

Staffordshire

ISSUE 381 SEPTEMBER 2017

# What's On

FILM | COMEDY | THEATRE | GIGS | VISUAL ARTS | EVENTS | FOOD

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ATG TICKETS

inside:

## thelist

Your 16-page week  
by week listings guide

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perform new album Spitting  
Image at The Sugarmill



### DARCY UNLEASHED

Jane Austen's romantic hero  
loses the plot in Lichfield



### TAP FACTORY

Tap Dogs meets Stomp in hit  
show heading to the Potteries





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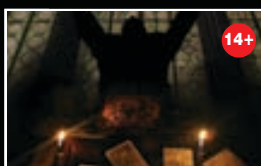


PG

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14+

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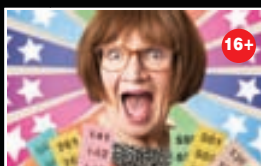


16+

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16+

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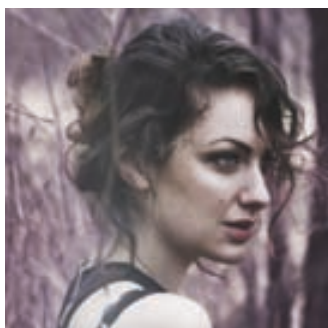
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**What's On**

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## Wizard Of Oz hopeful set to star as music legend

A West End performer best known from a television talent contest will take the title role when *Beautiful - The Carole King Musical* visits the Midlands.

Brontë Barbé competed in the BBC One series *Somewhere Over The Rainbow*, a 2010 competition to find an undiscovered musical theatre performer to play the role of Dorothy Gale in Andrew Lloyd Webber's stage production of *The Wizard Of Oz*.

Brontë has since made a name for herself in numerous hit shows, including *Hairspray*. *Beautiful - The Carole King Musical* visits Birmingham Hippodrome from 7 to 11 November. It returns to the Midlands next year, at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from 24 to 28 April, and then at the Wolverhampton Grand from 12 to 16 June.

## Blood Brothers returning to Wolverhampton Grand

Willy Russell's highly acclaimed *Blood Brothers* is making a welcome return to the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

The story of twins separated at birth who're brought up in different social circumstances but remain inextricably linked, the ever-popular show isn't so much a musical as a play with music.

Highlights include memorable songs *A Bright New Day*, *Marilyn Monroe* and the emotionally charged *Tell Me It's Not True*.

Casting for the show is yet to be announced. *Blood Brothers* runs at the Grand from Monday 16 to Saturday 21 April.

For more information about this and other recently announced productions at the venue, visit [grandtheatre.co.uk](http://grandtheatre.co.uk).



## A bundle of laughs at top Shrewsbury venue

Patrons of Shrewsbury's Henry Tudor House will have plenty to laugh about during the coming months, with the venue's entertainment programme featuring a line-up of

highly rated comedians.

Rib-tickers taking to the stage over the next few weeks include Phil Nichol, Michael Fabri and Dan Nightingale on Wednesday 27 September, Jan Ravens (Thursday 19 October), Ed Gamble (pictured, Thursday 26 October) and Matt Richardson (Sunday 26 November). For more information about these and other acts performing at the venue, visit [henrytudorhouse.com](http://henrytudorhouse.com)



## Ventriloquist Paul Zerdin is All Mouth in Lichfield

London-born America's Got Talent winner Paul Zerdin is making a welcome return to the Midlands this month with brand new show *All Mouth* and two new characters. "As a ventriloquist, I can get away with jokes that other comedians can't," says Paul, who appears at the Lichfield Garrick on Wednesday 20 September. "I've got the luxury of taking the piss out of myself, but through the characters, rather than me just being relent-

lessly 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."



## Contemporary craft on show in touring exhibition

The eighth edition of the ongoing Midlands craft exhibition *Made In The Middle* is stopping off at The Brewhouse in Burton-upon-Trent this month. Held every three years, the show features the best contemporary craft and applied art from across the region, in the process promoting all disciplines of craft-making. The show opens at the Brewhouse on Saturday 30 September. For more information, visit [brewhouse.co.uk](http://brewhouse.co.uk)





## Open day marks hit movie's 10th anniversary

Shropshire's Stokesay Court is holding a special open afternoon (3 September) to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the making of the movie *Atonement*, many scenes of which were filmed at the venue.

The film, based on the best-selling book by Ian McEwan and starring Keira Knightley and James McAvoy, was nominated for seven Oscars and won the BAFTA Best Film Award.

The open day offers visitors the chance to visit Stokesay's numerous *Atonement* locations, including the lake, river, grotto, fountain, lawns and Great Hall, the latter of which will house a selection of exhibits from the movie.



## Wolverhampton's Light House lit up

Wolverhampton's Light House Media Centre now has lit signage on the outside of the building.

The venue has been without external signage since a storm in 2013. Money to pay for the new signage was raised via a crowdfunding project.

"Our loyal customers have raised over £5,000 to make this happen," says the Light House's CEO, Kelly Jeffs. "They see the importance of the cinema, gallery and bar and what it offers the region. The past few years have been very difficult for our venue, and our future has been so uncertain. To have our customers invest in such a vital marketing tool for us, helping us reach the new audiences we need to survive, is so encouraging."



## Music at the gallop with '80s stars The Human League

Midlands fans of '80s pop sensations The Human League are in for a treat this month when the group make an appearance at Wolverhampton Racecourse. Best known for the chart-topping *Don't You Want Me*, the Sheffield band will be performing after the day's racing as part of The SunBets Music Live 2017 event. For more information about the Saturday 9 September raceday and gig, visit [wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk](http://wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk)

## Shropshire town to host ginger and spice fest

Having been known as the home of gingerbread bakers for more than 200 years, Market Drayton is this month hosting a brand new festival dedicated to ginger and spice.

The connection between gingerbread and the Shropshire town dates back to 1793, the year in which the first making of the popular treat was recorded. The inaugural festival takes place from Wednesday 27 to Saturday 30 September.



## The Underworld awaits in Shrewsbury...

Mexico's legendary Day Of The Dead event is coming to Shrewsbury. The famous festival, which sees the deceased being prayed for by their family and friends, is well known for its colourful, celebratory tone - and Shrewsbury's version certainly intends to follow suit. Contributors to the event include live percussionists, a host of international DJs, highly skilled acrobats, theatrical circus performers and professional Latin dancers. Europe's largest confetti cannons and CO2 guns also feature, while professional film makeup artists will be running a candy skull face-painting station. Day Of The Dead takes place at The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury, on 10 November. For more information, visit [thebuttermarket.co.uk](http://thebuttermarket.co.uk)



## A spiningtling spookfest at the Black Country Living Museum...

Black Country Living Museum in Dudley is planning a hair-raising spookfest for Halloween visitors next month (Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 October).

The popular venue's line-up of spiningtling attractions includes the chance to trick-or-treat along the gaslit cobbled streets, brave a creepy crawlies display, say hello to all manner of eerie characters and descend on foot 'into the thick' of the museum's 'spookified' minebrace.

Circus performers, fire-jugglers and magicians also feature. Some 'devilishly good Halloween fare' will ensure that visitors are suitably fuelled should they find themselves needing to run for their lives...

For more information and to book tickets, visit [bclm.com](http://bclm.com)

## 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.

## Ten days of laughter in the Midlands

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](http://bhamcomfest.co.uk)



## Corporate games return to Staffordshire

A major sports festival is returning to Staffordshire next year.

The UK Corporate Games, previously held in the county in 2015, sees amateur athletes from businesses across the country taking part in 24 sports, including hockey, cricket, badminton, netball, football and dragon-boat racing.

Commenting on the return of the event to Staffordshire, Councillor Anthony Munday, cabinet member for greener city, development & leisure at Stoke-on-Trent City Council, said: "More than 3,000 competitors took part when we hosted the event in 2015, and we're hoping to see even more involved next year, especially businesses based here in the city."

The UK Corporate Games 2018 event takes place at various venues from 21 to 24 June. Businesses interested in taking part are invited to a launch event on 4 October at Keele Hall from 6.30pm. Companies can register or find out more at [corporate-games.com](http://corporate-games.com) or by calling 01733 380888.

## Ludlow cycling festival raising funds for charity

The fourth Ludlow Cycling Festival in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support is taking place this month (Ludlow Rugby Club, Sunday 17 September).

The event features three separate cycle rides - with participants able to select the one that suits them best - and a selection of family-friendly entertainment.



## Wolverhampton by the sea...

An event in Wolverhampton's Queen Square is bringing the seaside to the landlocked Midlands this month (Saturday 2 September).

Taking place from 10am to 4pm, *Seaside In The City* features a beach, a giant deckchair providing 'the perfect photo opportunity' and, for the first 400 visitors, free ice cream and candy floss.

Visitors can also enjoy an array of free family activities, including the chance to play Giant Kerplunk, Jenga, Snakes & Ladders and Twister in a special games area.

There's Hook A Duck and a coconut shy too, and Punch & Judy shows taking place throughout the day.

A circus skills workshop and face-painting also feature.



# 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 some of the most exciting places in which to get your high-tea fix.



## 1 Vintage Tea Emporium

A vintage tea shop situated in the heart of Uttoxeter, the emporium sells high-quality loose leaf teas, coffees and home-made cakes.

All of its afternoon teas are presented on vintage bone china triple-tiered cake stands. Freshly cut triangle sandwiches, warm baked scones and a variety of sweets make up the 'classic' offering, with vegetarian and gluten-free options also available.

If you're fancying something different, why not try the Rise & Shine Breakfast afternoon tea, which includes mini bacon rolls and homemade breakfast muffins. Oh, and if you're feeling extra fancy, you can add a glass of sparkling Prosecco.

**9.30am-4pm Mon - Sat, from £20**

**38 Market Place, Uttoxeter ST14 8HP**



## 2 Lion & Pheasant

Located on Wyle Cop in the centre of Shrewsbury and originally built in the 16th century, this AA three-star hotel's combination of historic and contemporary decor makes it the perfect setting in which to sit back and relax with an afternoon tea.

Grab yourself a spot next to the hotel's inglenook and enjoy a variety of traditional finger sandwiches, scones, a selection of cakes and a choice of freshly brewed coffee and English breakfast tea.

**1 - 4.30pm Mon - Sat, £16pp**

**49-50 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, SY1 1XJ**



## 3 Gluttons For Nourishment

Runner-up in this year's What's On Readers' Awards Best Independent Café/Coffee Shop

category, Gluttons For Nourishment is well known for its afternoon teas - so much so, in fact, that its weekend slots often need to be booked in advance.

The venue has recently introduced its VIP Afternoon Tea, which features a glass of Prosecco, a board of canapé-style starters, extra savouries and cake, all presented on a table featuring a bouquet of flowers.

Any food you don't manage to finish will be boxed up for you to take home.

Talk about a win-win situation!

**9am - 5pm daily, Standard Afternoon Tea £15pp and VIP £25pp**

**The Arcade, High St, Wolverhampton WV6 8QS**

## 4 Himley Hall and Park

Indulge yourself with a classic combination of

ribbon sandwiches, scones with fruit conserve and cream, sweet pastries and tea. And while you're there, why not take advantage of Himley Hall's free admission and have a look around the venue and grounds.

**Selected dates available, visit [himleyhallandpark.co.uk](http://himleyhallandpark.co.uk) for more details, from £19.95pp**

**Himley Hall & Park, Himley, Dudley, West Midlands DY3 4DF**



## 5 World of Wedgwood

What better place to enjoy an afternoon tea than in a tea room which presents your food on china that's been made under the same roof?

Visitors will be spoilt for choice here, with over 50 of Wedgwood's finest teas from which to choose - including an exclusive Chinese Oolong from Master Xu.

The venue also offers the option of an Afternoon Tea Experience For Two, which not only includes (as you'd expect) afternoon tea, but also entry into the Wedgwood Museum and a factory tour, all for the price of £49.

**12 - 5pm Daily, from £25pp**

**Wedgwood Drive, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST12 9ER**

## 6 Fishmore Hall

Considered to be one of the best in Shropshire,

Fishmore Hall's afternoon tea features a selection of home-made cakes, finger sandwiches and scones accompanied by clotted cream and home-made berry compote. The boutique country house hotel also offers a choice of Champagne cocktails to accompany your afternoon tea.

**3-5pm daily, £22pp**

**Fishmore Road, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 3DP**



# 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.**

# WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT



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**FLASHDANCE**  
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SUN 1 OCT **RT**



DIRECT FROM LAS VEGAS  
**FRANKLY SINATRA**  
FRI 20 OCT **RT**

**JON RICHARDSON: OLD MAN** FRI 22 SEP **VH**

**NIGHTS ON BROADWAY: THE BEE GEES STORY**  
THU 28 SEP **VH**

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** SAT 30 SEP **VH**

**JOE LONGTHORNE** TUE 3 OCT **VH**

**AN EVENING OF DIRTY DANCING** SAT 7 OCT **VH**

**MILTON JONES** SAT 14 OCT **VH**

**KING OF POP - THE LEGEND CONTINUES**  
MON 16 OCT **VH**

**JOHN MAYALL IN CONCERT** - THU 19 OCT **VH**



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[www.atgtickets.com/stoke](http://www.atgtickets.com/stoke)\*

\*Booking fees apply. Calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.



## Calling all Midlands gin lovers...

Mobile gin bar The Gin Emporium is holding a masterclass at popular Wolverhampton venue The Grain Store this month.

Participants will learn to identify gin's unique flavours and botanicals and get to try a range of expertly selected British gins prepared by the bar's mixologists. Nibbles and a Gin Emporium gift bag are included in the ticket price, with music and entertainment provided until late.

The event takes place over two evenings, Friday 29 and Saturday 30 September, and spaces are limited to 30 people per night. Tickets are priced at £20 per person.



## REVIEW: Côte Brasserie Shrewsbury restaurant offers all-day dining and authentic French classics

Popular restaurant chain Côte is just one of many recent additions to Shropshire's ever-growing list of high-quality eateries.

Inspired by the brasseries of Paris and championing relaxed all-day dining and authentic French classics made from fresh, great-quality ingredients, Côte is located in Shrewsbury's historic Square and opened its doors to the public in May this year.

To kick off proceedings and whilst sipping from a glass of Kir Royale and perusing the menu, we ordered a reblochon cheese,

thyme and caramelised onion pissaladière.

I went for the prawn gratinée to start. It was a toss-up between that and the traditional rockfish and langoustine soup with croustons, gruyère cheese and rouille. The prawns were meaty, tasted lovely and fresh and were served in a white wine, garlic, chilli and tomato sauce with toasted garlic and parsley croustons. The sauce was strong and flavoursome and the portion size reasonable. I would've liked a couple more prawns to justify the £7.75 price tag, however.

My partner, sticking well and truly to the French theme, opted for the charcuterie board, which comprised jambon de savoie, smoked duck breast, saucisson sec and duck rilette, served with a baby gem salad and chargrilled pain de Champagne, at a cost of £6.95. The smoked duck breast was divine, as was the perfectly seasoned duck rilette. The ham and the sausage were tasty, the salad and French sourdough pleasant additions.

Moving on to the main course, I chose the rump of lamb from the specials menu at a cost of £14.95. The beautifully cooked and downright delicious meat, lying on a bed of potato, fennel and olive oil puree, was served with roasted fennel and a black olive and garlic jus. Showcasing a syrup-like consistency, the thick, rich jus was bursting with complementary tastes. The fennel added a welcome hint of additional flavour without being too overpowering. The potato was soft and creamy and acted as a perfect contrast to the salty olives. A really tasty dish.

My partner chose the half-char-grilled Breton chicken, corn-fed and reared in the heart of rural Brittany. Priced at £11.50, the chicken was served with frites and a side of mushroom sauce comprising wild mushroom, creme fraiche and thyme. A perfect dish for the not-so-adventurous diner, it was relatively plain

but extremely well executed. The chicken was cooked well and boasted a nice flavour; the creamy mushroom sauce was the perfect accompaniment.

To round off an enjoyable evening, we shared the Côte speciality - the crème caramel (£5.75) - and the chocolate & praline crêpe served with caramelised bananas and crème Chantilly (£6.25). Both were super naughty but super tasty - absolutely perfect choices for anyone with a sweet tooth. The crème caramel was one of the nicest I've tasted, the caramelised bananas done to perfection.

Our first ever experience of a Côte brasserie was a thoroughly enjoyable one. The quality of ingredients was second to none, the service friendly and faultless and the restaurant boasted a chilled-out atmosphere. I'll certainly be returning in the future to sample more of what they have to offer. *Lauren Foster*

Food:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Service:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Ambience:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Overall value:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
<b>OVERALL</b>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

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restaurant review | Jay Rayner

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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.

## Shrewsbury's secret supper to raise funds for African charity

Selected Shrewsbury restaurants are helping to raise thousands of pounds for an African charity by taking part in a secret dining event. Shrewsbury-based Self Help Africa is hosting its first-ever autumn edition of Secret Supper on Tuesday 17 October. Commenting on the event, Fundraising Officer Steph Smith said: "To mark World Food Day, this special dining experience takes you to three 'secret' restaurants, where you'll be treated to a fabulous starter, main course and dessert. The locations of the restaurants and the dishes you'll be eating will be revealed on the night!" Tickets for the Shrewsbury Secret Supper cost £32.50 and include a welcome drink at Tanners Wines. To book your place, visit [selfhelpafrica.org](http://selfhelpafrica.org)

## New African-themed restaurant is launched in the Midlands

African-themed Nakira Bar & Grill (formerly Lobster Peninsula) has opened in Birmingham 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.

## Shropshire market hall to become regular Saturday night food and drink venue - by popular demand!

Shrewsbury Market Hall is to become a regular Saturday night food & drink venue following the huge success of two recent late-evening openings.

The market hall is home to numerous bars and eateries, including The Bird's Nest Café, Saint Pierre Seafood Bar, Spanish tapas restaurant AleOli, Thai street food restaurant House of Yum, Chinese dumpling specialist Moli Teahouse, curry venue Indian Street Food,

Gindifferent Bar and the family-run Market Buffet.

It will now stay open until 10pm on the first Saturday of every month.

Commenting on the news, Facilities Manager Kate Gittins said: "We're proud to be home to so many popular and creative food and drink businesses. Members of the public have been telling us for a long time that they'd love to be able to enjoy them during the evenings too."



## Family-friendly restaurant group opens new Stafford venue

West Country-based restaurant/café/bar group The Lounges has opened a brand new venue in Stafford.

The Lounges has spent £475,000 transforming Verso Lounge into 'a family-friendly retro-inspired cosy retreat'.

An all-day menu features everything from their famous authentic tapas and Hero Burger to Tin Pan Louie's beef chilli, packed wraps and mac and cheese.

A selection of games, books, colouring pencils and pads are available to keep the kids entertained, as well as a full children's menu, high chairs and baby-change facilities.

The Lounges' Operations Manager, Pete Dinsdale, said: "We're really looking forward to throwing open the doors at Verso Lounge, showing the locals how to lounge in style and becoming part of the community. We will support local groups and initiatives wherever possible."





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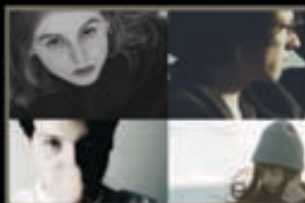
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## John Legend

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*.



## Kiran Leonard

Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, Tues 19 September

Twenty-one-year-old musician and songwriter Kiran Leonard came to prominence at the age of 17, following the release of his debut double album, *Bowler Hat Soup*. Both that and his follow-up offering, *Grapefruit* - released last year - have featured as Album Of The Day on 6Music.

Often compared to the likes of Jeff Buckley and Rufus Wainwright, he performs in Wolverhampton accompanied by a string trio.



## The Strypes

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 9 September

After a whirlwind four years of non-stop touring, rock'n'roll band The Strypes visit Staffordshire following the release of third album *Spitting Image*.

"Everybody was saying we were gonna be the biggest band in the world on our first record, which is stupid," says guitarist Josh. "We've never known what it's like to go to college, so this is our college. It's all we know, and it feels like we've come out the other end relatively okay."

## 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.

## Quartet Montparnasse

The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 29 September

Parisian singer Céline Dommart brings her unique blend of French chanson, Spanish tango and American jazz to Shropshire. She performs in a quartet alongside award-winning acoustic guitarist Cris Tolley, double bass legend Paul Smith and drum wizard Robin Payne. Expect to hear songs made famous by Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour and George Brassens, along with well-known tunes performed with alternative French or Spanish lyrics.

## Fridolijn

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury, Sun 17 September

Hailing from Amsterdam, new talent Fridolijn blurs the boundaries between cinematic folk, jazz, electronica and broken beats. The debut album of the previous band she led, *Finn Silver*, reached top chart positions in Holland and Japan, while the opening song from her debut solo album, *Catch Currents*, has gained close to one million Spotify plays.





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## Russell Watson

The Courtyard, Hereford, Tues 19 September;  
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Wed 27 September

Four-time Brit Classical Award winner Russell Watson has sold more than seven million albums worldwide, performed for Her Majesty The Queen, the Pope and a couple of American presidents, and has been described by the New York Times as a man who sings like Pavarotti and entertains like Sinatra. Often referred to as 'the people's tenor', he released his debut album, *The Voice*, in 2001, making history by becoming the first British artist to hold both the US and UK classical number one slots.

Working in the genres of classical, pop rock and operatic pop, Watson's soaring voice has garnered him an army of fans. Those who're less impressed often criticise him for sitting on the fence musically.

This latest tour sees him performing songs from recent album *True Stories*, together with 'a selection of hits from his illustrious career'.

## 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.

## All The King's Men

Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School,  
Fri 29 September

Having sold out the venue a couple of years back, it's hardly surprising that award-winning a cappella group All The King's Men are making a return visit to Shrewsbury School. And given their recent phenomenal success on BBC TV talent show *Pitch Battle*, it's fair to assume that all seats will be taken for their latest Shropshire concert too.

The slick nine-piece, based at King's College London and formed eight years ago, combine tight vocal harmonies with mesmerising choreography and a selection of must-experience covers from Bowie to Beyoncé.

The group currently features two Old Salopians - George Fowler and Alfred Mitchell - and was founded by a third, Henry Southern.

## G4

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
Thurs 28 September

After scoring a hit on *X Factor* in 2004, G4 became one of the country's biggest crossover classical groups. Their debut album went straight to number one and sold more than 245,000 copies, making it the fastest-selling record of that year.

Although they disbanded three years and three albums later - citing as the reason their need to pursue individual interests - they reunited in 2014 for their 10th anniversary.

They're this month visiting Shropshire to present a concert blending old favourites with material from their new album, *G4 Love Songs*.

The boys are joined by, among others, soprano Mary-Jess Leaverland, the winner of the Chinese *X Factor* and singer of the *Downton Abbey* theme.



## Thomas Bowes Plays JS Bach

St Giles Church, Downton-on-the-Rock,  
South Shropshire, Sat 16 September

The idyllic setting of St Giles provides the backdrop for this celebration of the music of JS Bach. The hugely talented Thomas Bowes is the man taking on the challenge of performing three of the composer's most highly rated pieces for solo violin: *Sonata No.1 in G minor, BWV1001*; *Partita No.1 in B minor, BWV1002*; and *Sonata No.3 in C major, BWV1005*.



# 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."

.....

**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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## 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, Maxïmo 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.

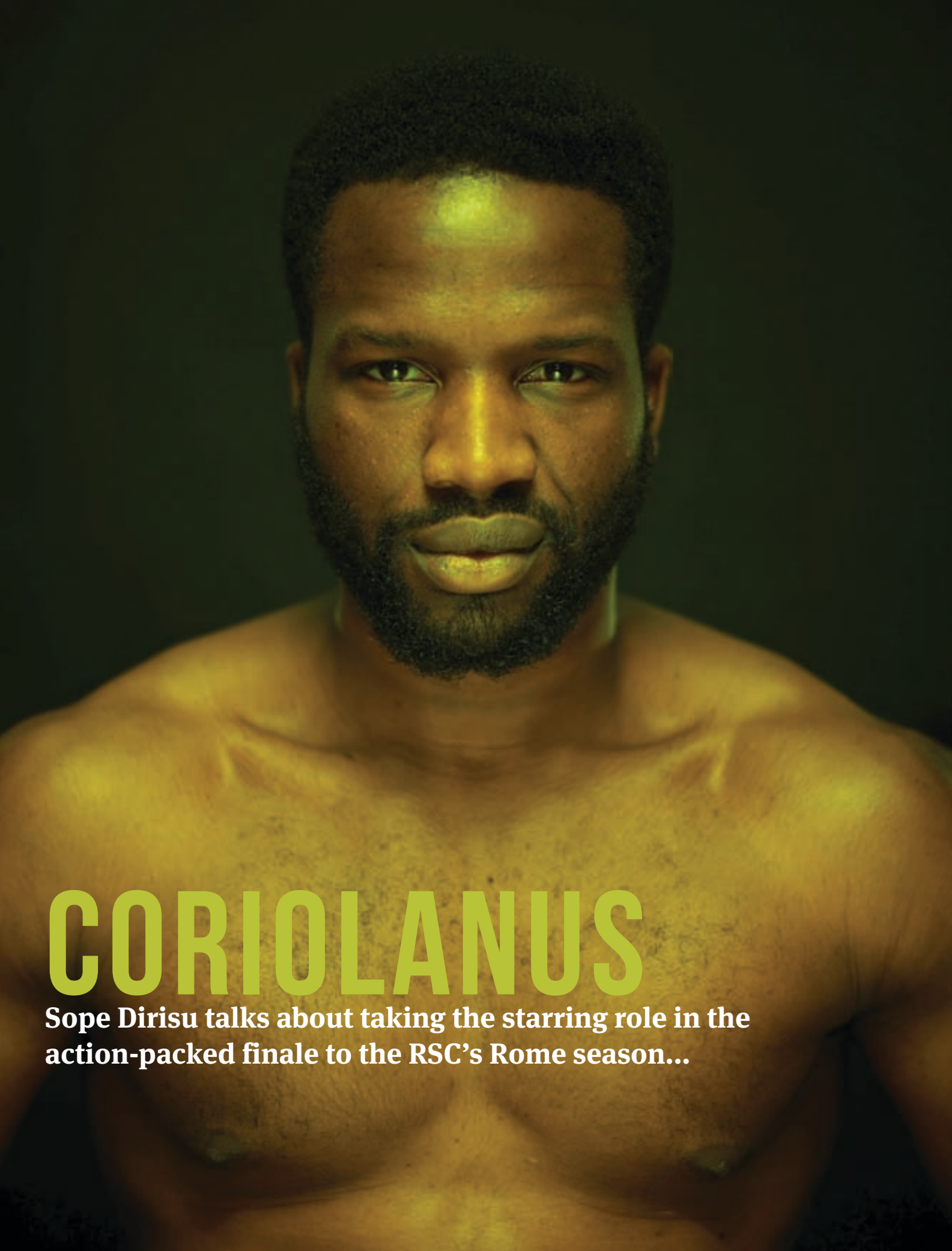
Yet as serious and often tragic as both the real and fictional elements are, there's also plenty in the show that offers straightforward, wholehearted and utterly astounding entertainment - from the sharp sense of humour and wide-ranging musical styles, to the exceptional performances and dazzling design.

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**







# 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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WEEKENDER

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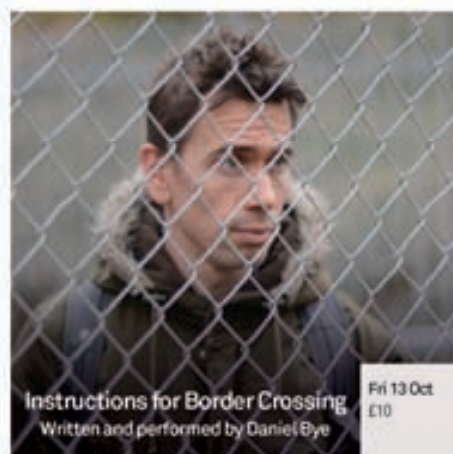
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## The Whip Hand

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...





# GREAT SHOWS COMING UP AT **WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE**

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## JACK AND THE BEANSTALK





## 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."



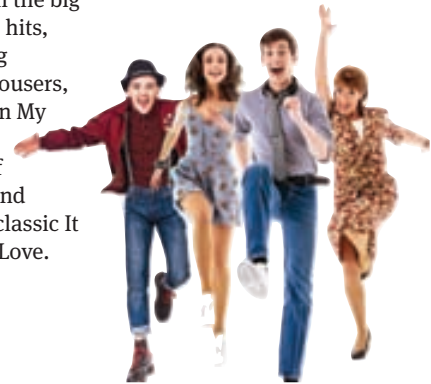
## Our House

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.





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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

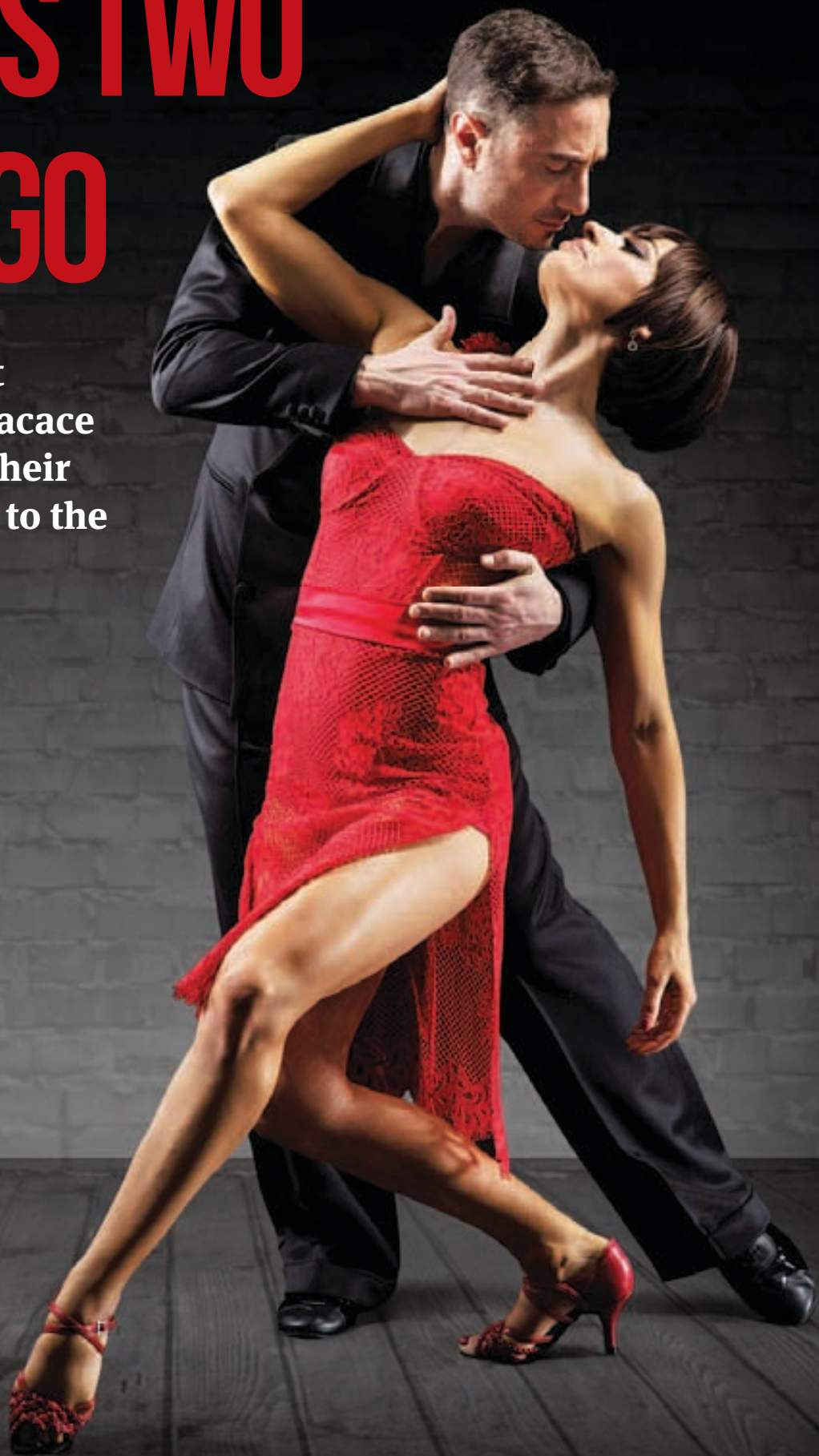
This Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB) triple bill brings together three highly rated works from across the decades. Kenneth MacMillan's Concerto, created in 1966, exudes youthful energy, boasts vigorous choreography and is set to Shostakovich's Second Piano Concerto. Eight years later, the choreographer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

BIRMINGHAM'S BIGGEST ARTS FESTIVAL RETURNS!



Join us for a festival in a weekend!

[www.birminghamweekender.com](http://www.birminghamweekender.com)

#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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.birminghamweekender.com) to find out how to apply.



Town Hall Symphony Hall present

## The Multi-Story Orchestra Beethoven's Fifth

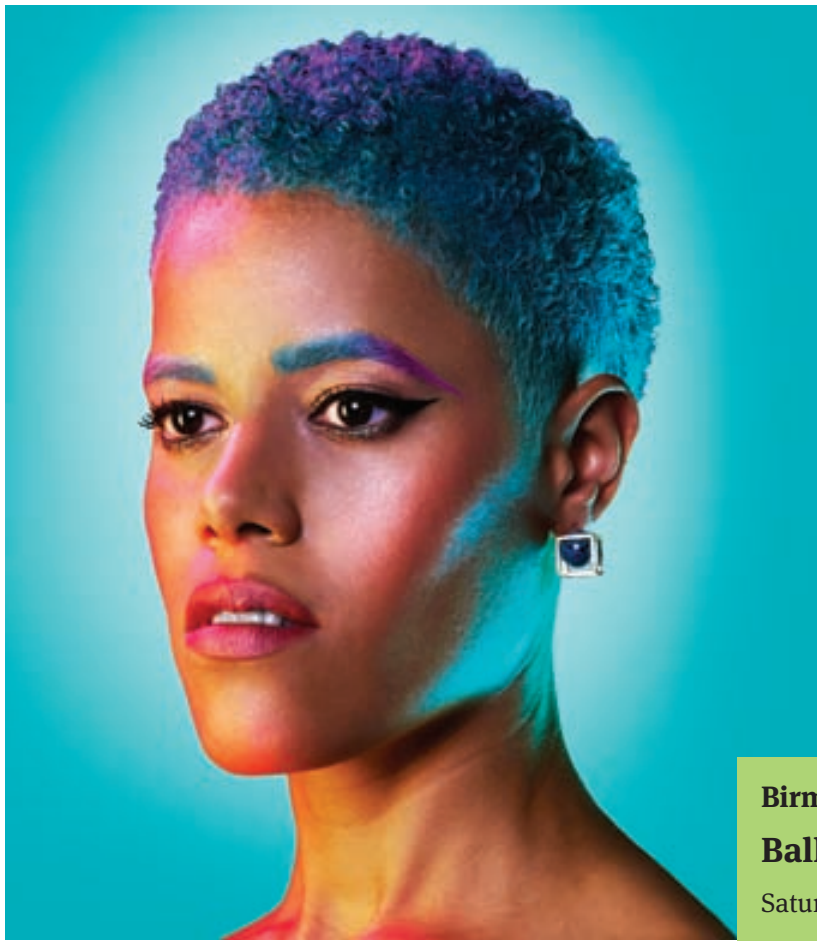
Friday 22 - 7pm & Saturday 23 - 5pm

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://brb.org.uk/weekender)



**FLUID FESTIVAL**

**23 & 24 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**A WEEKEND OF NEW QUEER SOUND & MUSIC**

ROBIN BUCKLEY || ROLF HIND || INKERI KALLIO || CN LESTER  
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](http://www.fluidfestival.org)

This project is supported by the Campaign Gender programme by Sound and Music

THSH vid 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](http://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](http://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.



## 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.

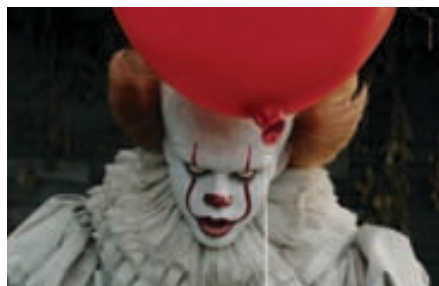
**Released Fri 1 September**



## 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)**

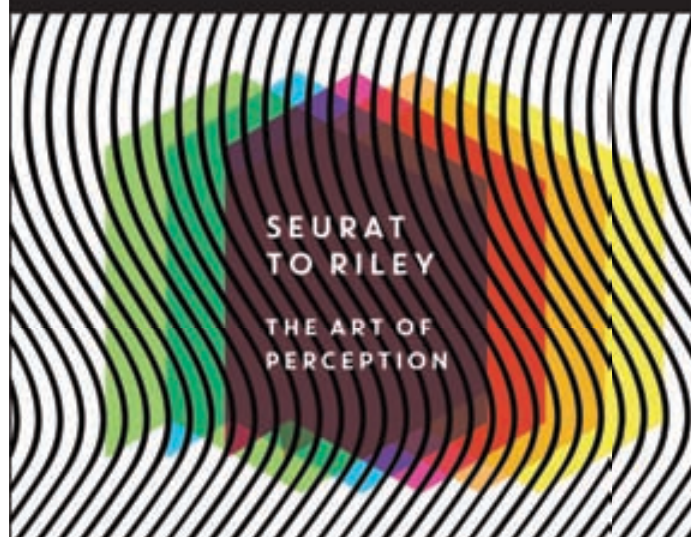


The Special Relationship between the UK and the US comes in handy when the Kingsman headquarters is destroyed by a global foe calling itself 'The Golden Circle.' So the agents of Kingsman join forces with the agents of Statesman, its American counterpart. Word has it that Elton John is playing a camp,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

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**IKON**



## 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.

## 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](http://wsa-artists.com) for further details about the Society.



## 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.

## 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'.



## 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.



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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 gastro-nomic 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.

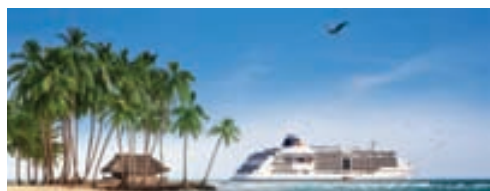
Numerous regular attractions, including a kids' area with cookery lessons, are presented within the castle grounds, while the show's always-popular food trails take place out in the wider town.

## 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.





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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](mailto: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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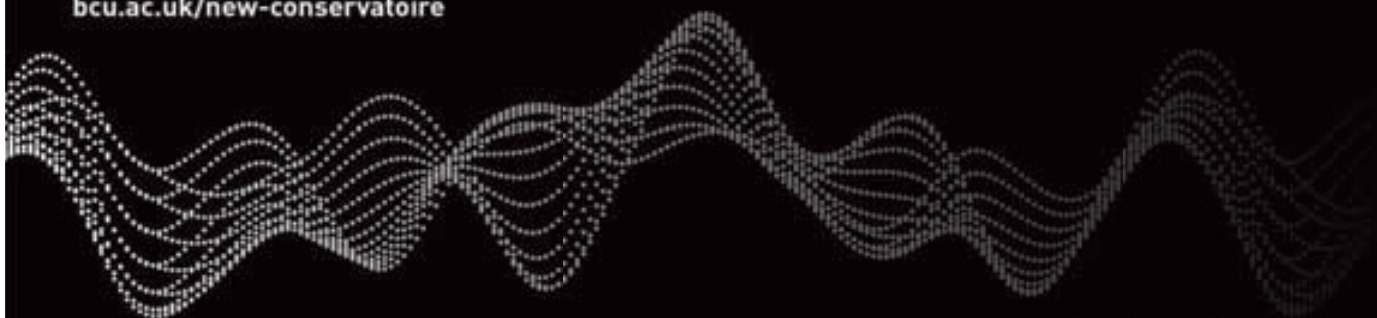


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*Your week-  
by-week  
listings guide*  
**September 2017**

# the list

Flashdance at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Mon 25 to Sat 30 September

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

## What's On

Fri 1 to Sun 10 September



Tamworth Food Gusto Festival  
at Tamworth Castle

**Sat 9 - Sun 10 September**

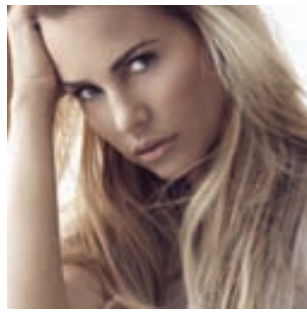
Mon 11 to Sun 17 September



Peaky Blinders Night at the  
Black Country Living Museum

**Fri 15 - Sat 16 September**

Mon 18 to Sun 24 September



An Audience With Katie Price at  
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**Fri 22 September**

Mon 25 to Sat 30 September



Ginger & Spice Festival in  
Market Drayton, Shropshire

**Wed 27 - Sat 30 September**



### THROUGHOUT SEPTEMBER

## Visual Arts

### Bilston Craft Gallery

**NEW FOSSIL FUELLED** Exhibition featuring objects from many of the town's industries, including cut steel jewellery, bicycles and the world famous Bilston Enamels, Sat 9 Sep - Sun 31 Dec

### New Art Gallery - Walsall

**RACHEL GOODYEAR** Rachel is renowned for her drawing-based practice, which hints at the world of the unconscious mind, until Sun 3 Sep

**SOHEILA SOKHANVARI** Soheila is an Iranian-born artist whose multidisciplinary work weaves layers of political histories with bizarre, humorous and mysterious narratives that are then left to the viewer's own sensitivity to complete, until Sun 3 Sep

### Potteries Museum & Art Gallery - Stoke-On-Trent

**NEW EMILIE TAYLOR - EDGELANDS** Touring exhibition, featuring the work of contemporary ceramics artist Emilie Taylor, that explores the lives of young women who exist on the edge of society and womanhood, Sat 23 Sep - Sun 12 Nov

**NEW HEARTBEAT** Installation promoting Warli culture and including more than 30 Warli paintings alongside film works, sculptural pieces, clay and ceramic materials, objects and sound works. A collaboration between artists, artisans and craftspeople from India and the UK, the show is presented in partnership with the British Ceramics Biennial, Sat 23 Sep - Sun 12 Nov

### Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

**ANTARCTICA: LIFE IN A HOSTILE LAND** Insight into our relationship with the most hostile continent on Earth, until Sun 17 Sep

### Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**REMEMBER ME: CHARLOTTE HODES** Visually powerful new work which consists of 120 individual, wall-mounted ceramic pieces, arranged to create a single image that combines elegant historic patterns with contemporary and digital imagery, until Sun 3 Sep

**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2017** Famous exhibition showcasing the world's very best nature photography, until Sun 1 Oct

**NEW THE IMMORTALS - CHINESE OBJECTS FROM THE COLLECTION** Revered by the Taoist religion, the Eight Im-

mortals - a group of legendary xian in Chinese mythology - are frequently represented in the country's decorative arts. This exhibition brings together a fascinating range of objects from the gallery's own collection to explore the subject, Mon 4 Sep - Sun 26 Nov

**NEW THE OTHER MOUNTAIN** Closely associated with China, jade is here celebrated via a collection of innovative work by contemporary Chinese jewellers, Sat 16 Sep - Sun 26 Nov

**NEW RECENT ACQUISITIONS** Exhibition featuring: A series of colourful collages by Sonia Boyce which explore the politics of black hair and black identity; Silver Self Portrait by US artist Glenn Ligon, made from coal dust; and Go West Young Man by Keith Piper, Sat 16 Sep - Sun 19 Nov

**NEW WOLVERHAMPTON SOCIETY OF ARTISTS EXHIBITION 2017** Annual exhibition of work featuring a diverse range of styles, media and subject matter, Sat 23 Sep - Sun 19 Nov

### Other VISUAL ARTS

**INSPIRATIONS IN COLOUR** Stourbridge Art Group share their love of colour, tone and form in a variety of subjects and media, until Sun 3 Sep, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**CAMERA CREATIONS** Celebrating the 35th anniversary of Wall Heath Camera Club and featuring landscapes, portraits and wildlife images, until Sun 3 Sep, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**COMING HOME - TIM CROTON** Shropshire-based photographer Tim explores the subject of industrial heritage, working in both colour and monochrome to evoke a sense of atmosphere and nostalgia, until Fri 8 Sep, The Hive, Shrewsbury

**ART OF THE COMMUNITY EXHIBITION** Exhibition forming part of a celebration to mark the Trust's 50th anniversary, until Tues 2 Jan, Coalbrookdale Gallery, Ironbridge

**NEW H-ART** Exhibition by artist Maggie Davis, Sat 9 - Sat 16 Sep, Lingen Nursery and Garden Centre, Nr Bucknell, Shropshire

**NEW MATISSE: DRAWING WITH SCISSORS** Exhibition of 35 lithographic reproductions of the famous cut-outs produced in the last four years of Matisse's life, when he was confined to bed, Sat 30 Sep - Sun 29 Oct, Qube Gallery, Oswestry

**NEW MADE IN THE MIDDLE** Recurring touring exhibition showcasing some of the Midlands' best contemporary craft and applied art, Sat 30 Sep - Sat 25 Nov, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

## Gigs

**THE ELO ENCOUNTER** Fri 1 Sep, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

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

**THE MARLEY EXPERIENCE** Fri 1 Sep, Eleven, Stoke on Trent

**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 ULTIMATE EAGLES** Fri 1 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

**THAT'S LIFE & THE JERSEY 4** Fri 1 Sep, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

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

**THE DREAMERS** And Everly Brothers Tribute, Sat 2 Sep, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**ALIBI** Sat 2 Sep, O2 Academy, Bristol Street, Birmingham

**SPICE** Sat 2 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**THE 1990'S** Sat 2 Sep, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

**MAINLY MADNESS** Sat 2 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

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

**FALLEN** Sat 2 Sep, Eleven, Stoke on Trent

**A FOREIGNERS JOURNEY** Sun 3 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

**BEACH FOSSILS** Sun 3 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

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

**ALVAYS** 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

**THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS** Tues 5 Sep, O2 Institute, 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

**MISFIRES** Wed 6 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**RICHARD DIGANCE THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY TOUR** Wed 6 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

**SHUGGIE OTIS** Thurs 7 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**WILL HEARD** Thurs 7 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**MICKY MOODY AND ALI MAAS BAND** Thurs 7 Sep, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**THE WORLD FAMOUS ELVIS SHOW WITH CHRIS CONNOR** Thurs 7 Sep, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

**BEYOND THE BARRICADE** Thurs 7 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

**WOLFTOWN 2017** Thurs 7 Sep, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

**MACCA: THE CONCERT** Fri 8 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

**KMFDM** Fri 8 Sep, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

**D-RAN D-RAN** Fri 8 Sep, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**THE RUTS DC** Fri 8 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**NEARLY DAN** Fri 8 Sep, Eleven, Stoke on Trent

**FLEETWOOD BAC** Fri 8 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre,

Telford

**SEBASTIAN TREE** Fri 8 Sep, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

**DARKSIDE** Sat 9 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**NOORAN SISTERS** Sat 9 Sep, Arena Birmingham

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

**THE JERSEYS AND DINER** Sat 9 Sep, National Brewery Centre, Burton upon Trent

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

**THE DESTROYERS** Sat 9 Sep, mac, Birmingham

**METAL MILITIA** Sat 9 Sep, Eleven, Stoke on Trent

**THE SUBTERRANEANS** Sat 9 Sep, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**THE RAT PACK VEGAS SPECTACULAR SHOW** Sat 9 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

**NEVER THE BRIDE** Sat 9 Sep, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

**ELVANA** Sat 9 Sep, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**JOE LONGTHORNE** Sat 9 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**THE GLASS CHILD, EMMA BUCKLEY & ESTHER TURNER** Sun 10 Sep, Eleven, Stoke on Trent

**THE BORN AGAIN BEATLES** Sun 10 Sep, Lichfield Guildhall

**THE SEARCHERS IN CONCERT** Sun 10 Sep, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

**LOWKEY** Sun 10 Sep, O2 Institute, B'ham





## Classical Music

**RUPERT MARSHALL-LUCK** Programme comprises Bach's complete Sonatas & Partitas for Solo Violin, Sat 2 Sep, Abbey Church, Shrewsbury

**WURLITZER THEATRE ORGAN CONCERTS** Fri 8 Sep, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

## Comedy

**JOE PASQUALE** Fri 1 Sep, Lichfield Garrick



**DAMIAN CLARK, MICHAEL FABBRI, JAMES COOK & PHIL CHAPMAN** Fri 1 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**KANE BROWN & LEO KEARSE** Fri 1 Sep, Jongleurs Comedy Club, B'ham

**STEVE HARRIS, ADAM STAUNTON & COMIC TBC** Fri 1 Sep, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

**DAMIAN CLARK, MICHAEL FABBRI, JAMES COOK & PHIL CHAPMAN** Sat 2 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**KANE BROWN & LEO KEARSE** Sat 2 Sep, Jongleurs Comedy Club, B'ham

**STEVE HARRIS, ADAM STAUNTON, ROB ROUSE & COMIC TBC** Sat 2 Sep, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

**ROFL! COMEDY CLUB** Sat 2 Sep, The Old Post Office, Burton-on-Trent

**OWEN BENJAMIN** Tues 5 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ROBERT WEBB** Wed 6 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

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

**ADAM BLOOM, STEVE BUGEJA, REVEREND OBADIAH STEPPENWOLFE III & CERYN 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, REVEREND OBADIAH STEPPENWOLFE III & CERYN NELMES** Sat 9 Sep, The Glee

Club, Birmingham

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

**ROFL! COMEDY CLUB** Sat 9 Sep, The Old Post Office, Burton-on-Trent

## Theatre

**DINOSAUR WORLD** A brand new, interactive show taking audiences into uncharted territories to discover a pre-historic world, until Fri 1 Sep, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**STRICTLY ERIC** Find out what happens when Eric takes on the best ballroom dancers that 'Strictly' has to offer, until Sat 2 Sep, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**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 Magor'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

**THE SOOTY SHOW** Brand new show with guaranteed giggles for all the family, Sat 2 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**THE THEO THE MOUSE SHOW** Fast-moving family show featuring music, comedy, magic & lots of audience participation, Sun 3 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shrops

**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,



*A Midsummer Night's Dream - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury*

Tues 5 Sep, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**DI AND VIV AND ROSE** Funny, moving and surprising story of three friends whose relationship spans 30 dramatic years, Tues 5 - Sat 9 Sep, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**MEMPHIS** Wolverhampton Youth Music Theatre present an amateur staging of the powerful musical inspired by the real-life story of a white radio DJ who wants to change the world and a black club singer ready for her big break, Tues 5 - Sat 9 Sep, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**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

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Pantaloon's Theatre Company tell Shakespeare's timeless comic tale in their distinctively anarchic style, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**STORY TELLING FOR GROWN UPS** Stories include Little Red Riding Hood, Other Lost Girls and Lands Of Mystery & Desire, Fri 8 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**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

**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

## Dance

**GROOVE ON DOWN THE ROAD** Leading UK hip-hop dance company ZooNation present a new adaptation of their critically acclaimed production, Thurs 31 Aug - Fri 1 Sep, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

## Talks

**MARK RADCLIFFE: SHOULD YOU BE INTERESTED** Songs and stories of middle-aged angst alongside tales of ineptitude and encounters with some of music's most famous names, Sun 3 Sep, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek

**BACK IN TIME** Kath Reynolds presents a series of talks about people and social history, Tues 5 Sep, Middleport Pottery, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent

**JAY RAYNER: THE TEN (FOOD) COMMANDMENTS** The Guardian's foodie columnist talks about his search for the culinary land, his dining hell and his appalling restaurant experiences, Fri 8 Sep, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

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### Film

#### INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

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

**CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS: THE FIRST EPIC MOVIE (U)** Animation/Comedy. With the voices of Kevin Hart, Thomas Middleditch. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 1 Sep; Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Fri 1 - Sat 2 Sep

**THE RED TURTLE (PG)** Animation/Fantasy. With the voices of Emmanuel Garjo, 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; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 4 - Tues 5 Sep; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 8 - Thurs 14 Sep

**THE BIG SICK (15)** Comedy/Romance. Starring Kumail Nanjiani, Zoe Kazan. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 1 - Thurs 7 Sep

**MAUDIE (12a)** Biography/Drama. Starring Sally Hawkins, Ethan Hawke. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 1, Mon 4 & Thurs 7 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. Fri 1 Sep, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, South Shropshire; 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 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

**MAMMA MIA (PG)** Comedy/Musical. Starring Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan. Dementia friendly screening. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Mon 4 Sep

**THE MIDWIFE (12A)** Drama. Starring Catherine Deneuve, Catherine Frot.

Foreign language, subtitled. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 5 - Wed 6 Sep

**THE LAST WORD (15)** Comedy/Drama. Starring Shirley MacLaine, Amanda Seyfried. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 5 & Thurs 7 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

**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

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

**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, Ingenuity Museum, Ironbridge

**CERAMIC SUMMER WORKSHOPS** Get creative by using the tube lining technique to produce your very own



The Labyrinth Challenge - Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire

tile to take home, until Sun 3 Sep, Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge

**MISS ELIZABETH BOAT TRIPS** Take a gentle cruise along the 'Capability' Brown-designed lake aboard the Miss Elizabeth, until Mon 4 Sep, Trentham Estate, Stoke-on-Trent

**WOLVES IN WOLVES** Discover the largest public art display ever to take place in the city, until Sun 24 Sep, Wolverhampton City Centre

**MAISY'S AMAZING MAIZE MAZE** Until Sat 30 Sep, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry

**WULF'S QUEST 2017** Travel back in time to the fifth century, where King Wulf needs help saving the Kingdom of Mercia from the tyranny of famine, Thurs 31 Aug - Fri 1 Sep, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley

**TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS** Drop-in workshops where visitors can use the tube lining technique to decorate a tile, Fri 1 Sep, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge

**GIN FESTIVAL** Fri 1 - Sun 3 Sep, The Custard Factory, Digbeth, B'ham

**TELFORD FEASTIVAL** Featuring over 100 local exhibitors showcasing the best the region has to offer, Sat 2 - Sun 3 Sep, Telford Town Park

**WORLD WAR WEEKEND** Featuring music & comedy, trade stalls, themed activities and re-enactments, Sat 2 - Sun 3 Sep, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

**SPITFIRE 10K COSFORD** The Spitfire 10k returns, to help raise funds for the museum, Sun 3 Sep, RAF Cosford, Shifnal

**'UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS' BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR** Chance to explore parts of the house not usually accessible to the public, Sun 3 Sep, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal

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

**SUMMER NIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL** Watch a movie beneath the stars. Films to be announced, Fri 8 Sep, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

**PEAKY BLINDERS NIGHT** Step inside the murky underworld of the Peaky Blind-ers 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

**PROMS & PROSECCO IN THE PARK** Sat 9 Sep, Chetwynd Park, Newport

**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

**THE LABYRINTH CHALLENGE** The 'world's longest, continuous inflatable obstacle course', Sat 9 - Sun 10 Sep, Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire

**ANTIQUE FAIR** Sun 10 Sep, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

### 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



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**10 SEP**  
**MAINLY MADNESS**

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**A FOREIGNERS JOURNEY**

**12 SEP**  
**RICHARD DIGANCE**  
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**13 SEP**  
**AOR & MELODIC ROCK NIGHT**  
WITH ORIGINAL MAXIMUS DJ MARK ALICE

**14 SEP**  
**AMARCOCH IN BILSTON**  
WHITE TYGER - DISARM GOLIATH  
THE MIGHTY WRAITH  
AT DAWN WE ATTACK - SECRETS OF MARIANA - PORK

**15 SEP**  
**HENDRIX ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?**

**16 SEP**  
**BLUES CARAVAN 2017**  
BLUES GOT SOUL - FEATURING  
**BIG DADDY WILSON, VANESSA COLLIER & SI CRANSTON**

**17 SEP**  
**THE BRITANNIA SEAT**  
TRIS TO BLOOMIE & DEBORAH HARRY  
**ABSOLUTE BLONDIE**

**18 SEP**  
**THE SKA45'S**  
PLUS NATURAL EMOTIONS & DJ LOUCA

**19 SEP**  
**COUNTERFEIT STONES**

**20 SEP**  
**MULTI-STORY PLUS THE AMBER HERD**

**21 SEP**  
**HENRIK FREISCHLADER**

**22 SEP**  
**GIN ANNIE BAND**  
**VEGA**

**23 SEP**  
**BIG COUNTRY**

**24 SEP**  
**KICK UP THE 80's**

**25 SEP**  
**ALL SEATED SHOW NIK KERSHAW**

**26 SEP**  
**FROM NASHVILLE HARP HOWLIN' THANG RANGIN'...**  
**STACIE COLLINS**

**27 SEP**  
**UNDER A BANNER**  
**THE BREW**

**28 SEP**  
**STONE BROKEN**  
**LIVING COLOUR**

**29 SEP**  
**ROCK AGAINST MS UK**  
AN EVENING WITH  
**PURE DC (AC/DC)**

**30 SEP**  
**ACOUSTICA FESTIVAL**  
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**13 SEPT**  
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£22.00

**20 SEPT**  
**PAUL ZERDIN: ALL MOUTH**  
£19.50

**23 SEPT**  
**MR DARCY LOSES THE PLOT**  
£20 - £22.50

**3-7 OCT**  
**LETTERS TO EMMA**  
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**WAIT UNTIL DARK**  
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**24 OCT**  
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*Fret And Fiddle - mac, Birmingham*

## Gigs

**THE BLUES CARAVAN**  
2017 Tues 12 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

**PONS AELIUS** Tues 12 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

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

**AN EVENING OF DIRTY DANCING** Wed 13 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

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

**VO FLETCHER** Wed 13 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

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

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

**DAVE EVANS AND THE BADASSES** Thurs 14 Sep, Eleven, Stoke on Trent

**PINACT** Thurs 14 Sep, The Flapper, B'ham

**PETER BRUNTNELL** Thurs 14 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

**ABSOLUTE BLONDIE** Thurs 14 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

**NEIL SEDAKA** Thurs 14 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**THE WHITNEY HOUSTON SHOW** Thurs 14 Sep, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

**MONEY FOR NOTHING** Fri 15 Sep, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth

**FOO FIGHTERS** Fri 15 Sep, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

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

**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

**RYAN MCMULLAN** Fri 15 Sep, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE BUTTERS ALIENS** - Fri 15 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**SHANTI CELESTE** Fri 15 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

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

**GENESIS CONNECTED** Fri 15 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

**DOMINIC KIRWAN** Fri 15 Sep, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

**GUNS 2 ROSES** Fri 15 Sep, Eleven, Stoke on Trent

**RICKY COOL AND THE IN CROWD** Fri 15 Sep, Lichfield Guildhall

**ATOMIC BLONDIE** Sat 16 Sep, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

**HIGH SCHOOL ROCKS** Sat 16 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

**JOHN LAW'S 'RE-CREATION' FEATURING SAM CROCKATT** Sat 16 Sep, The Hive, Shrewsbury

**THE VELVETS** Sat 16 Sep, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**BANFI, BRYDE & DANIEL**

**JOHN MARSDEN** Sat 16 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**MEGADETH U.K** Sat 16 Sep, Eleven, Stoke on Trent

**KRAFTY KUTS AND PLUMP DJS** Sat 16 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

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

**THE COUNTERFEIT STONES** Sat 16 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

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

**KILLERSTREAM** Sat 16 Sep, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**ALLAN TAYLOR** Sat 16 Sep, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS** Sat 16 Sep, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

**ROY G HEMMINGS' MOWTOWN SHOW** Sat 16 Sep, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

**ORGAN PROMS** Sat 16 Sep, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**CATS IN SPACE** Sat 16 Sep, O2 Academy, Bristol Street, B'ham

**LIVE/WIRE - THE AC/DC SHOW** Sat 16 Sep, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**A VISION OF ELVIS** Sat 16 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

**FRIDOLIJN** Sun 17 Sep, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

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

**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

**THEM HEAVY PEOPLE - KATE BUSH TRIBUTE** Sun 17 Sep, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## 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

**THOMAS BOWES PLAYS JS BACH** Programme comprises Bach Violin Solos, Sonata No1 in G minor BMV 1001, Partita No1 in B minor BMV 1002 & Sonata No3 in C major BMV 1005, Sat 16 Sep, St Giles Church, Downton on the Rock, Shropshire

**ORGAN PROMS** Sat 16 Sep, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

## Comedy

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

**JASON MANFORD** Thurs 14 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

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

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

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

**TOM ALLEN** Sat 16 Sep, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

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

**KAREN BAYLEY, STUART MITCHELL & RICHARD MASSARA** Sat 16 Sep, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham

**DAVE FULTON, RORY O'HANLON, MATTHEW OSBOURNE & DAMION LARKIN** Sat 16 Sep, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**ROFL! COMEDY CLUB** Sat 16 Sep, The Old Post Office, Burton-on-Trent

**GARY DELANEY** Sat 16 Sep, Stourbridge Town Hall

**MARK WATSON** Sun 17 Sep, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

**NICK DOODY, EL BALDINIHO, SALLY ANNE HAYWARD & DAN NIGHTINGALE** Sun 17 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**JUNIOR JESTERS #9 WITH EL BALDINIHO, NICK DOODY & SALLY ANNE HAYWARD** Sun 17 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**MATT RICHARDSON** Sun 17 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

## Theatre

**BLITHE SPIRIT** The Nonentities present an amateur staging of Noel Coward's supernatural comedy, Mon 11 - Sat 16 Sep, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**THE WEDDING SINGER** Ray Quinn, Cassie Compton, Roxanne Pallett and Ruth Madoc star in a new production of the popular musical based on the hit film of the same name, Tues 12 - Sat 16 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**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

**MADE IN DAGENHAM** The Mellow Dramatics present an amateur version of the stage show based on the award-winning film of the same name, telling the story of the real-life 1968 sewing machinist strike at the Ford Factory in Dagenham, Tues 12 - Sat 16 Sep, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-on-Trent

**THE CLASS PROJECT** Rebecca Atkinson-Lord presents a show about belonging, tribes, families and 'the place you belong because you were born there', Wed 13 Sep, mac, Birmingham

**A MONK'S TALE** Historical comedy described as 'Horrible Histories meets Monty Python', Wed 13 Sep, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**AFTERNOON VARIETY SHOW** Featuring comedian Doug Parker and vocalist John Daniels, Thurs 14 Sep, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

**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 PITMEN PAINTERS** Feelgood play based on the true story of a group of coal miners who begin evening classes with a Master of Painting from Kings College Newcastle, Fri 15 Sep - Sat 7 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**COROLANUS** 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

**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

**CULT FIGURE: KENNETH WILLIAMS** Celebration of the late Carry On star featuring some of the most hilarious

## Autumn Highlights



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and poignant stories and anecdotes he shared throughout his life, Sat 16 Sep, Lichfield Garrick

**BEAUTY FOR ASHES** Creative Mouth-piece 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

**HIGH SCHOOL ROCKS** High-energy, interactive production featuring the very biggest hits from all the High School Musicals, School Of Rock and Glee, Sat 16 Sep, The Place, Oaken-gates Theatre, Telford

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

## Dance

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

**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

## Film

### INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

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

**THE BIG SICK (15)** Comedy/Romance. Starring Kumail Nanjiani, Zoe Kazan. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Mon 11 Sep

**LA LA LAND (15)** Comedy/Music. Starring Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 11 Sep

**KEDI (U)** Documentary. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 11 & Wed 13 Sep

**MOONLIGHT (15)** Drama. Starring Mahershala Ali, Shariff Eap. Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 12 Sep

**AN AMERICAN IN PARIS (U)** Drama/Mu-

sical. Starring Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 12 Sep

**THE DEATH OF LOUIS XIV (12A)** Biography/Drama. Starring Jean-Pierre Léaud, Patrick d'Assunção. Foreign language, subtitled. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 12 & Thurs 14 Sep

**TOMMY'S HONOUR (PG)** Biography/Drama. Starring Jack Lowden, Peter Mullan. Wern Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 12 & Thurs 14 Sep

**DAVID GILMOUR: LIVE AT POMPEII (12a)** Music. Starring David Gilmour. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 13 Sep; mac, Birmingham, Wed 13 Sep; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Wed 13 Sep

**VALERIAN AND THE CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANETS (12A)** Adventure/Fantasy. Starring Dane DeHaan, Cara Delevingne. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 15 Sep

**DUNKIRK (12a)** Drama/History. Starring Fionn Whitehead, Damien Bonnard. Wern Town Hall, North Shropshire, Fri 15 Sep

**VICTORIA AND ABDUL (15)** Biography/Drama. Starring Judi Dench, Ali Fazal. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 15 - Thurs 28 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

**WELLINGTON WALKING FESTIVAL** Mon 11 - Sun 17 Sep, Various Locations Around Shropshire

**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



## The Pitman Painters

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Fri 15 September - Sat 7 October

Reflecting opinions on the class system and the politics of its day, Lee Hall's highly acclaimed play is based on a true story. It focuses on a group of 1930s Ashington pit-workers who hire a professor to teach them how to appreciate art. Before too long, however, appreciating art gives way to actually producing it, with the miners' work soon being acquired by some of the most prestigious collections around...

New Vic Artistic Director Gwenda Hughes helms this brand new version of a play that's previously scored a hit at the National Theatre, in the West End and on Broadway.

**ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES** Interactive dinner show where the audience dine in Del Boy's very own restaurant, Fri 15 Sep, National Brewery Centre, Burton upon Trent

**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 Blind-ers as you discover their dark history, Fri 15 - Sat 16 Sep, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**MIDLAND GAME FAIR HOUSE PARTY PACKAGE** Fri 15 - Sun 17 Sep, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal

**OPEN COCKPITS EVENING** Chance to view a wide range of aircraft and enjoy after-hours access to the museum, Sat 16 Sep, RAF Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire

**BIG BBQ & BEER FESTIVAL** Sat 16 Sep, Starworks Warehouse, W'hampton

**THE LIFE AND WORKS OF SIMEON SOLOMON** A detailed viewing of the exclusive collection of Solomon's paintings, Sat 16 Sep, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

**GIN TASTING** Gin masterclass includ-

ing 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

**MEREFEST** One of the largest free events in the UK, Sat 16 Sep, The Cremorne Gardens, Ellesmere

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

**BIRMINGHAM CRUISE SHOW** Sat 16 - Sun 17 Sep, NEC, Birmingham

**FOLK WORKSHOP BY SQUEEZING SHROPSHIRE** Workshop for people wanting to expand their folk session repertoire and play tunes in 'sets', Sun 17 Sep, Various Locations Around Shropshire

**THE SHROPSHIRE WEDDING FAYRE** Sun 17 Sep, Brook Cottage & Camping, Church Stretton

## Festivals

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

# What's on...



Friday 15th Septembert, 7.30pm  
**GENESIS CONNECTED**



Friday 22nd Sptember, 7.30pm  
**BEE GEES FEVER**



Saturday 23rd September, 2.00pm  
**BIG HOWARD'S LOL-TASTIC YUKFEST**



Tuesday 3rd October 7.30pm  
**THE STARS OF IRISH COUNTRY SHOW**



Saturday 7th October 7.30pm  
**SUPREME QUEEN**



Friday 13th October, 7.30pm,  
**LET'S HANG ON**



Saturday 14th October, 7.30pm  
**THE ROY ORBISON STORY**



Thursday 26th October, 11am & 2pm  
**THE CHRIS & PUI SHOW**



Friday 27th October, 7.30pm  
**THE UPBEAT BEATLES**

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FRI 15 SEPT 7PM  
**ANDY MILLS**

SAT 16 SEPT 7PM  
**DAN PAGE**

FRI 22 SEPT 7PM  
**CAMERON FORREST**

SAT 23 SEPT 7PM  
**DAVE BUSBY**

SAT 29 SEPT 7PM  
**ANDY O'BRIEN**

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12th - 16th Sept, 7.30pm  
plus Sat Mat 2.30pm  
The Mellow Dramatics:  
**Made In Dagenham**  
Tickets: £12, £10



21st Sept, 7.30pm  
Bob Drury Presents  
**Viva Neil Diamond**  
Tickets: £15



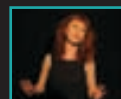
29th Sept, 8pm  
**Apple Of My Eye**  
Tickets: £12, £10 adv



30th Sept - 25th Nov  
**Made in the Middle:**  
Contemporary Craft from the Midlands  
Exhibition Opening Night  
30th Sept, 7pm FREE



6th Oct, 8pm  
At Burton Town Hall  
**Rich Hall's Hoedown**  
Tickets: £17



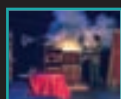
11th Oct, 7pm  
**Cat Weatherill**  
The King of Denmark's Son & other  
tales  
Tickets: £8, £6 adv



14th Oct, 12pm  
**GEM Recitals**  
English Folk Songs  
Tickets: £5



19th Oct, 8pm  
**Phil Jupitus:  
Juplicity**  
Tickets: £15

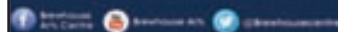


26th Oct, 4pm  
**Pangottic Circus Theatre:  
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Tickets: £6, £20 (family of 4)

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Nik Kershaw - The Robin, Bilston

### Gigs

**AS LIONS** Mon 18 Sep, The Flapper, B'ham  
**MOZART VS MACHINE** Tues 19 Sep, mac, Birmingham  
**OMNI** Tues 19 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**RAINBOW GIRLS** Tues 19 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**KIRAN LEONARD** Tues 19 Sep, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton  
**HENRIK FREISCHLADER** Wed 20 Sep, The Robin, Bilston  
**RYAN MCMULLAN** Wed 20 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**STACEY KENT** Wed 20 Sep, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme  
**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  
**VEGA** Thurs 21 Sep, The Robin, Bilston  
**VIVA NEIL DIAMOND** Thurs 21 Sep, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-on-Trent  
**BABY STRANGE** Thurs

21 Sep, The Sunflower Lounge, 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  
**JIVE TALKIN'** Fri 22 Sep, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire  
**MACHINE GUN KELLY** Fri 22 Sep, O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**ANDREW NEILL** Fri 22 Sep, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**UK BJORN** Fri 22 Sep, Eleven, Sandford, Stoke on Trent  
**ARRIVAL - THE HITS OF ABBA** Fri 22 Sep, Lichfield Garrick  
**BIG COUNTRY** Fri 22 Sep, The Robin, Bilston  
**BEE GEES FEVER** Fri 22 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Telford, Shropshire  
**MIKE SKINNER & MURKAGE PRESENT TONGA** Fri 22 Sep, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE REEL HOT CEILIDH PEPPERS** Fri 22 Sep, Lichfield Guildhall  
**DEBORAH BONHAM** Fri 22 Sep, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton  
**MIKE SKINNER & MURKAGE PRESENT TONGA** Fri 22 Sep, Hare &

Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE** Fri 22 Sep, The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**DESPERADO** Fri 22 - Sat 23 Sep, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire  
**SOLID SOUL** Fri 22 - Sat 23 Sep, The Jam House, Birmingham  
**SALTFLAT** Sat 23 Sep, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton  
**G-Dragon** Sat 23 Sep, Genting Arena, B'ham  
**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  
**ROCKAGEDDON** Sat 23 Sep, Eleven, Sandford, Stoke on Trent  
**GLORY FADES** Sat 23 Sep, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton  
**YOUNG GUNS** Sat 23 Sep, The Asylum, Birmingham  
**MARTIN & ELIZA CATHY** Sat 23 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**KICK UP THE 80'S** Sat 23 Sep, The Robin, Bilston  
**MAYDAY PARADE** Sat 23 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham  
**WILD WILLY BARRETT'S FRENCH CONNECTION** Sat 23 Sep, Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley, Shropshire  
**BORN IN THE EIGHTIES** Sat 23 Sep, The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**SPARKS** Sun 24 Sep, O2 Institute, B'ham  
**ROADTRIP** Sun 24 Sep, O2 Academy, B'ham  
**HANS RAJ HANS** Sun 24 Sep, Victoria Square, Birmingham  
**NIK KERSHAW** Sun 24 Sep, The Robin, Bilston  
**LUCY SPRAGGAN** Sun 24 Sep, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton  
**THE WHITNEY HOUSTON SHOW** Sun 24 Sep, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

### Classical Music

**RHYDIAN, RICHARD AND ADAM** Wed 20 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire  
**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, Birmingham  
**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).  
**LA LA LAND LIVE IN CONCERT** Sun 24 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

### Comedy

**TOADALLY FREE COMEDY!** Mon 18 Sep, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham  
**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  
**JON RICHARDSON** Fri 22 Sep, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent  
**RHYS JAMES, STEPHEN GRANT FEATURING TUDOR OWEN & COMIC TBC (FRI), TUDOR OWEN & JEFF INNOCENT (SAT)** Fri 22 - Sat 23 Sep, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham  
**BIG HOWARD'S LOL-TASTIC YUKFEST** Sat 23 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford  
**MARK NELSON, KEVIN MCCARTHY, GEORGE EGG & CAREY MARX** Sat 23 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**DANNY DEEGAN, OLA** Sat 23 Sep, Jongsleers Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**COMEDY IN THE MET** Sat 23 Sep, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**ROFL! COMEDY CLUB** Sat 23 Sep, The Old Post Office, Burton-on-Trent  
**JON RICHARDSON** Sun 24 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

### 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  
**PAUL ZERDIN: ALL MOUTH** Brand new show featuring the ventriloquist's army of (in)famous puppets, Wed 20 Sep, Lichfield Garrick  
**GODSPELL** Walsall Operatic Society present an amateur staging of the award-winning rock opera, Wed 20 - Sat 23 Sep, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall  
**EDITH IN THE DARK** A retelling of the ghost stories of Edith Nesbit, author of The Railway Children, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 Sep, The Little Theatre, Donnington, Telford  
**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  
**YOUR BARD** One-man show, written and performed by Nicholas Collett, in which Shakespeare reveals all about his family, touring and his glory days at the Globe, Fri 22 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



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**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. Gemma Redgrave and Oliver Cotton star in this revival of Tom Kempinski's award-winning play, Fri 22 Sep - Sat 7 Oct, The REP, B'ham

**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

**BIG HOWARD'S LOL-TASTIC YUKFEST** Featuring stand-up, interactive digital animation, sound effects, jokes and nonsense for younger audiences, Sat 23 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

**FIRST STAGES: NO KIDDING** Interactive 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

**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

## Dance

**RIP IT UP: DANCING THROUGH THE 50S** Jay McGuiness, 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

**RIP IT UP: DANCING THROUGH THE 50S** Jay McGuiness, 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', Thurs 21 Sep, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

**RIP IT UP: DANCING THROUGH THE 50S** Jay McGuiness, 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', Fri 22 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**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

**FRIENDS' TALK: THE ANSTICE** Find out more about well-known building The Anstice, Wed 20 Sep, Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, Ironbridge

## Film

### INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

**HIDDEN FIGURES (PG)** Biography/Drama. Starring Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 18 Sep

**THE GRADUATE (12A)** Comedy/Drama. Starring Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 18 Sep

**THEIR FINEST (12a)** Comedy/Drama. Starring Gemma Arterton, Sam Claflin. Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 19 Sep

**DUNKIRK (12a)** Drama/History. Starring Fionn Whitehead, Damien Bonnard. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South

## A Salute To The 1940s - Dad's Army Variety Show Special

Dudley Town Hall, Tues 19 September

With the recent release of blockbuster movie *Dunkirk* ensuring the nation's attention has once again been turned towards memories of World War Two, this special matinee salute to the 1940s is sure to find an enthusiastic audience. Highlights include recreated sketches from classic TV comedy series *Dad's Army*, a homage to Windsor Davies and Don Estelle singing *Whispering Grass*, and the chance to enjoy the music of George Formby, Vera Lynn, The Andrews Sisters, Frank Sinatra and Gracie Fields.

Shropshire, Tues 19 - Wed 20 Sep; Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 19 & Thurs 21 Sep

**A GHOST STORY (12a)** Drama/Fantasy. Starring Casey Affleck, Rooney Mara. Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Tues 19 - Thurs 21 Sep; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 22 Sep

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

**VALERIAN AND THE CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANETS (12A)** Adventure/Fantasy. Starring Dane DeHaan, Cara Delevingne. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, 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

**ATOMIC BLONDE (15)** Action/Thriller. Starring Charlize Theron, James McAvoy. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, South Shropshire, Sat 23 Sep

### NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 22 Sep, showing at selected cinemas

**KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE (tbc)**

**BORG VS MCENROE (tbc)**

## Events

**OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL** Showcasing the world's most amazing ocean films, Wed 20 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**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 Channel 4 TV show of the same name offers plenty of inspiration to help guide you through the buying process and finding 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



**BOWMAN ANTIQUES** Featuring up to 400 stalls, Fri 22 - Sun 24 Sep, Staffordshire County Showground

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

**BIRMINGHAM VELO** 15,000 cyclists will line up to start their unforgettable 100 mile route on completely closed roads, taking them through the picturesque Worcestershire and Herefordshire countryside before returning to Birmingham, Sun 23 Sep, starting from Birmingham City Centre

**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

**WOLVERHAMPTON VINTAGE KILO SALE** Sun 24 Sep, Starworks Warehouse, Wolverhampton

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Flyte - Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

## Gigs

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

**STACIE COLLINS** Mon 25 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

**MICAH HINSON AND THE HOLY STRANGERS** Mon 25 Sep, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**DIPPER MALKIN** Mon 25 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

**DR JOHN COOPER CLARKE** Mon 25 Sep, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**LUCY SPRAGGAN** Mon 25 Sep, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**WALSALL JAZZ ORCHESTRA** Mon 25 Sep, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

**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

**AQUILLO** Tues 26 Sep, O2 Academy, B'ham

**A LEGEND OF WALES** Wed 27 Sep, mac, Birmingham

**LIVING COLOUR** Wed 27 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

**TOM HICKOX** Wed 27 Sep, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**4SQUARE** Wed 27 Sep, Kitchen Garden Cafe,

Birmingham

**FLYTE** Wed 27 Sep, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**TRASH BOAT** Wed 27 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**SINCERELY YOURS** Thurs 28 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

**SLAID CLEAVES** Thurs 28 Sep, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffordshire

**THE BEE GEES STORY - NIGHTS ON BROADWAY** Thurs 28 Sep, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**JUSTIN HAYWARD** Thurs 28 Sep, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

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

**LITTLE BIG TOWN** Fri 29 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**THE 80S SINGALONG** Fri 29 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

**WATERPARKS** Fri 29 Sep, O2 Academy, B'ham

**QUARTET MONTPARNASSE** Fri 29 Sep, The Hive, Shrewsbury

**PURE DC** Fri 29 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

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

**ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN** Fri 29 Sep, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

**WHALEBONE** Fri 29 Sep, The Edge, Birmingham

**BAY CITY ROLLERS STAR-RING LES MCKEOWN** Fri 29 Sep, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

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

**PETER AND THE TEST TUBE BABIES** Fri 29 Sep, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke on Trent

**APPLE OF MY EYE** Fri 29 Sep, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

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

**FOO5IGHTERS** Sat 30 Sep, Eleven, Stoke on Trent

**ALL THEM WITCHES** Sat 30 Sep, O2 Institute, Birmingham

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

**THE CARPENTERS STORY** Sat 30 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**JOHN OTWAY & THE BIG BAND** Sat 30 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**WITHOUT GRACE** Sat 30 Sep, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**JACQUI MCSHEE'S PENTANGLE** Sat 30 Sep, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shrops

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

**WHOLE LOTTA DC** Sat 30 Sep, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

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

**ACOUSTICA FESTIVAL 2017** Sat 30 Sep, The Robin, Bilston

**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, Birmingham Town Hall

**TOSCA** Russian State Opera presents Puccini's much-loved work. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, Wed 27 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**MIRGA CONDUCTS MAHLER'S FOURTH** Featuring the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor) Marie-Chistine 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

**G4** Four-piece British vocal group featuring Jonathan Ansell, Mike Christie, Ben Thapa & Nick Ashby, Thurs 28 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**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

**ALL THE KING'S MEN** Multi-award-winning acappella group based at King's College London, Fri 29 Sep, Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School

**MUCH WENLOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR** With Guests Barrow Male Voice Choir, Sat 30 Sep, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

## Comedy

**NICK HELM** Wed 27 Sep, mac, Birmingham

**GEORGE EGG** Thurs 28 Sep, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire



**ROB BRYDON** Thurs 28 Sep, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**TOM ALLEN** Fri 29 Sep, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

**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

**ROFL! COMEDY CLUB** Sat 30 Sep, The Old Post Office, Burton-on-Trent

## Theatre

**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

**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

**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

**SINCERELY YOURS: THE VERA LYNN STORY** Revisit the songs and the story of forces sweetheart Vera Lynn, the vocalist who stole the hearts of the nation in wartime Britain, Thurs 28 Sep, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

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

**A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT** Music, mirth and merriment with comedy legend Ian 'Sludge' Lees, raconteur, musician & comedian Bev Pegg and

emerging vocalist Jess Silk, Fri 29 Sep, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

**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

**JOHN CHALLIS: ONLY FOOLS & BOYCIE** An intimate evening with one of the nation's favourite comedy actors, Sat 30 Sep, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

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

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Sat 30 Sep, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**MR DARWIN'S TREE** Riding Lights Theatre Company present a one-man

play about Charles Darwin, Sat 30 Sep, Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School

## 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

## Talks

**DR JOHN COOPER CLARKE** Mix of classic verse, new material, ponderings on modern life, gags, riffs and chat, Mon 25 Sep, New Vic Theatre, New-castle-under-Lyme

**MARTIN HUGHES - GAMES & IOLO WILLIAMS** 'Informative and amusing' wildlife show packed with 'fascinating facts and fun', Wed 27 Sep, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

**ZDEN K VALKOUN-WALKER** An afternoon with the BBC Radio Gardening Show expert, who'll be talking about all things spicy, Sat 30 Sep, Festival Drayton, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

**FLICKERING STORIES: THE ART OF STORYTELLING & CINEMA** Traditional storyteller Maria Whatton explores how the ancient art of storytelling 'has settled steadfastly in contemporary cinema', Sat 30 Sep, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

## Film

### INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

**VICEROY'S HOUSE (PG)** Biography/Drama. Starring Gillian Anderson, Michael Gambon, Hugh Bonneville. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 25 Sep

**A GHOST STORY (12a)** Drama/Fantasy. Starring Casey Affleck, Rooney Mara. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 25 Sep

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

**AN INCONVENIENT SEQUEL: TRUTH TO POWER (PG)** Documentary. Starring Al Gore, Hilary Ashford-Ng. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 26 - Wed 27 Sep

**THE ODYSSEY (PG)** Adventure/Biography. Starring Lambert Wilson, Pierre Niney. Foreign language, subtitles. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 26 - Thurs 28 Sep

**HOWARDS END (PG)** Drama/Romance. Starring Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 26 & Thurs 28 Sep

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

**LA LA LAND (15)** Comedy/Music. Starring Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone. Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Thurs 28 Sep

**BLACK SABBATH: THE END OF THE END (15)** Music. Starring Black Sabbath. Light House Media Centre, Wolver-

hampton, Thurs 28 Sep; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Thurs 28 Sep; Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 28 - Sat 30 Sep

**THE DARK TOWER (12A)** Adventure. Starring Idris Elba, Matthew McConaughey. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 29 Sep

**THE LIMEHOUSE GOLEM (15)** Horror/Thriller. Starring Bill Nighy, Olivia Cooke. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 29 - 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:

Released from Fri 29 Sep, showing at selected cinemas

**GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN (PG)**

**FLATLINERS (tbc)**

## 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

**GINGER AND SPICE FESTIVAL** Food festival celebrating the heritage of ginger & spice in Market Drayton, Sat 30 Sep - Sun 1 Oct, various venues, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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SEPTEMBER

### THE SEARCHERS

Sunday 10th September  
7.30pm • £21

### THE WHITNEY HOUSTON SHOW

Thursday 14th September  
7.30pm • £25

### DOMINIC KIRWAN

Friday 15th September  
7.30pm • £22

### AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS

Saturday 16th September  
7.30pm • £19.50

### ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN

Friday 29th September  
7.30pm • £20



OCTOBER

### SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK

Sunday 1st October  
7.30pm • £20.50

### FRANKENSTEIN

Wednesday 11th &  
Thursday 12th October  
7.30pm • £10 • Conc £8

### ROCK 'N' ROLL BACK THE YEARS

Thursday 19th October  
7.30pm • £21

### BLUES BAND

Friday 20th October  
7.30pm • £25



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29 BRIDGNORTH Theatre On The Steps 01746 766477

## OCTOBER

1 WOLVERHAMPTON Grand Theatre 01902 429212

5 BIRMINGHAM Crescent Theatre 0121 643 5858

6 KIDDERMINSTER Roses Theatre 01562 743745

12 STRATFORD Artshouse 01789 207100

13 CANNOCK Prince Of Wales 01543 578762

18 BROMSGROVE Artrix 01527 577330

26 SOLIHULL The Core 0121 704 6962

## NOVEMBER

2 STOURBRIDGE Town Hall 01384 812812

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