 11 August

Overdrive

CERT 12a

Starring Scott Eastwood, Freddie Thorp, Ana de Armas, Gaia Weiss, Simon Abkarian

Directed by Antonio Negret (France/USA)

The brothers Andrew and Garrett Foster are car thieves and decide to try their hand in pastures new in the South of France. But there they come to the attention of a local crime lord (Simon Abkarian), who decides to utilise their skills for his own ends...

Released Fri 11 August

The Dark Tower

CERT 12a (95 mins)

Starring Idris Elba, Matthew McConaughey, Tom Taylor, Katheryn Winnick, Jackie Earle Haley, Dennis Haysbert

Directed by Nikolaj Arcel (USA)

A sort of Western-cum-fantasy-cum-horror film-cum-sci fi adventure, The Dark Tower would appear to have something for everyone. Idris plays The Gunslinger, who's on his way to an alternative dimension in pursuit of the eponymous structure. The tower, you see, holds the secret to preventing the entrée of Hell. Based on the literary series by Stephen King.

Released Fri 18 August



Rough Night

CERT 15 (101 mins)

Starring Scarlett Johansson, Kate McKinnon, Jillian Bell, Ilana Glazer, Zoë Kravitz, Demi Moore

Directed by Lucia Aniello (USA)

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

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

Released Fri 25 August

Final Portrait

CERT 15 (90 mins)

Starring Geoffrey Rush, Armie Hammer, Clémence Poésy, Tony Shalhoub, James Faulkner, Sylvie Testud

Directed by Stanley Tucci (UK)

The American writer and art lover James Lord (Armie Hammer) agrees to sit for his friend, the celebrated Swiss painter Alberto Giacometti (Geoffrey Rush). He's told the portrait will only take a few days to complete, but creativity doesn't always work to a schedule...

Released Fri 18 August



American Made

CERT tbc

Starring Tom Cruise, Sarah Wright, Domhnall Gleeson, Jayma Mays, Jesse Plemons, Lola Kirke

Directed by Doug Liman (USA)

Inspired by the life of the TWA pilot Barry Seal, who became a drug smuggler, this should restore Tom Cruise's standing with his fans after the diabolic The Mummy. After all, director Doug Liman exhibited his knack for action with The Bourne Identity and the entertaining Cruise-starrer Edge Of Tomorrow. We live in hope.

Released Fri 18 August

Logan Lucky

CERT tbc

Starring Channing Tatum, Adam Driver, Seth MacFarlane, Riley Keough, Katie Holmes, Katherine Waterston, Hilary Swank, Daniel Craig

Directed by Steven Soderbergh (USA)

Three brothers called Logan set out to pull off an elaborate heist during the Coca-Cola 600 race at the Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina. More importantly, the comedy marks the return of director Steven Soderbergh after he announced his retirement in 2013.

Released Fri 25 August



The Hitman's Bodyguard

CERT 15 (118 mins)

Starring Ryan Reynolds, Samuel L Jackson, Gary Oldman, Salma Hayek, Élodie Yung, Joaquim de Almeida, Richard E Grant

Directed by Patrick Hughes (USA)

Michael Bryce (Reynolds) is considered to be the best bodyguard in the world. He's then asked to escort the hitman Darius Kincaid (Jackson) from England to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. But Kincaid happens to be Bryce's mortal enemy... It's not going to be easy.

Released Fri 18 August

The colours of South Asia

Utsav and the many jewels in its crown...





Incredible dancing, fabulous food, fascinating stories and an upcycled elephant: as India marks 70 years of independence in 2017, Birmingham erupts in a colourful explosion of music, food and live performance in celebration of Utsav - The Year of South Asian Culture.

Halfway through the year, Utsav (meaning festival or celebration in Sanskrit) is now well underway, with big events like the Birmingham Indian Film Festival and ZEE Mela now behind us. But if you've yet to join the fun, don't worry - the party continues with a series of shows, festivals and exhibitions throughout summer and autumn. Chairing the Utsav committee and co-directing this year's South Asian-themed Birmingham Weekender is Sampad Artistic Director Piali Ray.

"The initial idea for Utsav came from Birmingham City Council after David Cameron met with the Indian prime minister two years ago and named 2017 as the India-UK Year of Culture," she explains. "A lot of the UK is celebrating that, but because we have such a diverse South Asian population in Birmingham, we decided to broaden it out further."

Comprised of several arts organisations and community groups, the Utsav committee has been working to promote engagement with food, fashion, sports and history as well as the arts. News and events listings are uploaded to a dedicated Wordpress site, where anyone can request the inclusion of an event. Crucially, while it focuses on celebrating South Asian contributions to the city, the project also aims to highlight shared cultural heritage across all of Birmingham's communities.

"We want to make sure that Birmingham as a city connects with Utsav, and not just South Asian communities," says Ray. "Because this is a very lively, vibrant city, there are all sorts of offerings to choose from, and in the same way as with fashion and food, there are a lot of artists now who are taking on and sharing



influences with each other. Things are much less monocultural and more multilingual now, and it's exciting to see how those influences are shaping the creation of new work, whether it's in dance, music, theatre or visual arts."

Interactive and community-led elements are helping to open up cultural experiences to new audiences, allowing people to take ownership of projects. Earlier this year, for example, local schoolchildren had the chance to design and decorate sculptures for Birmingham Children's Hospital's Big Sleuth trail, the follow-up to 2015's Big Hoot, which this year takes the endangered South East Asian Sun Bear as its inspiration. But the jewel in the Utsav crown looks set to be the return of Birmingham Weekender, which begins with the transformation of Victoria Square into a three-day, participatory dance experience.

"There will be dancing at all times from Friday afternoon until Sunday evening, with professional dancers to help you learn the routines," says Ray. "We'll be starting with warm-up yoga sessions from 9am, and then there will be various different styles throughout the day, from bhangra, hip-hop and contemporary through to ballet, Bollywood and kathakali."

Later, the Colours Of Birmingham - Rangeeli parade will combine dance, music and dhol drumming with flags and patang kites created by community groups, as well as the amazing Harminder, a mechanical Indian elephant constructed from recycled materials. Punjabi singing sensation Hans Raj Hans will then perform a concert at Town Hall for the big Sunday finale.

Meanwhile, as part of its current Connecting Stories exhibition, the Library of Birmingham is taking participation a step further, encouraging people to share images, artefacts and stories, as well as running a series of family fun days with performances, mehndi, face-painting and crafts.

"One of the projects I've been working on is

called Brumpeeps," explains Community Engagement Co-ordinator Harpreet Kaur. "It started with us commissioning a photographer to spend a few days in the library, taking pictures of visitors from all ages and backgrounds to be displayed in the exhibition. There's also an element where people can take their own photographs, upload them to Twitter with #Brumpeeps, and see them instantly projected into the exhibition."

Curated in collaboration with the British Library, Connecting Stories delves into Britain's relationship with South Asia over the last 400 years, beginning with the origins of the East India Company. But within the context of a bigger international picture, it also homes in on specific local stories, from the time that Gandhi visited Selly Oak, to the 1970s Rock Against Racism concerts.

"I think to some extent we're used to seeing things about the history of Britain and India over the last 100 years," says Kaur, "but this is a really good opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to find out how much further back that relationship goes, to really challenge our thinking and become more curious about history. I hear a lot of debates amongst young people today about the perspectives that different histories are coming from, who's telling the stories and what gets left out, so what we're really hoping is that people will come and respond. We know that we haven't told a complete story, so we want people to write messages and tell us what's missing and what they think."

"Later in the year, we're also going to be running free workshops on using archives, conducting oral histories and curating exhibitions. Part of the point of all this is that we want to encourage people to think about leaving things in our archives, because the more material we have from different sorts of people, the better and more representative the stories we're able to tell in future will be."

Birmingham Weekender takes place at various locations across the city from Friday 22 to Sunday 24 September

Connecting Cultures shows at the Library Of Birmingham until Sat 4 November

To find out more about Utsav events across Birmingham visit utsavyearof-southasianculture2017.wordpress.com



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Connecting Stories: Our British Asian Heritage

Library of Birmingham, until Sat 4 November

The important role which South Asian culture has played in forming Britain and Birmingham's history and identity comes under the microscope in this partnership project from the Library of Birmingham and the British Library.

Exploring Britain's enduring connections with South Asia - from historical trading links to the impact of migration and settlement in the 20th and 21st centuries - the display comprises photographs, letters, posters, paintings, documents and ephemera.

Highlights include a letter signed by Mahatma Gandhi pledging support during the Great War, and photographs showing protests and counter-protests in 1960s and '70s Britain.

Dinosaur Art

Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
until Sun 8 October

Cutting-edge science and art merge in an exhibition celebrating the work of four palaeoartists, all of whom either have been or will be published by Titan Books.

Via its championing of the work of John Sibbick, Luis Rey, Robert Nicholls and

Mark Witton, the display explores the evolution of images created during the 1970s and '80s, a period which has become known as 'the dinosaur renaissance'.

Accompanying the paintings are items from the collection of Victorian medic Dr John Fraser, a Wolverhampton-based amateur collector who bequeathed his 9,000 fossils to the art gallery in 1911.

More Real Than Life

The Barber Institute, Birmingham,
until Sun 24 September

Early photographic studio portraiture is explored in this fascinating new exhibition, curated in partnership with the National Portrait Gallery and University of Birmingham MA Art History & Curating students.

The display focuses on mid-19th century photographic developments, including the use of different techniques, backdrops, props, costumes and poses.

The innovations enabled public figures, from Oscar Wilde through to Queen Victoria, to fashion and promote their own identities.



Photo credit: Oscar Wilde by Napoleon Sarony, 1882 © National Portrait Gallery, London



Draw New Mischief

Paccar Room, Royal Shakespeare Theatre,
Stratford-upon-Avon, until Fri 15 September

This free exhibition celebrates more than two centuries of political cartoons inspired by Shakespeare.

Presented to coincide with the RSC's current season of Rome-themed plays, Draw New Mischief showcases historical works from key political moments in time.

Featured contemporary cartoons include Peter Schrank's 2015 depiction of Ed Miliband and Nicola Sturgeon as the star-

crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet, and Morten Morland's April 2016 cartoon of David Cameron as Hamlet, gazing at Boris Johnson's skull.

The RSC has also commissioned five cartoonists to create brand new works.

The cartoonists are using Shakespeare's Rome plays to respond to political events which occur during the period that the exhibition is on show.

The Company's Rome season features productions of Julius Caesar, Antony & Cleopatra, Titus Andronicus and Coriolanus.

GLASS FOR GOOD



Bruce Airhead

Featuring workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions, shows and over 300 professional artists and performers, the International Festival Of Glass celebrates 50 years of studio glass worldwide...

The International Festival of Glass is a real community event. As well as celebrating Stourbridge's heritage of industrial glassmaking, it also acknowledges the development of the studio glass movement 50 years ago and highlights the current challenges and opportunities facing contemporary makers. Over 300 professional artists and performers are taking part in this year's festival. The event includes the prestigious British Glass Biennale exhibition, participatory workshops, lectures,

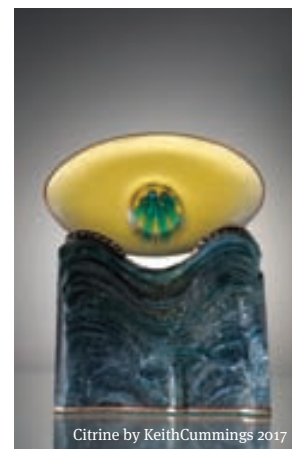
- open studios, storytelling, eurythmy and music.
- International and British glass artists will be demonstrating, exhibiting, presenting and selling, while the drama and dynamism of the hot shops ensures that they are always among the event's most popular attractions.
- Here, we take a look at some of the major elements of the festival, and what visitors can expect to discover in Stourbridge's Glass Quarter over the August bank holiday weekend.



Jacque Pavlosky - 1467 Roundals



Martin Janecky Heads



Citrine by KeithCummings 2017

Theme for 2017

This year's theme of Glass For Good celebrates the ways in which glass is making a positive difference to the world.

The festival illustrates how glass is being used creatively in therapeutic contexts - such as working with military veterans in Seattle - giving a voice to victims of domestic violence or abuse, and supporting the survivors of the Grenfell Tower disaster.

Unique elements of the festival

The UK's last remaining maker of glass-eyes, Jost Haas, demonstrates his skills at the festival, while Latvian Karlis Bogustovs unites glass art with skateboarding, making glass skateboard ramps and demonstrating how to use them. Karlis is best known for his glass piano, which will be in evidence at the festival.

A mass-participation project celebrating the international Fused Glass community will see the creation of a huge stretch of glass bunting, with a photo gallery and a few words by each contributor. It's hoped that the total length of bunting might set a new world record.

Heritage

In the Quarter's brand new museum of glass at White House Cone, local historian Charles Hajdamach and Steve Piper unlock some of the secrets of the production of engraved glass and rock crystal.

Also contributing to the heritage strand of the festival is David Wilkinson, the UK's premier chandelier maker, who'll be taking his audience on a journey into the world of ornamental lighting. Six heritage walks around Amblecote and Wollaston reveal secrets of the hidden past, while Black Country raconteur Graham Fisher launches an update of his bestselling book, *Jewels On The Cut*.

Exhibitions

The flagship British Glass Biennale is the most prestigious selling show of contemporary glass in the UK, with £100,000 in prizes awarded since its inception in 2004.

Work by 63 artists is included, reflecting the latest techniques, trends and topical issues. The Biennale is one of 17 exhibitions in the festival, with over 285 professional artists represented.

Family fun

Families can meet the Dudley glass recycling team at Red House Glass Cone to find out where all the glass goes, and can also explore the history of the Cone in the company of costumed interpreters. There's the chance for visitors to decorate jam jars, try their hand at fusing glass, have a go at engraving, enjoy a storytelling afternoon, make a giant, chalk stained-glass window and learn how to develop pin-hole photographs. A special 'teenage market', award-winning children's entertainment, traditional games and numerous craft activities further add to the family-friendly line-up of fun.

Hands-on attractions

Caroline Jariwala, one of the Creative Black Country's 100 Masters, creates a series of four new mosaics using a historic kaleidoscope of coloured waste glass unearthed locally.

The windows will depict four of the main trades and resources of the Coalbourn Brook Valley - coal mining, fire clay mining, glassmaking and the Stourbridge canal.

The Glass Hub, meanwhile, is bringing its Minimelt furnace from Wiltshire. It will host a rolling programme of demonstrations with guest artists, as well as offering visitors the opportunity to make their own unique glass baubles... There are lots of workshops and drop-in sessions to enjoy too, providing people with the chance to learn about glassblowing, stone carving, fused glass and glass engraving.

World premiere Vitrescence: Becoming Glass

Standing 100ft high, the 18th century Redhouse 'Glass Cone' chimney is the last of its kind in Europe.

In its cathedral-like interior, award-winning singer, composer and sound artist Andy Garbi stages a site-specific audiovisual event that celebrates and explores the nature of glass. Designed to react with the unique acoustics of the structure, Vitrescence is part installation and part performance. It features a state-of-the-art 7:1 surround-sound system, live-action glass work and instruments alongside manipulated choral voice, strings and the sounds of glass blowers. The show lasts for approximately 45 minutes but is not suitable for small children. **Red House Glass Cone, Saturday 26 August.**

Prizes

The British Glass Biennale has 10 awards, including the People's Prize and a young collectors prize. Children can also vote for their favourite piece and win a glass artwork to start their own collection. Entry to the Biennale post-festival is free. The prize winners will be announced at the exhibition's closing party on 9 September.

Therapeutic use of glass

Blind and profoundly deaf artist Julie Coakley has developed a unique way of creating 3D glass sculptural drawings containing over 100 individual elements of glass.

Julie's workshop will allow visitors to have a go at bending glass strings to help her create a new glass sculpture... The inspirational Hot Shop Heroes: Healing With Fire programme in the US has been supporting some of America's wounded soldiers by teaching them to blow glass. Working in a hotshop is known to provide physical benefits for people suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. Project leader Patricia Davidson shares her experience of the programme, and is accompanied by war veteran Michael Daley. Patricia and Michael are in town to help launch a similar programme for UK veterans...

The festival also includes an exhibition by young people with learning difficulties and autism, illustrating the way in which working with glass helps them develop their skills, concentration and sense of self-esteem.

Finale performance

Circus Raj, a 'supergroup' of elite street circus performers hailing from Rajasthan, 'take the ancient, mystical and magical circus format to even greater heights'. The show is performed at the **Ruskin Glass Centre on Monday 28 August at 7pm.**

The International Festival Of Glass takes place at the Glass Quarter in Stourbridge from Friday 25 to Monday 28 August.

For further information, visit www.ifg.org.uk

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Events previews from around the region



Shrewsbury Flower Show - full of fun, flowers and fireworks!

Quarry Park, Shrewsbury, Fri 11 & Sat 12 August

The Shrewsbury Flower Show is one of the country's premier horticultural festivals.

Recently winning the Best Shropshire Event category in the What's On Readers' Awards, the show delivers a diverse programme of entertainment for the whole family to enjoy.

Highlights of the two-day event include guest spots from celebrity chefs and gardeners, arena acts, showjumping, workshops, a children's area, competitions and impressive floral displays.

Both days are brought to a close with a magnificent fireworks display.

Top billing the 2017 edition of the show are The Overtones. The five-piece harmony group are promising to wow their Shropshire audience with an eclectic mix of doo-wop, Motown, modern-day R&B and pop.

Guests appearing at this year's Flower Show include MasterChef judge

John Torode, garden designer and TV personality Joe Swift, celebrity gardener Penny Meadmore and Shropshire-based actor John Challis, best known as Boycie from BBC TV comedy series *Only Fools and Horses* and *The Green Green Grass*.

The London Community Gospel Choir and the Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team, The White Helmets, will also be in attendance at the event.

Commenting on this month's show, Chairman of the Shropshire Horticultural Society's Arena Committee, Andrew Rhodes, said: "We're delighted to be able to offer our visitors something different this year.

The Overtones have enjoyed a succession of major achievements, including performing in front of 250,000 people at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert, and we look forward to welcoming them to our show on Saturday the 12th."




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ABBA TRIBUTE BAND SWEDE DREAMZ



Saturday 19th August 7:30pm

From the opening beats of Waterloo to the final notes of Thank You For The Music, Swede Dreamz will take you on a journey through some of ABBA's greatest and most memorable hits including Dancing Queen, Mamma Mia, Take A Chance On Me, SOS, Fernando, Chiquitita, Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!, Knowing Me, Knowing You, Money Money Money and many, many more.

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Events previews from around the region



Art In The Park Jephson Gardens, Royal Leamington Spa, Sat 5 - Sun 6 August

Leamington's Art In The Park festival is expected to attract in excess of 5,000 visitors when it makes a welcome return this month.

The 2017 edition of the event features exhibitions of paintings, ceramics, textiles and sculpture, with numerous bands presenting a feast of music.

This year's festival theme, The Three Graces, has been selected to celebrate Leamington's historic

elephants, Wilhelmina, Haddie & Trilby, and to add some circus-related fun to proceedings. Commenting on the festival, organiser Carole Sleight said: "With the range of art and activities on offer, we know that visitors will get a huge amount of value from the weekend and leave with many great memories, new skills and inspirational ideas."

Tall Tales: Cinderella Story Tour And Craft

Aston Hall, Birmingham, Fri 4 August

With its comical Ugly Sisters, matchmaking fairy godmother, drop-dead-gorgeous Prince Charming, super-cute mice and fits-one-foot-only glass slipper, Cinderella can justifiably lay claim to being the most popular of all fairytales. And young visitors to Aston Hall can this month enjoy hearing all about Cinders' search for love, courtesy of this special interactive storytelling event. Back by popular demand, Tall Tales offers visitors the chance to meet the girl herself, see her kitchen, help equip her with everything she needs, try on her glass slipper, make a magic wand and join in the dancing at Prince Charming's ball.

The event is suitable for children aged between three and eight, with each storytelling experience lasting approximately 45 minutes.

Spaces are limited, so pre-booking is essential.

Insomnia61

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 25 - Mon 28 August

The UK's biggest gaming festival has settled nicely into its new home at the NEC, having relocated there a couple of years back after outgrowing Coventry's Ricoh Arena.

A four-day event combining 'all the best bits of video-gaming', Insomnia61 features LAN gaming halls, a huge exhibition hall, special guests 'doing cool interactive content', large-scale eSports tournaments and a wide selection of activities tailored to gamers of all ages. Special guests on this occasion include YouTube favourites Syndicate, Yammy XOX and iBallisticSquid.



Magic: Grand Prix

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 11 - Sun 13 August

More than 3,000 gamers will be descending on Birmingham for this major event.

Magic: The Gathering is a trading card game played in at least 70 countries.

"Magic's deep strategy, compelling worlds and rich visuals have drawn in 20 million players worldwide," says show organiser Trevor Baker. "This diverse collection of people comes together to find common ground in their shared love of the game."

The BMW Car Club National Festival

British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire, Sun 13 August

The largest gathering of its kind in Europe, this ever-popular festival features attractions including a large motor sport display area, a rolling road, family entertainment, a Pirelli stand, Concours winners and trade stands.

The British Showjumping National Championships

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, Tues 8 - Sun 13 August

The British Showjumping National Championships this month come to Warwickshire for the fourth time.

The event is one of the summer highlights on the showjumping calendar and features the prestigious International Stairway League Final (Sunday 13 August), at the end of which the British Showjumping National Champion will be crowned.

The six-day event also features the Stoneleigh Horse Show, taking place for a third consecutive year, and offers plenty of competitions, indoor performances, hospitality and shopping opportunities for visitors to enjoy.

And just to make popping along an even more appealing idea, entry to the show is free.

Oswestry Balloon Festival

British Ironworks, Oswestry, North Shropshire,
Sat 26 - Mon 28 August

Oswestry is a town with more than its fair share of ballooning history, so it's no surprise that there's an annual festival to celebrate the fact. Weather permitting, there will be sunrise and late-afternoon flights on both days of the show. There'll also be a spectacular evening 'glow', which will see tethered baskets power their burners to music, to light up the inflated balloons. A balloon race is scheduled for the Sunday of the festival. The event is raising funds for Wrexham's Nightingale House Hospice, which provides a specialist palliative care service for patients with life-limiting illness, including many from Shropshire.



Summer holiday fun at Tamworth Castle

From Norman fort to stately home to 21st century museum, Tamworth Castle stands as a physical record of almost a millennium's-worth of history.

The castle is currently home to unique artefacts from the Staffordshire Hoard and offers some fascinating insights into the Anglo-Saxon era from which they date.

Summer holiday visitors to the venue can learn about Saxon battle tactics and try their hand at archaeology (15 - 17 August), as well as sampling life in medieval times (22 - 24 August).

For those fancying something a bit more 'magical' in nature, a special trail provides an opportunity to say hello to gallant knights, help make a giant's armour, discover a wishing tree and maybe even spot a mischievous pixie or two (until 11 August).



I Want I Want! Stories Of 1975

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery,
Sun 20 August

Get out your platform shoes, pull on your flares and get ready to party like it's 1975 at this one-day-only event. Featuring items from the gallery and the Arts Council Collection, this 'warm and welcoming reminiscence session' takes a look back to the flamboyant days of yesteryear, recalling the 1970s through a celebration of the decade's music, art and fashion. A free drop-in session suitable for all ages, Stories Of 1975 is also a dementia-friendly event.

Festival Of Quilts

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 10 - Sun 13 August

Bringing together a unique blend of exhibitors, galleries, practical workshops and in-depth lectures, the Festival Of Quilts is Europe's largest celebration of patchwork and quilting. Commenting on the show, Jonathan Burton, Portfolio Director, said: "The festival offers a truly inspirational showcase of quilt-making, with the finest skills on display. It's a place for beginners through to professionals to share ideas, learn new skills and meet with others who're equally passionate about the world of patchwork and quilting."



Creative Car Factory at Coventry Transport Museum

until Wed 30 August

If you're looking for ways to keep the kids occupied this summer holiday, check out these special workshops at Coventry Transport Museum. There's one taking place each week for six weeks - so that's half a dozen days when you know your youngsters will be kept busy and entertained!

The workshops provide children with the chance to design, create and try out their own fantasy car. They can then add their favourite features to the museum's full-size car design.

Participants can attend all six workshops - each focusing on a different stage of car manufacture - or join in for just a single session, during which they can make a car part to take home.

The workshops are suitable for children aged three-plus, but all ages are welcome to attend.



Summer late openings

**Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,
Every Friday during August**

Families visiting BCLM on any Friday in August will have even longer to immerse themselves in 300 years of Black Country history, with the venue staying open until 8pm. Meet costumed characters, join in with street games and explore the museum's selection of shops and houses. If you've never visited BCLM before, this is a great opportunity to become one of the approximately 300,000 people who're welcomed through its gates every year.

The venue has been open for 34 years now and is the UK's third most visited open-air museum.

Other attractions on the 26-acre site include an underground mine, a fairground, a school and a pub, all offering visitors the chance to step back in time to a bygone era.



Land Of Legends

**Avoncroft, Bromsgrove,
Mon 14 - Fri 18 August**

This is just one of numerous events organised by Avoncroft for its summertime visitors. Providing 'a week of folklore and local legends', the presentation invites participants to explore the grounds in search of 'the mythical beasts that dwell within'.

Other Avoncroft attractions this month include a traditional games challenge, summer building activities, a bake-off themed week and an archaeological dig.

Urban Safari

**The Roundhouse, St Vincents
Street, Birmingham,
Mon 7 - Wed 9 August &
Fri 25 - Mon 28 August**

Birmingham's historic Roundhouse building offers an ideal base from which to explore the city's canal network - and there's no better way of doing so than by booking yourself a place on the Urban Safari. Participants get to travel on a heritage narrowboat into the heart of the canal system, enjoying a towpath tour of the local wildlife while learning about numerous myths and legends associated with Birmingham.

Blists Hill In Steam

Blists Hill, Ironbridge Gorge, Sat 19 - Sun 20 August

Now here's an event to be all steamed up about! Visitors across the two days can take advantage of a rare opportunity to get up close and personal with an array of Victorian steam-powered machines, all of which will be in their full working splendour. Highlights include the venue's replica of Trevithick's 1802 Coalbrookdale locomotive and a 1903 Wallis & Steevens road roller named Billy. There's also the Merry Weather fire pump and the Fielding oil engine to admire, with other attractions including portable and ploughing engines, the Blists Hill Ironworks steam hammer and a number of guest engines.



The Western Motorhome Show

**Three Counties Showground, Worcestershire,
Fri 18 - Sun 20 August**

Featuring four nights of camping and country & western music, The Western Motorhome Show is this month hosting more than 3,000 motorhomes, caravans, campervans and tents, including 450 new and used outdoor leisure vehicles. Other attractions include the Lonestar Re-Enactment Group - providing living history displays - hundreds of accessory stalls and numerous western entertainers, among them The Dolly & Kenny Show, Boxcar Kelly & The Railroaders and Steve Cherelle as John Denver.



The Classic Motorcycle Festival

**Donington Park Racing Circuit,
Derby, Fri 4 - Sun 6 August**

This Donington favourite once again features appearances by 1998 500cc British Grand Prix champion Simon Crafar, guest starring at the event for the fifth year running.

Festival regular Steve Parrish makes a welcome return too, at an event that features parades, massive display areas and up to 50 races across its three days.



Thinktank, Birmingham



Blists Hill, Ironbridge



Drayton Manor Theme Park

The Midlands is home to an abundance of enjoyable and exciting places to visit, catering for people of all ages and from all walks of life. Whatever you're looking for to keep the kids entertained this summer, you're sure to find somewhere and something that fits the bill.

Our What's On directory features just a small handful of some of the best places to visit across the region this summer. Check out whatsonlive.co.uk for more details...

Birmingham

ASTON HALL This 17th century red-brick mansion hosts many family activities throughout the season, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

BBC BIRMINGHAM Go behind the scenes of some of your favourite TV shows with informative and entertaining tours, The Mailbox, Birmingham, B1 1RF

BECKETT'S FARM Hosts a number of family events throughout the year, including cookery classes for young and old, with a farm shop and restaurant on site, Wythall, Birmingham B47 6AJ

BIRMINGHAM BACK TO BACKS Restored 19th-century courtyard of working people's houses, Hurst Street, Birmingham, B5 4TE

BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS Spanning 15 acres, with four glasshouses hosting a variety of climates, from tropical rainforest to arid desert, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3TR

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Explore over 40 galleries displaying various eras of art, with a diverse exhibition programme on offer, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

BLAKESLEY HALL Discover a fine Tudor house and beautiful gardens just a few miles from the heart of the city, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

CADBURY WORLD Discover the origins of everyone's favourite sweet treat, from the cocoa beans in the Aztec jungle to the making of Cadbury confectionery today, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2LU

CANNON HILL PARK Opened in 1873, the park is made up of 80 acres of formal parkland and 120 acres of conservation and woodland plantation, Moseley, Birmingham, B12 9QH

EASTSIDE PARK Birmingham's first central city park in over 130 years, situated only a stone's throw from the Bullring Shopping Centre and New Street Station, Birmingham City Centre, B4 7AP

LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM A major cultural destination, providing a dynamic mix of events, activities and performances, resources and access to expert help for learning, information and culture, Centenary Square, Birmingham, B1 2EA

LICKEY HILLS COUNTRY PARK Covering 524 acres, the park is a place for family fun, whether that be walking the dog, cycling, horse riding, or maybe just for the views and a cup of tea, Rednal, Birmingham, B45 8ER

MAC A huge range of theatre, music, comedy, plays for children, dance, creative and craft courses, family shows, film and free exhibitions on offer, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH

MUSEUM OF THE JEWELLERY QUARTER The museum tells the story of Birmingham's renowned jewellery and metalworking heritage, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA

NATIONAL SEA LIFE CENTRE Featuring over 1,000 creatures and 60-plus displays, including a million-litre underwater tropical tank, Nemo's Kingdom, turtle breeding and much more, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HL

RESORTS WORLD Boasting the largest casino in the UK, a shopping mall, restaurants and cinemas, Birmingham, B40 1NT

SAREHOLE MILL A 250-year-old working watermill famous for its association with Lord Of The Rings author JRR Tolkien, Hall Green, Birmingham, B13 0BD

THINKTANK SCIENCE MUSEUM Over 200 interactive exhibits on science and discovery, including a programme of workshops, shows and demonstrations, and a digital Planetarium, Millennium Point, Birmingham, B4 7XG

Shropshire

ATTINGHAM PARK An elegant 18th century mansion house with Regency interiors. Set within an expansive deer park, there are riverside walks, a woodland sculpture trail and family events to enjoy. Shrewsbury, SY4 4TP

CARDING MILL VALLEY Covering almost 5,000 acres, with stunning views of the Shropshire and Welsh hills. An important place for wildlife, geology and archaeology. Church Stretton, SY6 6JG

CHOLMONDELEY CASTLE A Gothic castle - a product of the early 19th century - that stands on a high rise above a lake. The castle is surrounded by lawns, a variety of mature trees and gardens. Whitchurch, SY14 8AH

IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUMS The Shropshire site of the birth of the Industrial Revolution has been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, with 10 award-winning museums. Ironbridge, TF8 7DQ

RAF COSFORD The museum houses one of the largest aviation collections in the UK. Over 70 his-

toric aircraft are displayed in three wartime hangars on an active airfield. Shifnal, TF11 8UP

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK An oasis of calm and beauty on the banks of the River Severn, this award-winning, 51-hectare country park is a place for quiet enjoyment of the countryside. Bridgnorth, WV15 6NG

SHREWSBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Housed within the town's grade II Victorian Music Hall and one of the country's rare 13th century mansions, featuring a broad range of artefacts alongside a rolling programme of contemporary art. Shrewsbury, SY1 1LH

TELFORD STEAM RAILWAY A heritage railway located at Horsehay and formed in 1976. The railway is operated by volunteers on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Telford, TF4 2NF

THE BRITISH IRONWORK CENTRE Boasting a varied collection of beautifully decorative metal items, some of which are faithful reproductions of ironwork no longer seen today. There's also a collection of animal sculptures to admire. Oswestry, SY11 4JH

THE QUARRY PARK Shrewsbury's 29-acre parkland hosts numerous events throughout the year, including the Shrewsbury Flower Show 12-13 August, SY1 1RN

Staffordshire

AERIAL EXTREME Ever fancied swinging about, high up in the trees? Now's your chance with Aerial Extreme's tree-mendous course at the Trentham Estate. All ages are guaranteed a bucketload of fun. How much can you handle? Trentham, ST12 9HR

ALTON TOWERS Enjoy a mind-blowing mix of fantastic rides and attractions, offering unlimited fun for kids of all ages, families and thrill-seekers. Alton, ST10 4DB

BIDDULPH GRANGE COUNTRY PARK Originally part of a larger Biddulph Grange Estate, this is a 73-acre wooded hillside site with a large lake, ponds and meadows, Stoke-on-Trent, ST8 7TZ

CENTRAL FOREST PARK Located in the heart of Stoke, Central Forest Park is a green space providing facilities for walking, cycling, dog walking, informal sports and skateboarding. Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 6BB

CHURNET VALLEY RAILWAY Take a journey back to



Coventry Transport Museum



Black Country Living Museum, Dudley



Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

the classic days of railway travel on a rural line that passes through beautiful countryside known as Staffordshire's 'Little Switzerland'. Froghall, ST10 2HA

DRAYTON MANOR THEME PARK A definite stop-off venue for thrill-seekers, featuring, as it does, all manner of white-knuckle rides. Also offers a range of rides that are somewhat less challenging. And with a zoo on site, it's a venue that's got plenty for kids and adults of all ages to enjoy. Tamworth, B78 3TW

HANLEY PARK Hanley Park and the adjacent Cauldon Grounds are open to the public. Features include three play areas: toddler, sensory and adventure (including aerial slide). Shelton, ST1 4DX

PEAK WILDLIFE PARK Large walk-throughs allow you to come face to face with exotic and endangered animals from across three continents. Leek, ST13 7QR

THE POTTERIES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Exhibits include the world's greatest collection of Staffordshire ceramics, a World War Two Spitfire, decorative arts and natural history, along with items from the Staffordshire Hoard. Hanley, ST1 3DW

THE WEDGWOOD MUSEUM The home of one of the most interesting ceramic collections in the world. The galleries tell the story of Josiah Wedgwood, his family, and the company he founded over two centuries ago. Stoke-on-Trent, ST12 9ER

Warwickshire

BADDESLEY CLINTON A secluded estate set in the heart of the Forest of Arden. With guided talks, walks through the gardens and activities for children such as pond dipping and garden trails. Warwick, B93 ODQ

BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM The museum features the world's greatest collection of classic, vintage and veteran British cars. Gaydon, CV35 0BJ

CHARLECOTE PARK This grand 16th century country house comes complete with deer park and is a property of the National Trust. Warwick, CV35 9ER

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK Set in 160 acres of parkland and gardens, Cotswold Wildlife Park now has one of the UK's largest zoological collections. Burford, OX18 4JP

COVENTRY MUSIC MUSEUM Activities to interest and delight youngsters, and a studio in which visitors can try their hand at composing and music-making. CV2 4ED

COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM The museum houses the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles in the world. Now fully open after a £9.5million redevelopment programme. CV1 1JD

HATTON ADVENTURE WORLD An attraction for families with children up to the age of 12. Hatton, CV35 8XA

HERBERT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM A family-friendly museum, with activities that run throughout the school holidays. Coventry, CV1 5QP

KENILWORTH CASTLE A vast complex of ruined fortifications and palatial apartments spanning over five centuries. CV8 1NE

RAGLEY HALL Family entertainment, with an adventure playground, 3D maze, boating and a woodland walk. Alcester, B49 5NJ

SHAKESPEARE BIRTHPLACE TRUST Six unique properties - Shakespeare's Birthplace, Harvard House, Hall's Croft, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Mary Arden's Farm & Shakespeare's New Place.

STONELEIGH ABBEY Visitors to the Abbey can learn about the house's history through a guided tour of the West Wing. CV8 2LF

STRATFORD BUTTERFLY FARM A unique opportunity to watch hundreds of the world's most spectacular butterflies flying around. Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7LS

WARWICK CASTLE Experience over 1,000 years of history at Warwick Castle. Aside from visiting the castle itself and looking at the battlements, towers, turrets and interiors, there are also jousting shows, the Horrible History show and Time Tower to keep you entertained. CV34 4QU

Wolverhampton & Black Country

BANTOCK HOUSE MUSEUM Restored to its Edwardian glory, Bantock House sits within 43 acres of parkland, with activities for all ages. Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ

BILSTON CRAFT GALLERY A lively programme of changing exhibitions featuring the best of contemporary ceramics, glass, jewellery, textiles, metal, woodwork and more. Wolverhampton, WV14 7LU

BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM A tribute to the traditional skills and enterprise of the people that once lived in the heart of industrial Britain, Dudley, DY1 4SQ

DUDLEY CANAL TUNNEL TRUST Guided boat trips through the tunnels, accompanied by videos, life-like reconstructions and stunning music and light shows. Dudley, DY1 4SB

DUDLEY CASTLE AND ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS Home to more than 1,300 animals, with up to 200 species. At the heart of the site sits the ruins of an 11th century castle, Dudley, DY1 4QF

HIMLEY HALL & PARK An 18th century building set in 180 acres of Capability Brown-landscaped parkland, Dudley, DY3 4DF

RED HOUSE GLASS CONE A heritage site with 225 years of glass, industrial and social history within its walls, Stourbridge, DY8 4AZ

SANDWELL PARK FARM A fully restored working Victorian farm with grazing meadows, a traditional farmyard, walled kitchen gardens, Grade II listed buildings, a small museum and award-winning tea rooms, West Bromwich, B71 4BG

WIGHTWICK MANOR & GARDENS A manor house filled

with an important collection of Pre-Raphaelite and Arts & Crafts pictures and furnishings, Wolverhampton, WV6 8EE

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY Explore more than 300 years of art, including regular world class touring exhibitions, Wolverhampton, WV1 1DU

Worcestershire

AVONCROFT MUSEUM A fascinating museum of historic buildings spanning seven centuries, rescued from imminent destruction and carefully rebuilt, timber by timber or brick by brick, on a beautiful open-air site in the north of Worcestershire, Bromsgrove, B60 4JR

BERRINGTON HALL Created by architect Henry Holland, the hall is one of a small number of his buildings to survive intact. As well as being able to explore the family rooms and servant quarters, guests can take part in activities or relax by the lake, Nr Leominster, HR6 0DW

BROCKHAMPTON ESTATE Set in 1,700 acres of estate, the romantic Manor House dates back to the late 14th century and is accessible via a small gatehouse and over a moat, Nr Bromyard, WR6 5TB

CROFT CASTLE Located deep in the heart of the Herefordshire countryside, surrounded by 1,500 acres of historic woodland, farm and parkland. Home to the Croft family for nearly 1,000 years, this castle has many intriguing stories to uncover. Yarpole, Nr Leominster, HR6 9PW

CROOME PARK Explore what remains of a secret wartime air base and discover how thousands of people lived and worked there during the 1940s. Worcester, WR8 9DW

EASTNOR CASTLE DEER PARK Set within the dramatic beauty of the Malvern Hills and surrounded by a beautiful deer park, arboretum and lake. Ledbury HR8 1RL

HAMPTON COURT CASTLE Originally formed by the merging of two manors, Hampton Court was remodelled in the 1830s/40s. The castle and grounds offer a great location for adventure and events, Leominster, HR6 0PN

HARTLEBURY CASTLE A Grade I listed building which was built in the mid-13th century as a fortified manor house. Kidderminster, DY11 7XZ

SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY A full-size standard-gauge railway line which runs regular steam-hauled passenger trains, for tourists and enthusiasts alike, between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth, a distance of 16 miles, Bewdley, DY12 1BG

THE MALVERN HILLS A wide variety of walks, from short and gently graded slopes to more strenuous options, WR14 3EY

WITLEY COURT One hundred years ago, Witley Court was one of England's great country houses, hosting many extravagant parties. Today, it's a spectacular ruin, the result of a disastrous fire in 1937. Great Witley, WR6 6JT



INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL
OF
GLASS

INTRIGUE INNOVATE INSPIRE

FRIDAY 25 - MONDAY 28 AUGUST
STOURBRIDGE GLASS QUARTER

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Join some of the most talented glass artists from all over the world for four days of eclectic and inspiring glass techniques, including the last UK glass eye maker.

The Quarter will be abuzz with family activities, lively street entertainment, storytelling and lots of chances to have a go!

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*Your week by week
listings guide*
August 2017

the list



Coventry Transport Museum

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

What's On

Tues 1 to Sun 6 August



Miss Saigon continues to show at the Hippodrome until **Sat 23 September**

Mon 7 to Sun 13 August



Peter Knight's Gigspanner at The Roses Theatre
Sun 13 August

Mon 14 to Sun 20 August



Billionaire Boy shows at Ragley Hall, Alcester
Thurs 17 August

Mon 21 to Thurs 31 August



Lulu plays Solihull Summer Festival
Sat 26 - Sun 27 August

THROUGHOUT AUGUST

Artrix, Bromsgrove

RICHARD MCILWRAITH: DEPARTING

Richard's message: Pause, look, forget yourself, engage, reflect, make more of yourself, until Sun 13 Aug

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

THRESHOLDS By artist Mat Collishaw and photographic historian Pete James. This virtual-reality art show celebrates the city's contribution to the technology that revolutionised 'the way we see, record, represent and understand the visible and invisible world', until Sun 6 Aug, Waterhall Gallery

NEW INSPIRE 2017 Exhibition of art by children and young people, until Sat 30 Sept

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

FAITH IN BIRMINGHAM, Exploring how different faiths have influenced and shaped the city, until Sun 3 Feb 2019

Compton Verney Gallery, Warwick

PORTRAIT MINIATURES Over 40 miniature paintings from the Dumas Egerton Trust Collection, until Sun 17 Dec

SEURAT TO RILEY: THE ART OF PERCEPTION Exhibition taking you on a fascinating and stimulating journey that looks at the ways in which our visual perceptions have been explored by artists, until Sun 1 Oct

Forge Mill Needle Museum,

PIRATES! FACT OF FICTION A journey through the Golden Age of pirates! until Sun 3 Sept

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

FEARSOME CRAFTSMEN: DISCOVER THE ARTISTRY OF THE VIKING WORLD Learn more about the people who settled in Britain, and explore the Norse myths and legends passed down through generations in a unique family-friendly Viking settlement. A touring exhibition from Jorvik Viking Centre, until Sun 24 Sept

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

DRAWN FROM LIFE Exhibition featuring works from the Arts Council Collection by LS Lowry, Peter Blake, Elisabeth Frink, Barbara Hepworth, Lucian Freud, David Hockney and many

other significant artists, until Sun 17 Sept

Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

UNITS OF POSSIBILITY: THE REKNIT REVOLUTION, AMY TWIGGER HOLROYD In her first major solo exhibition, Twigger Holroyd aims to share and promote techniques for reknitting, until Sat 2 Sept

MUSIC IN RUGBY A celebration of all things musical in Rugby Borough, exploring past musicians, choirs and orchestras in the town through photographs, programmes and instruments from the museum's Social History Collections, until Sat 4 Nov

The Hive, Worcester

A SLICE OF WORCESTERSHIRE OPEN

STUDIOS Exhibition featuring works by local artists in a variety of styles and media, including painting, printmaking, photography, textiles, jewellery, ceramics and mixed media, until Sun 20 Aug

Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

ENQUIRING MINDS Featuring drawings by naturalist John Gould, land and cityscape watercolours by HH Lines and local artefacts discovered by famous archaeologist Pitt Rivers, until Sat 11 Nov

Other VISUAL ARTS

PRINCE HENRY'S HIGH SCHOOL - SUMMER EXHIBITION A selection of work by Year 10 students which forms part of their GCSE coursework, until Sat 5 Aug, Evesham Arts Centre

SUMMER EXHIBITION The finalists for the annual In:Sight competition will be revealed until Sun 27 Aug, Castle Galleries, Birmingham ICC

EXPLORING NATURE - WILDLIFE GALLERY Thinktank's newly expanded wildlife gallery now has even more amazing animals to discover, until Thurs 31 Aug, Thinktank at Millennium Point

OUR PLACE HERE - MATERIALS, MAKINGS AND MEMORIES Exhibition of work created as part of Culture Coventry's citywide community arts project, until Tues 5 Sept, Coventry Transport Museum

NEW RONNIE WOOD EXHIBITION Showcasing the musical artworks of rock legend Ronnie Wood, Mon 31 July - Thurs 31 Aug, Castle Galleries, Birmingham Mailbox

NEW DUNCAN MACGREGOR EXHIBITION Sat 12 - Sun 13 Aug, Whitewall Gallery, Birmingham



Regina Spektor - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Gigs

IAIN MATTHEWS Wed 2 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

SELF MACHINE Wed 2 Aug, The Iron Road, Evesham, Worcestershire

ASOMVEL Wed 2 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

KNOXVILLE HIGHWAY Wed 2 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

CELINE DION Thurs 3 Aug, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

BELLEVUE DAYS Thurs 3 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

HAMISH STUART Thurs 3 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

MORETALLICA Thurs 3 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE AMERICAS Fri 4 Aug, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

GAGE Fri 4 Aug, The Iron Road, Evesham

CALIBRE & DRS Fri 4 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE NAKED BEATLES Fri 4 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

OLLIE HUGHES AS ROBBIE WILLIAMS Fri 4 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

KING KRAB Fri 4 Aug, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

THE BEAT BROTHERS Fri 4 - Sat 5 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

WHITE TYGER Fri 4 Aug, Route 44, Acocks Green, Birmingham

THE OTHER COVERS TRIO Fri 4 Aug, Drummonds Bar, Worcester

THE SHAPES Fri 4 Aug, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

REGINA SPEKTOR Sat 5 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

YES LAD Sat 5 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE SMITHS UTD Sat 5 Aug, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

PROJECT SOUNDLOUNGE Sat 5 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

CANDID, GIANT PARTY & MONDAY CLUB Sat 5 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE SIX ON FIRE Sat 5 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

CHEVY CHASE STOLE MY WIFE Sat 5 Aug, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

THE DECADES BAND Sat 5 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

SUNSHINE FRISBEE LASERBEAM Sat 5 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MAETLOAF & THE NEVER NEVERLAND EXPRESS Sat 5 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

SUNSHINE BLOOM, MALONE, CATCHING KILLERS & SOLITAIRE Sat 5 Aug, The Flapper, B'ham

THE CLAUSE Sat 5 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

DON CARLOS Sat 5 Aug, O2 Academy, B'ham

IMAGINAERUM Sun 6 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

SOUL CITY Sun 6 Aug, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

AVERSIONS CROWN, VENOM PRISON, ABANDONMENT & SAMSARA Sun 6 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham



Don Carlos - O2 Academy, Birmingham

Classical Music

NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN Featuring Thomas Adés (conductor). Programme includes works by Francisco Coll, Thomas Adés & Stravinsky, Fri 4 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

NATIONAL SCOUT & GUIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Copland & Walton, Fri 4 Aug, mac, B'ham

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRAS OF GREAT BRITAIN Featuring Natalia Luis-Bassa (conductor). Programme includes works by Holst, Bizet, Sibelius, Prokofiev & Marquez, Sun 6 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy

ROBIN MORGAN, ANDY WHITE & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 3 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROBIN MORGAN, ANDY WHITE, TREVOR CROOK & LUKE TOULSON Fri 4 - Sat 5 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ALEX BOARDMAN, JAMES DOWDESWELL & JAMES GILL Fri 4 - Sat 5 Aug, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

LUKE BENSON, JIM SMALLMAN, GEOFF INNOCENT & QUNICY Sat 5 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

JOHN SIMMIT, SLIM, TAMEKA CAMPBELL & VICTOR DANIEL Sat 5 Aug, mac, Birmingham

STEVE HEWLETT Sat 5 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

Theatre

VENUS AND ADONIS Artistic Director Gregory Doran revives his unique version of Shakespeare's kaleidoscopic poem, using narration, music and puppetry, until Fri 4 Aug, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

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, Salomé, 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 A 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 comedy romp, until Sat 9 Sept, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

MISS SAIGON Cameron Mackintosh's acclaimed new production of Boubli & Schönberg's legendary musical, until Sat 23 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE DREAMING Musical version of A Midsummer Night's Dream, Mon 31 July - Sat 5 Aug, Lichfield Garrick

WONDERLAND Wendy Peters, Dave Willets & Kerry Ellis star in Frank Wildhorn's musical adaptation of Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures In Wonderland & Through The Looking Glass, Mon 31 July - Sat 5 Aug, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SIDE SHOW Musical about acceptance, love and embracing one's uniqueness, based on the true story of two conjoined twins, Tues 1 - Fri 4 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND WODYS present an amateur staging of Andrew Lloyd Webber's captivating musical, Tues 1 - Sat 5 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE OWL & THE PUSSYCAT Magical retelling of Edward Lear's classic nonsense poem, Wed 2 Aug, The Roses, Tewkesbury

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's unconventional love story, Thurs 3 Aug, Warley Woods, Smethwick

THE WILL Foppish Theatre present Marivaux's classic comedy, which exposes the price of true love, Fri 4 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

WEST END ON TOUR! Musical classics from London's West End, with songs by Sondheim, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Cole Porter & Andrew Lloyd Webber, Fri 4 Aug, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

THE JUNGLE BOOK Katch 22 Theatre Productions present a staging of Rudyard Kipling's much-loved tale, Fri 4 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

TINA TURNER'S STEAMY BINGO Laugh, dance and play to win as Tina spins her cage of balls to a high-energy '80s soundtrack, Fri 4 Aug, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE SECRET GARDEN Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of the classic children's tale, Fri 4 Aug, Ryton Pools, Bubbenhall, Coventry

THE SECRET GARDEN Frances Hodgson Burnett's timeless tale for all the family, Sat 5 - Sat 12 Aug, The Blue

Orange Theatre, Birmingham

AS YOU LIKE IT Madcap Theatre present a fast-paced staging of Shakespeare's comedy, Sat 5 Aug, The Roses, Tewkesbury

CIRCUS RAJ Featuring dancers, illusionists, aerialists and rope walkers, Sun 6 Aug, mac, Birmingham

Dance

LET'S NACHO Showcase of work from Bollywood Dreams Academy students, Sat 5 - Sun 6 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

URJA! Aaja Nachie's Let's Dance present an evening of dance and music featuring a range of genres fused with Bollywood style, Sun 6 Aug, mac, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

A MAN CALLED OVE (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Rolf Lassgård, Bahar Pars. Foreign language, subtitled. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, until Tues 1 Aug; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Wed 2 Aug

BABY DRIVER (15) Action/Crime. Starring Ansel Elgort, Kevin Spacey. Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, until Wed 2 Aug

THE BEGUILED (15) Drama. Starring Nicole Kidman, Colin Farrell. mac, Birmingham, until Tues 8 Aug; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 Aug

SHOCK & GORE 2017 SHORT FILM SHOWCASE (18) Horror. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Tues 1 Aug

MARTYRS (18) Horror. Starring Morjana Alaoui, Mylène Jampanoï. Foreign language, subtitled. Introduction from Alex Davis, author of Laugier's Martyrs: A Personal Analysis. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Tues 1 Aug

RISK (15) Documentary. Starring Julian Assange, Sarah Harrison. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 1 - Wed 2 Aug

THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Jessica Chastain, Johan Heldenbergh. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 1 - Wed 2 Aug

QUATERMASS & THE PIT (12a) Horror/Mystery. Starring James Donald, Andrew Keir. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 2 Aug

FIREMAN SAM: ALIEN ALERT (U) Animation. With the voices of David Carling, Su Douglas. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed

2 - Thurs 3 Aug

TAXI DRIVER (18) Crime/Drama. Starring Robert De Niro, Jodie Foster. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 3 Aug

JACOB EPSTEIN: REBEL ANGEL (15) Documentary. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 3 Aug

FROM DUSK TILL DAWN (18) Crime/Horror. Starring Harvey Keitel, George Clooney. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 3 Aug

GENOCIDAL ORGAN (15) Animation/Sci-Fi. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 3 Aug

ENGLAND IS MINE (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Jack Lowden, Laurie Kynaston. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 4 Aug

LA LA LAND (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone. mac, Birmingham, Fri 4 Aug

MAKE IT REEL World Premiere of short films made by this year's participants of Make it Reel, a Summer Film School. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 4 Aug

SCRIBE (15) Action/Thriller. Starring François Cluzet, Denis Podalydès. Foreign language, subtitled. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 4 Aug

IT COMES AT NIGHT (15) Horror/Mystery. Starring Joel Edgerton, Riley Keough. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 4 - Sun 6 Aug

ROCK DOG (PG) Animation/Music. With the voices of Luke Wilson, Eddie Izzard. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 4 - Tues 8 Aug

MY LIFE AS A COURGETTE (PG) Animation/Comedy. With the voices of Gaspard Schlatter, Sixtine Murat. mac, Birmingham, Fri 4 - Tues 8 Aug; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 5 - Thurs 10 Aug

DUNKIRK (12a) Drama/History. Starring Tom Hardy, Cillian Murphy. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 4 - Thurs 10 Aug

MOULIN ROUGE! (U) Musical/Romance. Starring Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 5 Aug

DUMBO (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Sterling Holloway, Edward Brophy. Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 5 - Sun 6 Aug

ALADDIN (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Scott Weinger, Robin Williams. Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 5 - Sun 6 Aug

JUMANJI (PG) Action/Adventure. Starring Robin Williams, Kirsten Dunst. Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 5 - Sun 6 Aug

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL (U) Animation/Comedy. Starring Alicia Silverstone, Tom Everett Scott. mac, Birmingham, Sat 5 - Wed 16 Aug

THE DEATH OF LOUIS XIV (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Jean-Pierre



Alice

IN WONDERLAND

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Léaud, Patrick d'Assunção. Foreign language, subtitled. mac, Birmingham, Sat 5 - Wed 16 Aug

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (12a) Adventure/Fantasy. Starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 6 Aug

THE RED TURTLE (PG) Animation/Fantasy. With the voices of Emmanuel Garijo, Tom Hudson. Rose Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 6 Aug

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (SINGALONG) (PG) Adventure/Fantasy. Starring Emma Watson, Dan Stevens. Rose Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 6 - Tues 8 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Wed 2 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

VALERIAN AND THE CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANETS (12a)

6 DAYS (15)

THE EMOJIMOVIE (U)

ENGLAND IS MINE (15)

LAND OF MINE (15)

MAUDIE (15)

Events

AWESOME ARCHAEOLOGY Meet intrepid adventurers and see artefacts gathered from their digs around the world, until Fri 4 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

YOUNG ACTORS STUDIO THEATRE SUMMER SCHOOL The course explores the creative and performance potential of all children in a safe, fun theatre environment through drama, dance and music, until Fri 4 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

OCTONAUTS OCTO-GLOW EXPLORERS A brand new deep-sea adventure where you can see the ocean in a whole new light, until Sun 13 Aug, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

DINOSAURS IN THE WILD Dramatic storytelling and high-end digital graphics and animatronics lie at the heart of this brand new show, until Wed 23 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

COMPUTER GAME DESIGN Meet new and emerging designers, learn more about gaming and have a go at building and playing games! Until Wed 30 Aug, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

MAD SCIENCE SUMMER CAMP Until Fri 1 Sept, Warwick University

WARS OF THE ROSES LIVE Epic new live-action show, complete with perilous stunt riders, fearless jousting and state-of-the-art special effects,

until Sun 3 Sept, Warwick Castle

FIRE, FURNACE & STEAM Celebrate the power and innovation behind the Industrial Revolution with a variety of events, workshops and trails across the museums, until Sun 3 Sept, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES Explore the new exhibition, become a treasure hunter and seek out some of the hidden treasures, until Sun 3 Sept, British Motor Museum, Warwick

CARS AND COFFEE BREAKFAST CLUB Wide and varied display of beautiful cars from years gone by, until Sat 7 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum

CARTISTS: REIMAGINING THE CAR Fourteen artists, one challenge - transform a car into a work of art! Until Sun 29 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum

LUNARIES CRAFT GROUP A social group of creatives who meet to chat and work on their own craft projects, until Thurs 2 Nov, Soho House, Handsworth, Birmingham

SUMMER HOLIDAYS WEEKEND PROGRAMME Family activities take place on Saturdays and Sundays during the school holidays, Tues 25 July - Fri 1 Sept, Thinktank, Birmingham

LET'S MAKE ROBOTS WORKSHOP Assemble your own individual Drawbot, a robot with pens for legs that will draw for you, Fri 28 July - Fri 1 Sept, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

NO LIMITS 1000KM Gruelling 1,000km race around the iconic circuit, Sat 29 July, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

TRADITIONAL GAMES CHALLENGE Mon 31 July - Fri 4 Aug, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

ENCHANTED CASTLE Follow the trail and see what magical adventures you get to enjoy, Mon 31 July - Fri 11 Aug, Tamworth Castle, Staffs

TECHLAB Create your own art hacks in the lab space, Mon 31 July - Mon 28 Aug, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

VINTAGE TEA AND TOUR Factory tour led by one of the award-winning guides, Wed 2 Aug, Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham

LET'S ANIMATE SUMMER ANIMATION CLUB Wed 2 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

LET'S ANIMATE PLASTICINE CHARACTER WORKSHOP Thurs 3 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

CINDERELLA TOUR AND CRAFT Meet Cinders, see her kitchen, help equip her with everything she needs, then join in the dancing at Prince Charming's ball, Fri 4 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

GET STUCK IN! 'Crafty fun' inspired by the Japanese-style objects in the museum's collection, Fri 4 Aug, Museum of Royal Worcester

RUM & REGGAE Fri 4 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

ULTIMATE STREET CAR The largest, loudest, hottest and fastest modified-car festival in Europe, Fri 4 - Sun 6 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE FESTIVAL Guest stars are Steve Parrish and Simon Crafar. Featuring up to 50 races, parades and display areas, Fri 4 - Sun 6 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

JINNEY RING BLUES AND BEER FESTIVAL Fri 4 - Sun 6 Aug, Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Bromsgrove

CALLIGRAPHY CRAFT WORKSHOP Go back in time and write with a feather quill, learn calligraphy techniques with steel pen nibs, and make your own crafty card, Sat 5 Aug, The Pen Museum, Birmingham

JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK Learn about the history of the area, its buildings and businesses, Sat 5 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

DESIGNING COMPUTER GAMES Learn-Play Foundation and Digital Native team up in the gallery to provide a live gaming session for anyone aged six-plus, Sat 5 Aug, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

MORNING EXPLORERS An early-morning museum experience catering for families with children on the autistic spectrum, Sat 5 Aug, Soho House, Birmingham

MK1 CORTINA OWNERS CLUB Sat 5 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

KINGMAKER BANQUET Dine with the infamous Earl of Warwick, Sat 5 Aug, Warwick Castle

A TASTE OF SKYE UNDER THE MOON Talisker Whisky present a unique lunar-inspired tasting experience, Sat 5 Aug, Thinktank, Birmingham

JAGUAR BREAKFAST CLUB Monthly meet open to all Jaguar owners and enthusiasts, Sat 5 Aug, British Motor Museum, Warwick

CARRIBEAN FOOD FESTIVAL Sat 5 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

TRANSIT VAN CLUB RALLY Weekend-long event packed with driving games and seminars - a true Transit weekend away, Sat 5 - Sun 6 Aug, British Motor Museum, Warwick

HANDS-ON HISTORY: MEDIEVAL Get set for a summer packed with time-travelling fun! Sat 5 - Sun 6 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

ART IN THE PARK 2017 This year's theme is The Three Graces, celebrating Leamington's historic elephants, Sat 5 - Sun 6 Aug, Jephson Gardens, Leamington Spa

MAD SCIENCE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES Science-themed show in which children can create foggy dry-ice storms, watch a foam factory at work and build super bouncy balls, Sat 5 - Sat 12 Aug, Ragley Hall, Alcester

SCIENCE FUN DAY Learn about some of the science experiments carried out by the Lunar Men during the 18th century, Sun 6 Aug, Soho House, Birmingham

CIRCUS RAJ Fast-moving 'extraganza' of intrigue, feats of daring, music, laughter and surprises, Sun 6 Aug, mac, Birmingham

HANDSWORTH HERITAGE WALK A walking tour focusing on the architectural heritage of Handsworth, Sun 6 Aug, Soho House, Handsworth

CLASSIC VAN AND PICK UP SHOW Show dedicated to light commercial vehicles, Sun 6 Aug, British Motor Museum, Warwick

HWAR DOG SHOW Sniff out some interesting smells in the wild woods, Sun 6 Aug, Brockhampton Estate, Leominster

NATIONAL GUNDOG ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW Sun 6 Aug, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

DINOSAUR SHOW Travel back in time with a life-like walking, roaring T-rex! Sun 6 - Thurs 10 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire



Summer fun at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery



Peter Knight's Gigspanner - The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Gigs

MICHAEL CHAPMAN

Mon 7 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

RACHEL HARRINGTON

Tues 8 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

KIM LOWINGS AND THE GREENWOOD

Tues 8 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

DEATH ANGEL

Tues 8 Aug, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

GOSPEL CENTRAL

Wed 9 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

TREMBLING BELLS

Wed 9 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DEAD!

Wed 9 Aug, The Empire, Coventry

APOLLO SOUL

Thurs 10 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

JOHN COGHLAN'S QUO

Thurs 10 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

DETROIT SOUL COLLECTIVE

Fri 11 - Sat 12 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

HIGHTAIL, DEVIL'S REVOLVER & THEIA

Fri 11 Aug, Route 44, B'ham

GOODNIGHT LENIN

Fri 11 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN

Fri 11 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

UK GUNS N' ROSES

Fri 11 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

TAKE THAT TRIBUTE

Fri 11 Aug, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield

TEXAN PEACOCKS

Fri 11 Aug, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield

Aug, Drummonds Bar, Worcester

THE MARLEY EXPERIENCE

Fri 11 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

INNER CITY BIRMINGHAM

Sat 12 Aug, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

IN SPOTLIGHT - PRABHAT & PULKIT

Prabhat Rao and Pulkit Sharma are the next generation of Indian Classical musicians based in the UK, Sat 12 Aug, mac, B'ham

BOSTIN' BRASS

Sat 12 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CRIMSON STAR, BLANK PARODY, TYRAN-NOSAURUS NEBULOUS & GUNS FOR GIRLS

Sat 12 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

58 BLUES BAND

Sat 12 Aug, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

V2A

Sat 12 Aug, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

TWISTED FUNK

Sat 12 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

STRAIGHTEN OUT - STRANGLERS TRIBUTE

Sat 12 Aug, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

Sat 12 Aug, Malvern Theatre, Worcestershire

IVOR & LYN'S CLASSIC ROCK NIGHT

Sat 12 Aug, Route 44, B'ham

KILLERSTREAM

Sat 12 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

SKABUCKS

Sat 12 Aug, The Roadhouse, Kings Norton, Birmingham

ULTIMATE 40 - UB40

Sat 12 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE RAT PACK CONCERT

Sat 12 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

A PROMISE TO FORGET

Sat 12 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

LAMBCHOP

Sat 12 Aug, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

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LAMBCHOP

Sat 12 Aug, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

NICOLA T AS BEYONCE

Sat 12 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PETER KNIGHT'S GIGSPANNER

Sun 13 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury



Lambchop - Leamington Assembly Rooms

Classical Music

BATTLE PROMS PICNIC CONCERT Celebrate 20 years of Britain's premier classical open-air concert series with music, Spitfire, cannons, cavalry & fireworks, Sat 12 Aug, Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire

Comedy

MERCEDES BENSON, MAUREN

YOUNGER Wed 9 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

JUNIOR SIMPSON, DAVID MORGAN & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON

Thurs 10 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JUNIOR SIMPSON, DAVID MORGAN & IAN COGNITO

Fri 11 - Sat 12 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROBIN MORGAN, THOMAS GREEN & DAVID LONGLEY

Sat 12 Aug, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

SCOTT BENNETT, ANDRE VINCENT, PIERRE HOLLINS & STEVE WILLIAMS

Sat 12 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Theatre

MISS SAIGON Cameron Mackintosh's acclaimed new production of Boublil & Schönberg's legendary musical, until Sat 23 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

PETER AND THE WOLF Interactive musical story for children aged between four and seven. Followed by craft session, Mon 7 Aug, The Library Of Birmingham

POP Mr Bean meets Charlie Chaplin in this 'mind-blowing' feast of illusion and comedy... Suitable for children aged between three and eight and their families, Tues 8 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LANDSCAPES Mimika Theatre fuse puppetry with an original musical score and visual effects to present 'an intimate, magical experience for children', Wed 9 - Sat 12 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

BILLIONAIRE BOY Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of David Walliams' tale of love, loss and friendship, Fri 11 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire

THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE

Little Arden Theatre Company present a new staging of the

children's classic, Sat 12 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

DISNEY ALADDIN JR. Amateur staging presented by Palace Youth Theatre, Sat 12 Aug, Palace Theatre, Red-ditch

PAW PATROL LIVE! Action-packed, high-energy musical bringing the Nickelodeon characters to life, Sat 12 - Sun 13 Aug, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Immersion Theatre Company take a trip down the riverbank, Sun 13 Aug, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon

Dance

BACKLASH BALLROOM A ballroom and Latin dance spectacular featuring five professional dance duos, Thurs 10 Aug, Albany Theatre, Coventry

Talks

TURNING THE INSIDE OUT

Join Professor John Wigley of Birmingham City University to uncover the 'hidden city' of Birmingham - a city of history, diversity, manufacturing, innovation and art, Wed 9 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

SCRIBE (15) Action/Thriller. Starring François Cluzet, Denis Podalydès. Foreign language, subtitled. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 7 Aug

KEDI (U) Documentary. Starring Cats. Lots of cats. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Mon 7 Aug

ROCK DOG (PG) Animation/Music. With the voices of Luke Wilson, Eddie Izzard. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 7 & Thurs 10 Aug

THE SENSE OF AN ENDING (15) Drama. Starring Jim Broadbent, Charlotte Rampling. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 7 - Tues 8, Thurs 10 - Fri 11 Aug

THE NAKED CIVIL SERVANT (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring John Hurt, Liz Gebhardt. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 8 & Thurs 10 Aug

AFTER THE STORM (PG) Drama. Star-

ring Abe Hiroshi, Maki Yoko. Foreign language, subtitled. mac, Birmingham, Wed 9 - Thurs 10 Aug

GOODFELLAS (18) Crime/Drama. Starring Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 10 & Sun 13 Aug

MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN (PG) Adventure/Thriller. Starring Roger Moore, Christopher Lee. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 11 Aug

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN (12a) Drama/History. Starring Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds. mac, Birmingham, Fri 11 Aug

LIVE AND LET DIE (PG) Adventure/Thriller. Starring Roger Moore, Yaphet Kotto. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 11 Aug

THE BIG SICK (15) Comedy/Romance. Starring Kumail Nanjiani, Emily V. Gordon. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 11 - Tues 15 Aug

DESPICABLE ME 3 (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig. Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Fri 11 - Tues 15 Aug

KEDI (U) Documentary. Foreign language, subtitles. mac, Birmingham, Fri 11 - Wed 16 Aug

CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS: THE FIRST EPIC MOVIE (PG) Animation/Comedy. With the voices of Kevin Hart, Thomas Middleditch. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 11 - Wed 16 Aug

DUNKIRK (12a) Drama/History. Starring Tom Hardy, Cillian Murphy. mac, Birmingham, Fri 11 - Thurs 17 Aug; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 11 - Thurs 17 Aug

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX (12a) Adventure/Fantasy. Starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 13 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Wed 9 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

ATOMIC BLONDE (tbc)

A GHOST STORY (12a)

ANNABELLE: CREATION (15)

LE DOULOS (12)

OVERDRIVE (tbc)

PAWN SACRIFICE (12)

TOM OF FINLAND (18)

Events

ROAD BIKE TRACK DAY Mon 7 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

URBAN SAFARI Travel on a Heritage narrowboat into the heart of the canal system, Mon 7 - Wed 9 Aug, The Roundhouse, Birmingham

TUDOR TIMES The castle comes alive with the sights, sounds and smells of Tudor England, Mon 7 - Fri 11 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

SPY SCHOOL You've saved politicians, you've saved The REP, but now... you need to save the world! Mon 7 - Fri 11 Aug, The REP, Birmingham

BIG BUILD Summer building activities, Mon 7 - Fri 11 Aug, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

LIMITLESS FESTIVAL Showcase of innovation in all walks of life, Mon 7 - Fri 11 Aug, Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire

PORTRAIT STUDIO HACK WEEK Pete Ashton transforms the pop-up portrait studio to explore ancient methods of image making, Mon 7 - Sat 12 Aug, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

CREATIVE CAR FACTORY: WEEK 3 Help build a full-size car as well as miniature ones, Mon 7 - Sat 12 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

FAMILY INTRODUCTION TO FELT MAKING Tues 8 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

CONDENSED HISTORIES: PIRATES Set sail with Greg Chapman, Tues 8 Aug, Forge Mill, Redditch

MINIBEAST MYSTERIES Find out which creatures are in battle and how they survive, Tues 8 Aug, Lower Smite Farm, Hindlip, Worcestershire

SUMMER ARTS FEST Featuring magicians, DJing workshops, pottery and dance, Tues 8 - Thurs 10 Aug, Worcester Arts Workshop

DESIGN AND DECORATE A MINI SLEUTH BEAR Chance for young people and adults to participate in The Big Sleuth by working with a professional artist to design and decorate their own limited-edition mini-bears, Wed 9 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

VINTAGE TEA AND TOUR Factory tour led by one of the award-winning guides, Wed 9 Aug, Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham

JEWELLERY AND SILVERSMITHING CLASSES Wed 9 Aug, Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham

SHIPWRECKS AND TREASURE: MAD SCIENCE WORKSHOPS Fun with water, colour-changing metals, treasure pennies, shipwrecked boats and more, Wed 9 Aug, Forge Mill, Redditch

UNITED RETRIEVERS A national Gundog Club which encourages and promotes a general interest in the breeding of all Kennel Club-registered breeds of retriever, Wed 9 Aug, Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire

LET'S ANIMATE SUMMER ANIMATION

CLUB Wed 9 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

JUNGLE FEVER Whether it's a troop of baboons, a pride of lions, a lounge of lizards or a sleuth of bears, enjoy arts & crafts sessions with a jungle theme, Thurs 10 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

LET'S ANIMATE FILMMAKING ANIMATION DAY Thurs 10 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS Featuring curated galleries and over 300 companies selling their wares, Thur 10 Aug - Sun 13 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

GOLDILOCKS STORY TOUR AND CRAFT Head over to the kitchen where Goldilocks tasted the bears' porridge, see the chairs belonging to the bears and find the beds that Goldilocks tried out, Fri 11 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

LATE NIGHT OPENING WITH STREET DANCE & PE Show off your best moves! Fri 11 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

GET STUCK IN! 'Crafty fun' inspired by the Japanese-style objects in the collection, Fri 11 Aug, Museum of Royal Worcester

SHREWSBURY FLOWER SHOW One of the country's premier horticultural events, the show features a diverse programme of attractions and entertainment for all the family to enjoy, including appearances by TV personalities, celebrity chefs and singers, as well as spectacular arena acts, Fri 11 - Sat 12 Aug, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

MAGIC GRAND PRIX One of the biggest open magic events in the world, Fri 11 Aug - Sun 13 Aug, NEC, B'ham

BOOK-BINDING WORKSHOP Make a hardback notebook, learning the process from start to finish and choosing from a selection of papers to create the covers, Sat 12 Aug, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS Sat 12 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

PORTRAIT STUDIO DROP-IN Join artist Pete Ashton as he explains the mechanics of the 'hacked' studio, Sat 12 Aug, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

RUN WHAT YOU BRING Public Track Day, Sat 12 Aug, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

MSVR SPORTS CAR RACES Featuring Lotus, Caterham, Radical SR1 Cup and Trackday Trophy Series, Sat 12 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

OPEN DAY The Weaver's House has been restored to its 1540 appearance, complete with full-size replica loom and working garden, Sat 12 Aug, The Weaver's House, Coventry

HANDS-ON HISTORY: MEDIEVAL Get set for a summer packed with time-travelling fun! Sat 12 - Sun 13 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

STEAM ON THE ROAD The very best of steam on the road and rails, Sat 12 - Sun 13 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

JEWELLERY AND SILVERSMITHING CLASSES Working with a selection of silver sheet, wire and base metals, Sun 13 Aug, Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham

NATIONAL BMW FESTIVAL Activities include a rolling road, a show & shine, a massive tombola, radio-controlled cars and trade stands, Sun 13 Aug, British Motor Museum, Warwick

BNBF MIDLANDS CHAMPIONSHIPS The Midlands' best natural bodybuilders battle it out, Sun 13 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

WORCESTER SHOW Featuring local trade, performances, and industry, Sun 13 Aug, Worcester City Centre

DONINGTON 500 New event designed to introduce riders to the sport at little expense, Sun 13 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

Festivals

LAKEFEST Line up Includes Feeder, The Charlatans, Wilko Johnson, Kila, Yak, Brooks Williams And Lightning Express, Moses, Alabama 3, Aswad, Turin Brakes, Renegade Brass Band, Erica, Colouring, Imelda May Seth Lakeman, Badly Drawn Boy, Roving Crows, Paul Tarry And To Close, Thurs 10 - Mon 14 Aug, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Ledbury, Herefordshire

BULLDOG BASH Full Line includes Bessie & The Zincbuckets, Big Red & The Grinners, The Dirty South and more, Thurs 10 - Sun 13 Aug, Shakespeare Country Raceway, Stratford upon Avon

INNER CITY BIRMINGHAM Featuring The Flaming Lips, Sat 12 Aug, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

WORCESTER FESTIVAL Since the first Worcester Festival back in 2003, the Festival has grown year on year, in terms of the number of events, the number of venues involved and the number of people enjoying those events, Sat 12 - Mon 28 Aug, Various locations throughout Worcester





Jo Harman - The Jam House, Birmingham

Gigs

TOO MANY ZOOZ Mon 14 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MATT WOOSEY WITH: CHEWIE Mon 14 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

VO FLETCHER Wed 16 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE REVEREND PEY-TONS BIG DAMN BAND Wed 16 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

JO HARMAN Wed 16 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

DR FEELGOOD Thurs 17 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

KIKAGAKU MOYO Thurs 17 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

REMODE Thurs 17 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

LISTENER Thurs 17 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

DIO - A TRIBUTE TO RONNIE JAMES DIO Fri 18 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

DEXTA DAPS Fri 18 Aug, O2 Institute, B'ham

BILLY BRANCH & THE GILES ROBSON BAND Fri 18 Aug, The Iron Road, Evesham

ROCKET Fri 18 - Sat 19 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE REPLICAS Fri 18

Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge
SOUL JUNCTION Fri 18 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

MIRANDA LAMBERT Fri 18 Aug, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

RULE NO1 Fri 18 Aug, Drummonds Bar, Worcester

BLANK PARODY Fri 18 Aug, The Asylum, Hockley, Birmingham

ABBA TRIBUTE NIGHT Sat 19 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

SUSPICIOUSLY ELVIS Sat 19 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

ONE STOP BOOGIE Sat 19 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE PHONICS Sat 19 Aug, The Roadhouse,

Birmingham

THE JERSEYS Sun 20 Aug, The Swan Theatre Worcester

GOGO PENGUIN Sun 20 Aug, mac, B'ham

STEEL PAN FUSION Sun 20 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

EDWINA HAYES Sun 20 Aug, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

EDENBRIDGE Featuring Enemy of Reality, Sound of Thunder, Dakesis - Control the Storm, Darkest Obsidian, A Clockwork Opera & Fyresky, Sun 20 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

ALI CLINTON Sun 20 Aug, The Musician, Leicester

DEFEATER Sun 20 Aug, The Flapper, B'ham



Miranda Lambert - Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

Classical Music

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor) & Leila Josefowicz (violin). Programme includes works by Beethoven & Stravinsky, Sun 20 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

COMEDY CLUB 4 KIDS Sat 12 Aug, mac, Birmingham

DAVE TWENTYMAN, DAVE HILL & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 17 Aug, The Glee Club, B'ham

KIDS ENTERTAINMENT BRINGS FAMILY FUN TO GLEE - WITH BARBARA NICE, NEXT OF KIN, MY PARTY PACKAGE, INFINITI & JAY FOREMAN Fri 18 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAVE TWENTYMAN, DAVE HILL, ANDRE VINCENT & COMIC TBC Fri 18 - Sat 19 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

FREDDIE QUINNE, JULIAN DEANE, DALISO CHAPONDA & THE RAYMOND AND MR TIMPINS REVIEW Fri 18 - Sat 19 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

JAMES REDMOND, RAY BADRAN & STEVE HALL Sat 19 Aug, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

Theatre

MISS SAIGON Cameron Mackintosh's acclaimed new production of Boublil & Schönberg's legendary musical, until Sat 23 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

THREE Half Moon fuse storytelling and live music to present a trio of fairytales, Tues 15 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE PRINCESS AND THE PIG Rural touring ensemble Folksy Theatre present a musical adaptation of Jonathan Emmett's tale for children, Tues 15 Aug, Bishops Wood Centre, Stourport-on-Severn

BILLIONAIRE BOY Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of David Walliams' tale of love, loss and friendship, Tues 15 Aug, St John's House Museum, Warwick

TRESPASS Rebecca Wheatley, Judy Buxton, Michelle Morris & David Calister star in Emlyn Williams' supernatural tale, Tues 15 - Sat 19 Aug, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

DRACULA: THE BLOODY TRUTH

Brand new comedy-theatre show transporting audiences from the Transylvanian mountains to the seaside town of Whitby, Tues 15 - Wed 16 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Chapterhouse Theatre Company present the Jane Austen classic, Wed 16 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

THE PRINCESS AND THE PIG Rural touring ensemble Folksy Theatre present a musical adaptation of Jonathan Emmett's tale for children, Wed 16 Aug, Martineau Gardens, Birmingham

THE CRUCIBLE Malvern Theatres Young Company present Arthur Miller's famous masterpiece, which plots the brutal self-destruction of a fragile Puritan community, Wed 16 - Sat 19 Aug, Malvern Theatre

BILLIONAIRE BOY Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of David Walliams' tale of love, loss and friendship, Thurs 17 Aug, Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire

THE FORGOTTEN TALES Combining 'captivating' storytelling with a blend of traditional and modern folk-song, one actor brings to life a legion of unique characters across a series of artfully crafted adventures, Thurs 17 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

CATS Wing It Theatre & The Albany Theatre present an amateur staging of Andrew Lloyd Webber's award-winning musical, Thurs 17 - Sat 19 Aug, Albany Theatre, Coventry

THE FIRST KING OF ENGLAND... IN A DRESS Fun-packed family storytelling show featuring puppetry & music. Suitable for audiences aged three-plus, Fri 18 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Presented by MuchAdo Productions & Tewkesbury Arts & Drama Society, Fri 18 - Sat 19 Aug, The Roses, Tewkesbury

ALICE IN WONDERLAND Presented by award-winning company Tread The Boards Theatre, Sat 19 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE LOST WORLD Illyria present an outdoor staging of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous story of four intrepid explorers, Sat 19 Aug, Coughton Court, Alcester

BILLIONAIRE BOY Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of David Walliams' tale of love, loss and friendship, Sat 19 Aug, Charterhouse Priory, Coventry

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR The Festival Players present a fast-paced, all-male version of Shakespeare's colourful comedy, Sun 20 Aug, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon

Dance

CATY WOMPUS Contemporary dance piece incorporating circus & parkour and set to an original bluegrass score performed live, Thurs 17 Aug, mac, Birmingham

Talks

THE LAST TUDOR HISTORIAN Philippa Gregory talks about the last novel in her Tudor series, Wed 16 Aug, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THEIR FINEST (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Gemma Arterton, Sam Claflin. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 14 - Thurs 17 Aug

THE LAST WORD (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Shirley MacLaine, Amanda Seyfried. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Mon 14 - Tues 15 Aug

CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS: THE FIRST EPIC MOVIE (PG) Animation/Comedy. With the voices of Kevin Hart, Thomas Middleditch. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Tues 15 - Wed 16 Aug; mac, Birmingham, Fri 18 - Thurs 24 Aug

BLACK BRITAIN ON FILM (12a) Documentary. With Q&A. mac, Birmingham, Wed 16 Aug

ELVIS: THAT'S THE WAY IT IS (U) Documentary/Music. Starring Elvis Presley, James Burton. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 16 Aug

HARRY POTTER (12a) Adventure/fantasy. An eight film marathon! Starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 16 Aug

THE HIT (18) Drama/Thriller. Starring Terence Stamp, John Hurt. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 16 - Thurs 17 Aug

DESPICABLE ME 3 (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 16 - Thurs 17 Aug

THE DARJEELING LIMITED (PG) Comedy/Drama. Starring Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 17 Aug

SISTER ACT - BACK IN THE HABIT (PG) Comedy. Starring Whoopi Goldberg, Kathy Najimy. Outdoor screening. mac, Birmingham, Fri 18 Aug

MAMMA MIA! (U) Family/Musical. Starring Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan. Ar-

trix, Bromsgrove, Fri 18 Aug

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING (12a) Adventure/Sci-Fi. Starring Tom Holland, Chris Evans. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 18 - Wed 23 Aug

MAUDIE (U) Drama. Starring Ethan Hawke, Sally Hawkins. mac, Birmingham, Fri 18 - Thurs 24 Aug

ENGLAND IS MINE (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Jack Lowden, Jessica Brown Findlay. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 18 - Thurs 24 Aug

FINAL PORTRAIT (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Geoffrey Rush, Armie Hammer. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 18 - Thurs 24 Aug

THE EMOJI MOVIE: EXPRESS YOURSELF (PG) Animation/Comedy. With the voices of T J Miller, Anna Farris. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 18 - Mon 28 Aug

HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (12a) Adventure/Fantasy. Starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 20 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Wed 16 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

NAPPING PRINCESS (12a)

AN INCONVENIENT SEQUEL

THE DARK TOWER (tbc)

FINAL PORTRAIT (15)

THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD (15)

THE ODYSSEY (tbc)

Events

KNIGHTS AND PRINCESSES Transform yourself into a courtly lord or lady, with tips on everything from curtsies to combat, Mon 14 - Fri 18 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

LAND OF LEGENDS A week of folklore and local legends, Mon 14 - Fri 18 Aug, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

CREATIVE CAR FACTORY: WEEK 4 Help build a full-size car as well as miniature ones, Mon 14 - Sat 19 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

FLOWER EXPLORERS Help Capability Brown look for 'the perfect flowers' on a family-friendly trail around the parkland, with a prize at the end, Mon 14 Aug - Sun 3 Sept, Croome Park, Worcestershire

SHIVER ME TIMBERS! CHILDREN'S ART AND CRAFT WORKSHOP Make a cut-throat cutlass, eye patch and brilliant buccaneering hat! Suitable for chil-



Billionaire Boy - Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

dren aged between six and 10, Tues 15 Aug, Selly Manor, Birmingham

FALCONRY DISPLAY Tues 15 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CONDENSED HISTORIES: PIRATES Set sail with Greg Chapman in his swash-buckling pirates show, Tues 15 Aug, Forge Mill, Redditch

SAXONS AT THE CASTLE Find out what life was like for Tamworth residents during the Saxon era, Tues 15 - Thurs 17 Aug, Tamworth Castle, Staffs

LET'S ANIMATE SUMMER ANIMATION CLUB Wed 16 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

JESTER SKILLS! CHILDREN'S ART AND CRAFT WORKSHOP Learn juggling and diabolo skills, play traditional Tudor games and make your own juggling balls and jester hat. Suitable for kids aged between six and 10, Thurs 17 Aug, Selly Manor, Birmingham

RETRO GAMES NIGHT The Big Comfy Book Shop presents their monthly retro game night, Thurs 17 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

JUNGLE FEVER Whether it's a troop of baboons, a pride of lions, a lounge of lizards or a sleuth of bears, enjoy arts & crafts sessions with a jungle theme, Thurs 17 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MEET THE ANIMALS ZooLab brings a selection of animals to the museum. Live animal shows and handling opportunities throughout the day, Thurs 17 Aug, Thinktank, Birmingham

LET'S ANIMATE CUT-OUT CHARACTER WORKSHOP Thurs 17 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

WATERSLIDE! Make a splash this summer with a 100m water slide, Fri 18 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

BIRMINGHAM LKEMIND Coffee and conversation morning, Fri 18 Aug,

Saint Kitchen, Birmingham

CULTURALLY SENSITIVE MEMORY CAFÉ The cafe supports individuals with early to moderate dementia and their caregivers, family and friends, Fri 18 Aug, Soho House, Birmingham

LATE NIGHT OPENING WITH CIRCUS SKILLS Fri 18 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

GET STUCK IN! 'Crafty fun' inspired by Japanese-style objects in the collection, Fri 18 Aug, Museum of Royal Worcester

RAGLEY HALL INTERNATIONAL MODEL AIR SHOW Fri 18 - Sun 20 Aug, Ragley Hall, Alcester

INDEPENDENT GIN FESTIVAL The perfect way to try new gins, learning from the distillers themselves! Fri 18 - Sun 20 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

THE WESTERN MOTORHOME SHOW Featuring over 3,000 motorhomes and tents, plus country & western music, Fri 18 - Sun 20 Aug, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

VEGAN HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE EVENT Packed with stalls selling vegan foods, goodies and lifestyle products, plus info, films and inspirational talks, Sat 19 Aug, Stourbridge Town Hall

HANDS-ON HISTORY: MEDIEVAL Get set for a summer packed with time-traveling fun, Sat 19 - Sun 20 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS Unlock the secrets of Witley's partying past. Over-16s only, Sun 20 Aug, Witley Court, Worcestershire

BUSES FESTIVAL Featuring up to 100 restored, vintage and modern buses and coaches, trade stands and more, Sun 20 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

BACKLASH

Ballroom

The show

6 World Class Dancers - A Ballroom & Latin Dance Explosion
Featuring Costumes from BBC's Strictly Come Dancing



Aug 10
7:30pm
£18 (conc £16)

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The Albany Theatre, 53 Butts, Coventry, CV1 3BH



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Mr Scruff - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Gigs

THE NUMBER 12 LOOKS LIKE YOU & HEXIS Mon 21 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

CURTIS ELLER'S AMERICAN CIRCUS Tues 22 Aug, The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry

RYAN HAMILTON & THE TRAITORS Tues 22 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CIRCUS VIII Wed 23 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE THREE DEGREES Thurs 24 Aug, The Jam House, B'ham

ARIEL ON THE CLIFF Thurs 24 Aug, mac, Birmingham

KAKO Thurs 24 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIEW Thurs 24 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

GROVE STREET FAMILIES

Thurs 24 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

ULTIMATE COLDPLAY Fri 25 Aug, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

MR SCRUFF Fri 25 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE Fri 25 - Sat 26 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE DOLLY PARTON STORY Fri 25 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

FRED ZEPPELIN & DIZZY LIZZY Tribute to Led Zepplin & Thin Lizzy, Fri 25 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE COMMANDMENTS Fri 25 Aug, Drummonds Bar, Worcester

THE THREE DEGREES Sat 26 Aug, Albany Theatre, Coventry

DOORS ON FIRE Sat 26 Aug, Route 44, B'ham

OPEN MIC UK MUSIC COMPETITION Sat 26 Aug, NEC, B'ham

THE KILLERZ Sat 26 Aug, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

T-REXTASY Sat 26 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

SWEDD DREAMZ Sat 26 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

SAX IN THE CITY: THE NOTEBENDERS Sat 26 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE MACHINE RAGES ON Sat 26 Aug, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

SUBLIME MUSIC Sat 26 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BLACK BOMBERS, THE DE RELLAS & THE DREGS Sat 26 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DEVILFIRE Sat 26 Aug, O2 Academy, B'ham

DEFINITELY MIGHT BE & ADORED Sun 27 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

WHITE TYGER Sun 27 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Classical Music

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Ben Humphrey (narrator & singer), Kenneth Woods (conductor). Programme includes works by Williams, Woods, Smith, Prokofiev & Newman, Sat 26 Aug, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Comedy

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Mon 21 Aug, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

JOHN FOTHERGILL, MATT REED & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 24 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JETHRO Fri 25 Aug, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

RUDI LICKWOOD, BARRY DODDS & JOE BROMEHEAD Fri 25 - Sat 26 Aug, Jon-leurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

JOHN FOTHERGILL, MATT REED, BRIAN HIGGINS & ALEX BOARDMAN Fri 25 - Sat 26 Aug, The Glee Club, B'ham

JARRED CHRISTMAS, IAN COGNITO, ROGER MONKHOUSE & ANDREW BIRD Fri 25 - Sat 26 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

KOJO, WHITE YARDIE, MR BLAIR & COMICS TBC Sun 27 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

MISS SAIGON Cameron Mackintosh's acclaimed new production of Boubli & Schöenberg's legendary musical, until Sat 23 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR The Festival Players present a fast-paced, all-male version of Shakespeare's colourful comedy, Tues 22 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

DOGS DON'T DO BALLET Based on the award-winning children's book by Anna Kemp & Sara Ogilvie, this feel-good show for younger audiences features music, song, puppetry - and a ballet-dancing dog! Tues 22 Aug, The Roses, Tewkesbury

TWELFTH NIGHT Folksy Theatre present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's cross-dressing comedy, Tues 22 Aug, Martineau Gardens, Birmingham

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN New stage production of E Nesbit's much-loved tale, Tues 22 - Sun 27 Aug, Malvern

Theatre

THE SECRET GARDEN Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of the classic children's tale, Wed 23 Aug, Foundry Wood, Princes Drive, Leamington Spa

TWELFTH NIGHT Folksy Theatre present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's cross-dressing comedy, Wed 23 Aug, Bishops Wood Centre, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs

BRASSED OFF Jeffrey Holland stars in Paul Allen & Mark Herman's 'funny and life-affirming' tale of community spirit and triumph in the face of adversity, Wed 23 Aug - Sat 2 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

ARIEL ON THE CLIFF A celebration of all things breezy, this gentle, warm show for family audiences mixes original acoustic music with sensory storytelling, puppetry, movement interaction and big, deep breaths, Thurs 24 Aug, mac, Birmingham

THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA Family show based on Judith Kerr's much-loved children's book, Thurs 24 - Sun 27 Aug, Malvern Theatre

TINA TURNER'S STEAMY BINGO Laugh, dance and play to win as Tina spins her cage of balls to a high-energy '80s soundtrack, Fri 25 Aug, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

TIME IN MOTION The National Youth Ballet of Great Britain present a series of short dance works which take audiences on a 'compelling' journey through time, Fri 25 - Sat 26 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

MURDER IN BLOODFORD VILLAGE New interactive murder-mystery show. Ticket price includes a picnic by Masterchef Simon Smith, Fri 25 - Mon 28 Aug, Lichfield Garrick

A COMEDY OF ERRORS All-male theatre group The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's farce, Sat 26 Aug, Witley Court, Worcestershire

PETER PAN Chapterhouse Theatre Company present an all-new staging of JM Barrie's magical adventure, Sat 26 Aug, mac, Birmingham



Dance

CATY WOMPUS Contemporary dance piece incorporating circus & parkour and set to an original bluegrass score performed live, Thurs 17 Aug, mac, Birmingham



The Three Degrees - Jam House, Birmingham & Albany Theatre, Coventry

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Friday 25 August 7.30pm



The Roy Orbison Story
Saturday 9 September 7.30pm



Whitney: Queen Of The Night
Saturday 23 September 7.30pm

Box Office: 01684 295074

Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 5NX

ARTRIX

August 2017

Friday 11th August

THE MARLEY EXPERIENCE

TRIBUTE TO BOB MARLEY & THE WAILERS



Saturday 12th August

NICOLA T AS BEYONCÉ

TRIBUTE TO QUEEN BEE



Sunday 13th August

THE LOCK IN REMIXED

THE DEMON BARBER'S MUSIC & DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA



Tuesday 15th August

THREE

A TRIO OF FAIRYTALES WITH SPELLBINDING STORYTELLING & MUSIC



Friday 18th August

THE FIRST KING OF ENGLAND...IN A DRESS

FUN-PACKED FAMILY SHOW



Saturday 19th August

DAVID HAMILTON'S ROCK 'N' ROLL BACK THE YEARS

HITS FROM THE 50S & 60S



COMING SOON: Pop, RSC Live: Titus Andronicus, Danny Bhoj, Noble Jacks, Paul Morton, Kim Lowings & The Greenwood, Total Commitments, Rockin' On Heaven's Door, The Manfreds, Northern Soul Live, The Shirley Bassey Story, Scummy Mummies, John Challis, Vamos: Finding Joy, Purple Zeppelin, Paul Foot, Mitch Benn, Roving Crows, Robin Ince, Simon Day, Ellie Taylor, Jeremy Hardy, Counterfeit Sixties...

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THE CORE

theatre solihull
formerly Solihull Arts Complex

Coming soon...



Sat 5 August 2.30pm

Steve Hewlett

Britain's Got Talent Finalist Steve Hewlett is back with his hilarious friends on his '30 Years Talkin' to Myself Tour.
£15 Adult, £10 Child



Thurs 31 August 12pm & 3pm

Dogs Don't Do Ballet

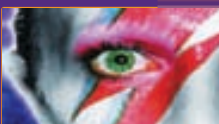
This happy, funny tale will have you laughing out loud and dancing in the aisles. Perfect for little pups aged 3+ and their grown-ups.
£10



Thurs 14 September 7.30pm

Barnhart & Huxley - Jazz & Jokes

With host/comper Malcolm Shent - a memorable evening of music and mirth - Featuring George Huxley and Jeff & Ann Barnhart.
£15



Fri 15 September 7.30pm

STARMAN - The Story of David Bowie

Songs from all eras of David Bowie's celebrated career are performed to perfection in this highly charged show.
£22



Thurs 21 September 7.30pm

Rockin' On Heaven's Door

Superb portrayals of Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, Eddie Cochran and the King himself with a live rock'n'roll band.
£23.50



Mon 25 & Tues 26 September 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Memories are Made of This

This fast moving, roller coaster of a journey through some of the greatest songs of the 50s, 60s and 70s.
£15 & £14

Box Office: 0121 704 6962 www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk

Talks

POETRY OPEN MIC NIGHT Featuring Ben Parker, Worcester Live's poet-in-residence, Wed 23 Aug, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

CODEBREAKERS Dr Mark Baldwin explores the fascinating story of the Enigma ciphers, which the Germans believed unbreakable, Fri 25 Aug, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE MIDWIFE (12A) Drama. Starring Catherine Deneuve, Catherine Frot. Foreign language, subtitled. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 23 Aug

RED ROAD (18) Mystery/Thriller. Starring Kate Dickie, Tony Curran. mac, Birmingham, Tues 22 Aug

A WAY OF LIFE (15) Drama. Starring Stephanie James, Brenda Blethyn. mac, Birmingham, Wed 23 Aug

THE ELEPHANT MAN (PG) Biography/Drama. Starring John Hurt, Anthony Hopkins. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 23 - Thurs 24 Aug

TWIN TOWN (18) Comedy/Drama. Starring Llyr Ifans, Rhys Ifans. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 24 Aug

HUNGER (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Michael Fassbender, Stuart Graham. mac, Birmingham, Thurs 24 Aug

THIS IS SPINAL TAP (12a) Comedy/Music. Starring Christopher Guest, Michael McKean. Outdoor screening. mac, Birmingham, Fri 25 Aug

MAUDIE (U) Drama. Starring Ethan Hawke, Sally Hawkins. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 25 - Mon 28 Aug

THE EMOJI MOVIE: EXPRESS YOURSELF (PG) Animation/Comedy. With the voices of T J Miller, Anna Farris. mac, Birmingham, Fri 25 - Thurs 31 Aug

A GHOST STORY (PG) Drama/Fantasy. Starring Caleb Couch, Sonia Acevedo. mac, Birmingham, Fri 25 - Thurs 31 Aug

VALERIAN AND THE CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANETS (12A) Adventure/Sci-Fi. Starring Cara Delevingne, Clive Owen. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 25 - Thurs 31 Aug

HOWARD'S END (PG) Drama. Starring Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson. mac, Birmingham, Sat 26 - Sun 27 Aug; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 26 - Sun 27 Aug

WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES (12A) Adventure/Drama. Starring Toby

Kebbell, Andy Serkis. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 26 - Mon 28 Aug

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1 (12a) Adventure/Fantasy. Starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 27 Aug

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY (18) Western. Starring Clint Eastwood, Eli Wallach. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 27 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 25 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

AMERICAN MADE (tbc)

DETROIT (tbc)

HOTEL SALVATION (PG)

LOGAN LUCKY (tbc)

ROUGH NIGHT (15)

Events

GREAT AVONCROFT BAKE-OFF Test your culinary skills during this bake-off-themed week, Mon 21 - Fri 25 Aug, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

CREATIVE CAR FACTORY: WEEK 5 Help build a full-size car as well as miniature ones, Mon 21 - Sat 26 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

CIRCUS Circus spectacular, with plate-spinning, juggling, clowns and more, Tues 22 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CONDENSED HISTORIES: PIRATES Set sail with Greg Chapman in his swash-buckling pirates show, Tues 22 Aug, Forge Mill, Redditch

MEDIEVAL LIVING HISTORY Discover what life was like in medieval times, Tues 22 - Thurs 24 Aug, Tamworth Castle

VINTAGE TEA AND TOUR Factory tour led by one of the award-winning guides, Wed 23 Aug, Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham

CODING 101 Learn how to create code for virtual environments as well as physical items, Wed 23 Aug, RAF, Cosford

LET'S ANIMATE SUMMER ANIMATION CLUB Wed 23 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

IRON JOHN The Magical Travelling Story Circus presents the story of a wild man in the forest who teaches a young prince the things he'll need for his quest, Thurs 24 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

HOLIDAY DÉCOPATCH WORKSHOP Try the craft of decoupage. Create unique objects by tearing bits of decopatch paper and using a glossy

varnish glue to decorate, Thurs 24 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND! Make a jet pack from recycled materials, Thurs 24 Aug, Selly Manor, Birmingham

LET'S ANIMATE LEGO STORY WORKSHOP Thurs 24 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

THE GIRL WITHOUT HANDS Presented by The Magical Travelling Story Circus and telling the tale of a girl's attempts to overcome a deal that her father made with the devil, Fri 25 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

I WANT! I WANT! CURATOR TOUR (BSL) Museum curators and experts guide you through the I Want! I Want! art & technology exhibition, Fri 25 Aug, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery



AUGUST OPEN AFTERNOON Fri 25 Aug, Museum Collection Centre, B'ham

GET STUCK IN! 'Crafty fun' inspired by Japanese-style objects in the collection, Fri 25 Aug, Museum of Royal Worcester

URBAN SAFARI Travel on a Heritage narrowboat into the heart of the canal system, Fri 25 - Mon 28 Aug, The Roundhouse, Birmingham

INSOMNIA61 The UK's biggest gaming festival, Fri 25 - Mon 28 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

SHAKES-PAW'S DAY Offering plenty of activities for your furry friends to enjoy on National Dog Day, Sat 26 Aug, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE MUSICIANS OF BREMEN The story of a donkey, a dog, a cat and a rooster who escape their master to go to Bremen, Sat 26 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

OPEN MIC UK MUSIC COMPETITION A chance for aspiring singers and musicians to perform in front of music-industry judges, Sat 26 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

A PICTURE PAINTS A THOUSAND WORDS! Learn about zoomorphic calligraphy and calligrams, then create your own quirky animal designs using steel pen nibs and ink, Sat 26 Aug, The Pen Museum, Birmingham

RS OWNERS CLUB Sun 27 Aug, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

CLASH OF KNIGHTS Four teams of knights battle it out for victory, Sun 27 - Mon 28 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

Festivals

SHAMBALA FESTIVAL Line-up includes, Thurs 24 - Sun 27 Aug, Northamptonshire

SUNSHINE FESTIVAL Line-up includes: Paul Young, Blue, Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Atomic Kitten, Kim Wilde, Sonia, Heatwave, The Wurzels and Union Gap, Fri 25 - Sun 27 Aug, Fish Meadow, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire

GREENBELT FESTIVAL Line-up includes, Kate Rusby, Joyride, Will Varley, 47 Soul, Aar Maanta, Alcuna Wilds, Apo & The Apostles, Chris Duckett, Cc Smugglers, Clean Cut Kid, Dan Donovan, Genevieve, Goan Dogs, Hardwicke Circus, Jess Morgan, Joanne Shaw Taylor, plus many more, Fri 25 - Mon 28 Aug, Boughton House, Kettering, Northamptonshire

BEERMAGEDDON Line-up includes: Outright Resistance, Totengefluster, Godslave, Zephyra, Warlord Uk and Stahlsarg, Fri 25 - Sun 27 Aug, Stoke Prior Country Club, Bromsgrove

SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL Line-up includes: Chris Difford, Jim Moray, Jon Boden, The Unthanks, Sam Carter, Oysterband, The Young'uns, Loudon Wainwright III, Le Vent du Nord, The Rhenigan Sisters and The Transports, Fri 25 - Mon 28 Aug, West Midland Showground, Shropshire

CAMPER CALLING 2017 Line up includes: The Lightning Seeds, Reef, Cast, The Ordinary Boys, Space, Musical Youth, Backbeat Soundsystem, Lucy Spraggan, BETSY, The Undercover Hippy, Barbarella's Bang Bang, CC Smugglers, The Elephant Trees, Lakuta, The Atlantic Players, Afro Cluster, Grafton Ash, Thrill Collins, Caution Horses, Scott Matthews & Ravellas, Fri 25 - Sun 27 Aug, Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire

DOWN ON THE CLOSE Line-up includes Imelda May & Wilko Johnson, Sat 26 Aug, The Close, The Close, Rugby

SOLIHULL SUMMER FESTIVAL Featuring Peter Andre, Lulu, Feeder, Toploader & many more... Sat 26 - Sun 27 Aug, Tudor Grange Park, Solihull



Gigs

VAUDOU GAME Mon 28 Aug, The Tin Music And Arts, Coventry

BRETFORTON SILVER BAND Mon 28 Aug, The Fleece Inn, Evesham

LOATHE & HARBINGER Tues 29 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

BE BOP A LULA Evening of Rock 'n' Roll from four of the most iconic artists ever to grace the UK: Eddie Cochran, Gene Vincent, Billy Fury and Roy Orbison. This show is guaranteed to get you bopping in your seats! Wed 30 Aug, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE ACOUSTIC SESSIONS Wed 30 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

SAM OUTLAW BAND Wed 30 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LATINMOTION PRESENTS DEL CAMINO Thurs 31 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

BOOTLEG RASCAL Thurs 31 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

JIVE TALKIN' Thurs 31 Aug, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

PARQUET COURTS Thurs 31 Aug, O2

Institute, Birmingham

RYLEY WALKER Thurs 31 Aug, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, B'ham

THE BEACH BOYS BAND Thurs 31 Aug, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

Comedy

DAVID HADDINGHAM & COMICS TBC Thurs 31 Aug, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield

Theatre

MISS SAIGON Cameron Mackintosh's acclaimed new production of Boubli & Schönberg's legendary musical, until Sat 23 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

SING-A-LONG-A DIRTY DANCING Interactive screening of the classic film starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey, Mon 28 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

ROMEO & JULIET Oddsocks breathe new life into Shakespeare's classic love story by giving it a musical Mods & Rockers twist, Tues 29 Aug, Victoria Gardens, Tewkesbury

HMS PINAFORE Presented by the National Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company, Tues 29 - Wed 30 Aug, Malvern Theatre

GUYS & DOLLS Malvern Theatre Young Company presents an amateur staging of Frank Loesser's celebrated musical comedy, Tues 29 Aug - Sat 2 Sept, Malvern Theatre

PRINCESS IDA The National Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company present a rarely performed Operetta containing some of Sullivan's most charming music, Thurs 31 Aug, Malvern Theatre

DOGS DON'T DO BALLET Based on the award-winning children's book by Anna Kemp & Sara Ogilvie, this feel-good show for younger audiences features music, song, puppetry - and a ballet-dancing dog! Thurs 31 Aug, The Core, Solihull

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 2 (12a) Adventure/Fantasy. Starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 28 Aug

AMERICAN HERO (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Stephen Dorff, Eddie Griffin. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 29 - Wed 30 Aug

THE DEATH OF LOUIS XIV (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Jean-Pierre Léaud, Patrick d'Assumçao. Foreign language, subtitled. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 29 - Wed 30 Aug

PRICK UP YOUR EARS (18) Biography/Drama. Starring Gary Oldman, Alfred Molina. mac, Birmingham, Tues 29 - Thurs 31 Aug

Events

THE FACE OF SUMMER Join in again for 2017's The FACE of Summer fundraising day! In 2016 approximately 6900 visitors joined in for a family fun day out with craft stalls, information stands, birds of prey and even a flash dance mob, Mon 28 Aug, Fargo Village, Gosford Street, Coventry

MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY Enjoy the



Creative Car Factory - Coventry Transport Museum

historic abbey and its grounds in a new way this summer! Mon 28 Aug, Stoneleigh Abbey

BANK HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN Mon 28 Aug, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

THE FACE OF SUMMER Family fun day with craft stalls, information stands, birds of prey and a flash dance mob, Mon 28 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

BIG AVONCROFT DIG Will you discover a Roman mosaic, an English king or a long lost building? Tues 28 Aug - Fri 1 Sept, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

CREATIVE CAR FACTORY: WEEK 6 Help build a full-size car as well as miniature ones, Mon 28 Aug - Sat 2 Sept, Coventry Transport Museum

CONDENSED HISTORIES: PIRATES Set sail with Greg Chapman in his swash-buckling pirates show, Tues 29 Aug, Forge Mill, Redditch

STORYTELLING IN THE COURTYARD Folklore story of knights, chivalry, romance and bravery, Wed 30 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

STORYTELLING FOR UNDER 5S Wed 30 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

VINTAGE TEA AND TOUR Go on a factory tour led by one of the award-winning guides, Wed 30 Aug, Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham

FAMILY WORKSHOPS INSPIRED BY NEWMAN BROTHERS Wed 30 Aug, Newman Brothers Coffin Works, Birmingham

HANDSWORTH HERITAGE WALK A walking tour focusing on the architectural heritage of Handsworth, Wed 30 Aug, Soho House, Birmingham

LET'S ANIMATE SUMMER ANIMATION CLUB Wed 30 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

JUNGLE FEVER Whether it's a troop of baboons, a pride of lions, a lounge of lizards or a sleuth of bears, enjoy arts & crafts sessions with a jungle theme, Thurs 31 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

LET'S ANIMATE ANIMATED FACES WORKSHOP Design, build and construct your very own talking face, Thurs 31 Aug, Fargo Village, Coventry

Shows for the Autumn season Coming Soon

<p>9th September - 7.30pm</p> <p>THE MERSEY BEATLES</p> <p>Tickets £18*</p>	<p>13th September - 7.30pm</p> <p>AN EVENING WITH JIMMY TARBUCK</p> <p>Tickets £24* & £22.50* (child)</p>
<p>13th September - 8pm</p> <p>MAD ABOUT THE MUSICALS</p> <p>Tickets £25* & £23* (child)</p>	<p>18th September - 7.30pm</p> <p>SUPREME QUEEN</p> <p>Tickets £20*</p>
<p>20th September - 7.30pm</p> <p>THAT'LL BE THE DAY</p> <p>Tickets £22.50*</p>	<p>22nd September - 7.30pm</p> <p>SHOWADDYWADDY LIVE IN CONCERT</p> <p>Tickets £20.50*</p>
<p>28th September - 7.30pm</p> <p>THE WHITNEY HOUSTON STORY</p> <p>Tickets £31 & £28.50* (child)</p>	<p>29th September - 7.30pm</p> <p>80'S MANIA</p> <p>Tickets £20*</p>

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www.redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk

*Inclusive of booking fee £1 per ticket up to a maximum of £4

Coming soon to the Bramall

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THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER, 8PM

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Martin Kemp

FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER, 7:30PM

Ticket Prices: Adults £16.25, Students £8.75 (limited availability) plus a £1.25 booking fee

FLASH
A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN

WEDNESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 7:30PM

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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.

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.

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 Aethelflaed and Saxon battle tactics, then see if you can solve our runic puzzles!

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.

Tamworth
Borough Council



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

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