

Birmingham

ISSUE 381 SEPTEMBER 2017

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4 - 16 SEPTEMBER



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by week listings guide

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as Birmingham Weekender
makes a welcome return...



PENGUIN CAFÉ

BRB presents a triple bill of
work from across the decades



A PLACE IN THE SUN LIVE

Channel Four show at the NEC





Aladdin

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ROYAL BALLET

3 – 7 October

Birmingham Royal Ballet, Director David Bintley CBE
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Your 16-page week-by-week listings guide

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Birmingham's £57million Conservatoire set to open

The brand new Birmingham Conservatoire is opening its doors for the first time this month.

The £57million building, the first purpose-built musical academy to be constructed in the UK since 1987, is the only conservatoire in the country to be specifically designed to cater for the demands of the digital age.

The state-of-the-art building features five public performance spaces. These include a new 500-seat concert hall for orchestral performance and the city's only permanent jazz space - Eastside Jazz Club.

There will also be private rehearsal rooms and dedicated teaching spaces for musicians, with more than 70 teaching practice rooms. For more information about the new Conservatoire, visit whatsonlive.co.uk

Name change for major Birmingham venue

Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena becomes 'Arena Birmingham' from 1 September. The name change comes after credit card & payment service provider Barclaycard announced that it was changing its sponsorship strategy.



Thunderbirds Are Go at Birmingham's Star City

'Thunderbirds Are Go' this month at Birmingham's Star City, courtesy of a brand new event. Taking place on 30 September, International Thunderbirds Day will feature UK-

wide cinema showings of a never-before-nationally-screened episode of the hit kids' TV programme.

Created in the style of the classic television series, the episode has been filmed in Supermarionation and uses audio recordings starring the original cast.

It will be followed by two brand new episodes of CITV's Thunderbirds Are Go series. Tickets are available by visiting myvue.com/film/thunderbirds-are-fab.

Faking it at The REP

A free-to-book theatre event exploring the modern-day phenomenon of 'fake news' is taking place at Birmingham Rep on Tuesday 19 September.

Fake Times features four short script-in-hand presentations highlighting the importance of separating fact from fiction. For more information, visit birmingham-rep.co.uk

Boxing legend Barry to appear at the Irish Centre

Boxing legend Barry McGuigan is visiting Birmingham's Irish Centre next month.

The former world featherweight champion, who won the title in 1985, appears at the venue on Friday 20 October for a show in which he'll be answering questions from the audience.

Tickets for An Evening With Barry McGuigan are priced at £25 and can be purchased at shamrockevents.co.uk

Popular arts venue enjoys national survey success

A new VisitEngland survey has revealed that Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre (mac) is the UK's 11th most popular arts venue - putting it ahead of famous London attractions Tate Britain and the Imperial War Museum. The survey also named the Cannon Hill Park venue as the West Midlands' most visited free attraction in 2016.

To see the survey results in full, go to: visitbritain.org/annual-survey-visits-visitor-attractions-latest-results.



Wizard fun as Harry Potter pub crawl makes a return

A Harry Potter-themed fancy-dress pub crawl is making a welcome return to Birmingham as part of a 15-date tour.

The event takes place on Friday 27 October and features a tour of some of the city's most popular nightlife locations.

For more information, visit Wizards Assemble 2: Birmingham on Facebook.

Brum music event back for fifth year

Birmingham music event All Years Leaving Festival is next month making a welcome return for a fifth year.

Taking place over two floors of the Hare & Hounds pub in Kings Heath, the two-day event presents a line-up featuring internationally acclaimed bands and local favourites.

Performers include This Is Tmrw favourites Spring King, Manchester's Pins, krautrockers Matters and punk rockers Downtown Boys.

The festival takes place over the weekend of Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 October. Tickets cost £16 per day and £28 for the weekend, and are on sale via hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

Gender and identity explored in new exhibition

A touring exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of male homosexual acts in England and Wales is stopping off at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

Coming Out: Sexuality, Gender And Identity comprises over 80 modern and contemporary works by internationally renowned artists.

Pieces from The Arts Council Collection, National Museums Liverpool and Birmingham's own collection are all included. The exhibition shows in the city from 2 December to 15 April.



Sun science and moon magic at Brum's DanceXchange

The science behind the sun, the magic of the moon and stories of womanhood and community are among the inspirations for DanceXchange's autumn programme of work.

The popular dance house, which presents its shows in the Patrick Centre at Birmingham Hippodrome, is also taking part in this month's Birmingham Weekender event and October's Fierce Festival.

Commenting on the autumn programme, DanceXchange's Artistic Director, Lucie Mirkova, said:

"We look forward to presenting work by some of the UK's most exciting choreographers and dance companies as part of our performance season.

"We're particularly excited about the continued development of our strong partnerships with Fierce Festival and Birmingham Weekender. With Fierce we will be presenting two exciting choreographic works exploring club culture. At Birmingham Weekender we're presenting work by our current and past associate artists, showcasing the great choreographic talent based in the West Midlands."

For details of the autumn programme, visit dancexchange.org.uk

Touring musical heads for Brum



A touring show about a legendary singer-songwriter is stopping off in Birmingham this autumn.

Beautiful - The Carole King Musical shows at the city's Hippodrome theatre from 7 to 11 November and stars Bronté Barbé in the title role.

Bronté is best known from the BBC TV series Somewhere Over The Rainbow - a 2010 competition to find an undiscovered performer to play the role of Dorothy in Andrew Lloyd Webber's stage production of The Wizard Of Oz.

Ten days of laughter in Birmingham

Birmingham Comedy Festival is back for a 16th year next month.

The 2017 edition of the event features performances by, among others, Greg Davies, Matt Lucas, Birmingham-born Joe Lycett, Dirty White Boys (pictured) and German Comedy Ambassador Henning Wehn.

Other highlights include Monty Python's Spamalot!, an afternoon of Laurel & Hardy films, a revival of 1960s BBC radio series Round The Horne and a recreation of Woody Allen's early stage routines.

The festival runs at various city venues from Friday 6 to Sunday 15 October. For full details, visit bhamcomfest.co.uk





'Brummier' Improv Festival set to make a welcome return

Birmingham's acclaimed Improv Festival is back (Blue Orange Theatre, Monday 23 - Sunday 29 October). And according to organisers, it's bigger, better and even Brummier than last year!

Bringing together 21 shows, 24 companies - including nine from Birmingham - and six workshops, the

week-long event features quickfire comedy, brand new Shakespeare, movie adventure, made-up Charles Dickens, short-form games, musical comedy and freestyle rapping.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit birminghamimprovfestival.com

Bollywood star to visit Brum

A Bollywood megastar is heading for Birmingham to appear in a show that's being called 'the live event of the decade'.

Undisputed king of the Bollywood box office Salman Khan will headline Da-Bangg The Tour, appearing alongside a 'galaxy' of other Indian star names.

The show takes place at Arena Birmingham (formerly the Barclaycard Arena) on Saturday 16 September.



Crazy golf and cocktails in Birmingham!

A new adults-only attraction that brings together cocktails, street food and DJs with the increasingly popular game of crazy golf is set to open in Birmingham's Custard Factory next month.

Already a hit in Liverpool, Ghetto Golf features 18 themed holes which customers can play while enjoying a cocktail or two.

"The hospitality industry is seeing more venues offering that little bit more than casual drinking and eating," says Ghetto Golf's Operations Manager, Jay Santangeli. "People want an experience from their nights out. Our Birmingham venue will have a local street food vendor on board because we place a huge emphasis on independent and local businesses - we feel this is really important."

The venue's opening times will be Monday to Wednesday from 3pm to 1am and Thursday to Sunday from midday to 1am.

For more information, visit ghettogolf.co.uk



'Mexico in the Midlands' as touring Tequila festival stops off at Birmingham venue

A UK-touring event offering visitors the chance to sample more than 30 Tequilas is coming to Birmingham's Rainbow Venues next month (Saturday 7 October).

A celebration of the history, culture and variety of the much-loved drink, the Tequila Festival also features DJs, Mexican dancers and a Mariachi band providing live music.

"The event will be an unmissable party," says organiser Nathan Reed, "full of music, entertainment and, of course, a chance to taste the best Tequilas under the sun."

Tickets for the festival are on sale from the Fatsoma website.



Join the run for Parkinson's...

Midlanders are being invited to take part in a 5k fun run around the Birmingham University campus to raise funds for research into Parkinson's disease. The event takes place on Saturday 21 October, with registration costing £18 per adult (concessions are available). For more information, visit budsrun.co.uk

Iconic statues go into storage

Two of Birmingham's most iconic statues are being temporarily removed from their familiar sites to allow the ongoing transformation of the city centre to progress.

Boulton, Watt & Murdoch stands on Broad Street and depicts the three pioneering figures of the industrial revolution discussing engine plans.

Iron: Man, meanwhile, was created by renowned Angel Of The North sculptor Antony Gormley and stands in Victoria Square.

Both statues will return to public view in late 2018.

Solihull's HS2 plans take major step forward

Plans to create a HS2 Interchange Station on the outskirts of Solihull have taken a major step forward. A formal request has been made to HS2 Ltd to upgrade its current vision for a parkway-style facility on the 350-acre site known as Arden Cross. Commenting on the development, West Midlands Mayor Andy Street said: "The West Midlands is uniquely positioned to benefit from this project. This submission demonstrates our ambition to make the most of HS2."

TIME FOR TEA...

We all love a spot of quintessentially British afternoon tea - so with that in mind, we've put together a list of the most exciting places in which to get your high-tea fix in and around Birmingham. The city centre has so much more to offer than scones and English breakfast tea! Expect expertly traditional and amazingly unique offerings in luxurious and quirky locations...



1 The Edgbaston

This boutique hotel and cocktail lounge offers the ultimate indulgence. Treat yourself to

Birmingham's most extravagant afternoon tea, accompanied by a selection of organic loose leaf Jing tea and a choice of gin cocktails and Champagne.

Served in a 1920s-inspired art deco lounge, the afternoon tea includes an exciting surprise (featuring dry ice), delicious artisan sandwiches, a selection of seasonal sweet treats and traditional scones with jam and cream.

Expect gorgeous attention to detail, impeccable service and mouthwateringly good food, which can even be catered for vegans.

12pm-6pm daily, from £25

18 Highfield Rd, Birmingham, B15 3DU



2 Zindiya

Experience Birmingham's most unique high tea, or rather High Chai, at this Indian Sreatery in

the heart of Moseley Village.

Zindiya offers a vibrant twist on traditional afternoon tea as we know it.

To drink, try the masala chai, which is freshly brewed in-house, or chai-infused Prosecco for an extra £5.

Savoury treats include a Bombay sandwich with coriander and mint chutney, masala spices and layers of vegetables.

Sweet delights include homemade cardamon scones and mango & passionfruit macaroons.

2pm-5pm daily, £14.95 - £19.95

21 Woodbridge Rd, Birmingham, B13 8EH



3 Hotel Du Vin

A feast for the eyes, Hotel Du Vin's beautifully presented afternoon tea includes a selection

of mini sandwiches and savouries prepared by renowned pastry chefs.

Enjoy a ham with Gruyère croissant, heritage tomato and tapenade galette, goat's cheese and spinach quiche, followed by a selection of cream tea.

Sweet mini treats include lemon meringue pie, raspberry and dark chocolate tea cakes, a gin & tonic sundae and rhubarb & custard doughnuts, all topped off with homemade candy floss, infused with sweet fruit flavours.

A specially selected G&T or glass of Champagne provide the perfect accompaniment.

12pm-6pm daily, from £22.50

25 Church St, Birmingham, B3 2NR

4 Cadbury World

This is one for the chocoholics!

The home of Cadbury adds a fittingly chocolate-themed twist to

traditional afternoon tea by combining classic macaroons and finger sandwiches - filled with salmon, soft cheese & cucumber and ham & English mustard - with chocolate brownies and, most excitingly, a rocky road made to an exclusive Cadbury recipe.

This chocolate treat can be accompanied by a hot chocolate, coffee or a selection of teas.

Monday-Friday, £21.95 (including admission to Cadbury World between 12.40pm and 1.30pm during term time)

Linden Rd, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1JR

5 Praza Edgbaston

Indulge in a luxurious Indian afternoon tea at this elegant cocktail bar & restaurant.

With savoury delights including delicately spiced beetroot cake, mini samosas and Namak Paare - a North Indian favourite of savoury flour crackers flavoured with ajwain (carom seeds) - this treat is sure to tickle your tastebuds.

The selection of Indian sweets includes Bhapa Doi - Indian-style mango-flavoured steamed yogurt and Punjabi cookies. Enjoy it with classic chai, Praza's special peppercorn & bay leaf-infused masala chai, sparkling wine or crazy lassi gin.

1pm-6pm Sundays, £18.95 - £25.95 / £9.95 for the children's option

94-96 Hagley Rd, Birmingham, B16 8LU

6 Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar & Grill

Enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the city whilst enjoying a

delicious, traditional afternoon tea on the 25th floor of Birmingham's iconic building, The Cube.

Treat yourself even further by upgrading to Sparkling or Champagne afternoon tea.

Indulge in a range of traditional finger sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, and a variety of sweet treats - including Marco's daily cake selection.

12pm-5pm Monday-Friday, £20 - £29.99

The Cube, 200 Wharfside St, Birmingham B1 1PR

WATER MUSIC

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group celebrates its 30th birthday with a musical cruise along the city's famous canal network...



As Stephan Meier comes to the end of his first year as artistic director of Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG), the ensemble prepares to celebrate a much bigger anniversary. Thirty years after it emerged from within the CBSO in 1987, its latest leader marks his first commission with a special celebratory concert open to everyone, completely free of charge.

On Sunday 10 September, the work of three acclaimed composers will embark on a musical cruise along the city's famous canal network, with visitors invited to watch and listen from its towpaths. Spread across three separate narrowboats, BCMG musicians will perform the new works as they glide between Brindleyplace, Arena Birmingham (formerly the Barclaycard Arena) and the National Sea Life Centre before uniting at the meeting point of the Birmingham Main Line, Fazeley and Worcester Canals.

"BCMG is all about the new," says Meier, "and for me, the most delicate and challenging part of my task here is to identify what will be new to this group. But I didn't want to just do something new for the sake of it; it had to be something interesting and fun, not only for our musicians but also for our audiences and Sound Investors, all of whom contribute to the history of musicmaking here."

With an eye-catching set-up that's unique to the Birmingham landscape (as locals will proudly tell you, Brum boasts more canals than Venice), his first commission here, titled *Canal Serenade*, certainly ticks those boxes. Joining the West Midlands' own Richard Baker will be Cypriot Yannis Kyriakides and Czech Ondřej Adámek, jointly making their Birmingham debut.

"Neither of them had ever had a composition performed in Birmingham before, so it seemed like a good moment to introduce them to audiences here. Ondřej in particular I knew would have not only the craftsmanship for this project, but a certain visionary, ambitious intention with his music - he understood what it would mean to have people out on the canals singing in the open."

Together, the trio have drawn on the distinctive geography and architecture of the UK's second city to develop a truly collaborative music experience.

"The canals were something I noticed very soon after I first came to Birmingham. But although I had an idea for something around the canals, there's no way I could have foreseen the form that it would take, especially since this is such an unusual way of working for the composers.

"When creating new pieces, composers like to do their homework and then go into their own space and spend time inside themselves working through ideas. In this case, I had to convince them all to come and meet here and get to know each other and see the place before they started, to help them with the sharing and exchanging of ideas later. So when they all came here in March, we had a walk together around the canals to identify the best areas for the boats to travel and meet.

"After our walk, we spent a couple of hours discussing it again, and what's really nice is that they all liked the idea of dividing their musicians across the three boats. So it's not like, on one boat, 'These are my musicians playing my music and approaching from this side'. It's all very joined together from the beginning. I couldn't have predicted that, but I think it's brilliant!"

This 'spirit of sharing' gets to the heart of what Meier is hoping to achieve with this innovative and ambitious public project, which will be free to attend both during its Sunday afternoon premiere and later repeat performance as part of the Birmingham Weekender festival (itself a massive celebration of shared heritage, culture and creativity). Kids are also invited to join the fun, with activities taking place from 1.30pm at the CBSO Centre ahead of the main event.

"Just as the composers will be sending their ideas swimming out on the water, so we want children to set their own ideas swimming. What they do will depend on them, but it's all about having ideas that you can take out in the open - perhaps in the form of a parade,

for example."

The anniversary will then culminate in a big indoor concert back at the CBSO Centre - also free, although ticketed due to limited space, and donations towards the group's work are encouraged.

"It will be very lively, very special and simply a unique opportunity to experience something that you might not have encountered before. We hope that when we share our work outside, people will enjoy it and afterwards perhaps say, 'Okay, well I've never been to the CBSO Centre before, but it's not far away - let's have a look!'"

In addition to the Birmingham celebrations, BCMG will also be performing at the Barbican and Wilton's Music Hall in London this month. Further ahead, as he prepares to lead the group into a new chapter of its story, Meier hopes to continue in the vein in which he's started, combining BCMG's existing strengths with a broader, international outlook and stronger presence on the world stage.

"This is simply a starting point, but I think it shows the way forwards in terms of widening the focus and the repertoire with work from around the world, while still connecting very closely with BCMG's history and allowing the group to follow its own path."

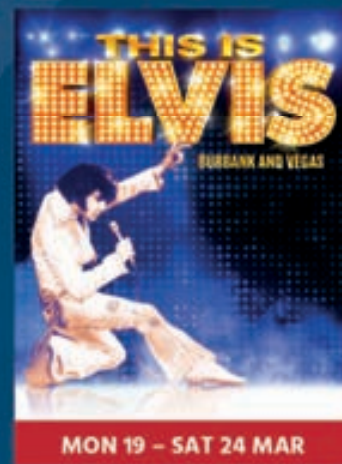
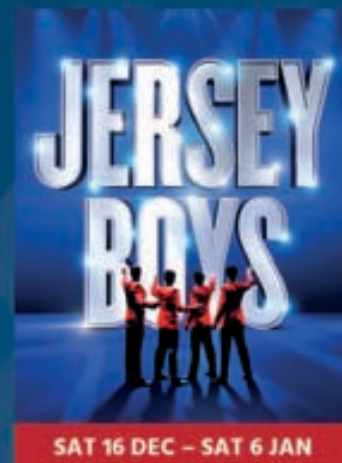
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Canal Serenade premieres at 4pm on Sunday 10 September and is followed by a concert at the CBSO Centre at 6pm. It's repeated at 2pm on Saturday 23 September as part of the Birmingham Weekender festival.



“It will be very lively, very special and simply a unique opportunity to experience something that you might not have encountered before...”

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REVIEW: Gateway To India

Brum's new Regency Wharf restaurant serves up a taste of paradise on a plate

Located in Birmingham's Regency Wharf - underneath Jimmy Spices and just a stone's throw away from Walkabout - Broad Street's newest Indian restaurant, Gateway To India, opened earlier this year.

Focusing on traditional Indian street food, curries and sizzling mixed grills, the eatery prides itself on its use of unusual ingredients and its exotic flavour creations.

The décor harks back to the Indian Maharajas of old and includes a portrait of the Black Prince, Duleep Singh. The walls are covered in vintage pictures and Indian-inspired artwork, with geometric-style wood cut-outs. Fenced by a glossy bar and a view of the kitchen, Gateway To India can seat up to 80 people.

We perused the food options whilst enjoying a generous help-

ing of poppadoms and chutneys and a cold pint of lager.

The menu included cod fish pakora, jumbo masala prawns, and street food favourites such as pani puri gol gappa (pastry balls filled with chaat masala, chilled mint-flavoured water and seasoned potatoes) and gosht saagwala (slow-braised British lamb and spinach with cumin, garlic and house spices).

Both my partner and I would happily have ordered pretty much everything off the extensive and downright delicious-sounding menu.

After much deliberation, we chose as our starters the chicken tikka dosa (from the street food section) and the masala fish.

The dosa was a typical south Indian dish comprising a wafer-thin and crispy rice flour pancake filled with spicy chicken tikka and served with a tomato

and a fresh coconut chutney. Very tasty. Showcasing just the right amount of spice, it was a dish that neither of us had tried before. The chicken was flavoured beautifully and the chutneys were welcome accompaniments. One of the latter was especially unusual - I've never come across a coconut chutney before. It worked really nicely and is something I'll definitely order again.

The masala fish came in the form of a spicy sea bass fillet, marinated with crushed spices. Cooked perfectly on a griddle, the fish was tender, flavoursome and proved to be another really enjoyable taste experience.

For the main event, I chose the heavenly butter pepper garlic lobster, at the very reasonable price of £22.99. A Manglorean delicacy, the dish comprised lobster chunks stir-fried in a tamarind garlic and butter sauce, finished with freshly ground black pepper and served in the lobster shell. It was mouthwateringly delicious. The rich, thick sauce showcased a strong flavour but didn't overpower the distinctive taste of the perfectly cooked lobster meat. Hats off to the chefs - there's some serious talent in the kitchen!

For the meat eaters, Gateway To India serves four award-winning speciality mixed grills. Perfect for sharing, they're each served with an array of chutneys. My partner ordered the largest of the grills - the Maharaja - which is priced at, again, a very reasonable £22.99. Featuring a selection of succulent chicken tikka, tandoori chicken wings, lamb gilafi seekh kebab, tandoori chicken on the bone, lamb chops and cod fish pakora, the Maharaja was a meat-eater's paradise on a plate. The chicken meat fell off the bone, the kebab elements were seasoned beautifully and the whole dish was an absolute joy to eat.

Although having already pre-

sented us with more than our fair share of food, our friendly and knowledgeable waiter brought over some extras for us to try - a mushroom rice, a three-piece bread basket comprising garlic naan, tandoori naan and lacha paratha, and an absolutely stunning dal makhani.

Featuring slow-cooked black lentils and red kidney beans infused in Indian spices and a rich creamy sauce, the dal, along with the lobster, was the highlight of my Gateway To India experience and the nicest I've tried by a mile!

Clothes bursting at the seams, we both felt completely stuffed - but the offer of a small gulab jamun and rasmalai taster was too good to turn down.

The gulab jamun - an exotic fried milk dumpling soaked in rose-flavoured syrup and served with vanilla ice cream - was super-sweet and super-tasty.

My partner polished off the rasmalai - creamed sponged cottage cheese dumplings cooked in sweet cream sauce and garnished with pistachio and saffron. Served cold, the authentic Indian favourite was a fantastic end to a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

From the beautiful, authentic dishes to the attentive and polite service, Gateway To India is a restaurant I can highly recommend. If you're a fan of delicious Indian cuisine, I urge you to give this new eatery a try. You certainly won't be disappointed!

Lauren Foster

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

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Celebrity vlogger Nisha Katona to open Indian street food restaurant

A new Indian street food restaurant owned by celebrity YouTube vlogger Nisha Katona is opening in Birmingham.

Having already launched two restaurants in Liverpool and one in Manchester, Nisha is set to open the Grand Central-located Mowgli this month. The menu features everything from curries and meats to tiffin boxes and street chats. Vegan, gluten-free and children's menus are also available. For more information, visit mowglistreetfood.com

Glynn Purnell's Friday Night Kitchen returns

Friday Night Kitchen, Michelin-starred chef Glynn Purnell's ever-popular live culinary event, is next month making a return at brand new venue The Vox in Birmingham's Resorts World (Friday 6 October).

The evening features a three-course menu, created by Glynn himself, and live music from Sam Bailey and The Subterraneans. Diners will also receive a complimentary beer, glass of wine or cocktail on arrival.

Tickets are available to purchase at gpfnk.co.uk/shop

Ice cream parlour goes savoury with new menu

Ice cream parlour Archie's in Birmingham's Selfridges has expanded its menu to include savoury dishes.

As well as 30-plus types of shake, customers can also enjoy more than 20 waffle choices, burger and hotdog combinations, nachos, fries, waffle sticks and cookie dough.



New African-themed restaurant is launched in Brum

African-themed Nakira Bar & Grill (formerly Lobster Peninsula) has opened in Birmingham's John Bright Street following a £100,000 investment.

The restaurant is fully kitted out with a braai - a large South African barbecue grill - and will serve a range of African cuisine, offering a selection of game meats, springbok steak, ostrich rump, alpaca and crocodile burgers and much more.

Commenting on his investment, new owner Dexter Lasswell said: "I saw a gap in the market for an African-themed game & grill restaurant and thought it was too good an opportunity to miss. The venue is stunning, and I wanted to turn it into a place where people can enjoy a relaxed African dining experience in elegant surroundings but without the high prices."

Popular cocktail venue to open in Viva Brazil premises

Following the shock closure of Birmingham's award-winning Viva Brazil steakhouse, CG Restaurant & Bars has announced that it will open its 11th Dirty Martini branch in the now-vacant premises later this year.

The popular cocktail chain, offering a bespoke range of martinis and signature cocktails, boasts 'glamorous' interiors and music from top DJs. CG Restaurant & Bars describe it as 'the perfect destination for after-work indulgence, pre-club cocktails, sophisticated celebrations or a stylish late-night party'. The venue's opening date is yet to be announced.



Birmingham's first vegan pie shop opens for business

A new restaurant serving plant-based pies has opened on Birmingham's Pershore Road. The Pie Shop is owned by Karma Collective and is the first of its kind, serving sweet and savoury vegan pies with a choice of vegetables, potatoes or chips, as well as vegan pizza. According to the venue's Facebook page:

"This is the first 100% plant-based pie shop in the West Midlands and quite possibly the UK. The Pie Shop aims to provide for a basic need for tasty home cooking at affordable prices in a setting that's a fusion of olde world and modern world."

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Paul Draper

O2 Institute, Birmingham,
Saturday 23 September

Ex-frontman of iconic '90s band Mansun, Paul Draper has embarked on his first ever solo tour. His long-awaited debut solo album, *Spooky Action*, was released last month and is said to be the result of a decade of thinking, tinkering, writing, recording and focusing.

Expect to hear work from EP ONE and EP TWO, which Paul released in 2016 as his first solo recordings, as well as material from *Spooky Action*.



Suzanne Vega

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
Tues 26 September

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the release of Suzanne Vega's *Solitude Standing*, and the 25th birthday of her groundbreaking album, *99.9F*. Widely regarded as one of the most brilliant songwriters of her generation, and with more than seven million album sales to her name, Vega visits Symphony Hall to perform both albums in their entirety.



New Found Glory

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sat 30 September

Best known for singles *My Friends Over You* and *Vicious Love* (featuring Paramore lead Hayley Williams), New Found Glory visit Birmingham this month as part of their 20th

anniversary tour.

The pop punk heavyweights are renowned for their energetic live shows, and will be performing albums *Sticks & Stones* and *Self Titled*, as well as tracks off their latest offering, *Makes Me Sick*.

Miranda Sykes

Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham,
Wed 20 September

Acclaimed Show Of Hands singer and bassist Miranda Sykes is very much returning to her roots with this solo touring show and her new album, *Borrowed Places*. Released in May this year, the album primarily draws its inspiration from the songs and landscape of Miranda's native Lincolnshire, as viewed through the eyes of a woman who's lived away from the county for many years.

John Legend

Arena Birmingham, Wed 20 September

Legend by name and a legend in his own lifetime, this multi-platinum-selling Oscar, Golden Globe and 10-time Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter has collaborated with some of the biggest names in modern music, including Jay Z, Kanye West, Alicia Keys and Lauryn Hill.

He visits the Midlands to promote fifth studio album *Darkness And Light*.

Shuggie Otis

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham,
Thurs 7 September

Sixty-three-year-old Shuggie Otis began playing guitar when he was just two years old and started performing professionally at the age of 12. He would often disguise himself with dark glasses and a false moustache so that he could play in after-hours night-clubs with his father, pioneering rhythm & blues musician Johnny Otis.

Shuggie is probably best known for the song *Strawberry Letter 23* - from second album *Freedom Flight* - which topped the Billboard R&B Chart and reached number five on the Billboard Hot 100 chart way back in 1977.



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The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Haydn: The Creation

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 September

Joseph Haydn's late oratorio is massive, its epic nature entirely appropriate to its subject matter - the universe's emergence from chaos.

The work is also considered by many to be the composer's masterpiece, a brilliant composition for which Haydn was unwilling to take the credit. "It's not from me," he informed his appreciative audience at one performance, pointing skywards, "it's from up there!"

The orchestra's music director, the Lithuanian-born Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (pictured), picks up the baton to conduct the CBSO Chorus and a world-class team of soloists as they present this life-affirming season-opener.

BCMG@30 Concert

CBSO Centre, Birmingham,
Sun 10 September

This concert to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Birmingham Contemporary Music Group features three groundbreaking works - Ondřej Adámek's *Sinuous Voices*, Rebecca Saunders' *Into The Blue* and Helmut Lachenmann's *Zwei Gefühle* - Musik mit Leonardo.

BCMG is nowadays considered one of the foremost contemporary music ensembles in the UK, and has premiered more than 150 new works, many of which have been commissioned through its pioneering Sound Investment scheme. Emerging from within the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the group has established a reputation for brilliant performances, ambitious commissions, innovative collaborations and a vibrant learning programme.

Emilio Pomàrico conducts this 30th birthday bash.



The Castalian String Quartet

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 29 September

This up-and-coming quartet kickstart the new Bromsgrove Concerts season with a programme that features music by Haydn, Beethoven and Dutilleux.

Formed in London in 2011, the ensemble bagged first prize at the 2015 Lyon International Chamber Music Competition, adding to a string of awards that speaks volumes for their prodigious talent.



Chineke! Orchestra

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
Sat 16 September

Chineke! are challenging the status quo - and it's certainly in need of some serious challenging.

On a continent in which the majority of symphony orchestras are mainly made up of white and white-Asian players, this two-year-old ensemble - the brainchild of double-bassist Chi-chi Nwanoku - are Europe's first professional orchestra comprising black and minority ethnic musicians.

This is their first outing at Symphony Hall and sees them presenting an imaginative programme that features: Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Ballade for Orchestra in A minor Op 33, 13'*; Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in E minor Op 64, 26'*; and Elgar's *Enigma Variations, 29'*.

Roderick Cox conducts, Tai Murray is the solo violinist.



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Beyond The Tracks

Eastside City Park, Birmingham,
Fri 15 - Sun 17 September

Brand new for 2017, Beyond The Tracks has already created a massive buzz on Birmingham's music scene thanks to its incredible inaugural line-up.

Taking place in the recently developed Eastside City Park, it unites some of the biggest names in UK music, from electronic pioneers on the Friday to an all-out indie assault on the Saturday. Conveniently located for transport links and boasting a fantastic afterparty at the O2 Institute, this is a festival firmly focused on bringing quality music to the city.

Line-up includes: Orbital, Leftfield, Faithless (DJ set), Jagwar Ma, Ocean Colour Scene, Máximo Park, The Coral, The Twang, Editors, The Jesus & Mary Chain & Wild Beasts



Moseley Folk Festival

Moseley Park, Birmingham,
Fri 1 - Sat 3 September

Tucked away behind Birmingham's busy streets, the beautiful Moseley Park is one of the city's hidden gems, transformed each year into an enchanting escape by one of the Midlands' best-loved music festivals.

Traditional folk & low-fi acoustic sets blend seamlessly with dreamy electropop, psychedelia and indie favourites against a magical backdrop of bright hippie colours, lush foliage and a beautiful lake. The perfect way to see out the summer.

Line-up includes: Laura Marling (pictured below), Amy MacDonald, Jose Gonzalez, Fairport Convention, Seth Lakeman, Kate Rusby, The Magic Numbers, Roddy Woomble, Shovels & Rope and Josienne Clark & Ben Walker



Kenilworth Arts Festival

Various venues, Kenilworth,
Sunday 17 - Saturday 23 September



Back for 2017 after last year's warmly received debut, Kenilworth Arts Festival returns with a week-long celebration of music, literature, performance and visual art. Bringing together local talent with nationally acclaimed writers and artists, this vibrant and growing event offers something for everyone, from its free family-friendly fiesta to eye-opening readings and talks.

Line-up includes: Kit de Waal (pictured), Sarah Moss, Gwilym Simcock, John Smith, Alys Fowler, Brian Briggs, Paul Henry, Tree-top Flyers, Low Chimes, Motionhouse, Will Ashon, Galopede and Amadeus Long

Bromyard Folk Festival

Delahay Meadow, Bromyard, Worcestershire,
Fri 8 - Sunday 10 September

Marking its 50th event in 2017, Bromyard's much-loved celebration of traditional music is now a well-established tradition in and of itself. This year's event promises over 170 hours of entertainment, with some of the finest national and international folk musicians headlining a programme that also includes workshops, sing-arounds, ceilidhs, dance displays and a traditional craft market.

Line-up includes: Le Vent du Nord, Jamie Smith's Mabon, The Mighty Doonans, Rusty Shackle, Ímar, Crows, Daoiri Farrell, Kitty Macfarlane, Granny's Attic (pictured below) and Northern Company





The Indians Are Coming Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 11 September

This touring show features four of India's most accomplished comedians. Headlining the gig is Inder Manocha, an Oxford graduate who worked in international relations and as a therapist before deciding to turn his hand to comedy. He's joined by Hyde Panaser, Sukh Kaur Ojla and Mickey Sharma, the latter of whom is a familiar name on the Midlands standup scene. A one-time cricketer whose ambition to play for India was scuppered by a nasty head injury, Mickey swapped his cricket bat for a microphone and gag book five years ago. He's been busily making a name for himself on the UK comedy circuit ever since.



John Bishop

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Wed 13 September

If you're an admirer of men who like to fly by the seat of their pants, you should check out John Bishop.

John not so long ago left the comfort and security of a lucrative marketing job to work full-time on forging a career in comedy. A brave decision indeed, but one that's certainly paid dividends - his shows have become guaranteed sell-outs, including this latest Potteries performance.

"I'm very much looking forward to getting back on the road," says John. "There really is nothing like performing standup in front of a live audience. I've called the new show *Winging It* because in some respects, having come to comedy relatively late, it sometimes feels like that's what I'm doing in life! But I'm enjoying every minute of it."

John's jokes include: "There are some muscles I don't think I need my personal trainer to find, as I won't be using them at my age anyway," and "Edinburgh is the only place you can be sunburned and get trench foot on the same day."

Rob Brydon

Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
Thurs 28 September

One of Britain's best-loved and most high-profile comedians, Rob Brydon has a beautifully understated style of comedy and an impressively creative imagination. His big break came with hit TV series *Marion And Geoff* way back in the year 2000, since which time he's established himself as a major player via all manner of TV chat shows, panel games, radio programmes and movies.

New touring show *I Am Standing Up...*, which he brings to the region this month, is his first for eight years, with tickets going like proverbial hotcakes.

Highly rated jokes include: "My wife said 'Rob, I'd love to have children.' Now I'll be honest - I wasn't sure. Did I want to go through it all again? The lifting, the carrying, the mopping up of the spillages? And that's just when you're making love trying to have the child."



Nick Helm

mac, Birmingham, Wed 27 September;
Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa,
Fri 27 October

"This show is a call to arms to anyone who feels hard done by and short-changed by this ugly new world," explains Nick Helm. "Stop fearing the worst. It's already happened. So instead of crying about it, why not crawl out of your homemade nuclear fallout shelters and bear witness to some home truths about life, love and how not to be a dick."

This is British Comedy Award winner Nick's first national tour and showcases his unique blend of high-octane standup, music and poetry. His jokes include: "I needed a password eight characters long, so I picked *Snow White And The Seven Dwarves*". The gag won the Edinburgh Fringe award for best joke back in 2011.

Stewart Lee

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
Fri 22 September

Shropshire-born Stewart Lee makes a welcome return to the Midlands with critically acclaimed touring show *Content Provider*. Stewart first shot to fame courtesy of his partnership with Richard Herring, and then later scored a massive international hit with the musical, *Jerry Springer The Opera*.

His style of comedy won't make for the most comfortable ride, but he's thought-provoking, funny and memorable, so suffering the odd moment that makes you feel awkward is a small price to pay for a great night out. He's married to fellow comedian Bridget Christie, a woman whose career is very much in the ascendant. So is there an uncomfortable competitiveness in evidence between them, one wonders?

"I was doing well before I even met Bridget," he insists, "when she was still dressing up as cheese rolls and bees and things. I don't know where you're getting these offensive questions from, to be honest..."



Tony Law

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 15 September

Zany alternative comedy is Canadian funnyman Tony Law's stock-in-trade, a fact which means his audience is guaranteed an evening of truly off-the-wall, boundary-defying standup.

So if you like your comedians to be touched with genius while at the same time prone to meander off-topic with gag-laden dialogues, Tony is definitely the guy for you.

He visits the Midlands this month with his brand new touring show, *Tony Law: Absurdity For The Common People*.



Scummy Mummies

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 19 September

"Our speciality is comedy for less-than-perfect parents, so that means *all* parents!" says Ellie Gibson about *Scummy Mummies*, her popular double act with Helen Thorn. "We have a fortnightly podcast, a weekly blog and live comedy shows like this one, which cover a wide range of parenting topics - from pelvic floors and play-dates to farting and fish fingers. Expect songs, sketches,

standup and very scummy stories!"

The daughter of 1980s alternative comedy legend Jim Barclay, Ellie is fairly new to the unforgiving world of standup, but has quickly learned what becoming a successful comedian entails. A long-time video-games journalist, she knows it's crucial to keep editing and refining her material. "You have to tighten set-ups so they're as minimal as possible," she says, "and ditch jokes that aren't working. It's tough, but you have to be able to kill your babies."

Danny Bhoy

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Wed 6 September; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 7 September; Core Theatre, Solihull, Fri 29 September; The Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 30 September; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 17 October; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 28 October

There can surely be no greater pressure for a Scottish comedian than to be considered one of the country's brightest hopes since Billy Connolly. Such is the cross which Danny Bhoy is currently having to bear. So it's just as well that he's an incredibly talented guy, blending ironic wit, observational humour and an appealingly laid-back style to excellent effect. Whether he's got what it takes to enjoy a career as long as the legendary Mr Connolly's, only time will tell, but there's little doubt that he's become one of the most sought-after comedians on the circuit.

He visits the Midlands this month and next with his latest show, *Make Something Great Again For Stronger Better Future Tomorrow Together*.





"I will be myself"

Nadia Clifford stars in the acclaimed National Theatre production of Jane Eyre, which visits the Birmingham REP this month...

There's a moment in the National Theatre's touring production of *Jane Eyre* with such earth-shattering intensity that even the most devoted Brontë scholar is liable to find the breath knocked clean out of her. What makes the freshness and immediacy of this scene all the more remarkable is that it hinges on one of the single most famous quotations from the novel, when a tormented Jane finally snaps after weeks of mind games from Mr Rochester.

"I am no bird; and no net ensnares me," she says, furiously. "I am a free human being with an independent will; which I now exert to leave you."

The explosive rage of actor Nadia Clifford in this scene sets it apart from any previous adaptation, and reflects director Sally Cookson's decision to present the story as an impassioned bid for freedom, independence and equal rights.

"It's interesting because that was actually the scene I did for my audition, and I think Sally's attitude was very much, 'go big or go home'," laughs Clifford. "Whenever I'd seen it done before in other adaptations, I'd always felt like the way it had been performed had never really rung true with the words that were being said. What we're seeing is this anger that's built up over her whole life, and I think all of us at some point have had a massive argument with someone that's been the result of things being bottled up and accumulating over time. So I was tapping into that, but I also felt that it had to be very specific. The way I'd describe it is that if she could, she'd laser him with her eyes."

Despite this, it's actually the quieter moments and the subtlety of feeling that have most struck Clifford since returning to the novel in preparation for the part.

"I love the book, but I first read it when I was about 14, and at that time I was very attracted to the high drama and emotion of it. Obviously revisiting it as an adult you notice different things, particularly what's

going on in Jane's head in those less dramatic moments.

"I also don't think that I'd really picked up on it as a feminist text before, although now I feel like that's unavoidable - especially with all the things going on in the world at the moment. Education is a really strong theme in the story, and that idea that everyone should have the right to exercise their minds. Over 170 years later, people are still having to fight for those rights, so I think it's quite powerful."

In the show, Jane's complex inner life is represented through conversations with herself, played out literally with other members of the cast standing in as her conflicting thoughts and feelings.

"There's a scene when Jane's at school where her friend Helen tells her that as long as she listens to the voice of her conscience, she'll never be truly alone, and it's from then onwards that she starts having these internal conversations. There are a lot of long, internal monologues in the book, so I think it's quite a clever way of approaching those, and because I'm on stage the whole time, it was great for me to have that support around me."

Nor is it only Jane whose rights and freedom the production passionately advocates for. Together with mezzo-soprano Melanie Marshall, whose sublime singing is woven through the play, Cookson also shines a spotlight on Rochester's "lunatic" first wife, Bertha Mason.

"She's a much bigger presence in the play because we wanted to give her some dignity. There's a really nice moment where Bertha gives Jane back her wedding dress, and I think we've given that a bit more tenderness and just held it a bit longer than in the original National Theatre production."

Striking parallels are drawn between Bertha and Jane throughout the show. Not only do they interact directly, but as the principal vocalist, Marshall is always present, shadow-

ing Jane on her journey and often voicing her feelings and frustrations through a combination of traditional, original and contemporary music. It's particularly moving in a deeply unsettling version of a familiar song that accompanies an account of the fire at Thornfield from housekeeper Mrs Fairfax.

"Sally and I both felt strongly about the similarities between Jane and Bertha - both of them stand outside the accepted norms for women in society at that time, but also in terms of how that's dealt with. When Jane is a child, she gets locked up in the Red Room for not being able to control her emotions, and even though Bertha is obviously mentally unwell, that's very similar to what happens to her - she's sexual and violent and nobody really knows how to deal with that, so she's locked away. For me, that's the main reason why Jane refuses to live with Rochester as his wife while Bertha is alive. She feels very strongly that Bertha is his rightful bride and doesn't want to take that away from her, or be a part of the way she's being treated."

Marshall is the one original cast member who has stayed on for the tour, and so was part of the development of its script. A leading director of devised theatre, Sally Cookson typically starts rehearsals with only the germ of an idea, which cast and creative team then work together to transform into a show. Though the touring cast began with a pre-written script, it's clear to see they've made the show their own.

"We were definitely encouraged to play around with things. We all went back to the original novel, and I know there were ideas that myself and the current cast had that Sally hadn't thought about before. It's been quite unlike anything I've done previously."

.....

Jane Eyre runs at the Birmingham REP from Monday 4 to Saturday 16 September.



★★★★★
 “A staggeringly
 superb smash-hit
 spectacle”

Miss Saigon

Birmingham Hippodrome, until Sat 23 September

On 30 April 1975, American soldiers fled Saigon, leaving the city to be reclaimed by opposing native forces. But while thousands of Vietnamese celebrated the end of US occupation and the reunification of their country under communist leadership, city dwellers who'd lived among the Westerners felt devastated, left behind to face the harsh consequences of having been on the wrong side of the war.

It's against this fraught and politically complex backdrop that Les Miserables creators Alain Boublil and Claude Schönberg set their second most famous musical, Miss Saigon.

Inspired by the plot of classic Puccini opera *Madame Butterfly*, it tells the moving tale of a doomed romance between American GI Chris and Vietnamese barmaid Kim, young lovers who are cruelly divided by the

enforced evacuation...

Cameron Mackintosh's latest touring version of the hit musical makes for a truly thrilling night of theatre. To its eternal credit, it also resonates truthfully and sensitively with the barely imaginable horrors of the Vietnam War and its aftermath.

Yet as serious and often tragic as both the real and fictional elements are, there's also plenty in the show that offers straightforward, wholehearted and utterly astounding entertainment - from the sharp sense of humour and wide-ranging musical styles, to the exceptional performances and dazzling design.

A staggeringly superb smash-hit spectacle, a feast for the eyes, a heartwarming heartbreaker of a love story - Miss Saigon is all of the above and plenty more.

If you've seen it before, see it again. If you've not yet had the pleasure, book yourself a ticket now. **Reviewed by Peter Joshua**



THE WEDDING SINGER

Lauren Cole talks to former X Factor finalist Ray Quinn about his role in the smash-hit musical, which returns to the Midlands this month...



The stage musical version of hit rom-com movie *The Wedding Singer* is already part way through its UK tour and is proving to be a soaring success, receiving widespread praise and countless standing ovations.

Set in 1985, when greed is rife throughout the ranks of wannabe big-shot bankers on Wall Street, a young man named Robbie Hart gets jilted at the altar. Unfortunately for Robbie, he's a wedding singer, and faced with watching couple after couple happily tie the knot, he manages to make every wedding he attends as big a car crash as his own.

Robbie thinks his luck has changed when he falls for kind-hearted Julia. There's just one problem, though - he's booked to sing at her wedding to bad boy Wall Street banker Glen. Playing the role of Glen in this awkward love triangle is Ray Quinn, who's perhaps best known for finishing runner-up in the 2006 series of *The X Factor*. Quinn quickly became a national favourite on the back of his success in the show, with debut album *Doing It My Way* (2007) storming to number one in the UK charts. All in all, it sold over 330,000 copies and went platinum within a week, making

Quinn the youngest British male solo artist to have a number one album before even releasing a single.

Not that the young man from Merseyside was new to fame. Prior to *The X Factor* and from the tender age of 12, he'd starred as Anthony Murray in long-running Channel Four soap opera *Brookside*. His storyline, revolving around bullying and murder, had been met with critical acclaim.

It's hardly surprising, then, that Quinn returned to acting when his music career ground to a halt in the years after *The X Fac-*

tor. He puts his break from the industry down to his inexperience. It was eight years before he returned to the recording studio.

"I was very young at the time and even younger in terms of the music business - I didn't understand it. For anyone out there trying to become an artist in their own right, rather than just a singer, you have to understand the industry a bit more than I did. The team around you has to believe in the artist you portray yourself as. It's a very cutthroat business. You have to have a clear-cut plan of what you want to do, and I think I've learnt this slowly. So eight years after my first album, I was doing a bit more music and writing again because I'd finally found myself as the artist I wanted to be."

Quinn focused almost entirely on musical theatre for the eight years he was away from the recording studio. He's returned to the genre in the two years since the release of second

album *Dare To Dream*.

"All along I knew I had something I could fall back on, and that was starring in musicals. I'd been trained in musical theatre all my life, so going into musicals wasn't even a fallback in that sense - it was a natural progression. For me, it was something huge that I could sink my teeth into. Getting West End productions under my belt and going forward with that career was always a dream of mine."

The *Wedding Singer* is proving to be a thoroughly enjoyable experience for Quinn, especially since he's a huge fan of the '80s music that features so heavily in the show.

"You could say it's my guilty pleasure!

There's a huge band of brass, guitars, drums, pianos; you name it and we've got it - even a triangle! There are references to the era throughout the show, some original scores, and references to strong characters we remember from the decade, which is really key. Nick Winston, our creative director, knew exactly what he was doing; he's pulled together a marvellous team and a fantastic production.

It's different to the Broadway show - it stands alone. I'm so proud of it and definitely a keen '80s fan!"

Despite clearly loving the role he's playing, and the musical as a whole, Quinn doesn't relate to the antics of his character, Glen, as much as he does the '80s vibe.

"Glen is 'the wolf of Wall Street'. He's the greedy, cocky rat, so playing that role is fun for me because he's the bad boy, which is not necessarily the road I chose for myself. It's a very different role for me to play, and one that I'm really enjoying. Glen knows what he wants, and he intends to get it, no matter who he hurts in the process. That's typical of 1980s' city greed - that need to make money and have a great lifestyle no matter what."

Although hoping to continue with his musical theatre career, Quinn also has more music releases in the pipeline.

"I've done straight plays and they're not really for me. I would consider it, depending on the role, but I like musicals. I like being physical, dancing, moving, sweating. I like to feel like I'm earning my money! The future for me is definitely more musicals and more music. I'm working on some at the moment, so trying to get that out there is another priority of mine."

For the time being, though, nothing will distract him from the job in hand.

"I'd draw parallels between *The Wedding Singer* and the likes of *Dirty Dancing* and *Grease*; it's just the best night out when you come down to see the show! There's fun, colour, '80s references, great music, a great cast - you name it! There's nothing much that's missing as far as musicals go. There are so many classic musicals out there that pretty much everyone's either seen or knows very well. So why not take the chance to see something where you can be more open minded, and perhaps not entirely sure what you're going to see? We're really proud of the show and the cast, so it's bound to be a great time. Plus, I'm in it, so why wouldn't you come and see it?"

.....

Ray Quinn stars alongside Cassie Compton, Ruth Madoc and Jon Robyns in *The Wedding Singer* at Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, from Tuesday 12 to Saturday 16 September, and then at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday 3 to Saturday 7 October.





Until
Sat 23 Sep
From £30



Seeta Patel:
Something Then, Something Now

Sun 24 Sep
£12



Wed 27 -
Fri 29 Sep
£12



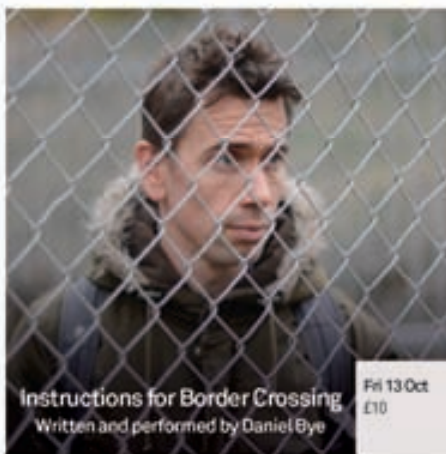
Wed 27 -
Sat 30 Sep
From £10



Tue 3 -
Sat 7 Oct
From £16



Mon 9 -
Sat 14 Oct
From £19.50



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Written and performed by Daniel Bye

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The Whip Hand

Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
Fri 22 September - Sat 7 October

Douglas Maxwell's new play, premiered to great acclaim in Edinburgh last month, is a co-production by Birmingham Rep and Traverse Theatre Company in association with the National Theatre of Scotland.

Tackling the themes of power, privilege, blood ties and the impact of an inescapable past, it focuses on Dougie, a man whose 50th birthday sees him dropping a bombshell that has profound repercussions for his family...

"This is a brilliant play," enthuses its director, Tessa Walker. "I love that it starts in a place so far from where it ends up, that it manages simultaneously to be about the fractures in a family and about the state of a country, and that it's as funny and as heartfelt as it is moving and unsettling."

"To be working with three such wonderful theatre companies to bring this play to life is a real privilege."



Beauty For Ashes

The Old Rep, Birmingham, 16 September

Jason's mother believes in the power of prayer and the impact it can have on the shaping of a person's destiny.

Jason, for his part, is not so convinced.

At a crossroads in his life, he knows there are decisions he needs to make - decisions that will have a far-reaching effect on those around him...

A contemplation on the difficulties that can exist between a mother and son, *Beauty For Ashes* is presented by Creative Mouthpiece, a company committed to the use of theatre for the purpose of 'education and empowerment'.

The Great Gatsby

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham,
Sat 9 - Sat 16 September

F Scott Fitzgerald's literary masterpiece, set in the American Jazz Age of the Roaring 20s, focuses on the quixotic passion of mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby for the beautiful former debutante, Daisy Buchanan. In the process of recounting the tale - told through the eyes of Gatsby's Long Island neighbour, Nick Carraway - Fitzgerald presents not only the story of a delightfully decadent decade but also a cautionary tale about the American Dream...

The Games Afoot Try The Fish

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

Rakish aristocrat and first-time detective Charlie Montague is described by his creator, Tom Taylor, as the gloriously inept love child of Agatha Christie and PG Wodehouse.

Taylor plays Montague in both *The Game's Afoot* and its companion piece, *The Man With The Twisted Hip*, two splendidly ridiculous murder-mysteries that transport the audience back to the days of chaise longues, smoking jackets and delightfully witty plays by Noel Coward.

The bumbling detective has gone down a storm at Edinburgh, so expect a well-honed and impressively self-confident show.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Thurs 7 - Sat 9 September

Accessible language, likeable characters, romantic liaisons, magical creatures and a series of comical caperings with an ass are here combined to excellent effect in one of Shakespeare's most popular works.

Lysander and Demetrius both fancy Hermia, Helena's sitting on the shelf, Titania and Oberon are up to no good and Puck's got his finger in more pies than Mr Kipling. Add into

the mix a group of rude mechanicals and the recipe for success is pretty much complete. Presented by the critically acclaimed Pantaloons Theatre Company.

Finding Joy

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 20 September; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 22 September; Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Wed 25 October; Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 26 & Fri 27 October; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 3 November; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 17 & Sat 18 November

A work of full mask theatre based on true stories, *Finding Joy* has been described as a funny and fearless piece that's positively brimming with visual inventiveness. When Danny decides to become his grandmother Joy's carer, their new-found bond is somewhat unexpected. Joy is creative, funny and losing her memory; Danny is rebellious and always getting into trouble. Yet bond the pair most certainly do.

Less certain is where their newly developed connection will eventually lead them...



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A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT

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MUSIC BY JAY DAVID
LYRICS BY RUTH MARINO
BOOKED BY JON ROBERTS

the wedding singer

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LULU
ALL ABOUT THE MUSIC



MON 30 OCT

RICK WAKEMAN
PIANO PORTRAITS



SAT 9 DEC 2017 - SUN 14 JAN 2018

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

GARETH LISA DOREEN
GATES RILEY TIPTON
IAN ADAMS GRAHAM COLE ADAM C BOOTH



Jack and the Beanstalk
THE GIANT Pantomime Spectacular

Flashdance

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Mon 25 - Sat 30 September; New Alexandra
Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 4 - Fri 9 December

Based on the popular '80s movie of the same name, Flashdance features hit numbers Maniac, Manhunt, Gloria, I Love Rock And Roll and the Academy Award-winning What A Feeling. The show tells the story of 18-year-old Alex, a welder by day and 'flashdancer' by night, who dreams of winning a place at the prestigious Shipley Dance Academy. But will she get to achieve her ambition against all the odds?... Strictly Come Dancing champion Joanne Clifton (pictured) and A1 heart-throb Ben Adams star.



Mr Darcy Loses The Plot

Lichfield Garrick, Sat 23 September

The well-established Lip Service - aka Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding - return to the region with their latest comic offering.

Maggie and Sue have been working together for more than three decades now, presenting shows like Withering Looks - 'an authentic insight into the lives and works of those three Bronte sisters' - and Inspector Norse - 'a self-assembly Swedish crime thriller'.

This time out, they're marking the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death by spinning a yarn in which the novelist is interrupted as she's busying herself dreaming up the character of Mr Darcy. Unexpectedly left to his own devices, Darcy embroiders his storyline while his creator stitches her quilt...



Nocturnes

Bridge House Theatre, Warwick,
Wed 27 September; mac, Birmingham,
Sat 30 September

"Nocturnes asks important questions about truth, free will and how we understand what's real in this post-truth era," explain Imitating The Dog, the company behind the production. A multimedia twist on a 1950s spy thriller, the show is set at the height of the Cold War and focuses on the disintegrat-

ing relationship between two operatives holed up in a Berlin apartment while awaiting instructions... Imitating The Dog have been creating and touring original performance work for just short of 20 years, testing theatrical conventions in productions that showcase high-end design and both technical and thematic ambition.

This latest production has been selected as part of the British Council Showcase 2017.

Reasons To Be Cheerful

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Fri 8 - Sat 9 September

Years after Ian Dury's death, groundbreaking performance company Graeae pays loving tribute to him with a show inspired by his music.

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.



Son Of A Preacher Man

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 12 - Sat 16 September; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 10 - Sat 14 October; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 13 - Sat 17 February; Malvern Theatre, Tues 20 - Sat 24 February; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 13 - Sat 17 March



Former X Factor favourite Diana Vickers stars alongside Ian Reddington and Debra Stephenson in a show that features the Swinging '60s music of Dusty Springfield. "I understand a lot about Dusty," says Diana. "She was described as 'the great white lady of pop', and I knew about her success and her music. In my audition, I felt like I was naturally channelling her when I sang her music."

Named after Springfield's 1968 chart hit and directed by Strictly's Craig Revel Horwood, the show 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 would dance until they dropped.

"It's a show that takes you back to the Swinging '60s," explains Diana, "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."

Dido, Queen Of Carthage

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Fri 15 September - Sat 28 October

This is the work with which Shakespeare contemporary Christopher Marlowe kick-started a playwriting career that would see him produce Tamburlaine The Great, The Jew Of Malta, Doctor Faustus and Edward II. Short in length and rarely performed in modern times, it tells the story of Trojan hero Aeneas and his efforts to find a new life and identity in Europe following the defeat of his city. Dido, Queen of Carthage, offers help - but the waters are soon muddied when she finds herself consumed by an uncontrollable passion for Aeneas...

Kimberley Sykes takes the helm, having worked as associate director on the RSC's recent production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Freeman

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, 27 - 30 September;
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
Mon 9 - Tues 10 October

Birmingham-based Strictly Arts Theatre Company's follow-up to highly acclaimed debut

offering Solids & Liquids, Freeman is inspired by the true story of a black slave who was put on trial in 19th century New York, and whose case was the first in which 'insanity' was raised as a defence.

"Our aim is to turn conventional theatre on its head," explain Strictly Arts, "creating and revisiting theatre that inspires all races, creeds and cultures to explore and embrace our differences or similarities. Infused by our training at Birmingham School of Acting, predominantly Afro-Caribbean and with vastly different upbringings, we are the epitome of the arts unifying people from different backgrounds."



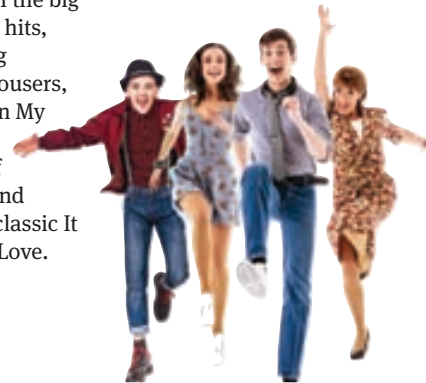
Our House

Malvern Theatre, Mon 11 - Sat 16 September;
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 8 - Sat 11 November

A Laurence Olivier Award winner in the category of best new musical, Tim Firth's Our House is a raucous comedy inspired by and featuring the music of Madness.

Set in Camden Town in the mid-1980s, it tells the story of Joe Casey and his less-than-legal attempts to treat his girlfriend Sarah to an evening in a brand new luxury apartment. But when the police turn up, Joe has to decide whether to go on the run or face the music... And speaking of music,

expect all the big Madness hits, including Baggy Trousers, Driving In My Car, The Wings Of A Dove and all-time classic It Must Be Love.



Theatre previews for younger audiences

Milkshake! Live

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton,
Sat 23 September; Stafford Gatehouse
Theatre, Thurs 26 October

Here taking youngsters on a journey through the world's favourite fairytales is, among others, Bob the Builder, Little Princess, Noddy, Fireman Sam and Shimmer & Shine. If you've watched the TV series and/or been to a previous live production, you'll already know what to expect. If not, get ready for an event that promises lots of laughter, bucket-loads of family fun, bags of audience participation and plenty of singing and dancing.



The Sooty Show

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 2 September;
Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa,
Sun 29 October

One of the 20th century's best-loved children's characters makes a welcome return. A simple glove puppet created by Harry Corbett almost 70 years ago, Sooty continues to go down a storm with generation after generation of youngsters, impressively bucking the trend for far more sophisticated, high-tech entertainment. Richard Cadell's the fella now operating Sooty and his longtime companions, Sweep and Soo, and is here joined by 'special guest stars' Butch and Ramsbottom. Expect magic, music, mayhem and audience participation.



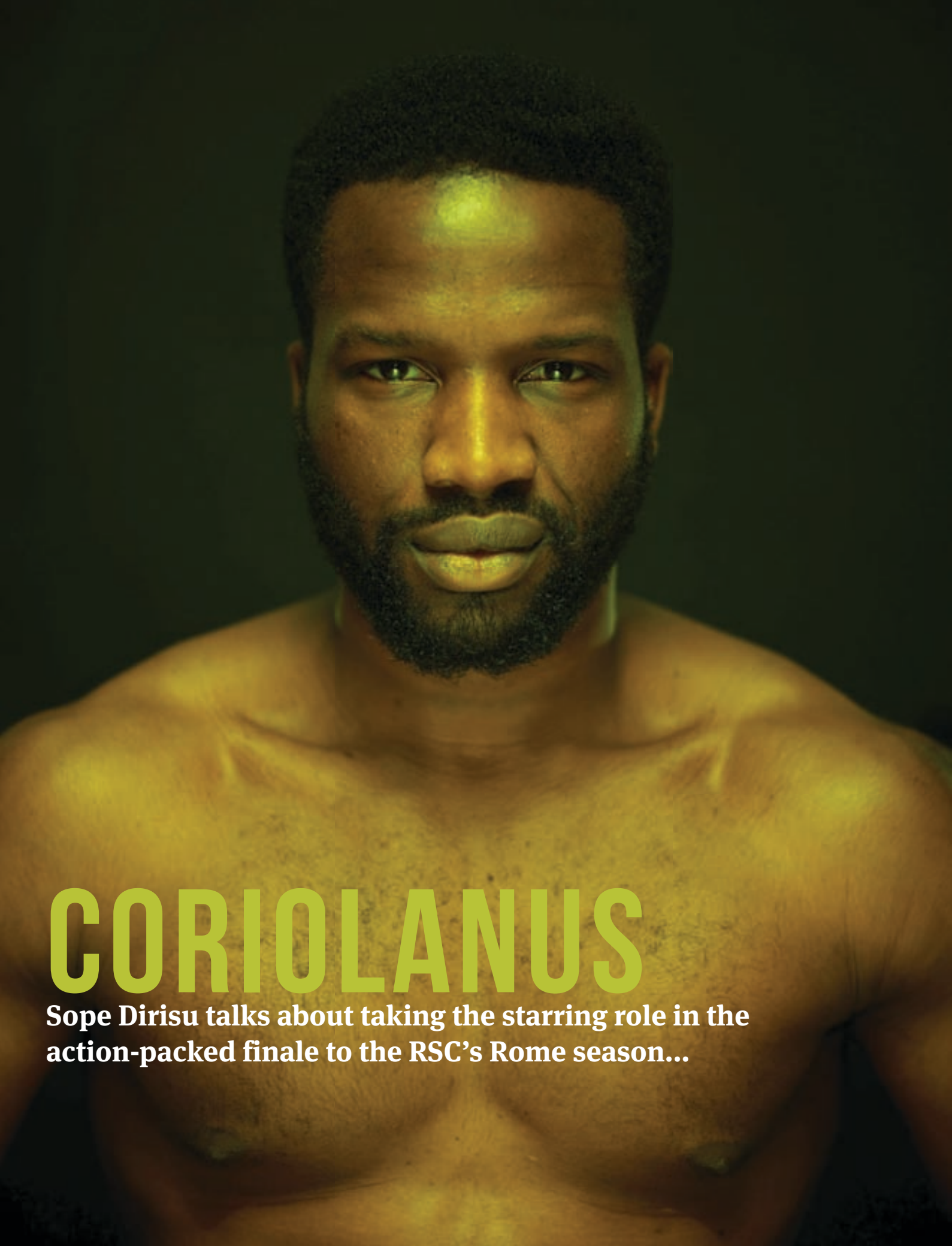
Big Howard's LOL-tastic Yukfest

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
Sat 23 September

Although regularly seen in the company of animated CBBC pal Little Howard, Howard Read (aka Big Howard) does sometimes like to venture out on his own.

He's doing just that this very month, hitting the road with this hugely accessible hour's-worth of mirth. Suitable for youngsters aged five-plus, the show brings together standup comedy, interactive digital animation, sound effects and jokes.





CORIOLANUS

Sope Dirisu talks about taking the starring role in the action-packed finale to the RSC's Rome season...

“ Rather than going for something that looks like post-nuclear fallout, we’re going to maintain the class divide. The difference between those who are privileged and those who aren’t will be clearly coded into the costumes ”

Populist uprisings, widening inequality and a polarisation between the polish of traditional, tactical politicians and the frankness of a new breed of leftfield, unembellished leaders. Sound familiar? It’s actually the basis for a Shakespeare play set around 493-488 BC, in the early days of the Roman Empire.

As the RSC concludes its epic Rome season by going back to the beginning of the saga in *Coriolanus*, we spoke to Sope Dirisu, who plays the production’s titular hero - or perhaps in this case, another term might be more fitting?

“He’s not a hero,” says Dirisu. “I would even call a character like Macbeth a hero, for example, because although things don’t turn out great for him, it’s easy to understand his motivation and why what happens to him happens. But *Coriolanus* is different. He’s not sympathetic, which is possibly one of the reasons why the play isn’t put on all that often.”

It’s 10 years since *Coriolanus* was last staged by the RSC - this despite its political potency and gripping plot. The play is action-packed right from the off, with an opening scene featuring plebeian rebels marching on the Capitol to demand a fair share of the grain being kept there. As the smooth-talking, popular Menenius attempts to defuse the situation, military top dog Caius Martius (later dubbed *Coriolanus* in honour of his victory at Corioli) returns from battle, making no attempt to disguise his complete contempt for the protesters. As cold and merciless in the city as he is on the battlefield, Martius is equally despised by the people. Yet though his bluntness, lack of compassion and smug superiority are ultimately his ruin, there are some qualities in him, thinks Dirisu, that deserve to be emulated.

“Politically, it’s a bit of a firestarter. In rehearsals, we’ve been referring back to that slip that Gordon Brown made when he called someone a ‘bigoted woman’. And I mean, he wasn’t lying. But unfortunately, politics has turned into a popularity contest, rather than a contest of principles or ideologies, and I

think that’s exactly what *Coriolanus* stands up to. He knows who he is and doesn’t see any reason to deflect from that for the benefit of anybody else.

“On the other hand, I suppose Menenius is a better representative of the politicians we have who will tell us what we want to hear while doing something completely different in the background. I think maybe in an ideal world you would have more *Coriolanuses* - people who were honest about their views so you could elect them accordingly. But in order for that to happen, everyone needs to be a lot more engaged in politics than they currently are.”

Things have taken a turn for the apocalyptic in the Rome depicted by director Angus Jackson and designer Robert Innes Hopkins, in what promises to be a thrilling season finale. It might seem odd to finish with the first chapter of Shakespeare’s Roman story, but there’s a method in their madness.

“The idea is that it’s a bit further on from *Titus*, which was basically set in the present day. We’re looking at a future where war has ravaged the earth to the point where we’ve reduced sovereignty to city-states rather than countries, in much the same way as it was around 500 BC. It’s going to be a lot barer than the previous productions - I think Rob is really excited to use the cavernous space of the stage, and we’ll be using a lot of height with different levels to help the audience feel the size of the play and the arguments it puts forward.”

It’s a novel way of approaching the narrative that calls attention to the cyclical nature of history, reinforcing the parallels between the Classical world and our own time. It’s also interesting to consider what might survive of a culture after the civilisation that produced it has crumbled.

“Rather than going for something that looks like post-nuclear fallout, we’re going to maintain the class divide. The difference between those who are privileged and those who aren’t will be clearly coded into the costumes.”

It’s not just the design that will provide a through-link across the season. As with previous shows, audiences can expect a level of involvement in the conversations taking place on stage.

“As a performer on a thrust stage, you have to have a lot of spatial awareness, making sure everyone can see your face and hear your voice, but the joy of it is that the audience is your audience in the story, rather than using a crowd of actors on stage. For the speeches in the Senate, we have this idea of the Scottish Parliament or the UN, where everyone’s sat in a semicircle, in a similar formation to Roman amphitheatres, or the RST auditorium.”

Returning to Stratford after starring in *Pericles* as part of the RSC’s Open Stages project in 2013, Dirisu has seen his career blossom over the last four years, encompassing roles in Channel Four’s *Utopia* and *Humans*. Having studied Economics at the University of Birmingham, he went through college still uncertain about his future, until his RSC role finally convinced him that acting might be worth pursuing. It was, in his own words “the beginning of a journey”, on which *Coriolanus* is yet another step. But though he still has friends in the area who he’ll be visiting from time to time, his plan for now is to make the most of the opportunity he’s been given.

“I think it was Judi Dench who described Stratford as a bubble. It feels so far away from the outside world, which means you can come here and focus on your craft and on Shakespeare and the company. For as long as I’ve wanted to be an actor at the RSC, that sense of company and community has been really important to me, so I’m going to treasure every moment of it.”

Coriolanus shows at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, from Friday 15 September to Saturday 14 October.

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Tue 24 Oct	Coventry, The Belgrade	024 7655 3055
Wed 25 Oct	Coventry, The Belgrade	024 7655 3055
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THE **SUNDAY TIMES**
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Joli Vyann: Imbalance

mac, Birmingham, Thurs 14 September

Former stunt man and circus artist Jan Patzke and ex-gymnast and dancer Olivia Quayle form Joli Vyann, a company whose new fusion style blurs the boundaries between dance and circus skills.

Real-life couple Jan and Olivia here present the story of a relationship made dysfunctional by the impact of digital-age technology. In the process they contemplate what people's obsessive dependence on their smart phones may be costing them in terms of human interaction.

Rip It Up: Dancing Through The 50s

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 19 September; William Aston Hall, Wrexham, Thurs 21 September; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 22 September

Strictly champions Jay McGuinness and Louis Smith are here joined by one of the show's pros, Natalie Lowe (and BBC

Radio 2's Leo Green) for a production that pays loving tribute to the music and dance styles of the 1950s. Swing, bop, jitterbug, lindy hop, jive and ballroom all feature as the trio of stars make their way through some of the decade's greatest songs, from the crooning magic of Nat King Cole's Unforgettable to the rock-'n'-roll energy of Elvis's Hound Dog.

Tap Factory

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 29 September; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sun 15 October



A rhythm-based production described as 'Tap Dogs meets Stomp', Tap Factory has enjoyed huge success across Europe and in South America. The show sees an array of internationally renowned dancers, gymnasts and acrobats creating live music and choreography from all manner of ordinary objects, including oil barrels, trash bins and wood mallets. The production first toured the UK in 2014 and returns to the Midlands by popular demand.



BRB: Penguin Café Mixed Programme

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 27 - Sat 30 September

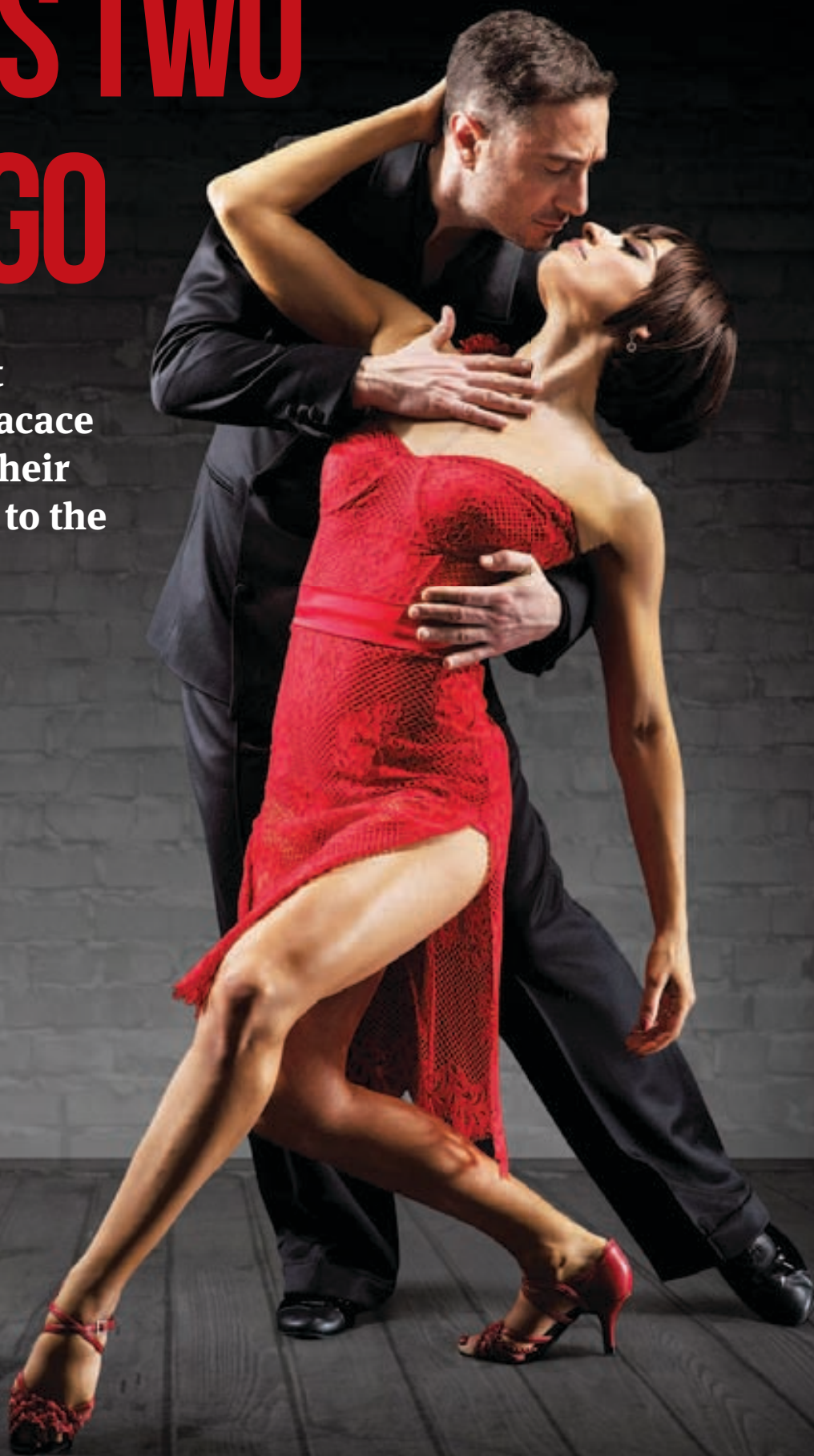
This Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB) triple bill brings together three highly rated works from across the decades. Kenneth MacMillan's Concerto, created in 1966, exudes youthful energy, boasts vigorous choreography and is set to Shostakovich's Second Piano Concerto. Eight years later, the choreographer created Elite Syncopations, a piece combining comedic flair, riotous colour and Scott

Joplin's iconic ragtime music. Last but certainly not least is 'Still Life' At The Penguin Cafe (1988), a colourful production from BRB director David Bintley which takes a poignant look at man's impact on the world. Focusing on a host of endangered animals seeking refuge from a storm, it features a morris-dancing flea, a ballroom-dancing ram, a sleepy rat and a woolly monkey!



IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO

**Strictly stars Vincent
Simone and Flavia Cacace
talk about bringing their
Tango Moderno tour to the
Midlands...**



You're bringing your Tango Moderno tour to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre this autumn. Can you tell us a little bit about what to expect?

F: This is our fourth show, and every time we put a show together we want the audience to see something not expected, not the same thing that we've done before. It was very hard this time, as so much choreography, so many stories and so many ideas have already been done, but we decided to go down the modern route, hence the title Tango Moderno. We thought we'd be a bit more up to date, have a bit more modern music that people will recognise from the radio and so on. We've set it in a city that can be anywhere in the world, so it's up to the audience to visualise where they want that to be. The different thing with it is that normally we're characters within the story, but this time we thought we'd take a step away from that and actually narrate the story. We have an urban poet who's also going to be our singer, and together with him, we're going to help narrate. It's not really one story, it's going to be lots of small stories that start in Act One and are finished off in Act Two.

Your previous production, The Last Tango, was due to be your last. What made you decide to produce and tour a brand new show?

V: Our shows are big shows that literally take months to put together. Every time we're about to attack a new one, we always say, 'This is the last one, no more!' because it's so much hard work. The pressure increases year by year because people have seen it and people love it, so when the producer comes along - and of course we do love what we do, don't get me wrong - and says, 'I think you should do a new show', we're thinking, 'Oh my gosh, we need to think of something else to do that we haven't done so far'. We never said we were going to retire, but we are quite successful, we do sell lots of tickets, there are lots of people who love to come and see us, and even after a couple of months off, you think, 'Oh my gosh, I miss that, I miss being on stage'. It's kind of like a drug. It's something you've obviously loved and something you know, so it's really hard to all of a sudden stop. We make people happy, we make people cry - there are so many emotions that it's very hard just to say, 'That's it'. We're still quite young.

F: I think it's easy to say when we're in rehearsal and preparation for a show that we're not going to do it again because there's so much pressure and you just want to do a good job. The more shows you do, the more you worry that the next one isn't going to be as good, so you have to ask whether you want to put yourself through that again or move on to other things.

V: We push ourselves to the limit and perform every show and if it's our last. It's not easy - we're very hard on ourselves.

You were UK Professional Ten Dance champions from 2002 to 2006, World Argentine Tango Show champions in 2005 and 2006 and UK Ballroom champions for several

years. Do you have a favourite dance style?

V: I won Rear Of The Year as well. And so did Flavia.

F: That came as a complete surprise! For the last couple of years it would be the Argentine tango. As you get older, it's an increasingly comfortable style for the body. Latin and ballroom are great. Latin goes with being quite young and bubbly - skimpy outfits, holiday time and so on. Ballroom is beautiful and elegant, very classical, so I still enjoy doing that, but with the tango, there's an element of it which is incredibly natural - so now, for me, that is the most pleasurable style to do. It's less created, less 'put together' - you can dance it anywhere, wear what you want; it's less orchestrated.

You've been dance partners for over two decades now. How did that come about?

V: I was doing really well in Italy.

F: You should have stayed!

V: I should have stayed, you're right! My mum and dad were always there for me. Every week they were driving five hours to take me to see dance teachers for lessons and then driving five hours back. They did that for so many years, and then my long-term dance partner decided she didn't want to carry on anymore. The best country in the world to do ballroom and Latin dancing is England - in London - so my parents advised me to go to London. They do love me, don't get me wrong, but it made sense. Where I'm from in South Italy, there weren't any good dance partners, so I would have had to train one, and to do that from the start would've taken so long. When I moved here, I tried with three different partners, and then I found Flavia. We're both Italian, the dark look, the same height. I remember the faces of our teachers when we did a trial. They were mesmerised and said it was like a partnership made in heaven. So that's it, that's how it started. For many years then it was about getting better and better and competing in competition after competition. That's how it all began.

With touring comes a lot of travelling, as well as the mental and physical strain on your body. What coping mechanisms do you put in place to ensure you're fit to dance night after night?

F: I think everyone is very different. Some people will get up early and go to the gym, others rest more during the day. I have to have a bath after the show, that's the first thing I do. It helps relax the muscles and helps me to fall asleep. You finish at 9/9.30pm, and by the time you've got back to the hotel, you're really awake - your adrenaline is pumping and there's no way you can quickly relax and get to sleep. I lie in the bath, have some food and that really helps me to fall asleep eventually. Sports massages too, I have those regularly. You kind of learn to know what your body needs.

V: Some of us like to go shopping.

F: Yeah, you need some mental therapy.

V: Knowing that we have to perform, you can't really go crazy. Sometimes, even if a performance is at 7.30pm, we'll meet there at 3pm because we have nothing else to do. We just spend the afternoon in the theatre, just getting in the mood.

V: I don't think they'd take us back! It's been a while now and they've got all these beautiful young dancers.

F: They have asked us back - every year they've asked us back, which has been really lovely. I don't ever believe in going backwards, though. It was something that we did so solidly for seven years. It was kind of our life and that was it - I don't see the positive in going back. It's like going back to an old job or something - it's probably never going to be as good. The dancers are different, it's still a great show, and I'm not saying that they're any better or any worse, but for us, it's not the time that we were there, so I don't think it would be the same experience. There are so many other things we want to do and achieve, and there wouldn't be any benefit. We've always felt very lucky that they ask us back.

What would your dream project be?

V: A film! Making a movie. We're trying our hardest to make it happen. It would be the cherry on the cake. It would be a nice way to move into something new. We've done TV, we've done theatre, now we want to do film. Not necessarily as performers or actors, but just to be involved in some shape or form, as choreographers or directors or so on.

You were dancers on BBC 1's Strictly Come Dancing for seven years. Would you ever consider going back?

V: I don't think they'd take us back! It's been a while now and they've got all these beautiful young dancers.

F: They have asked us back - every year they've asked us back, which has been really lovely. I don't ever believe in going backwards, though. It was something that we did so solidly for seven years. It was kind of our life and that was it - I don't see the positive in going back. It's like going back to an old job or something - it's probably never going to be as good. The dancers are different, it's still a great show, and I'm not saying that they're any better or any worse, but for us, it's not the time that we were there, so I don't think it would be the same experience. There are so many other things we want to do and achieve, and there wouldn't be any benefit. We've always felt very lucky that they ask us back.

.....
Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace star in Tango Moderno at the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from Tuesday 19 to Saturday 23 September.



22-24 SEPTEMBER 2017

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#BIRMINGHAMWEEKENDER

ART FOR ALL

The region's biggest arts festival returns...



Birmingham Weekender is a diverse family-friendly event which showcases both local and international artists. Highlights include Rangeeli - a colourful community parade taking place in the city centre - The Alternative Village Fete, based at the Bullring markets, and Clash Of Drums, a night-time feast of sound and fireworks on Eastside Green.

Here, Festival Director Piali Ray OBE offers an insight into the event, its background and why people from across the Midlands should check out Birmingham Weekender 2017...

As a Festival Director, I'm delighted to oversee the return of Birmingham Weekender, an ever-popular family-friendly festival celebrating the city's diversity, its communities and its artists.

The three-day event also welcomes international performers from around the world to Birmingham, and plays a role within Utsav, Birmingham's Year of South Asian Culture. Two years ago, David Cameron met with the Indian prime minister and named 2017 as the India-UK Year of Culture. This is now being celebrated throughout the country. But because we have such a diverse South Asian population here in Birmingham, we decided to broaden it out further.

Together with Graham Callister from Birmingham Hippodrome, I've been programming and curating the festival - but there are lots of other people working with us too. These include Aaron from Fierce Festival, Tim Hodgson - an independent producer who's turning the market into a village fête - and lots more besides, including the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Moseley Folk, Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, BRB and Birmingham Opera Company. It really is a joint effort.

There are all kinds of things happening, and one of the most exciting is that Victoria Square will be transformed into a dance square, with dance at all times from Friday afternoon until Sunday evening. The idea is to create a big, participatory family event, where professional dancers will help you to learn routines in all different styles: bhangra, hip-hop, contemporary, ballet, Bollywood and more. Hopefully the event will introduce you to some new genres too, like the Indian classical style, Kathakali. We're also joined by big-name DJs Craig Charles, David Rodigan and Don Letts, who perform free gigs that are open to everyone.

Sampad is leading on the Rangeeli Colours Of Birmingham Parade, in which more than 400 participants will walk down High Street and New Street before finishing in Victoria Square. There will be lots of dancers and musicians, and people from the community are joining in with kites and banners they've been making in workshops running ahead of the event. We've also got a beautiful, mechanical Indian elephant called Harminster. Harminster has visited many different carnivals and parades throughout the country, but this will be her first time in Birmingham.

Because Birmingham is a very lively, vibrant city, there are all sorts of cultural offerings for people to choose from, and in the same way as with fashion and food, there are a lot of artists from different backgrounds 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. We hope that exploring that variety will be as much fun for audiences as it has been for artists and creators in the city. **Enjoy!**



Piali Ray OBE, Birmingham Weekender Festival Director

HIGHLIGHTS



Birmingham Weekender in association with Moseley Folk present

Square Dance

Friday 22 - Sunday 24
Victoria Square
FREE

Enjoy three days of music and dance in the heart of the city. Weekender organisers have built a giant wooden dancefloor in front of the Council House to get the people of Birmingham dancing together. In the daytime bring your friends and family and join in the dance classes and performances in the Square. Each evening live music and high-profile DJs keep the crowds entertained.

Refreshments include gourmet street food, Purity ales and lagers, fine wines and fizz, artisan gin and rum punch.

Birmingham Museums Trust in collaboration with Artangel present

The Influence Machine by Tony Oursler

Friday 22 & Saturday 23 - 8-10pm
St Philip's Cathedral, Colmore Row
FREE

Presenting a psycho-landscape of ethereal figures projected onto the cathedral, trees, walls and clouds of smoke, American artist Tony Oursler's thought-provoking work tells stories of technological leaps in telecommunication, delving deep into the history of media.

The Influence Machine is from The Artangel Collection. It's here presented as part of Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, The Foyle Foundation, Arts Council England, Birmingham Museums Trust and Colmore Business District.



Sampad and Birmingham Weekender present Rangeeli - Colours Of Birmingham Parade

Saturday 23 - 11am

Parade begins at High Street, moving down New Street to Victoria Square - FREE

All the colours of Birmingham come to life in this spectacular parade.

In the Rio Carnival tradition of storytelling, Rangeeli presents the story of the city. Co-designed with the citizens of Birmingham, the parade explores, celebrates and shares the heritage of the city with a South Asian twist - Utsav (festival) style!

Participants make their way through the city centre from New Street with vibrant flags, hand-held puppets, masks, costumes and a colourful kaleidoscope of South Asian kites (called Patang).

They are accompanied by Harminster, an amazing life-size mechanical elephant born from reclaimed bicycle parts, metal and other recycled materials.

The Colours Of Birmingham Parade culminates at Square Dance on Victoria Square with a crescendo of sound - including dhol and Brazilian beats - and a display of exhilarating dance styles in the form of kathakali, Bollywood, bhangra, bharatanatyam and African and contemporary moves.



Birmingham Hippodrome presents Les Commandos Percu (France) and Deabru Beltzak (Spain) Clash Of Drums

Saturday 23 - 8.30pm - warm-up acts from 7.30pm

Eastside Green at Eastside City Park

Book your FREE tickets at
www.birminghamhippodrome.com/clash

Out of nowhere, drummers with colourful faces and twirling drumsticks march towards each other, preparing for a confrontation of rhythm and light...

The wild parade leads to the stage with a clash of drums.

Light and fireworks fill the skies as the explosion of sound brings everyone together in an exciting spectacle!

A highlight of Birmingham Weekender, Clash Of Drums promises an unforgettable evening of sound, fireworks and performance.



**Birmingham Weekender and Fierce present
Tram-a-lama-ding-dong! Cabaret on the Metro!**

Saturday 23

Pop-up performances on board the trams,

3-9pm

Network Midland Metro between

New Street and the Jewellery Quarter

Tram ticket required; purchase on board

All aboard Brum's exciting new mode of travel, the Network West Midland Metro! Today, for your on-board entertainment, a trio of cabaret delights... Armed with her Casio keyboard, songstress Lorraine Bowen of The Crumble Song and Britain's Got Talent fame seduces her audience with her catchy pop hooks. Marvel at the entrancing, synchronised dance routines of the strange-but-true Figs In Wigs and laugh along with Birmingham's 'First Lady of Comedy', Mrs Barbara Nice (pic below), as she rolls out gags faster than the speed of a tram. All you need to partake is a ticket to ride!

Find full performance timetable at www.birminghamweekender.com



**Birmingham Repertory Theatre
presents an**

**Outbox Theatre production
As A Tiger In The Jungle**

Friday 22 - 7.45pm

Saturday 23 - 2.45pm & 7.45pm

The REP, Centenary Square

Tickets from £15 via www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

A unique theatrical circus experience comes to The REP as part of Birmingham Weekender. Using circus ceremony and spoken word, Renu Ghalan, Aman Tamang and Loan TP Hoang tell the story of how, against all odds, they survived childhood and created their own destiny. An inspiring, authentic and heartwarming performance about life and circus. Recommended for ages 12+



Southside Producers in partnership
with The Old Rep Theatre present

Culture Catwalk

Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 - 11am-5pm

Bullring, next to the bull statue

FREE

Culture Catwalk shines a light on our community's finest creative talent, capturing the vibrancy and diversity that makes Birmingham unique. Artists from across the city take to the red carpet to sing, dance, glide, slide and perform.

Back at Birmingham Weekender by popular demand, Culture Catwalk is a celebration of everything that makes us Brummie! Follow @SSProducers in the run-up to Weekender and tell us what #BeingABrummie means to you!

If you'd like to take to the Culture Catwalk stage, visit www.birminghamweekender.com to find out how to apply.



Town Hall Symphony Hall present

The Multi-Story Orchestra Beethoven's Fifth

Friday 22 - 7pm & Saturday 23 - 5pm

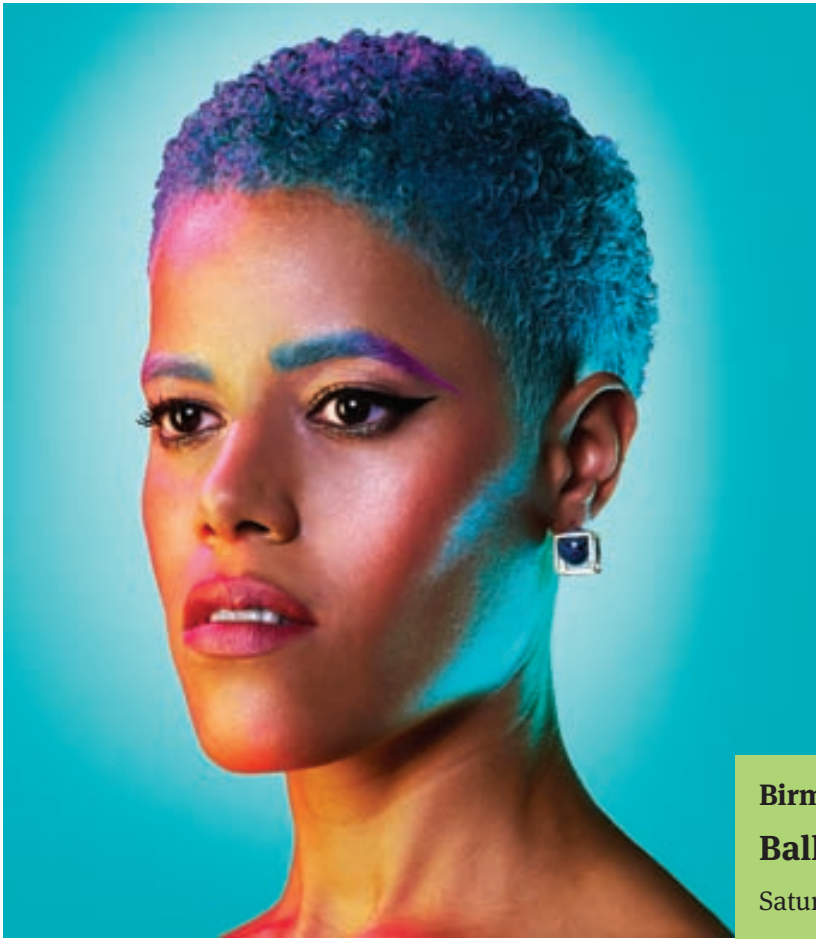
North Car Park Level 1, Arena Birmingham (formerly Barclaycard Arena). Use pedestrian entrance on the corner of St Vincent St and King Edwards Rd

Tickets £5, via www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333

Come and be part of a dynamic take on one of Beethoven's towering masterpieces, as The Multi-Story Orchestra make their Birmingham debut - in the unusual setting of a city-centre car park.

Led by Christopher Stark, their approach to presenting live classical music in unexpected venues has been widely celebrated ("the response was ecstatic, and it deserved to be" - The New York Times). This performance includes one of their unique Living Programme Notes, where the whole Multi-Story Orchestra celebrate and explore the symphony with the audience.





Trevor Pitt presents

Fluid Festival at Minerva Works

Saturday 23 - 3 - 11.30pm

Minerva Works, Fazeley Street

Early Bird £15, On the door £20.

Book via www.fluidfestival.org

This festival of new Queer sound and music features an extraordinary line-up of composers and experimental electronic musicians. Highlights include the rarely performed piece *Gay Guerilla* by Julius Eastman, led by Rolf Hind and Siwan Rhys, plus sets from Robin Buckley, CN Lester, Henry McPherson & Inkeri Kallio, Repeater, Daniel vs The World, Mx World, Rebekah Ubuntu, Michael Wolters & Paul Norman and Yfat Soul Zisso. Tickets & info at www.fluidfestival.org

Birmingham Royal Ballet present

Ballet in the Bullring

Saturday 23 - 1pm, 2.15pm, 3pm

Bullring Shopping Centre, by main entrance to Debenhams

FREE

Birmingham Royal Ballet brings world-class dance to the Bullring with three performances of a classic pas de deux from *The Nutcracker*, one of the Company's most popular and iconic productions. During the weekend, the Company also leads a ballet flashmob, including dancers from local dance schools and the community.

To find out more and take part in the flashmob, sign up at brb.org.uk/weekender



FLUID FESTIVAL
23 & 24 SEPTEMBER 2017

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HENRY MCPHERSON || PAUL NORMAN || REPEATOR
SIWAN RHYS || DANIEL VS THE WORLD || Mx WORLD
REBEKAH UBUNTU || MICHAEL WOLTERS || YFAT SOUL ZISSO

Plus special guests **MATMOS** live from their studio in Baltimore, USA

SATURDAY
MINERVA WORKS, DIGBETH, BIRMINGHAM

SUNDAY
EDEN BAR, GAY VILLAGE, BIRMINGHAM

INFO & TICKETS
www.fluidfestival.org

This project is supported by the Creative Capital programme by Sound and Music

THE projects eden

**Town Hall Symphony Hall in association
with Sampad Arts presents**

Hans Raj Hans - Birmingham Weekender Closing Concert

Sunday 24 - 7:30pm

Town Hall

Tickets £13 via www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333

Hugely popular Punjabi singer Hans Raj Hans closes Birmingham Weekender 2017 with an uplifting evening of live song and music.

Hans Raj is known for his charismatic performances, which have established him as a national treasure in his home country of India and endeared him to millions of fans throughout the world.

One of the finest modern-day performers of Sufi songs, he's renowned as a folk-revivalist and passionate ambassador for Sufi music.

An exceptionally versatile and soulful vocalist, Hans Raj also possesses a fluent ability to span a wealth of musical styles, including popular Punjabi songs as well as folk, devotional,



gurbani, ghazals, Bollywood and classical.

He has collaborated with music legends such as Lata Mangeshkar and the late Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, as well as distinguished composer AR Rahman.

Join Hans Raj and his line-up of gifted musicians for this joyful and memorable finale to Birmingham Weekender.



**Home Live Art and Birmingham Weekender
present**

Alternative Village Fete

Sunday 24 - 11am-4pm Bullring Open Market

FREE

The Bullring has been at the heart of Birmingham city centre for more than 900 years, a focus for shopping, socialising and culture.

For Weekender, the open market and rag market become The Alternative Village Fete - a one-off day filled with interactive performances, installations and quirky stalls, embracing the best bits of a traditional village fete but adding an alternative Brummie twist!

Birmingham Hippodrome presents

Seeta Patel Something Then, Something Now

Sunday 24 - 5pm

The Patrick Centre at Birmingham Hippodrome

Tickets £12 (£8 conc) via
www.birminghamhippodrome.com/seeta or call
0844 338 5000 (calls cost 4.5p per min plus access charge)

Born and raised in the UK, Seeta Patel has been championing the Indian classical dance style of bharatanatyam for many years, under the guidance of Artistic Director Mavin Khoo.

After two sell-out performances at Sadler's Wells in 2014, the highly rated dance artist now brings her critically acclaimed solo work to Birmingham. She is joined for the performance by an orchestra of Carnatic musicians.



Film

Victoria And Abdul

CERT PG (112 mins)

Starring **Judi Dench, Ali Fazal, Eddie Izzard, Adeel Akhtar, Tim Pigott-Smith, Simon Callow, Olivia Williams, Michael Gambon**
Directed by **Stephen Frears (UK/USA)**

Judi Dench's film career really kicked off when she played Queen Victoria in John Madden's *Mrs Brown* in 1997, for which she

received her first Oscar nomination (of seven). Here, she plays an older version of the monarch, who takes an exceptional interest in her young Indian servant Abdul Karim (Fazal). The screenplay is by Lee Hall, who scripted *Billy Elliot*, much of *Pride And Prejudice* and *War Horse*. The Oscar buzz is already buzzing.

Released Fri 15 September



CRITIC'S CHOICE

The Limehouse Golem

CERT 15 (109 mins)

Starring **Bill Nighy, Olivia Cooke, Douglas Booth, Daniel Mays, Sam Reid, Eddie Marsan**
Directed by **Juan Carlos Medina (UK)**



A Victorian murder-mystery based on Peter Ackroyd's 1994 novel *Dan Leno And The Limehouse Golem*, this is obviously tapping into the same fear generated by both *The Woman In Black* and the BBC's *Ripper Street*. The former was scripted by Jane Goldman, who returns here to add a bit of class to proceedings.

Released Fri 1 September

Patti Cake\$

CERT 15 (109 mins)

Starring **Danielle Macdonald, McCaul Lombardi, Siddharth Dhananjay, Cathy Moriarty**
Directed by **Jeremy Jasper (USA)**

A call-to-arms for the downtrodden, disadvantaged and overweight, this low-budget drama was a huge success at this year's Sundance festival.

The Australian actress Danielle Macdonald plays Patricia 'Dumbo' Dumbrowski, a New Jersey nobody who decides to reinvent herself as a rapper called Patti Cake\$. Expect some pretty strong language.

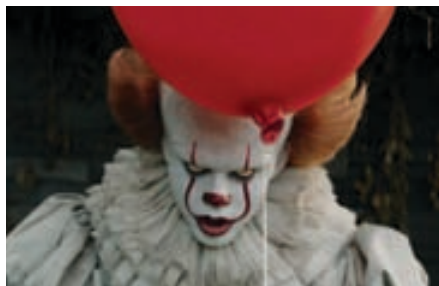
Released Fri 1 September



It

CERT 15 (135 mins)

Starring **Bill Skarsgård, Jaeden Lieberher, Jeremy Ray Taylor, Sophia Lillis, Finn Wolfhard**
Directed by **Andrés Muschietti (USA)**



Stephen King's 1986 novel was previously turned into a 1990 miniseries starring Tim Curry, but now gets its first big-screen treatment. As anybody who suffers from coulrophobia will testify, clowns can be pretty scary. Here, seven kids combine forces to tackle the evil clown 'Pennywise' (Skarsgård), who's been killing the children of Derry in Maine.

Released Fri 8 September

Wind River

CERT 15 (107 mins)

Starring **Jeremy Renner, Elizabeth Olsen, Gil Birmingham, Jon Bernthal, Julia Jones**
Directed by **Taylor Sheridan (USA)**

An original thriller from Taylor Sheridan, the writer of *Sicario* and *Hell Or High Water*, *Wind River* is set in the wilds of Wyoming and follows a US Fish & Wildlife Service agent (Renner) as he investigates a murder on a Native American reservation. Expect some pretty strong violence.

Released Fri 8 September



Film highlights released in September...

Goodbye Christopher Robin

CERT PG (107 mins)

Starring **Domhnall Gleeson, Margot Robbie, Kelly Macdonald, Alex Lawther, Stephen Campbell Moore** Directed by **Simon Curtis (UK)**

Older readers might well be familiar with the name Christopher Robin, not to mention Winnie the Pooh, Eeyore, Piglet and the whole gang.

Here, this terribly English film traces the creation and then the success of the famous characters brought to life by AA Milne, based on the stuffed animals of his son, Christopher Robin.

The director Simon Curtis previously brought us the much-loved *My Week With Marilyn* (2011) and *Woman In Gold* (2015).

Released Fri 29 September



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Mother!

CERT tbc

Starring **Jennifer Lawrence, Javier Bardem, Ed Harris, Michelle Pfeiffer, Kristen Wiig, Domhnall Gleeson**

Directed by **Darren Aronofsky (USA)**

You never know with Darren Aronofsky. He's directed some real duds (*The Fountain*, *Noah*), but has more often delivered the goods (*Requiem For A Dream*, *The Wrestler*, *Black Swan*). Here his psychological thriller focuses on a couple living in an idyllic country retreat whose relationship is tested with the arrival of uninvited guests.

Released Fri 15 September

American Assassin

CERT 18 (112 mins)

Starring **Dylan O'Brien, Michael Keaton, Sanaa Lathan, Shiva Negar, Taylor Kitsch, David Suchet** Directed by **Michael Cuesta (USA)**

CIA Black Ops recruit Mitch Rapp (Dylan O'Brien, from *The Maze Runner*) gets a taste of radicalism first-hand when his girlfriend is killed in a terrorist attack. He's then taken under the wing of Cold War veteran Stan Hurley (Keaton) to help hunt down and apprehend the perpetrators. Based on the 2010 novel by Vince Flynn.

Released Fri 15 September

Flatliners

CERT tbc

Starring **Ellen Page, Diego Luna, Nina Dobrev, James Norton, Kiersey Clemons, Kiefer Sutherland** Directed by **Niels Arden Oplev (USA)**

Although this shares the name of the 1990 thriller that starred Kiefer Sutherland and Julia Roberts, it's actually a sequel, which is odd. Once again we have a group of medical students experimenting with near-death experiences, leading to an unhealthy pact with the afterlife. The director helmed the original *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*.

Released Fri 29 September



Kingsman: The Golden Circle

CERT tbc

Starring **Colin Firth, Julianne Moore, Taron Egerton, Mark Strong, Halle Berry, Elton John, Channing Tatum, Jeff Bridges** Directed by **Matthew Vaughn (UK/USA)**

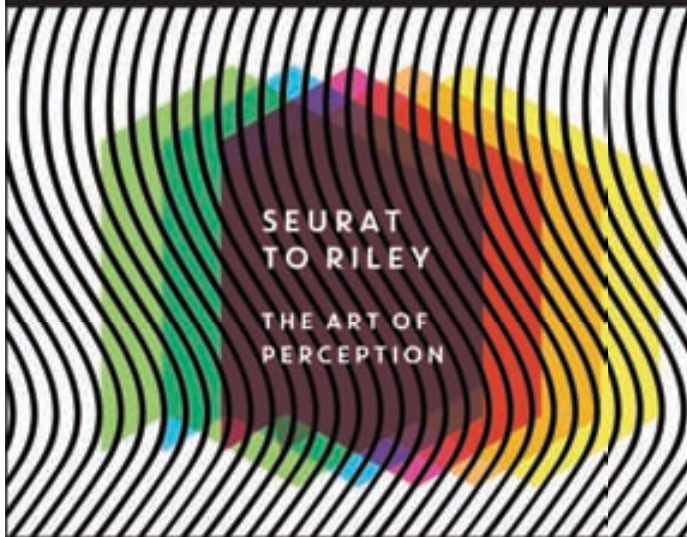


The Special Relationship between the UK and the US comes in handy when the Kingsman headquarters is destroyed by a global foe calling itself 'The Golden Circle.' So the agents of Kingsman join forces with the agents of Statesman, its American counterpart. Word has it that Elton John is playing a camp, flamboyant rock star.

Released Wed 20 September

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– SUNDAY TIMES CULTURE



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Visual Arts previews from around the region

Picasso: Linocuts From The British Museum

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry,
Sat 9 September - Sun 3 December

Age certainly didn't compromise Pablo Picasso's prolific output - he continued to produce stunning works of art into his 90s. Among them were the linocuts included in this exhibition, created when the artist was in his late 70s and early 80s. The works were acquired by the British Museum in 2014 and perfectly exemplify not only Picasso's vivid imagination but also his desire to use expressive and experimental techniques. Featured pieces include *Still Life Under The Lamp*, *Jacqueline Reading* and *Nude Woman At The Spring*. Alongside the examples of linocut, the exhibition also features a selection of ceramics on loan from Leicester Arts & Museums Service.



Image Credit Pablo Picasso (1881–1973), *Jacqueline Reading* – 2nd plate, July 1964. © Succession Picasso/DACS, London 2017.

The Fence And The Shadow

mac, Birmingham, Sat 23 September
- Sun 26 November

"This new series of paintings," explains artist Sally Payen in talking about her latest exhibition, "is the conjunction of how painting can meet Greenham Common as a place - and in particular the women's peace camp and protests from the 1980s. It's not a legacy project or an archival project; it's a project about how that contested landscape touched my life back then.

"No longer was it clean, neatly made-up women, including housewives, mothers and grandmothers, all safely at home. Some had escaped with very loud voices. They were unwashed, hairy, living rough, all ages and classes and making a new mass movement." Sally's exhibition is the inspiration for a mac season of events, visual arts and workshops exploring the theme of 'women & protest'.



Wolverhampton Society Of Artists Exhibition 2017

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 23 September - Sunday 19 November

This annual show has a history stretching back to the Victorian era and is a popular fixture on the gallery's exhibitions calendar. Championing homegrown talent, it showcases a diverse range of styles, media and subject matter, with much of the work available to purchase. An accompanying programme of activities and demonstrations, including an open studio weekend, artists' talks and drawing sessions, take place on Saturdays during the exhibition's run. Visit wsa-artists.com for further details about the Society.



Pleasure Is A Weapon

Grand Union, Birmingham,
Fri 1 September - Saturday 18 November

Artist Susie Green's first UK solo exhibition celebrates the body as a site for pleasure and politics, imaginatively reflecting her preoccupation with fetish and form.

The installation brings together sound, objects and painted works to 'probe at feelings and recollections surrounding both immediate and remote sexual intimacy'.

A public programme of performances, screenings and conversations accompanies the exhibition.



Portrait Of The Artist: Käthe Kollwitz

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,
Wed 13 September - Sun 26 November

Best known for their depiction of the effects of poverty and war on the working class, Käthe Kollwitz's works continue to resonate with art lovers across the world.

As the German artist evolved her style, she shifted away from realism and embraced Expressionism, and it's with this modernist movement that she's nowadays most closely associated.

Showcasing around 40 pieces from the British Museum, as well as material from other UK public collections, the exhibition highlights the importance of Kollwitz's work, in the process ably illustrating why she was considered one of the leading artists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



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23 - 27 October
11am - 3pm

FREE admission for under 16s

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Events previews from around the region

**A Place In The Sun Live**

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 22 - Sun 24 September

The official exhibition show of Channel Four's popular overseas travel series returns to the Midlands.

Programme presenters Amanda Lamb, Jasmine Harman, Jonnie Irwin and Laura Hamilton will all be on hand to share their experience and offer advice on buying a property abroad.

Whether it's the idea of finding somewhere in Spain, in France, in Portugal or even maybe further afield that's floating your boat, A Place In The Sun is the perfect event from which to launch an exciting new travel adventure.

**Telford Festival**

QEII Arena, Telford Town Park, Shropshire, Sat 2 - Sun 3 September



Telford Festival makes a welcome return following the success of last summer's inaugural event.

Featuring over 100 food, drink and craft exhibitors, the family-friendly show offers youngsters the chance to get mucky in a hands-on cookery area, learn circus skills in a big top, handle creatures large and small in an 'exotic zoo' and have a go at go-karting and, er, bug eating!

**Midland Game Fair**

Weston Park, Shropshire, Sat 16 - Sun 17 September

If traditional country pursuits are your passion, the well-established Midland Game Fair will make for a rewarding weekend. The premier event of its kind in the country, the show features a wide range of rural attractions, from world-class clay pigeon shooting to game and coarse fishing demonstrations.

Gun dog competitions, falconry displays, ferret racing, fine arts and rural crafts also feature, as do hundreds of trade stands catering for a wide range of countryside shopping needs. The fair welcomes the return of the hugely popular Folk Roots Festival too, with performing artists including Mambo Jambo, Occasional Orchestra and Doughboy Three.

Trucking Live Shropshire

Oswestry Showground, Sat 23 - Sun 24 September

Widely considered to be the 'friendliest' event of its kind in the UK, Trucking Live Shropshire features a line-up of main arena entertainment that includes stunt shows and truck parades.

There's also a display of hundreds of trucks to enjoy, as well as the region's largest showcase of truck accessories and a number of fairground attractions. A personal appearance by Red Dwarf and Coronation Street star Craig Charles further adds to the fun.



Wed 13 September – Sun 26 November

WOMEN & PROTEST

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Ludlow Food Festival

Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire, Fri 8 - Sun 10 September

A feast for the senses awaits visitors to this popular event in Shropshire's renowned gastronomic hotspot.

Now in its 15th year, the Ludlow Food Festival features more than 180 artisan food producers, a host of top chefs and an abundance of demonstrations and activities catering for visitors of

all ages.

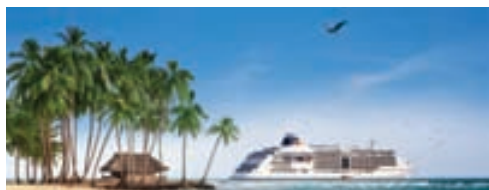
Numerous regular attractions, including a kids' area with cookery lessons, are presented within the castle grounds, while the show's always-popular food trails take place out in the wider town.

Birmingham Cruise Show

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 16 - Sun 17 September

Europe's biggest travel exhibition dedicated to cruising, the Cruise Show features an impressive array of destinations and cruise styles.

So whether you're an experienced ocean traveller, a lover of laidback river cruises or completely new to the pleasures of cruising, there's every chance you'll come away from the show with some intriguing ideas for a new adventure. The event offers visitors the chance to meet with all of the major and specialist cruise lines, gather impartial advice that won't be found in the brochures, and save thousands of pounds on exclusive show-only offers.



The Glamping Show

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 September

A more luxurious form of camping, glamping has become increasingly popular during the last few years and is now a prominent part of the leisure industry.

This annual show presents a wide selection of pop-up, temporary and pre-pitched accommodation solutions, including yurts, tipi and safari tents. It also features contributions from experts, design demonstrations and, new for this year, glamping business workshops with guru Kate Morel. "I've seen the glamping industry develop beyond all recognition over the years," says Kate, "and as more glampsites start up each year, it's obvious to me which will survive and which will not. I'll be asking questions that potential owners might not have considered and running through the set-up process, focusing on subjects that will be explored by the show as well as takeaways that can be applied in an ongoing way."

The Cycle Show

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 22 - Sun 24 September

With cycling's profile in the UK at an all-time high and the Velo Birmingham event taking place during the same weekend, there's every reason to imagine The Cycle Show will beat its 2016 attendance figure of 29,000.

Highlights include more than 250 bike companies showcasing their latest kit, a dedicated women's area, an Elite Cyclocross race around the NEC's surrounding woodlands and MTB/BMX competitions.

Extreme Chilli Festival

Brindleyplace, Birmingham, Fri 15 - Sat 16 September

Temperatures are set to rise in Brindleyplace with the welcome return of this popular festival.

The event is now in its seventh year and features numerous food stalls selling a wide range of chilli-influenced street food.

Live music and street performances add to what should hopefully be a sizzlingly hot atmosphere!



Classic & Retro Show

Himley Hall, nr Dudley, Sat 3 September

Static displays of saloons, sports, American, commercial and military vehicles, as well as classic motorcycles, are part and parcel of this popular show, which also features numerous trade and autojumble stands. Entertainment at this year's get-together is provided by locally based vintage vocal harmony trio The Bluebird Belles.



the
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Events previews from around the region

Leamington Food & Drink Festival

Royal Pump Room Gardens,
Leamington Spa,
Sat 9 - Sun 10 September

Given that 25,000 foodies visit and over 150 producers and retailers exhibit, it's hardly surprising that Leamington's Food & Drink Festival is the biggest event on the town's calendar.

"People travel from far and wide to the festival, and its reputation grows every year," says Stephanie Kerr, Executive Director of the event's organisers, BID Leamington. "The diverse range of local food and drink is a big attraction, along with a packed programme of cooking demonstrations, tastings and live entertainment."



Middle Earth Festival

Sarehole Mill, Birmingham,
Sat 9 - Sun 10 September

If you're a fan of The Lord Of The Rings and The Hobbit but haven't yet checked out this family-friendly festival, then it's fair to say you're missing a Gandalf-sized trick. First taking place in 1998, when it was called Fun At The Mill, the event has proved enormously popular with Tolkien enthusiasts both young and old. Attractions at this year's get-together include living history camps, medieval traders, food stalls, weapon displays, children's activities and a costume pageant - not to mention the chance to encounter all manner of characters from the famous fantasy novels, including hobbits, elves and orcs...

1940s Supper And Song Evening

Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire,
Fri 29 September

Blists Hill really is offering a 'taste' of the 1940s with this supper & song event - as part of the evening, participants get to sample a two-course meal featuring spam hash, carrots, potato mash and pear crumble! The venue is inviting visitors to dress in their vintage best to enjoy the festivities, which also include a host of popular songs from the era.



heritage open days

Check out our pick of the many FREE events and attractions on offer as part of England's largest festival of history and culture...

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF MOSELEY OLD HALL

Travel back in time with members of the Seales Knot and costumed characters, who'll be bringing to life the story of how Moseley Old Hall protected the future king of England, Charles Stuart, from Cromwell's men.

SAT 9 SEPTEMBER - MOSELEY OLD HALL, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV10 7HY

BELLRINGING IN STAFFORD Showcasing the art of bellringing at St Mary's Collegiate Church. Ascend the spiral staircase and learn about the history and heritage of the 10 bells.

SAT 9 SEPTEMBER - STAFFORD ST MARY, ST MARY'S PLACE, STAFFORD, ST16 2AP

BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME Free heritage talk about the Hippodrome's history over the last 118 years - a period covering two world wars, five monarchs and four facelifts.

SAT 9 SEPTEMBER - BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME, HURST STREET, B5 4TB

DISCOVER CHARLCOTE Discover over 800 years of family history and enjoy stunning views along the River Avon.

SAT 9 SEPTEMBER - CHARLCOTE PARK, WARWICK, CV35 9ER

LORD HILLS COLUMN Ascend all 172 cantilevered spiral stairs of the tallest Doric column in England to access panoramic views of Shrewsbury and the rolling hills of Shropshire.

Pre-booking is required - call Richard Hayes on 01743 244668 or email l.r.hayes@btinternet.com

SUN 10 SEPTEMBER - LORD HILL'S COLUMN, ST JOHN'S HILL, SHREWSBURY, SY1 1JJ

THE CIVIL WAR STORY Discover why the Royalist army chose The Commandery as their headquarters, and find out about their preparations for battle with the Parliamentarians in the final clash of the English Civil War.

SUN 10 SEPTEMBER - THE COMMANDERY, SIDBURY, WORCESTER, WR1 2HU



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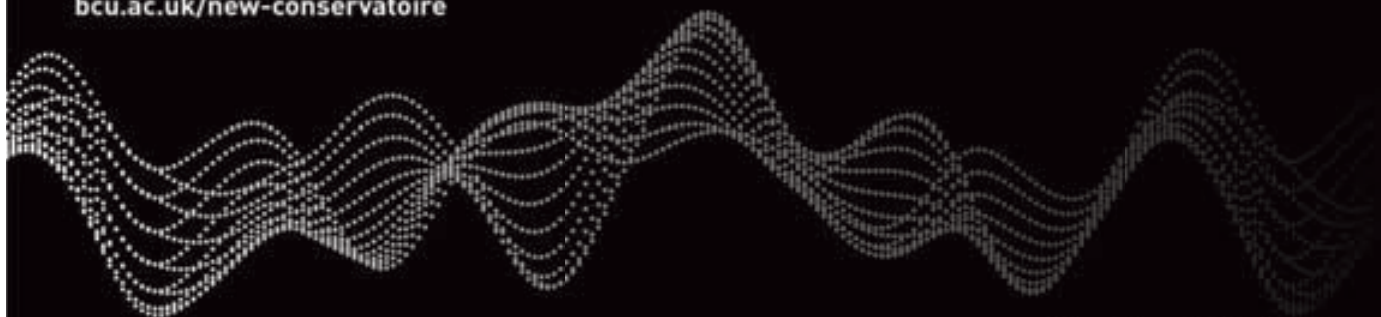


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Birmingham City University

*Your week-
by-week
listings guide*
September 2017

the list



Ne-Yo at O2 Academy Birmingham on Saturday 23 September

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

What's On

Fri 1 to Sun 10 September



Gin Festival Birmingham
at the Custard Factory

Fri 1 - Sun 3 September

Mon 11 to Sun 17 September



Zoe Lyons play
The Glee Club

Fri 15 - Sat 16 September

Mon 18 to Sun 24 September



La La Land - Live In Concert
at Symphony Hall

Sun 24 September

Mon 25 to Sat 30 September



The National Wedding Show
at the NEC

**Fri 29 September -
Sun 1 October**

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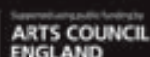
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Visual Arts

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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

BOM (B'ham Open Media)

NEW INSTRUCTIONS FOR HUMANS Exhibition considering the relationship between humans and machines, and the systems that control them. The show brings together three artists - Pete Ashton (Birmingham, UK), Kyle McDonald (Los Angeles, USA), Nye Thompson (London, UK), Wed 13 Sep - Sat 16 Dec

Ikon Gallery

NEW ANNA MOLSKA: THE WEAVERS/DIE WEBER Molska's 12-minute 2009 film, *The Weavers/Die Weber*, is based on Gerhart Hauptmann's 1894 play, which in turn was inspired by the 1844 rebellion of Silesian weavers against harsh working conditions and the poverty of their lives, Sun 3 Sep - Sun 26 Nov

NEW PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST: KÄTHE KOLLWITZ Käthe Kollwitz (1867-1945) was one of the leading artists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The exhibition features around 40 of her works from the British Museum's remarkable print collection, presented alongside material drawn from other UK public collections, Wed 13 Sep - Sun 26 Nov

NEW SOFIA HULTÉN: HERE'S THE ANSWER, WHAT'S THE QUESTION? Through a combination of sculptures, photographs and films, Hultén conveys an ongoing preoccupation with the material world and the way in which we navigate it through time, Wed 13 Sep - Sun 26 Nov

mac, Birmingham

NEW THE HOP PROJECT Exploration of the historical migratory movements of hop-pickers and the social and political implications of hop production in the West Midlands, Sat 9 Sep - Sun 12 Nov

NEW THE FENCE AND THE SHADOW This series of paintings by artist Dr Sally Payen is based on her exploration of the contested landscape of Greenham Common and the women's peace camps and anti-nuclear protests that took place there in the 1980s, Sat 23 Sep - Sun 26 Nov

RBSA Gallery

NEW ROBERT NEIL PRBSA A selection of strikingly life-like portraits in oil, Mon 11 Sep - Sat 14 Oct

NEW SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF DESIGNER-MAKERS Birmingham City University's School of Jewellery's annual degree show, Mon 25 Sep - Sat 28 Oct

NEW STARLIGHT Exhibition of art that explores the spectacle and wonders of outer space, from jewellery inspired by meteorites and shooting stars to space-age ceramics and ethereal glass, Mon 25 Sep - Sat 27 Jan

The Barber Institute

ONLY LIGHT AND SHADOW This display of examples from the Barber's collection places five of Goya's enigmatic works among those by other Spanish artists - including Picasso and Miró - who also delved into ideas of light and shadow through subject matter and printmaking, until Sun 22 Oct

GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE IN BYZANTIUM Discover Byzantium - the once-great empire whose glittering capital was the city of Constantinople (today's Istanbul) - through this intriguing exploration of its coinage and economy, until Sun 18 Mar 2018

Other VISUAL ARTS

NEW UN-SCENE This collaboration of new and existing reworks, by New Art West Midlands' award-winning artists Rob Hamp and Halina Dominska, features abstract sculptural works of visual contrast and conceptual crossover, Fri 1 - Sun 17 Sep, Stryx Gallery, Digbeth

NEW NO COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT INTENDED Group exhibition exploring the relationship between copyright and culture in the digital age, Fri 1 - Sat 23 Sep, Vivid Projects, Birmingham

NEW PLEASURE IS A WEAPON First UK solo exhibition by artist Susie Green, who works with a range of media - including sculpture, performance and painting - to contemplate the human body as a site for intimacy and sensuality, Fri 1 Sep - Sat 18 Nov, Grand Union, Birmingham

NEW THE CASTLE ARTS SOCIETY EXHIBITION A mixed-media exhibition of work by talented local artists, Sun 3 - Thurs 7 Sep, Selly Manor, Birmingham

NEW PRINCES OF THE UNIVERSE: ULTIMATE QUEEN Touring photographic exhibition paying homage to Queen, Thurs 28 Sep, Sytner BMW, B'ham

Gigs

DEL CAMINO Thurs 31 Aug - Fri 1 Sep, The Jam House, B'ham

THE ELO ENCOUNTER Fri 1 Sep, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

THE CLAUSE Fri 1 Sep, O2 Institute, B'ham

PURPLE RAIN A live celebration of the music, life and legacy of Prince, Fri 1 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE CAST, PANA WAVES & GUNK Fri 1 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE NAKED BEATLES Fri 1 Sep, Irish Centre, Digbeth, Birmingham

SILENT JACK, SWAMP DONKEY & ELECTUS Fri 1 Sep, Route 44, Birmingham

THE RED LEMONS Fri 1 - Sat 2 Sep, The Jam House, Birmingham

JUDY BLU & THE RB BAND Sat 2 Sep, Blue Piano Restaurant And Bar, Birmingham

ALIBI Sat 2 Sep, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SPICE Sat 2 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SABBOTAGE & THE SYKKO DOLLZ Sat 2 Sep, Route 44, B'ham

SOLITAIRE - TRIBUTE TO THE CARPENTERS Sun 3 Sep, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

BEACH FOSSILS Sun 3 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FUNKE AND THE TWO TONE BABY Sun 3 Sep, Lichfield Guildhall

ALVVAYS Sun 3 Sep, O2 Institute, B'ham

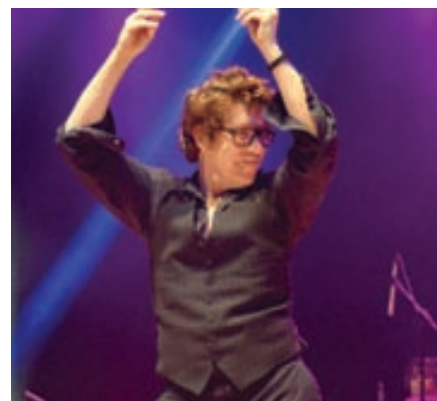
AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS Sun 3 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

MONTROZE, BETTER DAYS, THE OVERCAST & SAFEGUARD Sun 3 Sep, The Flapper, B'ham

TENDER & SPILT MILK SOCIETY Mon 4 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

ABI KELSEY BAND Tues 5 Sep, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS Tues 5 Sep, O2 Insti-



The Psychedelic Furs - O2 Institute, Birmingham

tute, Birmingham

THE GLASS CHILD, EMMA BUCKLEY & ESTHER TURNER Tues 5 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE BABE RAINBOW Tues 5 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY Tues 5 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

HANNAH JOHNSON AND THE BROKEN HEARTS Wed 6 Sep, The Jam House, Birmingham

MISFIRES Wed 6 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SHUGGIE OTIS Thurs 7 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE ELO EXPERIENCE Thurs 7 - Fri 8 Sep, The Core Theatre, Solihull

WILL HEARD Thurs 7 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TOM BROWNE Thurs 7 Sep, The Jam House, Birmingham

BEYOND THE BARRICADE Thurs 7 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

MAN & THE HOLY MOUNTAIN & SAM HOLLIS Fri 8 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE TOTAL STONE ROSES Fri 8 Sep, The Roadhouse, B'ham

DIZZY LIZZY Fri 8 Sep, Route 44, Acocks Green, Birmingham

SEBASTIAN TREE Fri 8 Sep, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

A VISION OF ELVIS Fri 8 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

A VISION OF ELVIS Fri 8 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

GROUPE Fri 8 - Sat 9 Sep, The Jam House, Birmingham

NOBLE JACKS Sat 9 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

NOORAN SISTERS Sat 9 Sep, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

EVERTIM, LIGHTBLUE & JAMES LEESE Sat 9 Sep, The Asylum Venue, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH ENGLISH JONES AND IMANER Sat 9 Sep, mac, Birmingham

THE DESTROYERS Sat 9 Sep, mac, Birmingham

TOTAL COMMITMENTS Sat 9 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE SUBTERRANEANS Sat 9 Sep, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

NEVER THE BRIDE Sat 9 Sep, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

ELVANA Sat 9 Sep, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ELECTRIC CIRCUS & CULT FICTION Sat 9 Sep, Route 44, B'ham

JOE LONGTHORNE Sat 9 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

GRUMBLE BEE & CHAPTER AND VERSE Sun 10 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

BRASS BAND GALA 2017 Sun 10 Sep, Symphony Hall, B'ham

PAUL MORTON Sun 10 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LOWKEY Sun 10 Sep, O2 Institute, B'ham

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Comedy

JOE PASQUALE Fri 1 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

DAMIAN CLARK, MICHAEL FABBRI, JAMES COOK & PHIL CHAPMAN Fri 1 - Sat 2 Sep, The Glee Club, B'ham

KANE BROWN, LEO KEARSE Fri 1 - Sat 2 Sep, Jongleurs Comedy Club, B'ham

STEVE HARRIS, ADAM STAUNTON & COMIC TBC Fri 1 - Sat 2 Sep, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

OWEN BENJAMIN Tues 5 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROBERT WEBB Wed 6 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham



DANNY BHOJ Thurs 7 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

KUM-N-AVALOFF COMEDY NIGHT Thurs 7 Sep, Stourbridge Town Hall

ADAM BLOOM, STEVE BUGEJA, REV-EREND OBADIAH STEPPENWOLFE III & CERYS NELMES Fri 8 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RICH WILSON, LARRY DEAN, STEVE LONGLEY & COMIC TBC Fri 8 Sep, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

ADAM BLOOM, STEVE BUGEJA, REV-EREND OBADIAH STEPPENWOLFE III & CERYS NELMES Sat 9 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NICK PAGE, JAMES ALDERSON, CHRIS BETTS Sat 9 Sep, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

Theatre

BRASSED OFF Jeffrey Holland stars in this 'funny and life-affirming' tale of community spirit and triumph in the face of adversity, until Sat 2 Sep, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MOTHER'S RUIN: A CABARET ABOUT GIN Hour-long theatrical cabaret featuring music originally performed by Amy Winehouse, Nina Simone, Martha Wainwright, The Popes, The Pretenders and more... until Sun 3 Sep, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

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 Sep, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

VICE VERSA Phil Porter's comedy romp, until Sat 9 Sep, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

GOODNIGHT MR TOM Staging of Michelle Magorim's uplifting wartime tale, until Sat 9 Sep, Sutton Arts Centre, Sutton Coldfield

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

MARK THOMPSON'S SPECTACULAR SCIENCE SHOW Brand new show exploring the strange and magical properties of matter, and featuring exploding elephant's toothpaste, vortex-generating dustbins, dancing paste, vanishing beakers and exploding Pringles tubes, Fri 1 Sep, The Core, Solihull

JANE EYRE Critically acclaimed reimagining of Charlotte Brontë's masterpiece, Mon 4 - Sat 16 Sep, The REP, Birmingham

THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY Much-acclaimed show featuring a huge projection screen, original photos, film footage and a live band performing a string of the duo's classic hits, Tues 5 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE WHIP HAND Explosive new play about power, privilege, blood ties and 'our inescapable past'... Tues 5 - Sat 16 Sep, The REP, Birmingham

THE DREAMBOYS The UK's top male strip show, Wed 6 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

BEYOND THE BARRICADE Show which recreates hit songs from West End and Broadway musicals, Thurs 7 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

KINGDOM COME Conceived & created by Gemma Brockis & Wendy Hubbard, this 1960s-based play is set at the 'bitter end of one political order and in the struggle towards something new', Thurs 7 - Sat 30 Sep, Studio Theatre @ The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

SLEUTH Amateur staging of Anthony Shaffer's thriller, which follows Inspector Doppler as he endeavours to untangle fact from fiction in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Fri 8 - Sat 16 Sep, Hall Green Little Theatre, Sutton Coldfield

THE GREAT GATSBY The Crescent Theatre Company presents Stephen Sharkey's stage version of Scott Fitzgerald's novel, which delves into a world of breathtaking glamour and decadent excess, Sat 9 - Sat 16 Sep, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham



Mark Thompson's Spectacular Science Show

The Core, Solihull, Fri 1 September

TV astronomer and author Mark Thompson is the man behind this brand new show, designed with the intention of dispelling the popular myth that science is boring.

"This is science like you've never seen before," says Mark. "The Spectacular Science Show explores the strange and magical properties of matter, with exploding elephant's toothpaste, vortex-generating dustbins, dancing paste, vanishing beakers and even exploding Pringle tubes!"

The show is suitable for children aged six and older.

EQUALLY DIVIDED Amateur staging of Ronald Harwood's powerful and comical play, Sat 9 - Sat 16 Sep, Oldbury Rep

SHAKESPEARE'S WILL One-woman show, performed by Sally Hyde Lomax, which is set immediately after the Bard's funeral, Sun 10 Sep, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

BRIDESMAIDS (12a) Comedy/Romance. Starring Kristen Wiig, Rose Byrne. Outdoor screening. mac, Birmingham, Fri 1 Sep

THE RED TURTLE (PG) Animation/Fantasy. With the voices of Emmanuel Garijo, Tom Hudson. mac, Birmingham, Fri 1 - Sun 3 Sep

FINAL PORTRAIT (15) Biography/Comedy. Starring Geoffrey Rush, Armie Hammer. mac, Birmingham, Fri 1 - Wed 6 Sep

THE LIMEHOUSE GOLEM (15) Horror/Thriller. Starring Bill Nighy, Olivia Cooke. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 1 - Thurs 7 Sep

DUNKIRK (12a) Drama/History. Starring Fionn Whitehead, Damien Bonnard. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 1 - Thurs 7 Sep

GOD'S OWN COUNTRY (15) Biography/Comedy. Starring Josh O'Connor, Alec Secareanu. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 1 - Thurs 7

TH 30TH SEPTEMBER 2017



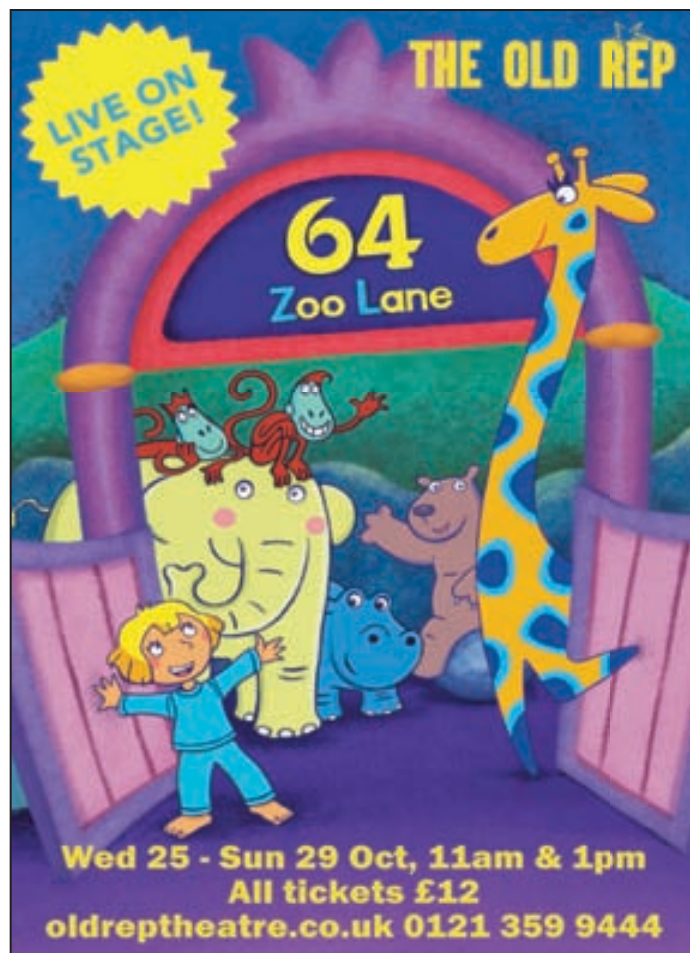
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Sep

LAND OF MINE (tbc) Drama/History. Starring Roland Møller, Louis Hofmann. Foreign language, subtitled. mac, Birmingham, Sat 2 - Thurs 7 Sep

GOOD MORNING VIETNAM (15) Biography/Comedy. Starring Robin Williams, Forest Whitaker. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 3 Sep

PLANET OF THE APES TRILOGY (12) Action/Sci-Fi. Starring Andy Serkis. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 3 Sep

THE BEGUILLED (12) Drama. Starring Nicole Kidman, Kirsten Dunst. Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sun 3 - Wed 6 Sep

LADY MACBETH (12) Drama. Starring Florence Pugh, Cosmo Jarvis. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 4 - Tues 5 Sep

FEAR & LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Johnny Depp, Benicio Del Toro. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 7 Sep

FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE WITH DOCUMENTARY SCREENING (15) Documentary/Music. Starring Fleetwood Mac. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 8 Sep

THEIR FINEST (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Gemma Arterton, Sam Claflin. Outdoor showing Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Fri 8 Sep

CHURCHILL (PG) Biography/Drama. Starring Brian Cox, Miranda Richardson. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 8 Sep

RAVING IRAN (tbc) Documentary/Music. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 9 Sep

IT (15) Drama/Horror. Starring Bill Skarsgård, Finn Wolfhard. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 8 - Thurs 21 Sep

WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT? (PG) Animation/Adventure. Starring Bob Hoskins, Christopher Lloyd. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 10 Sep

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 1 Sep, showing at selected cinemas

GOD'S OWN COUNTRY (15)

MOON DOGS (15)

PATTI CAKES (15)

STRATTON (15)

THE LIMEHOUSE GOLEM (15)

UNA (15)

Released from Fri 8 Sep, showing at selected cinemas

INSYRIATED (15)

IT (15)

WIND RIVER (15)

THE VAULT (15)

INSYRIATED (15)

Events

LET'S MAKE ROBOTS WORKSHOP This hands-on, creative workshop shows you how to assemble your own individual drawbot, a robot with pens for legs that will draw for you, until Fri 1 Sep, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

SUMMER HOLIDAYS WEEKDAY PROGRAMME Until Fri 1 Sep, Thinktank at Millennium Point, Birmingham

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 Sep, Warwick Castle

LET'S GET SPORTY! Race, jump and skip your way through traditional sports, until Sun 3 Sep, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

MOULD & MAKE WORKSHOPS Discover more about how furnaces, fire and steam were used in the Industrial Revolution through a variety of hands-on activities, until Sun 3 Sep, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge

BUSY BEE TRAIL Find all the bees and win a prize, until Sun 3 Sep, Sarehole Mill Hall Green, Birmingham

BUG CRAFT Purchase your bug craft kit and get creative at the art tables, until Sun 3 Sep, Sarehole Mill, B'ham

TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Mon 28 Aug - Fri 1 Sep, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

MUSEUM MEMORY CAFÉ Monthly meetings where people with dementia and their carer/family member/friend can take part in museum-related activities, Fri 1 Sep, Soho House, B'ham

SUGAR TEDDY BEAR MODELLING Step-by-step class showing how to model a teddy bear from gum paste, Fri 1 Sep, The Custard Factory, Digbeth, Birmingham

GIN FESTIVAL Featuring over 100 different gins to try, including brand new and exclusive gins that you won't find anywhere else, Fri 1 - Sun 3 Sep, The Custard Factory, Digbeth, B'ham

TELFOOD FESTIVAL Featuring over 100 local exhibitors, Sat 2 - Sun 3 Sep, Telford Town Park, Telford, Shropshire

CONTEMPORARY CRAFT MARKET Market showcasing local designer makers' quality handmade products, including ceramics, jewellery, paintings, and craft items, Sun 3 Sep, mac, Birmingham

CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW Featuring over 800 vehicles and trade and autojumble stands, Sun 3 Sep, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

THRIVE FESTIVAL Birmingham's first one-day urban wellbeing festival, Sun 3 Sep, The Bond Complex, Digbeth, Birmingham



Seth Lakeman plays Moseley Folk Festival

PEAKY BLINDERS NIGHT Step inside the murky underworld of the Peaky Blinders as you discover their dark history, Fri 8 - Sat 9 Sep, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

LUDLOW FOOD FESTIVAL Award-winning foodies event featuring famous ale & sausage trails, cookery demonstrations, hands-on workshops and much more... Fri 8 - Sun 10 Sep, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

AN UNEXPECTED... BIRTHDAY Celebration of the 80th anniversary of The Hobbit, complete with live music and plenty of ale, Sat 9 Sep, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS Discover the world behind the curtain and learn about the amazing story of the Hippodrome, Sat 9 Sep, Birmingham Hippodrome

BOURNVILLE HERITAGE OPEN DAY Visit historic Bournville, where a hub of heritage sites will be open for free, Sat 9 Sep, Selly Manor, Bournville

TAMWORTH FOOD GUSTO FESTIVAL A taste of something different from the region's finest producers, Sat 9 - Sun 10 Sep, Tamworth Castle

MIDDLE EARTH FESTIVAL See the Victorian mill in full working order with the volunteer millers. Sat 9 - Sun 10 Sep, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, B'ham

URBAN SAFARI AT ROUNDHOUSE BIRMINGHAM Travel on a Heritage narrowboat into the heart of the canal system, Sat 9 - Sun 10 Sep, The

Roundhouse, Birmingham

LEAMINGTON FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL Now in its tenth year, this free to attend event promises an 'exciting action-packed programme' over two days, Sat 9 - Sun 10 Sep, Royal Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa

Festivals

MOSELEY FOLK FESTIVAL Line-up includes Laura Marling, Amy Macdonald, Seth Lakeman, Fairport Convention, Kate Rusby, The Magic Numbers & Jose Gonzalez, Fri 1 - Sun 3 Sep, Moseley Park, B'ham

OFF THE TRACKS SUMMER FESTIVAL Line-up includes Peatbog Faeries, Dub Pistols, Arthur Brown, Misty In Roots & more... Fri 1 - Sun 3 Sep, Donington Park Farmhouse, Castle Donington, Derbyshire

ONBOARD THE CRAFT FESTIVAL 3 days of space rock prog & blues with Terminal Cheesecake, The Bernie Torme Band, Deepshade, Dr Hasbeen and more... Fri 8 - Sat 9 Sep, Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

BROMYARD FOLK FESTIVAL Line-up includes Le Vent du Nord, The Mighty Doonans, Crows & Granny's Attic, Fri 8 - Sun 10 Sep, Bromyard, Herefordshire



Fret And Fiddle - mac, Birmingham

Gigs

PONS AELIUS Tues 12 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

ROOM 94 Tues 12 Sep, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham

A NIGHT OF AMY Wed 13 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

GOSPEL CENTRAL Wed 13 Sep, The Jam House, Birmingham

VO FLETCHER Wed 13 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FRET AND FIDDLE Thurs 14 Sep, mac, B'ham

BARNHART & HUXLEY - JAZZ & JOKES Thurs 14 Sep, The Core Theatre, Solihull

SKYWALKER & COAST TO COAST Thurs 14 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

PINACT Thurs 14 Sep, The Flapper, B'ham

PETER BRUNTNEILL Thurs 14 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

ABSOLUTE BLONDIE Thurs 14 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

RICHARD DIGANCE THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY TOUR Thurs 14 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

NEIL SEDAKA Thurs 14 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FOO FIGHTERS Fri 15 Sep, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

GENO WASHINGTON AND THE RAM JAM BAND Fri 15 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

STARMAN - THE STORY OF DAVID BOWIE Fri 15 Sep, The Core Theatre, Solihull

HOT DUB TIME MACHINE Fri 15 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

USTAD RAHAT FATEH ALI KHAN - THE TRIBUTE TOUR Fri 15 Sep, Symphony Hall, B'ham

THE BUTTERS ALIENS Fri 15 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SHANTI CELESTE Fri 15 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE MANFREDS Fri 15 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE BEAT (STARRING DAVE WAKELING) Fri 15 Sep, O2 Academy, Birmingham

RICKY COOL AND THE INCROWD Fri 15 Sep, Lichfield Guildhall

THE VELVETS Sat 16 Sep, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BANFI, BRYDE & DANIEL JOHN MARSDEN Sat 16 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

KRAFTY KUTS AND PLUMP DJS Sat 16 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birm-

ingham

THE QUIREBOYS Sat 16 Sep, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

THE EDWIN STARR BAND Sat 16 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

IVOR & LYN'S CLASSIC ROCK NIGHT Sat 16 Sep, Route 44, B'ham

THE PIRAGONS Sat 16 Sep, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

CATS IN SPACE Sat 16 Sep, O2 Academy, Birmingham

A VISION OF ELVIS Sat 16 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

ISLANDS IN THE STREAM Sun 17 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE DAME SHIRLEY BASSEY STORY Sun 17 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE MAINE Sun 17 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DISSIDENT PROPHET Sun 17 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

THE WEST COAST EAGLES Sun 17 Sep, Lichfield Guildhall



The Velvets, O2 Academy, Birmingham

Classical Music

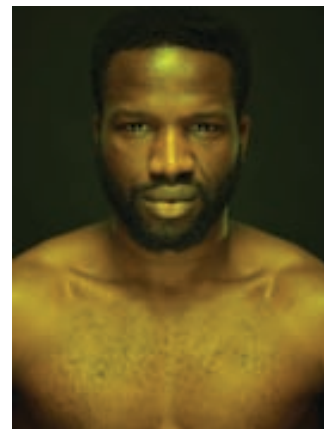
CHINEKE! ORCHESTRA Featuring Roderrick Cox (conductor) & Tai Murray (violin). Programme includes works by Coleridge-Taylor, Mendelssohn & Elgar, Sat 16 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ARMONICO CONSORT & BAROQUE ORCHESTRA Monteverdi 450 Tour Vespers of 1610. Christopher Monks directs, Sat 16 Sep, St Mary's Church, Warwick

longing, tribes, families and 'the place you belong because you were born there', Wed 13 Sep, mac, Birmingham

DIDO, QUEEN OF CARTHAGE Kimberley Sykes delves into Christopher Marlowe's darkly humorous tale of politics, identity and happiness... Fri 15 Sep - Sat 28 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

CORIOANUS Angus Jackson directs Shakespeare's full-throttle war play, taking audiences back to the emergence of the republic of Rome, Fri 15 Sep - Sat 14 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon



JUST SO Staged Right Youth Theatre present a performance for younger audiences based on Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories, Fri 15 - Sat 16 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE MAN WHO LIKED ORDER All & Sundry present Mike Richardson's psychological thriller, Fri 15 - Sat 16 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CULT FIGURE: KENNETH WILLIAMS Celebration of the late Carry On star featuring some of the most hilarious and poignant stories and anecdotes he shared throughout his life, Sat 16 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

BEAUTY FOR ASHES Creative Mouthpiece play about a difficult mother/son relationship, Sat 16 Sep, The Old Rep, Birmingham

THE GAME'S AFOOT TRY THE FISH (AND THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED HIP) Acclaimed Edinburgh Festival show featuring Wodehousian witticisms, farce and highly quotable one-liners, Sat 16 Sep, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

DA-BANGG: THE TOUR Bollywood megastar Salman Khan headlines the most 'slick & superior Bollywood stage show to date', Sat 16 Sep, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

THE DAME SHIRLEY BASSEY STORY International impersonator Paula Randall celebrates Dame Shirley's 80th birthday, Sun 17 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Comedy

JOHN BISHOP Wed 13 Sep, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

TONY LAW, JESSICA FOSTEKEW, MATTHEW COLLINS & CHRIS PURCHASE Fri 15 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

NICK PAGE, MARK SIMMONS, TROY HAWKE & DANNY MCLOUGHLIN Fri 15 Sep, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

ZOE LYONS, KAI HUMPHRIES, MARK MAIER & KAE KURD Fri 15 - Sat 16 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham



KAREN BAYLEY, STUART MITCHELL & RICHARD MASSARA Sat 16 Sep, Jon-glours Comedy Club, Birmingham

GARY DELANEY Sat 16 Sep, Stourbridge Town Hall

MATT RICHARDSON Sun 17 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

Theatre

SON OF A PREACHER MAN Diana Vickers, Debra Stephenson & Ian Reddington star in a touching new musical featuring the greatest hits of Dusty Springfield, Tues 12 - Sat 16 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham

THE CLASS PROJECT Rebecca Atkinson-Lord presents a show about be-

Dance

BRB - STUDIO TO STAGE Hour-long, in-depth introduction to the world of ballet, demystifying the language, the artistry and the practicalities of all the leaps and lifts! With ballet master Dominic Antonucci, Wed 13 - Thurs 14 Sep, Birmingham Hippodrome

AN EVENING OF DIRTY DANCING Fully choreographed, highly interactive celebration of the music from the iconic movie, Wed 13 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

Talks

LICENCED TO RHYME Monthly spoken word event mixing poetry, prose and, occasionally, music, Mon 11 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

HERITAGE TALK - BEATRICE CADBURY Author Fiona Joseph tells the compelling true story of the Cadbury heiress who gave away her fortune to Bournville workers in pursuit of a fairer society. Part of the Birmingham Heritage Festival, Wed 13 Sep, Selly Manor, Bournville, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

DENNIS SKINNER: NATURE OF THE BEAST (tbc) Documentary/Biography. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Mon 11 Sep

CHURCHILL (PG) Biography/Drama. Starring Brian Cox, Miranda Richardson. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 11 - Tues 12 Sep

DAVID GILMOUR: LIVE AT POMPEII (12a) Music. Starring David Gilmour. Elec-

tric Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 13 Sep; mac, Birmingham, Wed 13 Sep

THE LAST WORD (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Shirley MacLaine, Amanda Seyfried. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 15 Sep

ADELE TRIBUTE WITH DOCUMENTARY SCREENING (tbc) Documentary/Music. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 16 Sep

FULL METAL JACKET (12a) Drama/War. Starring Matthew Modine, R. Lee Ermey. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 17 Sep

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 15 Sep, showing at selected cinemas

AMERICAN ASSASSIN (18)

MOTHER (tbc)

THE JUNGLE BUNCH (U)

THE VILLAINESS (tbc)

VICTORIA AND ABDUL (PG)

Events

THE PRE-RAPHAELITES - SEX, DRUGS AND POETRY Tongue-in-cheek evening tour with a definite adult slant. Over-18s only, Thurs 14 Sep, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

OPEN COCKPITS EVENING Chance to view a wide range of aircraft and enjoy after-hours access to the museum, Fri 15 Sep, RAF Cosford, Shifnal

EXTREME CHILLI FESTIVAL Live music, street performances and plenty of chilli-inspired food, drink and gifts, Fri 15 - Sat 16 Sep, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

PEAKY BLINDERS NIGHT Step inside the murky underworld of the Peaky Blinders as you discover their dark history, Fri 15 - Sat 16 Sep, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley



The Man Who Liked Order

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 15 - Sat 16 September

Semi-professional theatre group All & Sundry have previously staged productions of high-profile plays including *The Glass Menagerie*, *Calendar Girls* and *An Inspector Calls*, so it's perhaps a bit of a departure for them to be presenting Mike Richardson's far less well-known work. The action revolves around a man named John Bradshaw, a loner whose neatly ordered world is suddenly compromised by the arrival of a young woman called Sarah. Despite his antisocial tendencies, Bradshaw finds himself warming to his new friend - but when she starts to ask questions about his past, he begins to wonder whether his trust in her has been dangerously misplaced...

EVENING HOUSE TOURS 2017 Sat 16 Sep, Packwood House, Solihull

SAVING SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE: THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY Discover how Charles Dickens spearheaded the campaign to save Shakespeare's Birthplace for the nation, Sat 16 Sep, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford Upon Avon

BIG BBQ & BEER FESTIVAL Taste & Liquor's brand new monthly residency, Sat 16 Sep, Starworks Warehouse, Wolverhampton

RUN WHAT YA BRUNG Take your car or motorcycle out on the quarter-mile dragstrip and test its performance limits in a safe and legal environment, Sat 16 Sep, Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire

GIN TASTING Gin masterclass including a perfectly made G&T, a talk through the history of gin and a tutored tasting of six gins from small independent producers, Sat 16 Sep, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MIDLAND GAME FAIR Premier event of its kind for anyone interested in traditional country pursuits, Sat 16 - Sun 17 Sep, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal, Shropshire

BIRMINGHAM CRUISE SHOW Europe's largest event of its kind with over 28 cruise liners and partners exhibiting, Sat 16 - Sun 17 Sep, NEC, B'ham

URBAN SAFARI A rare chance to travel

on a Heritage narrowboat into the heart of the canal system, Sat 16 - Sun 17 Sep, The Roundhouse, Birmingham

Festivals

BEYOND THE TRACKS Line-up includes Orbital, Ocean Colour Scene, Leftfield & The Editors, Fri 15 - Sun 17 Sep, Eastside City Park, Birmingham



KENILWORTH ARTS FESTIVAL Line-up includes Treetop Flyers, Kizzy Crawford, Strange Labyrinths & The Rude Mechanicals Band, Sun 17 - Sat 23 Sep, various venues, Kenilworth



Peaky Blinders Night - Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

Autumn Highlights



DANNY BHOJ
Sat 30 September



PHILL JUPITUS
Sat 7 October



BARBARA NICE
Sun 8 October



STEPHEN K AMOS
Sat 4 November



LOADED
Thu 5 & Fri 6 October



PRIVATE PEACEFUL
Tue 10 - Sat 14 October



64 Zoo Lane
Wed 25 - Sun 29 October



Alice IN WONDERLAND
Mon 20 November - Sat 30 December



@TheOldRep



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Young Guns - The Asylum, Birmingham

Gigs

AS LIONS Mon 18 Sep, The Flapper, B'ham

MOZART VS MACHINE Tues 19 Sep, mac, Birmingham

MARTIN TROTMAN BAND Tues 19 Sep, The Jam House, Birmingham

OMNI Tues 19 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RAINBOW GIRLS Tues 19 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

HENRIK FREISCHLADER Wed 20 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

CHARLY BLISS Wed 20 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

RYAN MCMULLAN Wed 20 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

VOODOO SIX Wed 20 Sep, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

MIRANDA SYKES Wed 20 Sep, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

JOHN LEGEND Wed 20 Sep, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

MASSMATIKS & YOUTH KILLED IT Wed 20 Sep, The Flapper, B'ham

BABY STRANGE Thurs 21 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

GABBIDON Thurs 21 Sep, The Jam House, Birmingham

SIOBHAN WILSON & ALICE DILLON Thurs 21 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

BUSH Fri 22 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TURNOVER Fri 22 Sep, O2 Institute, B'ham

MACHINE GUN KELLY Fri 22 Sep, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ARRIVAL - THE HITS OF ABBA Fri 22 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

BIG COUNTRY Fri 22 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

THE FACES EXPERIENCE Fri 22 Sep, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

TELSEN & ELECTRIC SOUP Fri 22 Sep, Route 44, Birmingham

MIKE SKINNER & MURKAGE PRESENT TONGA Fri 22 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE REEL HOT CEILIDH PEPPERS Fri 22 Sep, Lichfield Guildhall

MIKE SKINNER & MURKAGE PRESENT TONGA Fri 22 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HEAVY BEAT BRASS BAND Fri 22 Sep, Hare

& Hounds, B'ham

PAUL DRAPER Sat 23 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

G-Dragon Sat 23 Sep, Genting Arena, B'ham

THE DAME SHIRLEY BASSEY STORY Sat 23 Sep, Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

AWJ TRIO Sat 23 Sep, mac, Birmingham

ANDY JAMES & ANGEL VIVALDI Sat 23 Sep, O2 Academy, B'ham

NE-YO Sat 23 Sep, O2 Academy, Birmingham

YOUNG GUNS Sat 23 Sep, The Asylum, Birmingham

PURPLE ZEPPELIN Sat 23 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MARTIN & ELIZA CATHY Sat 23 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

PURE PURPLE Sat 23 Sep, Route 44, B'ham

MAYDAY PARADE Sat 23 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham



Mike Skinner - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Classical Music

CBSO: HAYDN THE CREATION Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor), Lydia Teuscher (soprano), Thomas Hobbs (tenor), Matthew Brook (bass) & the CBSO Chorus, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

PORPORA'S L'AGRIPPINA Nicola Porpora's 1708 opera is here revived for the first time since its premiere. The production features Daisy Evans & Andrew Kirkman (directors) & the Baroque Orchestra - Musical & Amicable Society, Thurs 21 - Sun 24 Sep, The Barber Institute, B'ham

THE MULTI-STORY ORCHESTRA - BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH Featuring Christopher Stark (conductor), Fri 22 - Sat 23 Sep, North Car Park, Level 1, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham (part of Birmingham Weekender)

Comedy

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Mon 18 Sep, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

THE SCUMMY MUMMIES SHOW Tues 19 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PAUL ZERDIN Wed 20 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

TOM STADE Wed 20 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CARLY SMALLMAN, SIMON LOMAS & ANDY WHITE Thurs 21 Sep, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ROBERT NEWMAN Fri 22 Sep, mac, Birmingham

BARBARA NICE Fri 22 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

MARK NELSON, KEVIN MCCARTHY, GEORGE EGG & CAREY MARX Fri 22 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

STEWART LEE Fri 22 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

RHYS JAMES, STEPHEN GRANT FEATURING TUDOR OWEN & COMIC TBC (FRI). TUDOR OWEN & JEFF INNOCENT (SAT) Fri 22 - Sat 23 Sep, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

MARK NELSON, KEVIN MCCARTHY, GEORGE EGG & CAREY MARX Sat 23 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DANNY DEEGAN, OLA Sat 23 Sep, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

PAUL FOOT Sat 23 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove



Theatre

MOZART VS MACHINE A high-octane mash-up of Mozart opera, electronic sound and video, bringing some of history's most iconic artists together in a theatrical sci-fi-gameshow encounter, Tues 19 Sep, mac, B'ham

DAD'S ARMY: A VARIETY SHOW SPECIAL A salute to the 1940s, recreating in sound and vision the stars who kept the nation entertained during WWII... Tues 19 Sep, Dudley Town Hall

FRANKENSTEIN 1899 Reworking of Mary Shelley's Gothic tale, Tues 19 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

A PANDEMONIUM OF POE Evening of eerie entertainment featuring an original theatrical anthology of a selection of Edgar Allan Poe's 'finest feats of fear-filled fiction', Wed 20 Sep, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

JOHN CHALLIS: ONLY FOOLS & BOYCIE An intimate evening with one of the nation's favourite comedy actors, Wed 20 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PAUL ZERDIN: ALL MOUTH Brand new show featuring the ventriloquist's army of (in)famous puppets, Wed 20 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

FINDING JOY Masked theatrical company Vamos explore the subject of dementia 'through humour & humanity', Thurs 21 - Fri 22 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

A DANGEROUS WOMAN Brand new show telling the story of one woman's struggle to carve her own path in a family of six females, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 Sep, The REP, B'ham

BIRMINGHAM IS FUNNY: ROB KEMP IN THE ELVIS DEAD Cult classic horror movie Evil Dead 2 reinterpreted through the songs of Elvis, Fri 22 Sep, mac, Birmingham

AS A TIGER IN THE JUNGLE Theatrical experience fusing circus, ceremony and spoken word... Fri 22 - Sat 23 Sep, The REP, Birmingham


DUET FOR ONE Intensely moving look at what happens when unexpected events lead people to reevaluate their lives. Emma Redgrave and Oliver Cotton star in this revival of Tom Kempinski's award-winning play, Fri 22 Sep - Sat 7 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

MR DARCY LOSES THE PLOT Jane Austen is busy dreaming up Darcy - a proud, lip-curling, handsome creation in very tight pants... Sat 23 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

STADIUM: THE MOVIE Free, live capture of The REP's recent production, Stadium, in which the thrill of football is told through the drama of theatre, Sat 23 Sep, Electric Cinema, Birmingham

FIRST STAGES: NO KIDDING Interactive

An
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Theatre



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and playful show with a serious message about friendship, co-operation and being aware of each other's feelings, Sat 23 Sep, The REP, B'ham

CINEBRA: A HISTORY OF HORROR Hybrid horror musical comedy featuring live scares and 'unforgettable' songs, Sat 23 Sep, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MILKSHAKE! LIVE Brand new live show featuring songs, stories and lots of audience participation, Sat 23 Sep, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

PEREGRINUS KTO Theatre present a 'wandering show' inspired by TS Eliot's *The Hollow Men*. This event forms part of the Birmingham Weekender event. Sat 23 Sep, Birmingham City Centre

MONSKI MOUSE'S BABY DISCO DANCE HALL Morning of family fun as DJ Mumma Monski Mouse spins a host of tunes for younger audiences, Sat 23 Sep, Birmingham Town Hall

TOGETHER IN HARMONY Crescendo Musical Theatre present a showcase of Broadway and West End hits, Sun 24 Sep, The Core Theatre, Solihull

Dance

RIP IT UP: DANCING THROUGH THE 50S Jay McGuinness, Natalie Lowe and Louis Smith swing, bop, jitterbug, lindy hop, jive and ballroom dance their way through 'the greatest songs from the greatest decade of music', Tues 19 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

TANGO MODERNO Strictly stars Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace fuse ballroom, Latin and Argentine tango in a 'hot' new stage spectacular, Tues 19 - Sat 23 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

TORO: BEAUTY & THE BULL Gender-questioning take on the fairytale of Beauty And The Beast, set in a

dystopian South American landscape, Fri 22 Sep, DanceXchange, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

DAKSHA SHETH DANCE COMPANY: SARI Bridging the gap between contemporary and traditional Indian dance, internationally renowned dancer and choreographer Daksha Sheth presents a new show celebrating an item of clothing intrinsically intertwined with Indian culture, Sat 23 - Sun 24 Sep, mac, Birmingham

SOMETHING THEN, SOMETHING NOW Seeta Patel presents her critically acclaimed solo work, Sun 24 Sep, Birmingham Hippodrome

Talks

LUCY MANGAN: WORDS The Guardian columnist discusses her writing, Sun 24 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE LAST WORD (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Shirley MacLaine, Amanda Seyfried. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 18 Sep

OXIDE GHOSTS: THE BRASS EYE TAPES (18) Documentary. Starring Chris Morris. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 21 Sep

INSIDE PEACE Documentary/Crime. Directed by Cynthia Fitzpatrick. mac, Birmingham, Thurs 21 Sep

(500) DAYS OF SUMMER (12) Comedy/Drama. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 22 Sep



Paul Zerdin: All Mouth

Lichfield Garrick, Wed 20 September

"As a ventriloquist, I can get away with jokes that other comedians can't," explains Paul Zerdin, who returns to the Midlands with two new ventriloquist's dummies as well as all the old favourites. "I've got the luxury of taking the piss out of myself, but through the characters, rather than me just being relentlessly self-deprecating. I can get away with having a go at the audience much more too; you get to be cheekier. Mocking the front row is a trademark of my characters, but I'm evolving my audience interaction beyond that."

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 22 Sep, showing at selected cinemas

KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE (tbc)

BORG VS MCENROE (15)

ing your ideal property abroad, Fri 22 - Sun 24 Sep, NEC, Birmingham

THE CYCLE SHOW The UK's largest cycling exhibition with the very latest bikes & accessories under one roof, Fri 22 - Sun 24 Sep, NEC, B'ham

BIRMINGHAM WEEKENDER Birmingham's biggest arts festival. See pages 32 - 39 for more details, Fri 22 - Sun 24 Sep, Various locations throughout Birmingham

BOURNVILLE SCARECROW FESTIVAL Sat 23 Sep, Selly Manor, Bournville, Birmingham

TRUCKING LIVE SHROPSHIRE Featuring a line-up of main arena entertainment that includes appearances by quad-bike-riding stuntman the Kangaroo Kid, Sat 23 - Sun 24 Sep, Oswestry Showground

BIRMINGHAM VELO 15,000 cyclists will line up to start their unforgettable 100 mile route on completely closed roads, Sun 23 Sep, starting from Birmingham City Centre

Events

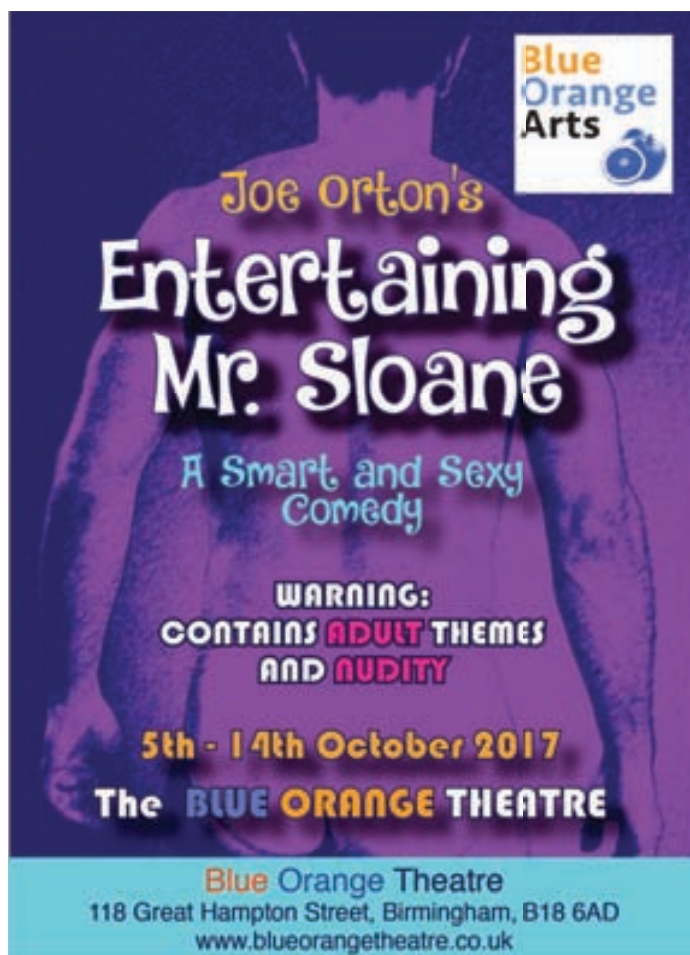
AN EXPERIENCE WITH ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER Thurs 21 Sep, Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel, Birmingham

ART RAVE Techno rave in association with Birmingham Weekender and celebrating art across the city, Fri 22 Sep, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

A PLACE IN THE SUN LIVE Featuring over 150 exhibitors from all over the world, this exhibition of the Channel4 TV show of the same name offers plenty of inspiration to help guide you through the buying process and find-



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Birmingham

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group

Thirtieth Anniversary

FREE PERFORMANCES

1.30pm Family Activities, CBSO Centre, B1 2LF
Loads of fun family activities based on this afternoon's Canal Serenade!

4pm Canal Serenade, Birmingham Canals, B1 2LG
Grab a spot on the towpath for this free musical performance celebrating Birmingham's Canals.

BCMG's world class musicians perform a piece of music specially commissioned for performance on narrow boats.

Repeated on 23 September, 2pm, as part of Birmingham Weekender.

6pm BCMG@30 Concert, CBSO Centre, B1 2LF

Ondřej Adámek (b.1979) *Sinuous Voices* (2004/09)
Rebecca Saunders (b.1967) *Into the Blue* (1996)
Helmut Lachenmann (b.1935)

Zwei Gefühle – Musik mit Leonardo (1992)
Text: Leonardo da Vinci

**BC
MG
30**

bcmg.org.uk

f **t** **YouTube** **vimeo**

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Canal & River Trust

BRISTOL



Mr Scruff - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Gigs

MR JUKES Mon 25 Sep, O2 Institute, B'ham

STACIE COLLINS Mon 25 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

SARAH CLOSE Mon 25 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DIPPER MALKIN Mon 25 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

THE BLACK ANGELS Tues 26 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FREDO Tues 26 Sep, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE BREW Tues 26 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

SUZANNE VEGA Tues 26 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

AQUILO Tues 26 Sep, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE ACOUSTIC SESSIONS Tues 26 Sep, The Jam House, Birmingham

A LEGEND OF WALES Wed 27 Sep, mac, Birmingham

VAN ZELLER Wed 27 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

LIVING COLOUR Wed 27 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

KIRK FLETCHER BAND Wed 27 Sep, The Jam House, Birmingham

TOM HICKOX Wed 27 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

4SQUARE Wed 27 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

TRASH BOAT Wed 27 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MYJO & CLAIRE MARTIN Thurs 28 Sep, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MIKE GIBBS 18 PIECE BIG BAND - 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION Thurs 28 Sep, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

THE JULIE JULY BAND Thurs 28 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

THE HARTS, SAVE STATE & THE CELLARS Thurs 28 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

LATINMOTION PRESENTS DEL CAMIN Thurs 28 Sep, The Jam House, Birmingham

LITTLE BIG TOWN Fri 29 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

WATERPARKS Fri 29 Sep, O2 Academy, B'ham

PURE DC Fri 29 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

KIRK FLETCHER BAND Fri 29 Sep, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

TYREE COOPER, MARK ARCHER & JOCK LEE Fri

29 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MOXIE Fri 29 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

WHALEBONE Fri 29 Sep, The Edge, Digbeth, Birmingham

THE RUTS DC Fri 29 Sep, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

SOULED OUT 2 FUNK Fri 29 Sep, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

MADNESS TRIBUTE Fri 29 Sep, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield

THE SUBTERRANEANS Fri 29 - Sat 30 Sep, The Jam House, B'ham

INTO THE SHADOWS Fri 29 - Sat 30 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

ALL THEM WITCHES Sat 30 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DJ SHADOW Sat 30 Sep, O2 Institute, B'ham

PATSY CLINE AND FRIENDS Sat 30 Sep, The Core Theatre, Solihull

WITHOUT GRACE Sat 30 Sep, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THREE AMOEBAS Sat 30 Sep, Route 44, B'ham

DJ HYPE, HAZARD, BREAK B2B RANDAL, L SUB ZERO & TYKE Sat 30 Sep, The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

THE COUNTERFEIT SIXTIES TRIBUTE SHOW Sat 30 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD SHOW Sat 30 Sep, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

MEADOWLARK, SHANNON ST. CLARE & AMY LOUISE ELLIS Sat 30 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

ACOUSTICA FESTIVAL 2017 Sat 30 Sep, The Robin, Wolverhampton

LUKE DANIELS Sat 30 Sep, mac, Birmingham

NEW FOUND GLORY Sat 30 Sep, O2 Academy, Bristol Street, B'ham

CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIEW Sat 30 Sep, The Roadhouse, B'ham

LITTLE BARRIE Sat 30 Sep, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by T. Susato (arr. Trotter), Locklair, CPE Bach, Mendelssohn & Stanford, Mon 25 Sep, Victoria Square, Birmingham

MIRGA CONDUCTS MAHLER'S FOURTH Featuring the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor), Marie-Christine Zupancic (flute), Xavier de Maistre (harp), Wed 27 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

RUSSELL WATSON An intimate evening with one of the world's most prominent tenors, Wed 27 Sep, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock



CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET Featuring Sini Simonen & Daniel Roberts (violins), Charlotte Bonneton (violas) & Christopher Graves (cello), Fri 29 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CBSO CENTRE STAGE WOODWIND Showcase Featuring Veronika Klírova (flute), Rainer Gibbons, Emmet Byrne & Rachael Pankhurst (oboes), Oliver Janes & Jo Patton (clarinets), Mark O'Brien (bass clarinet), Margaret Cookhorn (bassoon), Hetty Snell (cello). Programme includes works by Barber, Françaix, Janáček & Dvorák, Fri 29 Sep, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

Comedy

NICK HELM Wed 27 Sep, mac, B'ham



ROB BRYDON Thurs 28 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DANNY BHOY Fri 29 Sep, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MILTON JONES Fri 29 Sep, Dudley Town Hall

JONNY AWSUM, IMRAN YUSUF, CARL HUTCHINSON & PAUL F TAYLOR Fri 29 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KANE BROWN, DALISO CHAPONDA, ROBERT WHITE & FUNMBI OMOTAYO Fri 29 - Sat 30 Sep, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

DANNY BHOY Sat 30 Sep, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

JONNY AWSUM, IMRAN YUSUF, CARL HUTCHINSON & PAUL F TAYLOR Sat 30 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOJO SUTHERLAND, KEVIN GILEDA, DAVID LONGLEY Sat 30 Sep, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

Theatre

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS Musical journey through the past six decades, featuring hits by Judy Garland, Connie Francis, Buddy Holly, Cliff Richard, Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra and many more, Mon 25 - Tues 26 Sep, The Core Theatre, Solihull

FLASHDANCE Strictly champion Joan Clifton and A1 heartthrob Ben Adams star in a new staging of the much-acclaimed musical, Mon 25 - Sat 30 Sep, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

MAN TO MAN Manfred Karge's story of Ella, a woman forced to adopt the identity of her dead husband in order to survive in Nazi Germany, Tues 26 - Sat 30 Sep, The REP, Birmingham

CULT FIGURE: KENNETH WILLIAMS Celebration of the late Carry On star featuring some of the most hilarious and poignant stories and anecdotes he shared throughout his life, Tues 26 - Wed 27 Sep, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

ROCK OF AGES Lichfield Garrick Youth Theatre present an amateur staging of the 'hilarious musical' featuring songs from the 1980s, Tues 26 - Sat 30 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY Much-acclaimed show featuring a huge projection screen, original photos, film footage and a live band performing a string of the duo's classic hits, Thurs 28 Sep, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ABSRDLY FABULOUS: THE IMPROVISED EPISODE Feature-length show inspired by the hit '90s sitcom, Fri 29 Sep, mac, Birmingham

GRATIANO Sequel to The Merchant Of Venice exploring the politics of prejudice in the 20th century, Fri 29 Sep, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

I KNEW YOU Lorna Laidlaw (Doctors) stars in the highly anticipated second play from Birmingham-born writer

and performer, Steven Camden, aka Polarbear, Fri 29 Sep - Sat 7 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

SKYLIGHT David Hare's witty, poignant and deeply political play sees a struggling but committed schoolteacher in London's East End being unexpectedly visited in her



cold and shabby flat by two figures from her past, Sat 30 Sep - Sat 7 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

NOCTURNES Imitating The Dog put a multimedia twist on a 1950s Cold War spy thriller, Sat 30 Sep, mac, B'ham

Dance

GROOVE ON DOWN THE ROAD Leading UK hip-hop dance company ZooNation present a new adaptation of their critically acclaimed production, Wed 27 - Fri 29 Sep, Birmingham Hippodrome

BRB: PENGUIN CAFE MIXED PROGRAMME Birmingham Royal Ballet present a triple bill of works featuring joyous dancing, ragtime music and animals sheltering from a storm, Wed 27 - Sat 30 Sep, Birmingham Hippodrome



OUTLANDS 2Faced Dance present a triple bill of contemporary work by India and the UK's 'most up-and-coming female choreographers', Fri 29 Sep, mac, Birmingham

THE NUTCRACKER SUITE & BALLET ETUDES English Youth Ballet present a double bill of classics, Fri 29 - Sat 30 Sep, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



2Faced Dance: Outlands - mac, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

MY COUSIN RACHEL (12a) Drama/Mystery. Starring Rachel Weisz, Sam Claflin. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 25 - Tues 26 & Fri 29 Sep

LEON (15) Drama/Thriller. Starring Jean Reno, Gary Oldman. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 27 Sep

BLACK SABBATH: THE END OF THE END (15) Music. Starring Black Sabbath. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 28 - Sat 30 Sep

PHOENIX NIGHTS APPRECIATION NIGHT (15) Comedy. Starring Peter Kay, Dave Spikey. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 30 Sep

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

MY COUSIN RACHEL (12a) Drama/Mystery. Starring Rachel Weisz, Sam Claflin. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 25 - Tues 26 & Fri 29 Sep

ELLE (12a) Drama/Thriller. Starring Isabelle Huppert, Laurent Lafitte. Foreign language, subtitled. Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 26 Sep

LEON (15) Drama/Thriller. Starring Jean Reno, Gary Oldman. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 27 Sep

BLACK SABBATH: THE END OF THE END (15) Music. Starring Black Sabbath. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 28 - Sat 30 Sep

Events

1940S SUPPER & SONG EVENING First in a series of nostalgic music hall evenings, Fri 29 Sep, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

THE NATIONAL WEDDING SHOW The ultimate event to get you started with your wedding planning, from bridal boutiques & florists to jewellers & photographers... Fri 29 Sep - Sun 1 Oct, NEC, Birmingham



WARTIME HANGAR DANCE Dance the night away in the company of Paul Drakeley and his All Stars Band. Guests are encouraged to don wartime costumes for the evening, Sat 30 Sep, RAF Cosford, Shifnal

GIN TASTING Gin masterclass including a perfectly made G&T, a talk through the history of gin and a tutored tasting of six gins from small independent producers, Sat 30 Sep, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

ARTRIX

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Sat 23 September
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THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO DEEP PURPLE & LED ZEPPELIN

Sun 24 September
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Sat 30 September
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Picasso

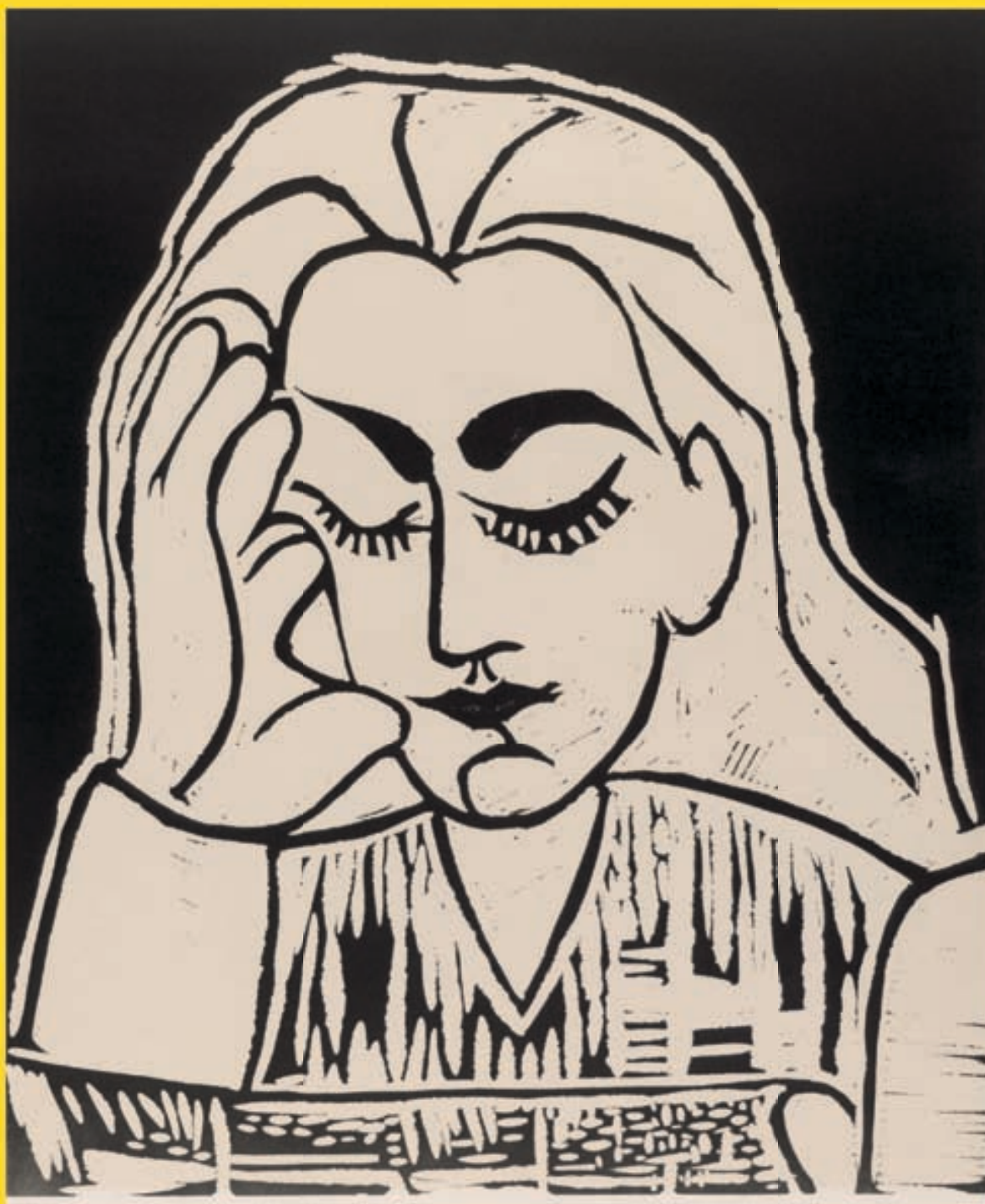
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Pablo Picasso (1881–1973), *Jacqueline Reading* – 2nd plate, July 1964.
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