

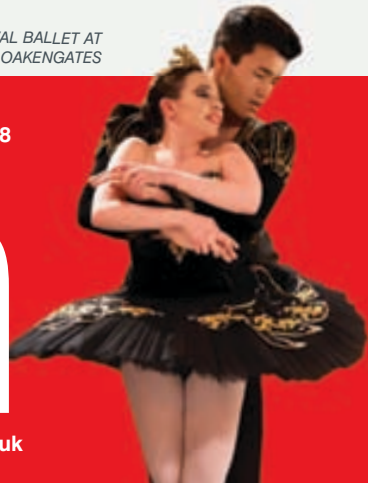
Shropshire

ISSUE 387 MARCH 2018

What's On

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

shropshirewhatson.co.uk



DIRECT FROM ITS WEST END TRIUMPH
'A SENSATIONALLY GOOD PRODUCTION
OF WEBBER AND RICE'S
GREATEST MUSICAL'

★★★★★
MARK SHENTON: THE STAGE

EVITA

LYRICS BY **TIM RICE** MUSIC BY **ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER**
MADALENA ALBERTO AS EVA PERON GIAN MARCO SCHIARETTI AS CHE

★★★★★ 'A CLASSIC IS REBORN'
SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

theatresevern SHREWSBURY
TUES 3 - SAT 7 APRIL
BOX OFFICE 01743 281 281
THEATRESEVERN.CO.UK

inside:

thelist

Your 16-page week
by week listings guide

PALOMA FAITH
returns to the Midlands
interview inside...



NOBLE JACKS
footstompin' fun at
Henry Tudor House



EASTER ACTIVITIES
seasonal celebrations at
Blists Hill Victorian Town





BARRACKS PASSAGE
SHREWSBURY
SY1 1XA

01743 361666

FOR MORE DETAILS OF ALL LIVE EVENTS GO TO
WWW.HENRYTUDORHOUSE.COM

MONDAY 5th MARCH



WILLIAM THE
CONQUEROR

SUNDAY 18th MARCH



NOBLE JACKS

WEDNESDAY 21st MARCH



COMEDY CLUB

WEDNESDAY 11th APRIL



ZERVAS &
PEPPER

THE AWARD WINNING
MUSIC & COMEDY
VENUE
IN SHROPSHIRE

EVENTS AT assemblyrooms ludlow



**MORGAN & WEST:
MORE MAGIC FOR KIDS!**

Thu 12 April, 2pm

Tickets: £7.50 / £26 groups of 4+



**EMILY SMITH &
JAMIE McCLENNAN**

Thu 19 April, 7.30pm

Tickets: £15.50



**SALISBURY
CONCERT BAND**

Sat 21 April, 7.30pm

Tickets: £8 / £7 concessions



**PHILL JUPITUS
JUPICITY**

Sat 28 April, 8pm

Tickets: £16.50

DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to our live events, we're also an independent cinema and screen a wide selection of films.



We now offer a **2 for 1 ticket offer** for ages 16 - 30.
Look out for eligible films with this logo.

ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk | 01584 878141

PENTABUS
RURAL THEATRE COMPANY

Here I Belong

by Matt Hartley



07 March | Theatre Severn | Shropshire
08 March | Diddlebury Village hall | Shropshire
09 March | The Hive | Worcestershire
10 March | Ludlow Assembly Rooms | Shropshire
13 March | St. George's Hall | Worcestershire
22 March | Welshampton & Lyneal Parish Hall | Shropshire
23 March | Lingen Village Hall | Herefordshire
24 March | Clun Memorial Hall | Shropshire

#PYC FREE tickets for Under 25's (limited availability)

Pentabus Theatre | @pentabus theatre | #HereIBelong | pentabus.co.uk | 01584 856564



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Cotswold Water



Lumic Fairbairn



Shropshire
Council



THE MONUMENT TRUST



THE MONUMENT TRUST

Pentabus is also supported by
The Mithras Foundation and The Playhouse Trust



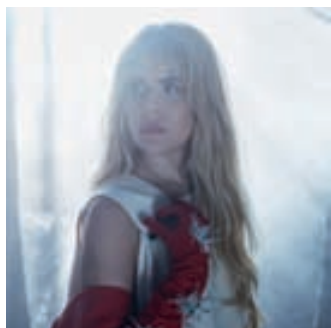
Phil Daniels - stars as Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre feature on page 8

The Grahams



Americana husband-and-wife duo play Lichfield Guildhall
page 17

Paloma Faith



talks music, motherhood and fashion...
page 14

Gwen Taylor



appears as Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's classic farce
page 29

the list



Your 16-page week-by-week listings guide
page 51

inside:

4. First Word

11. Food

17. Music

20. Comedy

24. Theatre

38. Film

40. Visual Arts

43. Events



@whatsonwolves

Wolverhampton What's On Magazine

@whatsonstaffs

Staffordshire What's On Magazine

@whatsonshops

Shropshire What's On Magazine

What's On

MEDIA GROUP



Managing Director: **Davina Evans** davina@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281708

Sales & Marketing: **Lei Woodhouse** lei@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281703 **Chris Horton** chris@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281704

Editorial: **Lauren Foster** lauren@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281707 **Brian O'Faolain** brian@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281701

Sue Jones sue@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281705 **Abi Whitehouse** abi@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281716

Ryan Humphreys ryan@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281722 **Adrian Parker** adrian.parker@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281714

Contributors: Graham Bostock, James Cameron-Wilson, Heather Kincaid, Katherine Ewing, Jenny Ell, Lauren Cole, Steve Adams, Jack Rolfe, Elly Yates-Roberts, Daisy Sparkle, Carol Lovatt, Steve Taylor, Chris Eldon Lee

Publisher and CEO: **Martin Monahan** Accounts Administrator: **Julia Perry** julia@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281717

This publication is printed on paper from a sustainable source and is produced without the use of elemental chlorine.

We endorse the recycling of our magazine and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.

All works appearing in this publication are copyright. It is to be assumed that the copyright for material rests with the magazine unless otherwise stated. No part of this publication may be reproduced, or stored in an electronic system, transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recording or otherwise, without the prior knowledge and consent of the publishers.



International dance festival to make a welcome return in the summer

The hugely popular Birmingham International Dance Festival (BIDF) makes a welcome return from 1 to 24 June.

Produced by the Birmingham Hippodrome-based DanceX-change, the event will feature 'fantastic dance in the city's theatres and a takeover of Birmingham's streets and squares, with show-stopping free performances and opportunities to get dancing'.

The programme, inspired and curated around themes of imagination and digital art, will present work that shows choreographic practice at its best, pushing the boundaries of dance as a contemporary art form.

Alongside the performance programme will be a series of professional and industry events, debates and workshops - creating a valuable space for dialogue, collaboration, the sharing of ideas and the development of skills... To find out more about the festival, visit bidf.co.uk

It's pillows and pilots at RAF Cosford!

Grab your sleeping bag and get ready to enjoy a night at the Royal Air Force Museum in Cosford!

The popular venue is this month launching special 'pillows and pilots' sleepovers for youngsters, providing participating children with the chance to sleep amongst the planes, tanks and missiles!

The event also features a screening of the movie *A Night At The Museum* and a continental breakfast the following morning.

The sleepover takes place on Saturday 24 March, with further evenings having been arranged for April (sold out) and May (the 12th).

Visit rafmuseum.org.uk for more information.



Outdoor art trail goes Quackers at Ironbridge

A trail of 12 larger-than-life beautifully painted ducks will be placed along the Ironbridge Gorge as a temporary installation in May, as part of Telford's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Let's Go Quackers is the idea of Telford resident Julie Ward, who's hoping to raise sponsorship for the initiative and then income from the sales of the ducks once the trail is complete.

The charities that will benefit from the project are Severn Hospice and the Jane Sargent Foundation. For more information, visit letsgoquackers.co.uk

Plenty of comic fun at Stoke CON Trent

Staffordshire's biggest TV, film, comic and memorabilia convention is making a welcome return next month (Sunday 15 April). The biannual Stoke CON Trent event features comic traders, artists, exhibitors and cosplay. Previous editions of the show have included a selection of Doctor Who, Terminator, Gerry Anderson and Star Wars props. Guests already confirmed to appear include Christopher Biggins, John Challis and one-time Oliver Twist, Mark Lester... For more information, visit stokecontrent.co.uk

Exhibition to showcase works from Victorian school of art

A new free exhibition exploring the story of the Coalbrookdale School of Art is opening at the Coalbrookdale Gallery in Ironbridge this month (Wednesday 21 March).

As well as showcasing original design work and objects from the Coalbrookdale Com-

pany, Maw & Co and Craven Dunnill & Co, the exhibition also explores the broader story of Victorian aesthetics.

For more information, visit ironbridge.org.uk

Casting announced for new tour of Calendar Girls



Familiar television faces Fern Britton, Ruth Madoc and Denise Welch will star in Gary Barlow and Tim Firth's hit show, *Calendar Girls The Musical*, when it visits the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Tuesday 13 to Saturday 17 November.

The show is inspired by the true story of a group of ladies who decide to appear nude for a Women's Institute calendar in order to raise funds for their local hospital.

To purchase tickets for the show, visit atgtickets.com/stoke

Heritage Lottery funding for Walsall Transport Museum

Walsall's Aston Manor Road Transport Museum has secured a £35,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to explore means of increasing its footfall and revenue.

The grant will allow the museum to look at ways to raise money for projects involving technology and engineering, with the intention being to attract younger visitors and school parties to the venue. The museum features a collection of 45 commercial vehicles, including lorries, trucks, buses, coaches and a 1900s tram. For more information, visit amrtm.org

Russell Kane to host comedy festival gala

Shrewsbury will host its second international comedy festival this summer, with top comedian Russell Kane compering the event.

The four-day laugh-in, taking place from Thursday 19 to Sunday 22 July, will also feature appearances by, among others, Abandoman, Jason Byrne and Nish Kumar.



Lionel Richie set to bring All The Hits to Shropshire

International superstar Lionel Richie will play Shrewsbury this summer.

The All Night Long singer is booked to appear at New Meadow, the home of Shrewsbury Town Football Club, on 13 June as part of a UK tour.

Commenting on his forthcoming gigs, Lionel said: "I've been missing the UK and can't wait to make my long-awaited return and to see parts of the country I've never made it out to before. The fans are always incredible, and they make the atmosphere at every show electric, so I look forward to singing along with them soon."

Mums go free at Ironbridge!



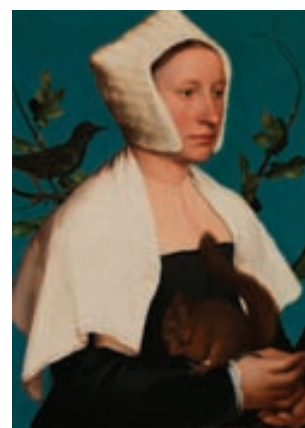
Ironbridge Gorge Museums are inviting mums to enjoy a day out as their guest on Mothering Sunday (11 March), when accompanied by another full-paying visitor. The free-entry offer includes Blists Hill Victorian Town, Coalport China Museum, Jackfield Tile Museum, Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, the Museum of The Gorge and Eniguitry.

National Gallery masterpiece now on show at popular Midlands venue

People visiting the New Art Gallery Walsall between now and Sunday 22 April can check out a much-loved work from the National Gallery Collection.

Hans Holbein the Younger's *A Lady With A Squirrel And A Starling* is currently on display at the gallery as part of the Masterpiece Tour, which is visiting three UK venues during 2018 and '19.

Commenting on the painting, the venue's Director, Stephen Snoddy, said: "The New Art Gallery Walsall is truly honoured to have been chosen by the National Gallery to be the first host venue to exhibit Hans Holbein's painting. We're delighted that the people of Walsall and our region will be able to come and enjoy this masterpiece. It will be the centrepiece display in our Family Gallery, and will be shown alongside complementary works from our collection."



Hans Holbein the Younger, A Lady with a Squirrel and a Starling (Anne Lovell?), © The National Gallery, London



New Horrible Histories show heading for Telford

The critically acclaimed Birmingham Stage Company (BSC) will visit Telford's Oakengates Theatre this summer to present its latest show - Horrible Histories: Barmy Britain - Part Four. The new production will stay true to the style of BSC's Barmy Britain series, posing such delightfully mind-bending questions as, Would you be shaken or stirred by Richard III? and Will Queen Elizabeth I endure her terrible teeth? Horrible Histories: Barmy Britain - Part Four shows at Oakengates from 18 to 21 July, prior to a season in the West End. For more information, visit theplacetelford.com

Plans submitted for uni campus

New plans have been submitted by the University of Wolverhampton for its School of Architecture & The Built Environment, located at its £100million Springfield Campus development. Commenting on the news, Deputy Vice Chancellor Jackie Dunne said: "We think the new design is really exciting and will be a fantastic addition to the city. Springfield is a key strategic project for the university, and we're committed to realising the vision of the site and the part this will play in regenerating Wolverhampton."

Steampunk first for Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury's inaugural Steam-punk Spectacular takes place on Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 March. Highlights of the event include a steampunk market at St Mary's Church, live music, teapot racing, a costume parade, historic walking tours covering numerous Victorian aspects of Shrewsbury, a chance to experience Coleham Pumping Station in all its 'steam-filled splendour', and contributions from dancers, magicians and musicians.

Contemporary theatre company to host The Last Supper in Shrewsbury church

A well-established contemporary theatre company is this month bringing a part-performance part-meal event to Shrewsbury's St Mary's Church. Reckless Sleepers, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2018, will host The Last Supper at the church on Tuesday 13 March. The company describes the presentation as being 'made up of half-remembered words and the forgotten last requests of inmates on death row'... For more information, visit artsalive.co.uk.

Smash-and-grab West End comedy heading to The REP

A brand new comedy described as 'Ocean's Eleven meets the Marx Brothers' is visiting Birmingham Repertory Theatre this summer, direct from a run in the West End. The Comedy About A Bank Robbery is being presented by Mischief Theatre, the company behind the award-winning The Play That Goes Wrong. The show runs at The REP from 23 August to 8 September. For further information and to book tickets, visit birmingham-rep.co.uk



Kapow! Inflatable fun for a good cause

Are you over the age of eight and at least 1.2 metres tall? If so, you may well be interested in a special event that's not only raising money for a good cause but also providing some high-energy fun along the way... Taking place at the West Mid Showground in Shrewsbury on Saturday 21 April, Severn Hospice Kapow! is inviting participants to run, climb or crawl their way through 10 giant inflatable obstacles over a 5km course. Tickets cost £20 and anyone taking part is asked to raise a minimum of £30, with proceeds going to the Severn Hospice. For more information, visit severn Hospice.org.uk

Walk the walk on the Dudley Trail

Walkers from across the country are getting ready for the 38th annual Dudley Trail. The event, which attracts more than 2,000 people every year, will take place on Sunday 6 May. Walks of six, nine, 12, 20 and 28 miles are on offer, the chosen routes revealing 'the hidden beauty and proud industrial heritage of the borough'. Participants can walk at their own pace, with canal tow-paths, disused railway lines and country footpaths all featuring along the way. All walks start from Dudley Leisure Centre at designated times between 8am and noon... For more information, visit himleyhalland-park.co.uk/dudleytrail

Something to bleat about...

North Shropshire College (NSC) is hosting its annual Spring Lambing Day this month. Taking place on Sunday 25 March, the event's attractions include live music, face painting, a climbing wall, a lamb cuddle corner, a pony club equine display and the chance to watch a futuristic robotic milking machine in action.



WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT



CREATIVE LEARNING
STOKE-ON-TRENT PRESENTS
**018 DANCE:
ONCE UPON A DANCE**

TUE 27 FEB – SAT 3 MAR
REGENT THEATRE



CLASSIC THRILLER
**THE CASE OF THE
FRIGHTENED LADY**

MON 19 – SAT 24 MAR
REGENT THEATRE



ELLEN KENT PRESENTS
LA TRAVIATA

WED 7 MAR
REGENT THEATRE



DANCE-IN-THE-AISLES BRILLIANT
THIS IS ELVIS

MON 26 – SAT 31 MAR
REGENT THEATRE



ELLEN KENT PRESENTS
MADAMA BUTTERFLY

THU 8 MAR
REGENT THEATRE



5 OF THE WORLD'S
FINEST MAGICIANS
CHAMPIONS OF MAGIC

MON 2 – TUE 3 APR
REGENT THEATRE



VINCENT AND FLAVIA
ARE BACK IN
TANGO MODERNO

FRI 9 – SAT 10 MAR
REGENT THEATRE



A MEMORABLE EVENING OF
BRILLIANCE
THE HOLLIES

WED 4 APR
REGENT THEATRE



OMG YOU GUYS
**LEGALLY BLONDE
THE MUSICAL**

TUE 13 – SAT 17 MAR
REGENT THEATRE



CHANNEL 5 FAVOURITES
MILKSHAKE! LIVE

FRI 6 APR
REGENT THEATRE

ENGLAND LEGENDS LIVE! WED 28 FEB **VH**

JONATHAN PIE:
BACK IN THE STUDIO THU 1 MAR **VH**

JOE LONGTHORNE FRI 2 MAR **VH**

HELLO AGAIN... NEIL DIAMOND FRI 9 MAR **VH**

THINK FLOYD SAT 10 MAR **VH**

100 YEARS OF JAZZ IN 99 MINUTES
SUN 11 MAR **VH**

SUPERSLAM WRESTLING FRI 16 MAR **VH**

THE BARRICADE BOYS SAT 17 MAR **VH**



ATG TICKETS BOX OFFICE 0844 871 7649*
ATGTICKETS.COM/Stoke*

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



PHIL DANIELS

brings mayhem to Wolverhampton as he takes on the roles of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde in a brand new staging of the Gothic thriller

With an impressive number of TV, stage and film roles under his belt - most notably that of 1960s Mod Jimmy Cooper in the 1979 cult movie *Quadrophenia* - Phil Daniels takes on not one but two parts in his latest project, portraying both Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde in a brand new staging of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic thriller, which stops off in Wolverhampton in May.

A staple in the 'from page to stage' repertoire, the Victorian novella has here been adapted by David Edgar, the well-established playwright behind numerous critically acclaimed stage shows, including the RSC's recent festive sell-out, *A Christmas Carol*.

"David gets at the heart of the story," says Daniels. "He tries to give a reason for Jekyll and Hyde's breakdown, where Jekyll's father gives him no credit but gives the daughter credit instead. There's a secret in the past between the sister and the brother that's quite violent, so it's not just Hyde who's the violent one; there's something violent in Jekyll as well."

Brought to the stage by the Touring Consortium Theatre Company, Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde sees Daniels' characters adopt their creator's Scottish heritage. "I'm playing Jekyll as a posh Edinburgh doctor and Hyde as a Glaswegian. I'm burying myself in all that, but it's enjoyable getting deep into characters. You have to put the work in - although I don't get deep enough to go around murdering people, of course!"

Accents apart, what challenges as an actor has Daniels encountered in preparing for his latest roles? "It's about making them as real as possible. There are two aspects of his personality, not just a crazed animal that's come out of nowhere. It's about finding out why Dr Jekyll is also Edward Hyde. What I don't want to do is make Hyde just evil. I want the audience to make up their own mind about who's the worst out of the two of them, or who's the best; which facets of each character they like or appreciate and which facets they don't. That's the challenge - to

make them both credible people. One might be a villain and one might commit a murder, but it's because of the other's personality that he does it.

"When I first spoke to Jenny King (the show's producer and creator of the Touring Consortium Theatre Company) about Jekyll and Hyde, I was interested in the way that sometimes when people have a drink they become different people. You know, they can be as good as gold one day, but as soon as they've had a drink they become snarling animals. I was interested in that, and approaching the characters from a point of view that, even though there's a liquid which Jekyll takes that turns him into this monster, or which exposes the darker side of his personality, that darker side is in him already. He just releases it."

Set against the darkness of Victorian England, the story of Jekyll & Hyde continues to fascinate more than 130 years after it was first published in 1886. So why does Daniels think it remains so popular?

"If there's a story that captures your imagination and has a beginning, a middle and an end, where something might happen or might not happen, it's quite thrilling. The Jekyll & Hyde story is just one of those stories that's always caught people's imaginations. I don't know how many pages the book is - I think it's only about 60; it's very slim. It's a tiny book that's led to an industry of people making films, musicals, plays, other books, writing about it and analysing it. It's very popular, and understandably so."

So what makes this latest production so appealing to contemporary audiences? "Hopefully I can make Jekyll & Hyde resonate today. It's very much set in Victorian times, but it's interesting that there are more poorer people - although hopefully we look after our poor, ill and mentally disturbed people a lot better than they did in those days."

Committed to promoting accessible and inclusive theatre to audiences across the UK,

the Touring Consortium works closely with schools, groups, organisations and individuals to ensure its creative projects help cultivate audiences of the future - a subject which is close to Daniels' heart: "It's really important. It's difficult to attract younger audiences because theatre is very expensive. The 'silver pound' can afford it, so older audiences go to the theatre more, which means theatre often caters to them. The Touring Consortium Theatre Company is doing great work in, for example, finding plays and books that are on exam syllabuses to attract more kids in. Live theatre is really important. Kids go to gigs, but it'd be nice to make theatre something they go to more too."

So, 40-plus years after cutting his acting teeth in a film version of *Bugsy Malone*, does Daniels ever let nerves get the better of him? "I do, yes. The fear never goes away. I still have that dream where I'm doing a play and I don't know what the words are. But I think nerves are good because they mean you care about what you're doing."

Daniels' distinctive cockney accent is recognisable on Blur's *Parklife* (1994) and the *Me, White Noise* track on the band's *Think Tank* album (2003). Via his connection with Damon Albarn and co, the actor is hoping to fill a few extra seats at the Grand: "All of Blur's road crew are from Wolverhampton, and because of my association with the band, hopefully some of those boys will come and see the show."

Finally, reflecting on the traits of both Jekyll and Hyde, who is Daniels more like? "I think there's a little bit of me in both of them. There's a bit of snobbery in Hyde and a bit of swagger in Jekyll, but also a bit of swagger in Hyde too. It's the same with all of us, I suppose."

.....

**Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde shows at
Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from
Tuesday 1 to Saturday 5 May.**

NEW!

Afternoon Teas



**The
Peach
Tree**

Afternoon Teas served daily from 2pm-5pm

£12.50 per person (ADVANCE BOOKING ESSENTIAL)

TO BOOK CALL 01743 355055

www.thepeachtree.co.uk

18-21 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. SY2 6AE



REVIEW: The Malthouse

New menu inspires an irresistible urge to gorge in the Gorge

Located beside the River Severn and a few yards from the famous bridge, Ironbridge Gorge favourite The Malthouse was established in 1854.

Featuring a four-star bed & breakfast - with uniquely designed rooms - a bar and a restaurant that offers sharing bites, little plates, pub food and children's dishes, this Shropshire venue is just two minutes away from the Museum of the Gorge.

The Malthouse is also a popular music venue, hosting live acts every Friday and Saturday evening. Local bands The Weekenders, Sonic Boom, Academy Of Soul and Lost The Plot are just some of the groups who perform there regularly.

The venue has recently changed hands, undergone a full refurbishment and now boasts a new menu.

We were politely shown to our table by a member of the team, and started the evening with two cold and lively pints of Peroni.

The Malthouse certainly serves a decent pint - a huge plus in our book! The place was busier than I was expecting for a Monday evening, which is always a good sign.

The sharing bites, perfect for an afternoon or evening snack alongside a few drinks, featured options such as sticky Chinese chicken wings, iberico ham croquette with mustard mayo, ragu and buffalo mozzarella arancini and furikake sweet potato fries with seaweed and wasabi seasoning. As delicious as they all sounded, it was 8pm and we were hungry, so we opted for two of the little plates to start.

Choosing from a list of nine options, which included a Peruvian ceviche salad and Vietnamese rolls, we shared the fish taco and the coxinhas. The taco was filled with beautifully cooked grilled prawns, green chillies, avocado, tomato salsa, shredded lettuce and cheese - a simple yet tasty starter. The coxinhas dish, comprising deep-fried balls of

creamy chicken, again with a tomato salsa, was also tasty and seasoned well. We'd have perhaps preferred *three* coxinhas as opposed to the two that were on offer for the £5.95 price tag, but we're big eaters so that wouldn't suit everyone.

As tempting as the honey soy and sesame seed slow-braised pork belly with egg noodles, pak choi, cashew nuts, bean sprouts and warm sweet chilli sauce sounded, I opted for the beef shin and Wrekin blue suet pudding with mash and caramelised shallots, in a rich red-wine gravy. It was absolutely delicious! The beef was tender and melted in the mouth, the mash was soft and creamy, and the gravy - perfect. Thick, rich and bursting with flavour, it brought the whole dish together nicely.

My partner opted for the wagyu burger served in a sourdough roll with emmental Swiss cheese, baby gem lettuce, red onion, tomato, pickle, American mustard and mayonnaise. Served

with perfectly cooked hand-cut chips and coleslaw, it was an enjoyable main course.






Well known for being one of the tastiest beef options in the world, we were perhaps expecting something more from the wagyu itself. Flavour wise, it was certainly appetising, but we couldn't really differentiate between the taste of that and, say, an Aberdeen Angus burger. We ordered a side of onion rings, which were exemplary. I've eaten some really naff ones in my time, but these were at the totally opposite end of the spectrum.

It's a rare occurrence for us to skip dessert - and we definitely weren't going to do so on this occasion. We shared some churros served with salted dulce de leech and a couple of scoops of maple & walnut Movenpick ice cream. The churros were the most heavenly that either of us had ever had the pleasure of eating - soft on the inside yet crispy on the outside. I urge anyone who visits The Malthouse to order a portion. More often than not, savoury dishes are my preference, but on this occasion the sweets came out on top.

All in all, the friendly service, stylish interior and tasty food certainly made for an enjoyable evening.

I look forward to visiting The Malthouse again in the summer months, to sample some of their delicious-sounding sharing bites, alongside a couple of cocktails in the outdoor seating area.

Lauren Foster

Food: 
Service: 
Ambience: 
Overall value: 
OVERALL 

The Malthouse
Wharfage
Ironbridge
Telford
TF8 7NH
Tel: 01952 433712



TREAT

yourself

10% DISCOUNT

Pop into Treat Yourself during March and get
10% OFF YOUR BILL using this voucher!
VALID until 31 March 2018. Terms & Conditions apply
22 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. SY2 6AE

Sunday 11 March 2018



Happy Mother's Day

2 courses £15 3 courses £19.50
Reservations from 12 noon - 9pm

PLUS
Mother's Day Afternoon Teas
from 2pm-5pm £12.50 per person (booked in advance)

The Peach Tree

RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY!
Pop in or call 01743 355055
OR BOOK ONLINE:
www.thepeachtree.co.uk



The Gaskell Arms

Hotel & Restaurant

- Family owned and managed 17th Century Coaching Inn
- Original Features combined with a Wealth of Character
- "Home Cooked" style food available in our comfortable lounge bar
- "Traditional British" A La Carte menu in our restaurant
- Walled Beer Garden – Wenlock's Hidden Secret
- CAMRA Pub of the Season Summer 2017
- Accommodation available
- Coach Parties by prior arrangement
- Celebrations
- AA Rated 3 star and Heart of England 3 Star



Bourton Road, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6AQ 01952 727212 www.gaskellarms.co.uk

Pret a Manger to open Shrewsbury store

Popular international sandwich shop chain Pret a Manger is to open its first Shropshire premises in Shrewsbury town centre.

Located inside the former Bank store at the bottom of the town's Pride Hill, Pret will sell its usual offerings of wraps, bagels and salads, along with hot and cold beverages, smoothies and shakes. It's not yet known when the eatery will open.

Shropshire's first wine school is 'uncorked'

A Shropshire wine enthusiast has launched the county's first independent wine education company. Gary Carter, from Shrewsbury, has 'uncorked' Shropshire Wine School, which offers a range of tastings and courses for those who're keen to learn more about wine. Upcoming events include a Saturday course with lunch on 3 March (now sold out), a cheese and wine evening on Wednesday the 7th and an eight-week course starting on Wednesday the 21st, during which participants will taste more than 50 wines from across the world.

New Mexican eatery planned for Lichfield

New Mexican restaurant Los Banditos is set to open in Lichfield city centre, if planning permission is approved. Already boasting an eatery in Sutton Coldfield, the restaurant serves a wide range of Mexican food, including tacos, fajitas, burritos, chilli, paella, spiced beef burger, chipotle chicken burger, chorizo and patatas bravas.



Popular Lebanese restaurant chain set to open premises in Birmingham's New Street Station this month

Lebanese chain Comptoir Libanais is opening in Birmingham's New Street Station this spring. Guests can enjoy delicious food all day, including warm Lebanese wraps, marinated grills, tagines, man'ousha, mezze and mezze platters, breakfast options and much more. A selection of baklava and Lebanese desserts will also be on offer, as well as homemade lemonade, fresh rose mint tea, juices, cocktails and a selection of Lebanese wines and beers, specially imported from the Bekaa Valley... Comptoir Libanais is set to open on Monday 26 March. For more information, visit comptoirlibanais.com

Stoke's Titanic Brewery reveals beer bar and cafe plans

Titanic Brewery has unveiled plans to open a new craft beer bar and a café bar - one at Stoke Station, the other in Stafford. The Stoke-on-Trent-based brewery, which already runs a number of pubs, has been extremely successful in taking on redundant venues and reviving them. Titanic are to transform the first-class lounge at Stoke Station into 'a pleasant place to enjoy a snack, a coffee or a pint of award-winning beer'. They will turn the former Co-Op in Stafford's Bodmin Avenue into a café bar, with a target opening date of early April. Director David Bott said: "We're delighted to be able to announce our new plans. We've acquired two fantastic sites, and both are very different to our current pubs, presenting exciting new challenges."





PALOMA FAITH

Bursting onto the scene back in 2009 with *Do You Want The Truth Or Something Beautiful?*, Paloma Faith is on course to become the first British female artist to have four consecutive double platinum albums. Lauren Foster caught up with the London-born singer ahead of her show at Birmingham's Genting Arena this month...

You're bringing *The Architect* tour to Birmingham's Genting Arena this month. What can audiences expect from your show?

I think that I'm going to try and do something a little bit more forward-looking and modern this time round - I like to reinvent all the time. I've been embedded in the world of nostalgia for a while, and now I feel like it's time, socially and politically, to look forward because I think we're in a moment in time where we absolutely must make some positive changes. I'll be singing a mix of old and new songs.

Your new album, also titled *The Architect*, is currently on course to become your fourth double platinum album in a row - a chart-history record for a British woman. How does that make you feel?

Well, thank god Adele takes her time, is all I can say. I think it's amazing, I have to pinch myself.

What's your favourite song off the new album?

I have lots of favourites for different reasons. I think the overall favourite for me is *The Architect* because it summarises the whole gist of what I was feeling when writing the record. It's the world singing to humanity. There's a mothering theme to it because it's mother nature and that feels appropriate. I think all of the things I've discussed on the record, like people in power, homelessness, loneliness, poverty, the refugee crisis and Brexit, fall under the umbrella of that song, which is basically that we've messed up massively in the world and we need to start reversing it. I spoke to an environmentalist, and he said if we stopped all anti-the-world activity, like using power sources that weren't natural and driving cars and taking flights and switching on lights, it would only take five years for the world to completely rejuvenate itself. It's insane.

You've recently announced that your summer tour includes *Forest Live* dates. Are you looking forward to them?

I've done stuff in the forest before, and I'm a bit of an old friend to them. I really enjoy it; it's a very beautiful environment, the

atmosphere is great and people seem very calm and relaxed. They usually spend quite a bit of time there, having a picnic and stuff. It's really nice. Hopefully we'll have good weather this year.

You're playing multiple festivals this summer, including a headline slot at *Splendour Festival*. Did you ever imagine you'd be headlining festivals when you first started out?

When I first started, I thought I'd just do one album to say I've done it, and then I'd probably get dropped. But now here I am, nearly 10 years on!

You've got a busy few months ahead. Do you like being busy? What do you always make time for despite the heavy workload?

I love being busy; I thrive on it, I think. I always prioritise sleep. I'd rather not go out and instead have a good night's sleep because I actually think it's my favourite thing to do. I sometimes spend half of my day looking forward to going to bed. I've got a really nice bed, though.

Do you prefer performing in arenas or at festivals?

There's a massive difference, but I like them for different reasons - I'd never want to give up one of them. I like playing small and big and would always want to. I'm not as popular in certain territories in the world, but I quite enjoy that because I get to do shows that are in small venues, trying to convince people to listen. I still really enjoy doing that. I think it's really good for me as an artist and as a performer to be able to do both.

Do you have a favourite festival?

I really enjoy *Bestival* and *Latitude*. I also like the little boutique festivals that you don't really know, because usually you get a nice community feel.

You've branched into television and film. Would you consider taking on more acting roles in the future, and what would be your criteria?

I would absolutely like to do more acting, but I don't think I'm very good at it. I'd want to do

art house/indie films, like the British version of *Precious* or something like that.

How's parenthood treating you?

It's the best and the worst thing that's ever happened to me. Once you get past six months, it becomes the best thing, but I feel before that it's like hell. You have to provide for this person who doesn't even care if you exist or not.

What was behind the decision to keep the sex of your child private?

It's just about keeping a few details about my child out of the public eye. I don't think celebrity culture is a healthy environment for children. I think when they're 18, they can make a decision for themselves.

You have an impeccable sense of style. Who's your favourite designer?

At the moment it's Alessandro Michele, who designs for Gucci, but I'm not sure he wants to be friends with me because they don't lend me any clothes. I've always been into style more than fashion, I guess.

Tell us something about yourself that we probably won't already know or that isn't well documented.

I feel like I overshare. I'm not actually that mad; I'm very measured - and quite sensible, perhaps. I love travel. I particularly like the south of Italy, and I've been to Thailand and the Maldives and Mexico and Cuba, and I had amazing times there. I really like Japan, even though there are lots of people.

What does the future hold for Paloma Faith?

Hopefully lots more touring and a good work/home balance. That's really important now. And hopefully starting a new album and breaking some more self-imposed records.

.....

Paloma Faith plays Genting Arena, Birmingham, on Wednesday 21 March and Cannock Chase Forest, Staffordshire, on Friday 29 June.

DUDLEY TOWN HALL



FAITH

The George Michael Legacy
Sat 3 Mar



A 1918 MEMORIAL CONCERT

Gig Caritas & Dudley Borough Halls Presents
Sat 24 Mar



DAVID BADDIEL

My Family: Not The Sitcom
Thu 19 Apr



JASON MANFORD

Muddle Class
Fri 27 Apr & Wed 3 Oct



HEATHER SMALL

The Voice of M People
Tue 8 May



CHRIS RAMSEY

The Just Happy To Get Out Of The House Tour
Fri 18 May



PASHA FROM STRICTLY

The Magic of Hollywood
Sat 19 May



THE DRIFTERS

Six Decades of Classic Hits
Fri 25 May



JOE LYCETT

I'm About To Lose Control And I Think Joe Lycett
Fri 7 Sept



STEWART FRANCIS

Into the Sunset
Sat 13 Oct



JIM DAVIDSON

On The Road Again
Sat 10 Nov

01384 812812

boroughhalls.co.uk



@BoroughHalls



Dudley Borough Halls



THE ULTIMATE MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE

FRIDAY 29TH JUNE 2018



Tickets: Advance Purchase for 4: £83.00*
Adult: £25.00 per person
Child: £20.00 per person
On the gate admission prices:
£30.00 per adult & £25.00 per child

FOLLIES FEST FAMILY DAY

SATURDAY 30TH JUNE 2018



Tickets: Advance Purchase for 4: £99.00*
Adult: £29.00 per person
Child: £24.00 per person
On the gate admission prices:
£35.00 per adult & £30.00 per child



JOLAN GIDNEY-CRAIGEN • PAUL AKISTER

TRIBUTES: ED SHEERAN • ADELE • TAKE THAT • LITTLE MIX
ALEX OHM • AIMEE JAY SAX • JACK IN A BOX • PHOEBE D'ABO



A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS

SUNDAY 1ST JULY 2018



Tickets: Advance Purchase for 4: £83.00*
Adult: £25.00 per person
Child: £20.00 per person
On the gate admission prices:
£30.00 per adult & £25.00 per child

For more information or to purchase tickets please visit: www.hackstonparkfollies.co.uk/tickets

*Advance Purchase for 4 tickets can be for any 4 people and are only available to purchase until Thursday 14th May 2018

ACADEMY EVENTS PRESENTS
LOVE FROM STOURBRIDGE

2018

THE WONDER STUFF



GUEST DJ SET FROM **PWEI**
GRAHAM CRABB

SAT 14TH & SUN 15TH APRIL

O₂ ACADEMY BIRMINGHAM

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

THEWONDERSTUFF.CO.UK | NEDSATOMICDUSTBIN.COM

Pale Waves

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 1 March

Rising Manchester indie pop four-piece Pale Waves recently released New Year's Eve, the title track from their forthcoming debut EP. They're visiting Stoke-on-Trent as part of an extensive world tour. Their biggest so far, it follows on from a support slot on the US and European arena tour of The 1975. Their own recent tours of the UK and Europe both sold out.



Ian Prowse & Amsterdam

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Fri 23 March

English singer-songwriter Ian fronts Liverpool pop/rock group Amsterdam, having previously played with Cheshire indie rockers Pele. The 25th anniversary of Pele's second album, The Sport Of Kings, is being celebrated with a remastered and re-released album and a full UK tour.

Expect a concert awash with Sport Of Kings-era songs, Fireworks tunes, Amsterdam favourites and popular solo numbers.



The Grahams

Lichfield Guildhall, Staffordshire, Sat 3 March

Dynamic husband-and-wife Americana duo Alyssa and Doug Graham have spent most of their lives exploring music together, marrying their love of adventure with a desire to

build on foundations laid by their musical predecessors.

"Our songs are pretty simple," say the Grahams. "Just feel something. Have a good time, enjoy the music and listen to the echoes."

Skerryvore

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 14 March

Skerryvore's fusion of folk, trad, rock and Americana has seen them twice named Scotland's 'traditional music live act of the year'. Hailing from the remote Isle of Tiree - they took their name from the Skerryvore lighthouse that lies 12 miles off the island's coast - the ensemble has its own annual festival, Oban Live, which attracts more than 10,000 people and has hosted major names including KT Tunstall, We Banjo 3, Julie Fowlis and Capercaillie.

The band performs in Shrewsbury as part of a busy 2018 that also includes releasing a sixth studio album and headlining Denmark's legendary Tonder Festival.

Lindisfarne

The Robin, Bilston, Sun 25 March

Fronted by original founding member Rod Clements, '70s folk-rock pioneers Lindisfarne bring their greatest hits and classic album tour to the Midlands.

Expect to hear songs including Meet Me On The Corner, Fog On The Tyne, Lady Eleanor and Run For Home, performed by a classic six-piece line-up of long-time members.

Noble Jacks

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury, Sun 18 March

With the fiddle leading the charge, folk band Noble Jacks relentlessly toured throughout 2017, promoting debut album What The Hammer.

Performances at Glastonbury, Cambridge Folk Festival, Beautiful Days and Portugal's Costa Del Folk all featured in their hectic schedule, not to mention numerous headline performances across the UK. Catch them in Shrewsbury this month for an evening of footstompin' fun. Their high-energy show is not one to miss...





Benjamin Grosvenor Plays Beethoven

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 23 March

The winner, aged 11, of the keyboard section of the BBC Young Musician of the Year 2004 award, Benjamin Grosvenor is a still-rising star on the UK's classical music scene. Named by the Daily Telegraph as one of the top 10 Britons of 2011, Benjamin is here joined by organist Jonathan Scott and conductor Jonathon Heyward. The evening's programme features Weber's Overture: Oberon, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No3 and Saint-Saëns's third symphony, Organ.

Omo Bello: La Belle Époque

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 23 March

Presented as part of a Debussy festival marking the centenary of the French composer's death, this 'ravishing all-French recital' is performed by Franco-Nigerian soprano Omo Bello.

Omo's training in Paris ensures she has a special connection with both Debussy and Fauré, whose Cinq mélodies 'de Venise' is featured in the programme.

The recital also sees her performing works by Jules Massenet and Erik Satie.



Ex Cathedra: St Matthew Passion

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 30 March



A favourite at Eastertide, Bach's piercingly beautiful work - a moving retelling of the Passion story - continues to be one of classical music's most profound experiences. Sung in German with English surtitles, the work is here performed by the Ex Cathedra Choir and Baroque Orchestra under the direction of conductor Jeffrey Skidmore. Ex Cathedra are promising a Good Friday performance of the piece that will have 'a special intimacy, immediacy and power', so be sure to bag yourself a ticket asap.

Carducci String Quartet

The Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury, Sun 18 March

Performing more than 90 international concerts each year, Carducci are regarded as one of the most talented string quartets in the business.

Indeed, the Washington Post described their playing in a recent concert as displaying 'a deep and almost familial sense of unity... full of life and vitality... extravagantly beautiful...'

The quartet perform in Shrewsbury this month as part of the Shropshire Music Trust's 2017/18 season.



The Halesowen Orchestra

Cornbow Hall, Halesowen, Sat 17 March

The Halesowen Orchestra was once described by James Morris MP as "one of the town's hidden jewels", a description with which the 40-strong ensemble's many supporters would no doubt wholeheartedly agree. Founded in 1986, the amateur group of musicians meet once a week to practise a wide and varied repertoire of works by some of the world's greatest classical composers.

This month's concert features pieces by Mendelssohn and Weber, as well as Beethoven's seventh symphony.



EASTER

AT TOWN HALL SYMPHONY HALL

THSH
TOWN HALL BIRMINGHAM
SYMPHONY HALL BIRMINGHAM



HARSHDEEP KAUR
WED 28 MARCH
7PM
TOWN HALL



JUSTIN'S BAND
TUE 10 APRIL
11AM & 3PM
TOWN HALL



TIDDLER & OTHER TERRIFIC TALES
FRI 30 MARCH-TUE 3 APRIL
VARIOUS TIMES
TOWN HALL



AYANNA WITTER-JOHNSON
THU 12 APRIL
8PM
SYMPHONY HALL



SISTER ACT LIVE CHOIR
SAT 31 MARCH
7:30PM & 2:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



THE AMAZING BUBBLE MAN
SAT 14 APRIL
10:30AM
TOWN HALL



FOIL, ARMS AND HOG
SAT 7 APRIL
8PM
TOWN HALL



THE WHITNEY HOUSTON SHOW
SUN 15 APRIL
7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
SUN 8 APRIL
2:30PM & 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



LISA STANSFIELD
TUE 17 APRIL
7PM
SYMPHONY HALL

BOOK NOW www.thsh.co.uk 0121 780 3333

Funded by



Town Hall renovation also funded by



Town Hall Symphony Hall
 @THSHBirmingham
 thsh_birmingham



MISTRESS AND MISFIT

Comedian Shappi Khorsandi comes to Birmingham

Shappi Khorsandi's brilliant new show, *Mistress And Misfit*, focuses on Emma, Lady Hamilton, the mistress and misfit who lit up the life of Admiral Nelson and added to the gaiety of nations during the Georgian era. The comedian has had a ball writing the show. "It's about passion and tragedy," she says. "What better things are there to write comedy about?"

After an acclaimed sell-out run at the Edinburgh Festival last summer, Shappi is now about to embark on her biggest nationwide tour yet, performing *Mistress And Misfit* at 50 venues around the country. "It's like skydiving. The adrenaline rush is incredible. It's probably the only time in my day when I'm utterly focused and have no responsibility to anyone else apart from the audience.

"It's like a lovely, warm, relaxing bath, but a very high-octane one! You can't reproduce that feeling. If I haven't done stand-up for a while, I just have to get back on stage. I need it like oxygen!"

"When you're a stand-up, people have come to see you and share the experience with you. They can read a book about Emma, Lady Hamilton, but the way I tell her story draws people into my stand-up, which I hope is why they bought a ticket in the first place!"

In *Mistress And Misfit*, Shappi recounts the largely untold story of England's unsung heroine, Emma, Lady Hamilton. For too long, she's been reductively tagged as Nelson's mistress and a bit of a harlot (you work in a brothel for one night and there goes your reputation).

Women's lib wasn't uppermost in people's minds in Georgian times. Emma moved heaven and earth to drag herself from scullery maid to Lady Hamilton. So maybe she occasionally danced naked on tables to get a jump on her rivals, but who hasn't done that? As a fellow naked dancer on tables, Shappi is eager to celebrate the woman England betrayed.

"I was fascinated by Emma. She was really clever and compassionate and very hard done by. She was also a master of re-invention and a fantastically creative person. I initially tried to write a novel about Emma, but it was too hard, so I thought I'd do a show about her instead. That was easier and

funnier. I relate Emma's life to modern women and, like all stand-ups, I draw people into the world as I see it, so it's still a very personal show."

Shappi has notched up numerous high-profile television appearances during the course of her career, and is also a bestselling author, having released *A Beginners Guide to Acting English* in 2009 and her critically lauded debut novel, *Nina Is Not OK*, in 2016. So does she see any similarities between Emma and herself.

"We were both artist's models. She modelled for great artists, I modelled for GCSE students in *Tower Hamlets*. I have never worked in a brothel, but I have had moments that I would only tell you about on stage or when very drunk. I will be sharing some of those stories in *Mistress And Misfit*."

The comedian, who since 2015 has held the role of President of Humanists UK, also sees many parallels between the attitudes towards women then and now. "Any woman who does anything seen as salacious is still demonised today. That's a very modern theme. It's not exclusive to Georgian times.

"In the show, I talk about Emma being married to a man 30 years older than her. If they were from a lower class, women had no financial independence and no options. That happened 200 years ago, but much more recently, my grandmother was married when she was 13 to a man in his 30s. So perhaps my gran was the Emma of her time!"

"The term 'gold-digger' is still banded about willy-nilly, when we don't know anything about that woman. Women who are viewed as marrying above their station are still derided. There are massive parallels with today."

The Establishment closed ranks against Emma after Nelson's death. "Just before the Battle of Trafalgar, Nelson wrote an add-on to his will asking that Emma and his daughter be looked after in the event of his death: 'that is the only favour I ask of my king and country as I go to fight their battle'.

"But Emma ended her days derelict, penniless and alcoholic in Calais. There was no monument to her. We haven't been told what a massive impact Emma had on Nelson's life. Historians have wanted to make Trafalgar about Nelson and not about 'this

harlot'."

Mistress And Misfit is also full to the brim with wonderfully offbeat facts about Emma, many of which make for hilarious routines. "I did a lot of research to find quirky things that would work in stand-up. For instance, I discovered that there was something called the Harris List, which reviewed all the prostitutes in London. It was like a Trip Adviser of its time for prostitutes. At the time, one in six women in Covent Garden worked as a prostitute. So if you were visiting Covent Garden, you would take along your Harris List to see who tickled your fancy. Crazy." For all that, Shappi emphasises that the show is not meant to be a lecture. "It's not a history lesson. It's about now. It's not my intention to make anyone learn anything. It's up to people if they want to take notes. But if they bring a notebook, that might put me off because I would think they were critics and pick on them!"

Shappi's already high profile was further enhanced last year by her appearance on *I'm A Celebrity*. She laughs that one of the knock-on effects of the programme is that it's made her a better driver.

"I'm not very good at parallel parking. But jumping out of an aeroplane on *I'm A Celebrity* made me put things into perspective. Now I think, 'What was I worried about? If someone is beeping their horn as I try to park, they can just wait'.

"I'm A Celebrity makes you really look at life from a different angle. You're too hungry to think of anything apart from what to do with your life. You have time to figure that out. And financially, it's meant that I can now afford to lose money putting on my play! As a creative person, I'm happy to do certain well-paid jobs that fund my labours of love." Speaking of jobs, what would Shappi be doing if she weren't a stand-up? "I'd have my own cleaning company. I once was a cleaner. That's another thing I have in common with Emma because she worked as a cleaner, too!"

.....
Shappi Khorsandi will be at The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, on Sunday 25 March



Flight Of The Conchords

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Thurs 22 March

This New Zealand folk comedy duo stop off in Birmingham as part of a brand new UK and Ireland tour, their first in seven years. The pair have previously billed themselves as 'formerly New Zealand's fourth most popular guitar-based digi-bongo acapella-rap-funk-comedy folk duo'. Their show sees them combining witty observation, characterisation and acoustic guitar music to excellent effect.



Rachel Parris

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 30 March

Rachel has passed this way before, as a founder cast member of smash-hit improv show *Austentatious*, a comedy play presented in the style of Jane Austen.

An award-winning musical comic whose name recently appeared on the BBC's *Hot Talent List*, Rachel has starred in numerous TV shows, including *Murder In Successville*, *Plebs*, *The IT Crowd* and the satirical *Mash Report*.

This latest touring show sees her bringing together stand-up with character and musical comedy, as she explores what messed-up message she can offer impressionable young minds when she gives a speech at her old school.

SO Comedy

The Core, Solihull, Thurs 15 March

Welsh stand-up comedian Robin Morgan shares the limelight with local funnyman David Morgan (pictured) in this latest offering from SO Comedy, the live-performance arm of the company behind *The Graham Norton Show*.



Daliso Chaponda

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 3 March; MAC, Birmingham, Fri 9 March; Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Fri 16 March; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Thurs 22 March

Malawian Daliso has blended the slick North American style of comedy he learned while working in Canada with a real talent for brevity, ensuring that his gags, although not one-liners, nonetheless come thick and fast.

Like all good comedians, he can adapt his act to suit his audience - on a previous trip to the Midlands, he performed a filthy set in Birmingham's *Silhouettes Strip Club* before heading off to regale family audiences at the Greenbelt Christian Festival!

Jokes include: "I moved to the UK because of the BNP - they said the immigrants were taking all the best jobs and all the best women, and I thought, 'wow, that sounds like a good deal to me!'"



Jonathan Pie

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 1 March;
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 7 March;
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 8 March

The media's decision to pounce on Jeremy Corbyn in the wake of his first Labour leadership victory lit the torchpaper for actor Tom Walker to create the larger-than-life character of Jonathan Pie.

YouTube sensation Pie is supposedly a British political correspondent - but one who likes to rant at the camera.

The media's savaging of Corbyn pushed Walker over the edge. "I got really annoyed by it," he admits, "by the ridiculousness of the British press."

But neither Walker nor Pie are so left-wing that they wear blinkers: "I think these days, especially on the left, people go, 'You either agree with me 100% or you're on their side'. Anyone who votes Conservative is a bigot and anyone who voted leave is a bigot. So I think the left are in danger of forgetting political nuance. I hope that Pie reminds them of it."



Ivan Brackenbury

The Bramall, Birmingham, Thurs 15 March

Ivan Brackenbury is an inept hospital radio DJ - and he's also the creation of former XFM radio presenter Tom Binns.

A Jongleurs award winner, Binns created the character relatively early in his career, and has enjoyed great success with him ever since. Brackenbury's radio roadshow comes complete with inappropriate records and bungled cues.

Ian D Montfort and Rob Mulholland are the other comedians taking to the stage for this latest evening of comedy at the Bramall.



Lucy Porter

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 9 March

Edinburgh favourite Lucy Porter has a mischievous style of comedy that marks her out as a real talent. She's an absolute charmer, but don't be fooled - her pleasant girl-next-door demeanour conceals a beautifully twisted mind!

Highlights of her career include achieving a record score on *Celebrity Mastermind*, in

which her specialist subject was American funnyman Steve Martin.

She returns to the Midlands this month with latest touring show *Choose Your Battles*.

Her big bag of gags includes, "My husband proposed to me over the phone. I said yes straight away, but I should've asked who was calling."

Richard Herring

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Thurs 15 March;
Festival Drayton, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Thurs 22 March; Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Sat 24 March; Wolves Civic Hall, Fri 27 April; Old Rep, Birmingham, Sun 13 May; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 3 June

Richard Herring has developed a reputation as one of the UK's most inventive and original comedians, cleverly using real-life trials and tribulations to inform his high-quality line in comic patter.

He's certainly not a man to shirk big or controversial subjects when it comes to his comedy shows. Previous tours have seen him ponder religion (*Christ On A Bike*), politics (*Hitler Moustache*) and penises (*Talking Cock*).

This latest offering finds him contemplating the subject of ageing - and in particular how it feels to have reached his half century. The show is a sort-of sequel to *Oh F*** I'm 40*, which, it will surprise nobody to hear, he took on the road a decade ago.





OPERA FOR ALL

Heather Kincaid dispels the myth that opera is elitist by sharing her first experience of the art form - seeing Welsh National Opera's production of Lohengrin at Birmingham Hippodrome...

Back in 2013, I started reviewing Birmingham Hippodrome shows as part of the theatre's First Night Blogging scheme. As a lover of the arts in general, opera was always something I'd been curious about, but I'd never quite had the guts to take the plunge and give it a go before, particularly given my lack of knowledge about classical music.

Had I been simply buying my own ticket, the worst my first time could have meant was a potentially unenjoyable night out at the theatre - nothing much to complain about, in the scheme of things. But attending as a reviewer made me nervous. What if I didn't get what was going on or couldn't get to grips with the conventions of the form? What if not enjoying it was my fault rather than the show's? What if, even if I did enjoy it, I then found myself without the technical insight or vocabulary to effectively describe and analyse the experience?

As I'd learned already, however, sometimes the best experiences come out of the situations you're most unsure about. As a student, I'd actually inadvertently ended up appearing in light, comic opera, tempted by pirate costumes and chocolate money to sign up to my university's G&S Society without the faintest idea of who or what Gilbert & Sullivan were. In that instance, I'd ended up loving every minute of it and staying for the full three years, despite the fact I still can't really read music. So in the end, I figured just writing about a show you didn't know much about couldn't be half as scary as performing in one!

And boy was I glad I went along! In a way, I guess I got lucky in Wagner's *Lohengrin* being my first. I've since learned that, while they're enjoyable enough in their way, the sort of stereotypical stories of tragic romance and fallen women of the ilk of *La Traviata* aren't quite so much to my tastes as Wagner's epic tales of angels, gods and ghost ships -

and I have the confidence in the validity of my own opinions to say so.

Musically, nothing could have prepared me for the scale and scope of hearing an opera performed live - if you've only ever listened to recordings, you won't have the faintest sense of how the sound just washes over you and envelops you. As a friend later said to me when I was lucky enough to experience Mariinsky Opera's Ring Cycle in full, it "does something to your soul".

Another thing I've learned is not to worry too much about the technical jargon. There is definitely room for experts who specialise in that - but to the average reader of a more general blog or publication, it's as like as not to be intimidating and off-putting. The job is more to capture a flavour of the show overall: if your audience are people more or less like you, you need to describe what you experienced, and not what you feel as though you should have picked up on. I'm not the first to have said all this, of course - Armando Iannucci is an opera lover, and a passionate advocate of getting more people engaged in conversations around classical music.

Don't forget there are other aspects to talk about as well. Opera is a dramatic form, specifically designed to bring together all the arts, so don't feel as though it's somehow sacrilegious to talk about the acting and the design as well as the orchestra and singing, particularly when it comes to Welsh National Opera (WNO) shows. In years gone by, it's been more fashionable for operas to be performed more stiffly, with all the emphasis on vocal performance. These days, however, you can expect to see actors as accomplished as any you'd see in a play - they just happen to be able to sing sublimely too!

With WNO, there's a clear emphasis on directorial vision, inventive set design and coherent, accessible productions. In much

the same way as the RSC approaches Shakespeare, they're not afraid to radically reimagine things in ways that appeal to contemporary audiences, rather than being painstakingly purist. This means their shows always feel fresh and vital, and moreover, everyone has to come in with an open mind: if you're a newcomer, you're not the only one who doesn't quite know what to expect!

Don't be afraid to trust your instincts - things you've already encountered will offer you an in, and it's interesting to explore how opera has influenced later developments. Wagner's style is pretty cinematic, while something like *The Marriage Of Figaro* is farcical, a kind of domestic sitcom, and Bizet's *Carmen* is almost proto-musical theatre. WNO embraces the connections too, often staging musicals like *Sweeney Todd* or *Kiss Me Kate* as part of operatic seasons.

As with anything, of course, the more you see, the more confident you become, and the better equipped you are to explain your thoughts and opinions. Yet five years later, as a professional arts journalist, my first opera still holds a special place in my heart, remaining one of my favourites that I've seen to this day.

WNO this month bring their spring season to the Hippodrome, performing three compelling works: Verdi's epic *La Forza del Destino*; Mozart's brilliant *Don Giovanni*, based on the legend of Don Juan and set during the Spanish Golden Age; and Puccini's *Tosca*, a thrilling story of love, lust, loyalty and corruption.

.....

Welsh National Opera perform their three spring-season shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 6 to Thursday 8 March.



The Play That Goes Wrong

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 19- Sat 24 March;
Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 27 - Sat 31 March

Mischief Theatre Company's Edinburgh Festival show returns to the region on the back of a fantastic reputation, a couple of successful West End runs and some really positive reviews from the last time it

stopped off in the Midlands.

For those not in the know, the play focuses on the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society's attempt to put on a 1920s-set murder-mystery. The only trouble is, the bumbling thespians are more than a little accident-prone - so much so, in fact, that they're not even sure they'll manage to reach the curtain call...

Suggs: What A King Cnut: A Life In The Realm Of Madness

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,
Sun 11 March

After selling out his previous touring production, Madness frontman Suggs here takes a lighthearted look at a career that's featured plenty of memorable moments - from experiencing vertigo on the roof of Buckingham Palace, to nearly blowing the closing ceremony of the London Olympics. Oh, and watching his underpants fall to earth on David Bowie's driveway...



Quartet

The REP, Birmingham, Tues 6 - Sat 10 March



Familiar telly faces Paul Nicholas (Just Good Friends), Wendi Peters (Coronation Street), Sue Holderness (Only Fools And Horses) and Jeff Rawle (Drop The Dead Donkey) star in this revival of Sir Ronald Harwood's bitter-sweet comedy about four ageing opera singers growing old disgracefully.

City Love

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Tues 13 - Sat 17 March

Described as a painfully honest tale of two people 'navigating work, London and life', Old Joint Stock Theatre and Illuminate Productions' fast-paced comedy tells the story of a pair of struggling city workers whose mundane lives are transformed by their chance meeting with one another.







NoFit State Circus: Lexicon

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Wed 28 March - Sat 21 April

NoFit State's show is being presented as a celebration of the 250th anniversary of the first ever circus, created in 1768 by Newcastle-under-Lyme equestrian and cavalryman Philip Astle.

Described by the company as 'a daring, seductive and utterly contemporary take on circus for a seated audience in the round', Lexicon brings together 'vivid storytelling, evocative live music and spectacular physical performance'.

The production is part of a year-long project aiming to 'enable pioneering work, forge new partnerships, build new audiences and embed circus at the heart of modern-day culture'.

Education, Education, Education

MAC, Birmingham, Tues 20 March



The much-admired Wardrobe Ensemble are the company behind this 'love letter to the schools of the 1990s', presenting a show that's rich in their trademark inventiveness and irreverent humour.

Set in 1997, the play takes a wry look at the world of education in the era of Cool Britannia, focusing on life in a secondary school where chaos and confusion is the order of the day...

Specialising in the exploration of stories that have shaped recent political history, Wardrobe Ensemble were Fringe First award winners at the Edinburgh Festival last summer.

Oedipus And Antigone

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 29 March

Suitably inspired by the critical acclaim they garnered for their 2017 tour of Richard III, Beyond The Horizon once again hit the road, this time with a reimagining of Sophocles' greatest works.

"Oedipus is a murder-mystery in its most twisted of forms," explain the company. "Antigone stands alone against the state, challenging the power of the law with the unwritten law of the gods..."



The 4 Clowns Of The Apocalypse



The Performance Hub, University of Wolverhampton, Walsall, Fri 16 March; Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Sun 18 March; Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Tues 20 March; Pentabus Theatre, Bromfield, nr Ludlow, South Shropshire, Thurs 22 March

Absolute Theatre and Portugal's Teatro do Montemuro are the collaborators behind a show that's been described as 'a sensorial, nonsensical delight for the whole family'. When the Horsemen of the Apocalypse gather together to do their worst, they find themselves seriously hampered by some epic-scale incompetence.

Expect an evening incorporating universal destruction, spectacular visuals and the occasional deck chair...

GREAT SHOWS COMING UP AT WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE

TUE 6 MAR

THE LIONEL RICHIE SONGBOOK

THE LIONEL RICHIE SONGBOOK

DANCING ON THE CEILING

A HIGH OCTAVE SHOW WITH
MALCOLM PITT
& THE JOHNNY MILLER BAND

★★★★



SAT 10 MAR

BRIAN CONLEY
STILL THE GREATEST ENTERTAINER*
*IN HIS PRICE RANGE

Christopher Wood
for AND Talent Present...

BRIAN CONLEY
STILL THE GREATEST ENTERTAINER*
*IN HIS PRICE RANGE



TUE 20 MAR

BRENDAN COLE
ALL NIGHT LONG

BRENDAN COLE
ALL NIGHT LONG



WED 21 MAR

CLOUDBUSTING
THE MUSIC OF KATE BUSH



THU 22 MAR

80'S MANIA



FRI 30 MAR

CHAMPIONS OF ROCK

QUEEN
THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO
CHAMPIONS OF ROCK
FEATURING
MERCURY



SUN 1 APR

CIRQUE DU HILARIOUS
MAGICAL MISCHIEF TOUR

CIRQUE DU HILARIOUS

CLIVE WEBB
DANNY ADAMS

MAGICAL MISCHIEF TOUR



THU 5 APR

DOREEN
RISE OF THE YAM-YAM

IT'S THE EVOLUTION OF A SPECIES...

WE UNVEIL THE ALL-NEW STAGE SHOW

DOREEN
RISE OF THE YAM-YAM



SAT 7 - SUN 8 APR

PEPPA PIG'S ADVENTURE

Peppa Pig
Adventure!





Legally Blonde

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 13 - Sat 17 March; New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 21 - Sat 26 May

Based on the hit movie starring Reese Witherspoon, this critically acclaimed musical follows the story of college sweetheart and homecoming queen Elle Woods, a girl who just doesn't take no for an

answer. So when her boyfriend, Warner, announces that he's dumping her for someone more serious, Elle puts down the credit card, hits the books and heads for Harvard Law School. X-Factor finalist Lucie Jones stars as Elle, with Rita Simons (Roxy Mitchell in EastEnders) and Bill Ward (Emmerdale and Coronation Street) lending heavyweight support.

The Case Of The Frightened Lady

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 19 - Sat 24 March; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 12 - Sat 16 June

After enjoying a hit with their adaptation of Ruth Rendell's *A Judgement In Stone*, the Classic Thriller Company now turn their attention to a 1931 play from the prolific pen of Edgar Wallace.

An English writer who went to Hollywood, Wallace was busily penning the screenplay for the classic 1933 *King Kong* movie when he unexpectedly died from undiagnosed diabetes...

When Inspector Tanner investigates a gruesome murder at an ancestral home, it isn't long before he realises that nothing is quite as it seems...



Son Of A Preacher Man

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 13 - Sat 17 March



Wolfblood actress Michelle Gaye stars alongside Hollyoaks' Alice Barlow in a touring show that channels the Swinging '60s music of the iconic Dusty Springfield.

Named after the late singer's 1968 chart hit and directed by Strictly's Craig Revel Horwood, the show follows the story of three lovesick individuals from different generations who seek solace at the original site of Soho's legendary Preacher Man hang-out - a once-happening joint where youngsters with fresh ideas, a craving for the latest sounds and an aspiration for love would dance until they dropped...

Evita

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 20 - Sat 24 March; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 3 - Sat 7 April

Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice's third major collaboration opened to rave reviews way back in the late 1970s. It has since garnered a reputation as one of the greatest musicals ever to grace West End and Broadway stages. Telling the real-life story of Eva Peron, wife of former Argentine dictator Juan Peron, the show is packed to the rafters with memorable numbers, including *On This Night Of A Thousand Stars*, *Buenos Aires*, *You Must Love Me*, *Another Suitcase In Another Hall* and, of course, the classic *Don't Cry For Me Argentina*.



The Importance Of Being Earnest

Lichfield Garrick,
Tues 27 - Sat 31 March

This famous Oscar Wilde play is a rightly adored work of farce that proudly sits at the very pinnacle of British comic theatre.

The story revolves around the attempts of Jack to marry his true love Gwendolen, in spite of the fact that Algernon is masquerading as Jack's wayward brother Earnest in order to see his exquisite ward, Cecily.

Add the ingredient of the redoubtable Lady Bracknell and there's little wonder that disaster looms large on Jack's horizon... Familiar television faces Gwen Taylor (as Lady Bracknell) and Susan Penhaligon star in a show that's visiting Lichfield as part of a UK tour.



FLATPACK
FILM
FESTIVAL

ANIMATED SUSHI
PAPER CINEMA
TEENAGE MERMAIDS
BIRMINGHAM 1968
VR ADVENTURES
FILM, AND THEN SOME.

13-22 April 2018
Venues across Birmingham

flatpackfestival.org.uk
#flatpack12

White

The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 9 - Sun 11 March

Scottish theatre company Catherine Wheels have garnered an impressive reputation for the innovative quality of their children's shows - and this eight-year-old offering makes it easy to see why. Cotton and Wrinkle live in an orderly world full of birdsong and birdhouses, where everything is white. But when the colour red makes an unexpected appearance, the friends are faced with the very real prospect of needing to embrace change...



Little Bo Peep

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 10 March

Sea Legs Puppet Theatre's 10th anniversary show uses puppets, scenery, music and song to bring to life a selection of favourite nursery rhymes.

The 45-minute show, accompanied by a 15-minute 'meet the puppets' session, is suitable for children aged from two to seven.

Penguin

Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 9 March; The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Sat 10 March

Masterful theatricals Long Nose Puppets return to the road with an engaging puppet version of the award-winning book by Polly Dunbar. The company are advertising the show as 'exciting, surreal, full of surprises and laughs', with lively songs by Tom Gray of Gomez fame thrown in for good measure.

There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly

Malvern Theatres, Sat 10 March; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 29 April

The People's Theatre Company reckon they've written this show with 102-year-olds

as well as two-year-olds in mind, so why not grab your granny en route to the theatre and make it a family occasion? A feast of sing-along songs combines with a colourful collection of animal characters in a show that promises plenty of heartwarming family fun.

Horrible Histories: More Best Of Barmy Britain

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Thurs 8 - Fri 9 March; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 30 May - Sat 2 June

If you love the Horrible Histories series - and why the heck wouldn't you?! - then the Barmy Britain productions are well worth catching. Alongside providing answers to such searching questions as 'what would happen if a Viking moved in next door?' and 'would you stand and deliver to dastardly Dick Turpin?', the shows also invite their audiences to escape the clutches of Burke & Hare, move to the groove with the partying Queen Victoria and prepare to do battle in the First World War. In short, and as the publicity says, they are 'a truly horrible history of Britain - with all the nasty bits left in!'



Monstersaurus!

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 31 March - Mon 2 April

Having created a whole world of whacky inventions and incredible monsters, young inventor Monty doesn't know what to do with them all... The creators of Aliens Love Underpants make a welcome return with this 'monster-ously good show', which comes complete with original music and plenty of audience participation.



Tiddler And Other Terrific Tales

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 30 March - Tues 3 April



Freckle Productions here bring together a host of colourful characters from four books by Gruffalo creators Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. Live music and puppetry are combined in a show that promises to take its audience under the sea, out on the farm and into the jungle.

So You Think You Know About Dinosaurs!

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 1 March

An absorbing experience for dino-loving youngsters is very much on the cards when this interactive, educational and refreshingly entertaining show hits town.

Dr Ben Garrod is the dinosaur aficionado imparting a T-Rex-sized heap of fascinating facts about all manner of prehistoric creatures. Film footage from the BBC's Planet Dinosaur ensures there's plenty to look at while Dr Ben's chatting away.



VIENNA FESTIVAL BALLET PRESENTS



TUES 13 MARCH
SLEEPING BEAUTY
TEWKESBURY
Roses Theatre
01684 295 074

WED 14 MARCH
SLEEPING BEAUTY
TELFORD
Oakengates Theatre
01952 382382

MON 2 APRIL
SWAN LAKE
EVESHAM
Arts Centre
01386 446944

FRI 13 APRIL
SWAN LAKE
BEDWORTH
Civic Hall
024 7637 6707

SUN 15 APRIL
SWAN LAKE
BROMSGROVE
Artrix
01527 577330

WED 16 MAY
SWAN LAKE
LEAMINGTON SPA
Royal spa Centre
01926 334418

THURS 17 MAY
SWAN LAKE
BIRMINGHAM
Old Rep Theatre
0121 359 9444

SWAN LAKE

www.viennafestivalballet.com



EASTER WORKSHOPS AT THE OLD REP



Improve your performance skills and work with industry professionals.

Wed 11 - Fri 13 April
10am - 3pm
Age 7-16

Wed: Singing
Thu: Acting
Fri: Dancing

£25 a day or £65 for all 3

Email theatreexperience@oldreptheatre.co.uk to book your place



WNO Welsh National Opera



La forza del destino

Verdi

Don Giovanni

Mozart

Tosca

Puccini

6 - 8 March

Book now at birminghamhippodrome.com

wno.org.uk/spring18



The National Lottery is a registered charity. © 2018 Welsh National Opera. All rights reserved. Organized by WNO Ltd. 0121 359 9444

A close-up portrait of actor Christopher Eccleston. He has a grey beard and intense blue eyes, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. He is wearing a dark, high-collared coat with red lining and gold buttons. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with a railing.

Christopher Eccleston

Shakespeare belongs to me

With a string of high-profile screen roles, awards and nominations to his name, Christopher Eccleston is easily one of the most recognisable and well-regarded actors working in the UK today. It's somewhat bemusing to realise, then, that it's only now, at the age of 53, that he's finally making his RSC debut, as he prepares to tread the boards in Shakespeare's Scottish play.

If you didn't know better, you might assume it was a choice - perhaps the Salford council-estate lad simply decided that Stratford-upon-Avon and the Bard weren't intended for the likes of him. On the contrary, however - this is a life goal that's taken him decades to realise.

"What a lot of people don't know about me is that I became obsessed with Shakespeare when I was 15," says Eccleston. "He's my favourite writer, and not a day goes by when I don't quote or read him. In a way, this is the most important role I've ever done. I fell in love with Macbeth when I was 17 and playing Macduff in an amateur production. At that time - and this is absolutely true - I decided that my greatest ambition was to play Macbeth with the Royal Shakespeare Company. So it was actually my love of Macbeth that made me follow this career path."

Few who know anything about Chris Eccleston will be surprised to hear his explanation for what has held him back: he's never made a secret of how he feels his northern, working-class roots have affected perceptions of him. But these days it's more than just a class war that he's fighting: he's acutely aware of the lack of diversity on all fronts in the British theatre world.

"There is still, I believe, a notion that in order to do Shakespeare you have to be white, middle-class and male, because there's an association of those things with high intelligence, great sensitivity and entitlement, and it's been a great frustration in my career that I'm not thought of as a Shakespearean actor. But Shakespeare belongs to me and to people of colour, and great roles like Macbeth and Othello belong to women as much as they do to men."

He's not alone in flagging up these problems. While ideas like 'gender-blind' and 'colour-blind' casting are slowly starting to take root, the wider social and economic context of the UK is in some ways making it harder than ever for people from backgrounds like Eccleston's to countenance creative careers.

"I wouldn't get into drama school now, no way, yet people say I'm a very good actor," says Eccleston, with characteristic matter-of-fact conviction.

From here, he launches into a passionate plea for working-class performers to seize the keys to the ivory towers they've been shut out from. Far too many comfortable people, he thinks, simply pay lip service to diversity; real change will only come from pressure from ordinary people. It's perhaps unsurprising, then, that his reading of Macbeth is coloured by some of those same frustrations.

"On one level, Macbeth justifies murdering Duncan to himself because he feels that he would be a good leader who would make the country safe. He's militarily and politically concerned that Scotland is vulnerable because Duncan is ageing and his regime is allowing them to be attacked by both Norwegians and rebels within their own troops, so he thinks a sterner hand is needed.

"But he also acknowledges that he is ambitious, and the woman who loves him encourages him to embrace that. He knows he's never going to be properly rewarded for his work, because he doesn't have the blue blood and the old school tie, so if he really wants it, he's going to have to take it."

In Polly Findlay's new production, contemporary parallels for this discontent are emphasised by a modern setting - something she also employed in her last collaboration with Eccleston on Sophocles' *Antigone*, in which his performance as Creon attracted comparisons with Tony Blair. It's understandable that Eccleston shies away from such direct connections. Still, it's hard to get away from a sense that Macbeth feels particularly timely now, especially given that four new UK productions - a film, an opera

and two plays - are all premiering at around the same time this year.

There are other elements at play, however. What's less often talked about but essential to an understanding of the play is Macbeth's obsession with the idea of a legacy. Arguably, it's not so much the initial death of Duncan that causes things to fall apart, but actually the subsequent slaughtering of Banquo and attempted murder of his son.

Not content with his own shot at regal glory, the childless Macbeth is consumed by jealousy at the witches' prediction that his best friend's offspring will succeed him. This feeds back into the intense domestic relationship at the heart of the story, showing how easily the personal becomes political.

"For me, the play is scenes from a marriage as much as it's about a traitor. The relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth is key. It's a deep, romantic love, and even in their madness, right up to the end, the most important person in either of their worlds is each other. I think they've been devastated by the loss of their children and their inability to have more, and a lot of what happens is them both trying to make each other feel better about that absence of a future.

"We wanted to avoid the misogynistic, unmotivated portraits of women that you sometimes get with Lady Macbeth - that idea of the female evil and the temptress. Macbeth might have more lines, but Niamh [Cusack] and I are both on the poster and I think the characters are absolute equals."

Add to this the show's female director, and its broadly young and ethnically diverse cast, and you get the sense that real change is underway. And as Eccleston himself confesses, it's been a truly democratic rehearsal process in that everyone is happy to 'steal' ideas from everyone else.

.....

Macbeth shows at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, from Tuesday 13 March to Tuesday 18 September.

NEW

New Art
West Midlands
Exhibition
2018



MUSEUM &
ART GALLERY
BIRMINGHAM

FRI 16 FEB – SUN 6 MAY 2018
BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Showcasing extraordinary works from the region's most exciting emerging artists, plus a chance to see works by New Art West Midlands artist alumni in new exhibition *Five Years On*. #NewArtWestMidlands



..... ALSO SHOWING AT

AIRSPACE GALLERY
STOKE-ON-TRENT
Fri 23 Feb – Sat 31 Mar

THE HERBERT ART
GALLERY, COVENTRY
Sat 24 Feb – Sun 13 May

**FREE
ENTRY**

birminghammuseums.org.uk

Funded by:



Herbert

Stoke-on-Trent City Council

airspacegallery

Herbert Art Gallery

Coventry City Council

University of Warwick

Birmingham Museums

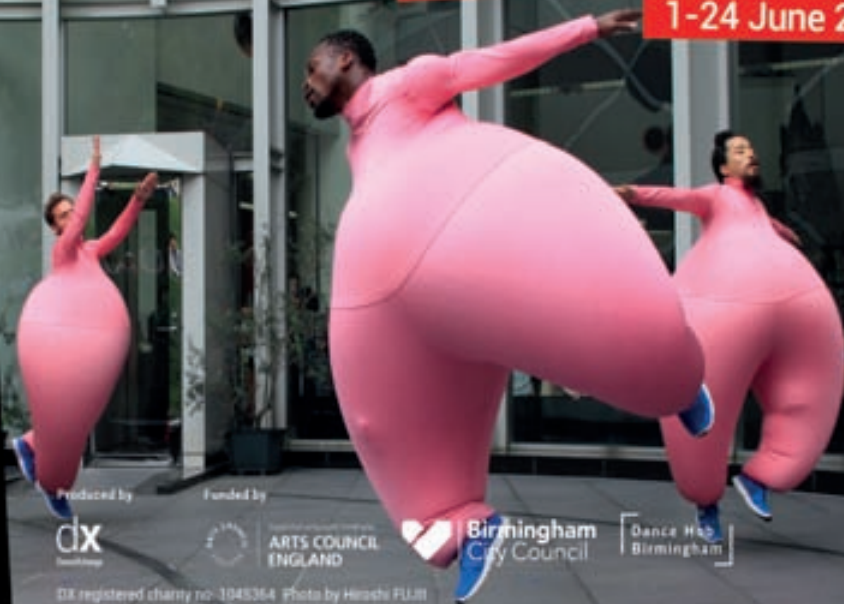
Image: Urban Heights (2017), Hayley McNally, © the artist.

A WORLD OF DANCE IN ONE CITY

Award winning festival
World class performances in
venues throughout the city
FREE outdoor programme
Live Music
Virtual Reality experiences
Morning Gloryville rave

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL

1-24 June 2018



Produced by



Funded by



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Birmingham
City Council



Dance Hub
Birmingham

bidf.co.uk

DX registered charity no: 3045364 Photo by Hiroshi FUJII

Dance previews from around the region



Motionhouse: Charge

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 13 March

Leamington-based Motionhouse's multimedia show about energy is the third element of Kevin Finnan's Earth Trilogy, developing on themes explored in *Scattered* (2009) and *Broken* (2013) about man's relationship with water and the earth.

Making use of digital projections to create an on-stage world in which dancers and images interact seamlessly, the show features six performers using dance and acrobatics to explore the human body, 'tracing the incredible story of energy in our lives'.

"Charge is an amazing collaboration between artists and scientists," explains Motionhouse co-founder Finnan. "I find the science behind the show fascinating, and I want to use my inspiration from this to create a presentation for audiences to enjoy - but which also makes them think about the role that energy plays in their lives."

Vienna Festival Ballet

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Tues 13 March; The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Wed 14 March; Evesham Arts Centre, Mon 2 April; Bedworth Civic Hall, Fri 13 April; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 15 April; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Wed 16 May; Old Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 17 May

Featuring a talented array of young dancers, Vienna Festival Ballet typically spend eight months of the year performing works from their extensive repertoire in venues across the UK.

They're stopping off in the Midlands on numerous occasions during this month and next, and will be performing either *Swan Lake* or *Sleeping Beauty* (check each venue's website to find out which).



Tango Moderno

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 9 & Sat 10 March

"This is our fourth show," says Flavia Cacace about *Tango Moderno*, in which she stars with fellow ex-Strictly favourite Vincent Simone, "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."

"The different thing with *Tango Moderno* 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."



ACE Dance: Ten

MAC, Birmingham, Thurs 8 March; Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 26 April

Humanity's universal stories are placed under the microscope by Jose Agudo, whose work strikes an overarching tone that's both epic and poetic. In the process, the choreographer brings 'hints of Flamenco movement to the contemporary vocabulary underpinned by ACE Dance & Music's inimitable African style'.

"Ten builds on the themes of spiritual dedication and striving," explain ACE. "Ultimately, this piece is about humanity's urge to reach for the power of 10 - the universal symbol of completion."





“Performing in my own city has always been important to me, not just as a dancer but as an artist”

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE...

Transitions Dance Company brings its new triple bill to the Midlands

Now in its 35th touring year, Transitions Dance Company provides a platform for the next generation of international contemporary dance performers can showcase their talents.

Comprising 14 dancers, the company has just hit the road on an international tour where it will present a triple bill of specially commissioned works by three internationally renowned choreographers - Richard Chappell from the UK, Helsinki-based choreographer and performer Jarkko Partanen, and award-winning Israeli choreographer Hagit Yakira.

Among the company of dancers is Birmingham-born Kieran Lee Covell. Kieran joined in 2017 and is excited about being involved with Transitions as it celebrates its 35th year of touring. "I feel very fortunate and lucky to be a part of this fantastic company," he says. "It's been a fun and exciting experience creating the three pieces for our tour, and I look forward to seeing what's in store when we set off."

Graduating from Birmingham Ormiston Academy (BOA) with a Professional Diploma in Contemporary Dance, Kieran's performance repertoire includes acclaimed Motionhouse production *The Voyage*, Charles Lineham's *Transfer Laban* at Canary Wharf, Camilla Isola's *Unravel Ei Bolero* at The Place and Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*, both at Birmingham Hippodrome.

On returning to showcase his talents in Birmingham, Kieran says: "Performing in my own city has always been important to me, not just as a dancer but as an artist. The experiences I had in this city have shaped who I am today and got me to this point in

time. I'm really looking forward to going back and seeing just how much the dance industry has changed, and also reminiscing about my own journey that started in Birmingham."

Transitions is promising 'an engaging and enjoyable night out' - but what more can audiences expect from the triple bill? "They can expect energy, relationships and a clear sense of story-driven movement material," says Kieran. "Each company member has embodied the three pieces with their own artistic voice, so it will be interesting to see how each performance evolves over the length of the tour."

In Richard Chappell's *When Running Starts And Stops*, the company fuses classical ballet with martial arts-influenced movement style, using animalistic physicality to explore themes of community, fear, violence and migration.

Jarkko Partanen's *Lovers*, meanwhile, marks the choreographer's first collaboration with the company. Exploring connection, commonality and individual expressions, Partanen organises the performers in such a way as to allow them to act, understand and continue only through touch. The result is a work that's bizarre, comic and poignant.

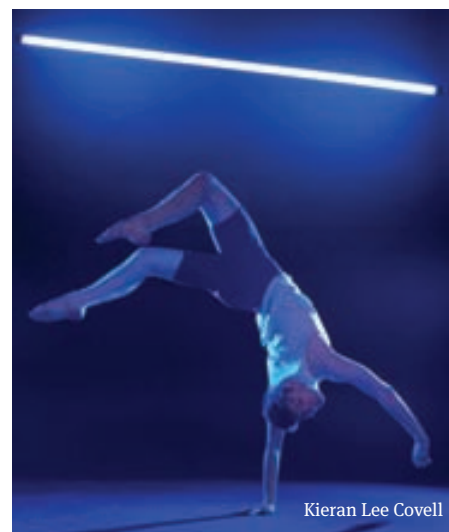
Completing the triple bill is Kieran's personal favourite, Hagit Yakira's *The Ar/ct Of Moving Forward*. A 'simple yet mesmerising' piece performed by the entire company, it uses the literal and poetic act of forward movement, travelling and time as its focus, and is performed to an original score composed by long-term collaborator Sabio Janiak. "Yakira's unique and vibrant personality, along with her extensive choreographic knowledge, have not only made me enjoy the piece and

process of making it, but inspired me to think about how I can use my own voice to perform, and what performance means for me," says Kieran.

So with 10 UK dates and several international performances, what is Kieran most looking forward to about touring the triple bill? "Travelling to different locations and experiencing the different atmospheres of each place. I'm also looking forward to experiencing how a professional company tour works, and the different roles and responsibilities that everyone will have during the processes."

.....
Transitions Dance Company perform at The Old Rep, Birmingham on Tuesday 27 March and Albany Theatre, Coventry, on Friday 18 May.

For full tour information visit trinitylaban.ac.uk/transitionsdc



Kieran Lee Covell



EDITOR'S CHOICE

Tomb Raider CERT 12a

Starring **Alicia Vikander, Dominic West, Walton Goggins, Daniel Wu, Kristin Scott Thomas, Nick Frost** Directed by **Roar Uthaug (USA)**

As the intrepid adventuress Lara Croft, Alicia Vikander leaps into the shoes vacated by Angelina Jolie. A bike courier in East London, Lara decides to ditch her wheels in order to solve the disappearance of her father, who was last seen on a mysterious island off the coast of Japan. Of course, she has no idea what she's getting herself into... This time the franchise has a slightly Scandinavian seasoning, as Vikander is Swedish and the director, Roar Uthaug (*The Wave*, 2015), is Norwegian. Filmed in South Africa, London and Wiltshire. Available in 3D and IMAX.

Released Fri 16 March



Film highlights released in March...

Red Sparrow CERT 15 (140 mins)

Starring **Jennifer Lawrence, Joel Edgerton, Matthias Schoenaerts, Charlotte Rampling, Mary-Louise Parker, Jeremy Irons** Directed by **Francis Lawrence (USA)**

Dominika Egorova (Lawrence) was a ballerina before being recruited by the Russian intelligence service Red Sparrow. Now she's thinking of becoming a traitor...

From the director of *I Am Legend* and *The Hunger Games* films.

Released Thurs 1 March



Gringo CERT 15 (110 mins)

Starring **David Oyelowo, Charlize Theron, Joel Edgerton, Amanda Seyfried, Thandie Newton, Sharlto Copley** Directed by **Nash Edgerton (USA)**

An American businessman with calamitous money problems, Harold Soyinka (Oyelowo) finds himself embroiled in a multi-billion dollar scam. Directed and co-produced by Nash Edgerton, the brother of the Australian actor Joel Edgerton.

Released Fri 9 March



Game Night CERT 15 (130 mins)

Starring **Jason Bateman, Rachel McAdams, Billy Magnussen, Sharon Horgan, Lamorne Morris, Kyle Chandler** Directed by **John Francis Daley and Jonathan Goldstein (USA)**

One night a week, a group of friends gathers for an evening of games, when they're invited to join a murder-mystery party. And the murder is real... From the directing duo behind 2015's *Vacation*.

Released Fri 2 March

Film highlights released in March...

Journeyman CERT tbc

Starring **Paddy Considine**, **Jodie Whittaker**
Directed by **Paddy Considine (UK)**

Spoiler alert: Journeyman is not Rocky. It's not even Cinderella Man, in which Paddy Considine played the best friend of Russell Crowe's James J Braddock, the real-life world heavyweight champ. Being Considine's second film as writer-director, following the stark and uncompromising Tyrannosaur (2011), Journeyman was unlikely to embrace the clichés of the boxing film. The director himself plays Matty Burton, a middleweight boxing champion at the end of his career who is coming to terms with being the father of a baby girl. His wife, the beautiful, sexy and caring Emma, is superbly rendered by Jodie Whittaker, who makes what could have been a one-dimensional trophy wife entirely credible. Considine, who has been a professional actor for almost two decades, knows how to hammer out truthful performances from his cast, and he doesn't disappoint here. He, himself, is terrific as the charming pugilist, and his dialogue doesn't hit a false note.

Released Fri 30 March



CRITIC'S CHOICE

You Were Never Really Here CERT 15 (90 mins)

Starring **Joaquin Phoenix**, **Ekaterina Samsonov**, **Alex Manette**, **John Doman**, **Judith Roberts**
Directed by **Lynne Ramsay (UK/France/USA)**



As a traumatized war veteran, Joaquin Phoenix won the best actor gong at Cannes last year. The film also nabbed the award for best screenplay and follows the journey that the veteran takes to redeem his soul – by tracking down the abducted daughter of a New York politician.

Released Fri 9 March

Peter Rabbit CERT PG (95 mins)

Starring **Rose Byrne**, **Domhnall Gleeson**, **Sam Neill**; with the voices of **James Corden**, **Daisy Ridley**, **Elizabeth Debicki**, **Margot Robbie**, **Sia**
Directed by **Will Gluck (USA/Australia)**

Margot Robbie, who briefly supplied the

voice of Winnie-the-Pooh in Goodbye Christopher Robin (2017), is now the voice of Flopsy in this part-animated, part-live action take on the Beatrix Potter characters. James Corden voices the title role. From the director of the critically derided Annie remake.

Released Fri 16 March

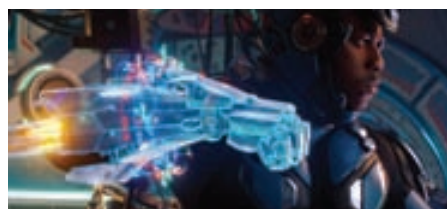


Pacific Rim: Uprising CERT 12a

Starring **John Boyega**, **Scott Eastwood**, **Cailee Spaeny**, **Charlie Day**, **Burn Gorman**
Directed by **Steven S. DeKnight (USA/China)**

The very future of mankind is under threat when the gargantuan sea monsters (the Kaiju) emerge from the depths again, this time accompanied by a massive man-made robot that has switched sides. Oh, gosh. Available in 3D and IMAX.

Released Fri 23 March



Ready Player One CERT 12a

Starring **Tye Sheridan**, **Olivia Cooke**, **Ben Mendelsohn**, **TJ Miller**, **Simon Pegg**, **Mark Rylance**
Directed by **Steven Spielberg (USA)**

In 2045, a virtual world becomes a battleground as gamers attempt to crack its secret in order to gain its ownership. More dystopia, but with Steven Spielberg behind the camera this should be better than most. One hopes.

Released Fri 30 March

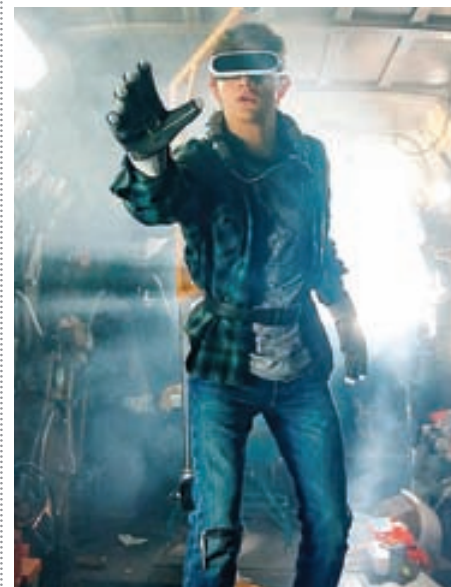




Image credit: Wilderness Wrapped, C-type print, (c) Scarlett Hooft Graafland, courtesy of Flowers Gallery London & New York

Wilderness

The New Art Gallery, Walsall,
until Sun 6 May

Works which engage with the natural world and reflect man's innate need for solitude are showcased in this new multimedia exhibition, one of several shows in which the gallery is exploring the theme of wilderness.

Highlights include filmworks focusing on marginal individuals who've chosen to move away from society, 'living precarious existences in remote places where nature rules'.

Barren high-altitude salt deserts, snow-blanketed mountain tops and environments in transition - such as coastlines and volcanoes - are other places and locations brought into view by the contributing artists.

GET CONNECTED ON TWITTER



BIRMINGHAM
@WHATSONBRUM

WOLVERHAMPTON
@WHATSONWOLVES

SHROPSHIRE
@WHATSONSHROPS

STAFFORDSHIRE
@WHATSONSTAFFS

WORCESTERSHIRE
@WHATSONWORCS

WARWICKSHIRE
@WHATSONWARWICKS



Come and join the conversation

THE RHYTHM OF LIGHT

Scottish Colourists
from the
Fleming Collection


16 February –
13 May 2018

THE
BARBER
INSTITUTE OF
FINE ARTS

ADMISSION FREE
0121 414 7333
www.barber.org.uk

Visit by train:
University station

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM





Langlands & Bell Internet Giants: Masters Of The Universe

Ikon Gallery, Wed 21 March - Sun 10 June

British artists Ben Langlands and Nikki Bell are here celebrating 40 years of working together, presenting a show that explores the profound and increasing impact of global technology companies in the In-



formation Age.

Featuring the iconic new architecture of organisations such as Apple, Facebook, Microsoft and Google, the exhibition includes relief sculptures, installations and portraits.

The show is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue featuring an essay by Anthony Vidler and an interview with the artists by Dr Hans-Michael Herzog.

Working In Colour

The Barber Institute, Birmingham, until Sun 10 June

Presented to complement The Rhythm Of Light - the Barber's main spring exhibition - Working In Colour explores four centuries of printmaking and colouring techniques. It includes works by artists

as diverse as Gillray, Turner, Max Ernst and Edward Lear.

The show contemplates the possible functions, meanings and effects of colourful prints, taking a look at the ways in which they reflect changing artistic and social trends, technologies and audiences.



Ravilious & Co: The Pattern Of Friendship

Compton Verney Art Gallery, Warwickshire, Sat 17 March - Sun 10 June

Watercolours, woodcuts, lithographic prints, wallpaper and fabric design all feature in this touring presentation, which celebrates the work of artist and designer Eric Ravilious (1903-1942).

As well as showcasing key works from his

career, the exhibition also explores his significant relationships and working collaborations with an important group of friends and affiliates, examples of whose artwork are also included.

Pop! British & American Art 1960 - 1975

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Sun 3 June

This transatlantic showcase of the Pop Art movement's most iconic artists includes an eight-metre-long fighter plane by James Rosenquist, Andy Warhol's Campbell's Soup tin, a lament for Marilyn Monroe by Pauline Boty, Joe Tilson's iconic images of Che Guevara and prints by Peter Blake.

The show has been developed as a partnership between the Herbert and Wolverhampton Art Gallery.



Diaspora Pavilion

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sun 29 April

A group of artists here respond to the concept of diaspora - worldwide communities which have resulted, via descent, from the movement in historic times of people from a smaller geographic locale.

The works on show were last year presented at the 57th Venice Biennale. The exhibition featured nearly 40 artworks which reflected or responded to the relevance of diaspora as a lived-in modern-day reality.

The show featured pieces by 19 artists, seven of whom have contributed to this Wolverhampton exhibition.

Slam Dunk

— 20 FESTIVAL IS —

@SLAMDUNKMUSIC @SLAMDUNKLTD #SDF18

Good Charlotte JIMMY EAT WORLD

PVRIS

**FRANK CARTER
& the rattlesnakes**

**TAKING BACK
SUNDAY**

**SLEEPING
SIRENS**

STATE CHAMBERS

TWIN ATLANTIC

Reel Big Fish

GOLDFINGER

EVERY TIME I DIE

GREYER

THURSDAY

FOUR YEAR STRONG

THE SKINTS

ZEBRAHEAD

THE AUDITION

SET YOUR GOALS

REAL FRIENDS

**KNUCKLE
PUCK**

NORTHLANE

COPDOWN

SAVE FERRIS

COMEBACK KID

CROWN

COUNTERPARTS

TRASH BOAT

Rain

BROADSIDE

CANTSUM

• MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

**MONDAY 28TH MAY
BIRMINGHAM - NEC**

MIDLANDS

TICKETS £49 / £55 WITH AFTERPARTY

@ SLAMDUNKMUSIC.COM

**TIER 1
IMPERION**

SLAM DUNK PRESENTS
A ROTATING BILL OF:

**THE
BEAT**
w/ RANKING ROGER

BUZZCOCKS

**STIFF LITTLE
FINGERS**

**THE
SELEKTER**

**BIRMINGHAM: NEC LAKESIDE
SUN 27TH MAY 2018**

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WWW.SEETICKETS.COM

FROM
5PM
INCLUDES
DJs!

**3 LIVE
OUTDOOR
SUMMER
SHOWS!**

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
SEETICKETS
www.seetickets.com



Egg-citing Easter Activities

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,
Sat 24 March - Sun 15 April

The Black Country Living Museum has good form when it comes to ensuring the Easter hols are an exciting time for visiting families, and this year is no exception. Youngsters and their grown-ups can take the Bunny's Trail - in the process exploring the venue's canalside village and solving clues to find a prize - take part in traditional egg rolling competitions, and test their balance in an egg-and-spoon race. There's also the chance to learn about Easter traditions in the home, sample a freshly baked hot cross bun and get involved in all manner of traditional street games.

A trip 'into the thick' to sample life in an 1850s coal mine, the chance to experience a Victorian school lesson and the opportunity to savour some traditionally cooked fish & chips complete the venue's Easter holiday entertainment package.

Easter Dino Egg Hunt

Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham,
Thurs 29 March - Sun 15 April

Fancy a change of pace when it comes to hunting for Easter eggs? If so, Thinktank Science Museum is the place to head for this holiday because, although the Easter Bunny hasn't paid a visit, the Easter Dinosaur most certainly has! As a result, there are lots of Dino eggs hidden around the venue - and visiting youngsters are being challenged to find them!

And once they've uncovered them all, there's a small Dino prize to collect in the museum shop.



Cadbury Easter Egg Hunts

Various National Trust sites, Fri 30 March - Mon 2 April

Who better to organise an Easter egg hunt (or several) than those lovely people at Cadbury? The chocolate-making Birmingham company are this Easter coordinating more than 250 hunts at National Trust properties across the UK.

And there's plenty more for families to enjoy on their fun-filled day out, with many of the venues offering 'games and craft activities galore'.

What's more, all participants will be rewarded with a sure-to-be-delicious Cadbury treat at the end of each completed hunt.



Miniatutura®

The World Class Miniatures Show

24th & 25th
March 2018



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE WORLD OF MINIATURES

Miniatutura 70th Anniversary 1948-2018

NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM
Ticket Hotline - 0844 5811 291 General Enquiries - 0121 783 9922 Miniatutura
www.miniatutura.co.uk

BOOK EARLY



The largest mechanical puppet ever constructed in Britain. Come and see this amazing giant in action, the star of two spectacular events.

MAN ENGINE

BLISTS HILL VICTORIAN TOWN
SATURDAY 14 APRIL 2018

The Afternoon 10am - 4.30pm
Pre-booking highly recommended. Passport tickets not valid.
25% discount off daytime admission for Passport ticket holders.

The Afterdarker 6.30pm - 10pm
Pre-booking essential. Passport tickets not valid for evening event.

To book tickets go to
IRONBRIDGE.ORG.UK



Birmingham Museums

UNCOVER A

TREASURE TROVE of History

AT BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS




Alice in Wonderland Aston Hall 1 April	DINOSAUR EGG TRAIL Thinktank Science Museum 29 March - 15 April	Museum TREASURES Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery 3 - 13 April
---	--	--

birminghammuseums.org.uk/whats-on

Funded by:



PLUS LOADS MORE AT

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum | Aston Hall
Blakesley Hall | Museum of the Jewellery Quarter
Sarehole Mill | Soho House | Weoley Castle Ruins

Easter events from around the region



Traditional Victorian Easter Activities

Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire
Sun 1 - Sun 15 April

Never let it be said that Ironbridge's famous Victorian town doesn't get into the spirit of Easter!

The venue's holiday fun kickstarts on Sunday 1 and Monday 2 April when visitors can watch the unusual Victorian Easter pastime of egg dancing and join in the traditional parade.

There's plenty to do in the two weeks that follow as well.

Entertainment on offer includes the chance to watch chicks' eggs hatch and chocolate eggs being made, and the opportunity to print a poster using a Victorian printing press.

A bunny hunt around the town and a trail to solve an Easter anagram further add to the fun.

Easter at Warwick Castle

Warwick Castle, Fri 30 March - Sun 15 April

There's no shortage of Easter fun to enjoy at Warwick Castle during the holidays.

Kids can climb The Conqueror's Fortress - a specifically designed interactive exhibition - grab their swords and learn tactical defence skills in the all-new Knight's School, get lost in the Horrible Histories Maze, and face an array of fun challenges including invading a Viking ship and surviving the trenches.

And just for good measure, they can also witness the world's largest working siege machine launch a projectile more than 150ft in the air!



Hawkstone Park

Hawkstone Park is a masterpiece of the School of Naturalistic Landscape. Opened in the 18th century by the owner of Hawkstone Hall mansion, Richard Hill, the venue was Britain's first tourist park. Stone arches, bridges, walkways and grottoes were added to the natural drama of four rugged, wooded hills. The resultant Gothic fantasyland has been a major visitor attraction ever since, and was lovingly restored in 1993 after years of neglect.

English Heritage has awarded Hawkstone Park & Follies with Grade I certification on its Register of Historic Gardens and Parks.



Tamworth Castle

Education and entertainment is the package being offered to families visiting Tamworth Castle this Easter holiday.

The educational element is provided by enjoying a walk around the castle, which features displays that take visitors on a journey from Saxon to Victorian times.

Items from the world famous Staffordshire Hoard are also available to view.

As for the entertainment, there's the chance to try and find Ruby the Dragon's eggs for her, as she's hidden them from the dastardly dragon hunter but now doesn't know where they are.



Egg-cellent Easter

Drayton Manor Theme Park,
Sat 28 March - Sun 15 April

Heart-stopping rollercoasters in the main park and toddler-friendly rides in Europe's only Thomas Land are among the attractions to enjoy at Drayton Manor Theme Park this Easter. There are special Thomas Land Live Shows during the holiday period too, as well as the brand new James And The Red Balloon ride and all the head-spinning fun of the VerTIGO high-ropes adventure course.



A celebration of ideas, research
& collaboration across campus

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Discover Dudley

visit www.discoverdudley.org.uk

There's lots to see and do in the borough of Dudley



©DiscoverDunelm



#DiscoverDulley



MCM Birmingham Comic Con

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 17 - Sun 18 March

This well-established event is an absolute must for anybody with an interest in movies, gaming, comics, anime, cult television shows, gadgets, clothing and toys.

It also has an impressive track record when it comes to celebrity appearances. On this occasion, famous faces on show include Guardians Of The Galaxy stars Michael Rooker and Sean Gunn.

"The Midlands holds a special place in our hearts," says MCM Expo Group CEO Bryan Cooney. "Our company is based here, and we plan on providing an awesome show for the region's enthusiastic audience of sci-fi, comic book and film fans."

Disney On Ice: Worlds Of Enchantment

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Wed 28 March - Sun 1 April



Life-sized animated characters from Cars and live adaptations of Toy Story 3, The Little Mermaid and the Academy Award-winning Frozen are among the highlights in this hit Disney On Ice production.

Commenting on the show, producers Kenneth and Nicole Feld said: "Worlds Of Enchantment connects classic and new Disney stories. Audiences will be blown away in Radiator Springs when they encounter the unforgettable crew of animated cars, built 'to scale' and live on ice. They will see their all-time favourites like The Little Mermaid and discover the world of Arendelle with Frozen. To be the first to introduce the Frozen story live on ice, and to be entrusted with the beloved Toy Story characters is incredible, and we're thrilled to be bringing these heart-warming tales to families across the globe."



**SAVE
15%**

when quoting
PCRS18WO at
[necrestoration
show.com](http://necrestorationshow.com)

Practical Classics Classic Car & Restoration Show

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 23 - Sun 25 March

Midlands Classic Car enthusiasts can really immerse themselves in their passion at this specialist event.

Showcasing in excess of 1,000 magnificent motors, the show also boasts live demos, expert tutorials, workshops, celebrity appearances and hundreds of exhibitors selling a wide range of popular products.

Other attractions include an autojumble, a 'cars for sale' area, the Practical Classics Live Stage and the UK's biggest collection of barn find displays.

SPRING'S BEST CLASSIC CAR SHOW

23 -25 MARCH 2018 • NEC BIRMINGHAM

practical
CLASSICS
**CLASSIC CAR
& RESTORATION SHOW**
With **Discovery**

1,000 Classic cars on display
Over 150 Classic Car Club stands
350 Specialist exhibitors & traders
Spring's largest indoor autojumble
Lancaster Insurance Pride of Ownership
Classic cars for sale & leading dealers
Classic Car Auctions
Practical Classics live stage
Carole Nash Barn Find
The Workshop, sponsored by SkillShack
Sporting Bears Dream Rides

BOOK NOW & SAVE UP TO 15%*
NECRESTORATIONSHOW.COM QUOTE: PCRS18WO

In association with

ClassicCarsForSale

Classic Cars

CLASSIC CAR
MAGAZINE

Official Show Partners

Discovery

Classic Car Club

CCA
CLASSIC CAR CLUB

Motor

Classic Car Club

*Savings are based on on-the-door ticket prices. Savings are pre-applied to all prices on the website. The code stated above is used for marketing purposes only. To book by phone, call 0844 858 6768. Calls cost 15p/min plus network extras. All bookings are subject to a single transaction fee of £1.50. Tickets include a show guide worth £4.00. Advance tickets are available until midnight Thursday 22nd March. After that date, tickets will only be available at the show.

14-18 March 2018

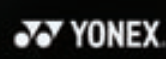
CELEBRATING
25
YEARS IN
BIRMINGHAM

Save up to
20%
discount code:
BIRMINGHAM25



YONEX 2018
All England Open
Badminton Championships

allenglandbadminton.com





Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships

Arena Birmingham, Wed 14 - Sun 18 March

Now in its 108th year, Yonex is one of badminton's five 'majors', as well as being its old-

est and most prestigious competition.

This latest edition of the championship features 155 matches, more than 50 hours of live badminton and appearances by the world's greatest players. In short, it's a must-attend event for dedicated fans of the sport...

Dungeon Lates

Warwick Castle, Fri 23 March

'Scary storytelling' is combined with 'wicked humour and manic theatrics' in this all-new 50-minute-long adults-only entertainment blending special effects with live performance art. Participants get to 'enjoy' a last supper of Scotch eyes and bird's legs before embarking on a 'spine-tingling' exploration of the castle dungeon. And if the horrors experienced therein happen to leave you with a distinctly dry throat, not to worry - a shot of blood or a refreshing glass of urine - served fresh from a human bladder, no less - should soon see you right!



Shakespeare Week

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust sites, Stratford-upon-Avon, Mon 12 - Sun 18 March

Shakespeare Week is a national annual celebration of the world's greatest playwright - and given that the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust co-ordinate the event, it's no surprise that their various venues are wholeheartedly joining in with the initiative!

Included in their line-up of entertainment and activities are mask and ruff making, face painting, dressing-up opportunities and live dance. 'Storytelling galore', Tudor treats, craft activities and performances of the production Caliban In The Rockpool also feature, in what promises to be a splendidly action-packed week of bard-focused fun.

Ultimate Dubs

Telford International Centre, Sun 11 March

The UK's largest indoor VAG enthusiasts' event brings together the 'ultimate' VW, Audi, Seat and Skoda show cars from all over Europe. "Whether you're into stock, old skool, nu wave, custom or tuned cars, there's sure to be something to your taste at a show that's not to be missed," say the event's organisers. Attractions include detailing & vehicle wrapping demonstrations, racing simulator competitions, BMX freestyling & street dancing, a VW drag racing club display and a Porsche 911 display.



Insomnia62

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 30 March - Mon 2 April

The UK's biggest gaming festival is now firmly established at the NEC, having outgrown its previous home at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry.

Insomnia is a four-day event 'combining all the best bits of video-gaming' and offering enthusiasts the chance to play an impressive selection of both new and vintage games.

Visitors can also meet their favourite YouTube stars and take part in costuming workshops and a cosplay masquerade.





Kidtropolis
Come and Play

nec
EDITION

6 - 8 APRIL 2018
NEC BIRMINGHAM

Existing Persons

£9.99*

*Price per 4 hour session and subject to booking fee. Visit website for full terms & conditions.



FEATURING



BBE.COM™ is a registered trademark of BBE Toys, Inc. ©2018 BBE Toys, Inc. BBE, the BBE logo, BBE, BBE, and BBE are among our registered and unregistered trademarks in the U.S. and other countries. Game Zone is not managed or hosted by BBE Toys, Inc.



nickelodeon

Join in every day on Nick Jr.
www.nickjr.com

© 2018 Spin Master. All Rights Reserved.
 Characters will appear at
 intervals on selected dates.
 See website for more details.

PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR ACTS & APPEARANCE TIMES. AS THESE MAY VARY

the
ticket
factory

Andy and the Socks

WWW.KIDTROPOLIS.CO.UK

© 2011 UNIVERSAL PICTURES. "I AM NUMBER SEVEN" AND "I AM NUMBER SEVEN: THE MOVIE" ARE TRADEMARKS OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. U.S. PATENT NO. 7,811,100. "I AM NUMBER SEVEN" AND "I AM NUMBER SEVEN: THE MOVIE" ARE REGISTERED SERVICE MARKS OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Secret

shout

GAMING

EPIC

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS



Your week-
by-week
listings guide
March 2018

the list



Grumpy Old Women To The Rescue at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre - Friday 30 - Saturday 31 March

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

What's On

Thurs 1 to Sun 4 March



Medea Electronica at Arena
Theatre, Wolverhampton

Fri 2 March

Mon 5 to Sun 11 March



Brian Conley at the Grand
Theatre, Wolverhampton

Sat 10 March

Mon 12 to Sun 18 March



A Brave Face at the New Vic,
Newcastle-under-Lyme

Mon 12 March

Mon 19 to Sat 31 March



Russell Brand at Victoria Hall,
Stoke-on-Trent

Mon 26 March

THROUGHOUT MARCH

Visual Arts

New Art Gallery - Walsall

NEW ARTISTS IN FOCUS Each of the themed collection rooms features multiple works from a single contemporary artist, alongside highlights from the renowned Garman Ryan Collection, Sat 17 Mar - Sun 2 Dec

NEW CORNELIA PARKER: THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER (2015) Cornelia has here re-appropriated a group of found glass photographic negatives of antique silverware, continuing her interest in objects and their histories, the material of silver and the medium of photography, Sat 17 Mar - Sun 2 Dec

Newcastle Borough Museum & Art Gallery

NEW OPEN ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION Artwork from both professional and non-professional artists is on display. Prizes will be presented to selected artists, and visitors will get to vote for their favourite piece of artwork, Sat 10 Mar - Sun 22 Apr

Potteries Museum & Art Gallery - Stoke-On-Trent

NEW STORIES ON THE MANTELPIECE - VICTORIAN RELIGIOUS FIGURES Drawn from a private collection and the museum's own pieces, the display examines the rise of popular religious figures in the Victorian period, Sat 24 Mar - Sun 1 July

Qube Gallery, Oswestry

NEW WYCINANKI - THE ART OF POLISH PAPER-CUTS Wycinanki, or paper cuts, are a traditional Polish folk art that first appeared in the 19th century, when they decorated the inside walls of rural homes. This touring exhibition from the Horniman Museum features works from two regions much admired for their traditional crafts, Thurs 8 Mar - Tues 10 Apr

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

LEGO - BRICK HISTORY Walk through history in bricks, as Lego enthusiast Warren Elsmore returns with his touring exhibition, until Sun 15 Apr

Weston Park, Shifnal

NEW MORVILLE: A GARDEN IN ANOTHER TIME EXHIBITION Exhibition by Maureen Cooper of digital images, paintings and mixed-media work, reflecting both the garden's structure and its wildness, Thurs 1 - Wed 28 Mar

NEW RUPERT CORDEUX EXHIBITION The paintings are the product of Cordeux's enthusiasm for the

medium of watercolour and a genuine interest in the subjects. All featured artworks were created on location, Fri 30 Mar - Thurs 26 Apr

The Willow Art Gallery, Oswestry

NEW PAINTING WITH WORDS 2018 Annual exhibition celebrating the written word by showing artwork inspired by literature, language and the spoken word, Sat 3 Mar - Sat 14 Apr

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

APNA HERITAGE ARCHIVE EXHIBITION Over a period of two years, Black Country Visual Arts has brought together a collection of 2,000 photographs exploring Punjabi migration to Wolverhampton between the 1960s and 1980s, until Sun 18 Mar

DIASPORA PAVILION Showcasing the work of 19 artists whose practices respond to the concept of diaspora during the 57th Venice Biennale at Palazzo Pisani a Santa Marina in Venice, until Sun 29 Apr

CLANGERS, BAGPUSS & CO. V&A Museum of Childhood exhibition celebrating classic kids' TV shows, including Bagpuss, The Clangers, Pogles' Wood, Noggin The Nog and Ivor The Engine, until Sun 29 Apr

TV PUPPETS: ICONS FROM 80 YEARS OF ENTERTAINMENT From the earliest TV puppets, such as Soko and Muffin the Mule, to familiar characters that have entertained recent generations, until Sun 29 Apr

Other VISUAL ARTS

SHROPSHIRE ART SOCIETY EXHIBITION Showcasing the work of Ruth Robinson and Julie Lloyd Roberts, until Fri 2 Mar, St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury

LOUISE DAVIES Exhibition of paintings and prints, until Sat 10 Mar, Twenty Twenty Gallery, Ludlow

MOON AND MAGIC - TAMSIN BRIDGE Artist Tamsin Bridge works from her imagination using watercolour gold and silver leaf, until Tues 13 Mar, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms

CLAUDE CAHUN: BENEATH THIS MASK This Hayward Touring exhibition features the work of French female photographer Claude Cahun

(1894-1954), whose practice investigates gender and identity, until Sat 17 Mar, Keele University, Staffordshire

IMAGINING THE CRUCIFIXION The first part of a two-year creative journey by artist-in-residence Peter Walker, who explores a contemporary interpretation of Christ's journey to the Cross, until Mon 2 Apr, Lichfield Cathedral

Gigs

JOHNNY CASH ROAD-SHOW Thurs 1 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

MARSICANS, VISTA & SPILT MILK SOCIETY Thurs 1 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

PALE WAVES Thurs 1 Mar, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

THE BLUES BAND - 39 YEARS AND BACK FOR MORE Thurs 1 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

ALEEM Thurs 1 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

Y.O.U.N.G.: THE LAZY TOUR Thurs 1 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ALL WE ARE Thurs 1 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SHEAFS Thurs 1 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE XCERTS Thurs 1 Mar, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

APOCALYPTICA Thurs 1 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE HANDSOME FAMILY Thurs 1 Mar, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

ELECTRIC SIX Thurs 1 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

PIONEERS OF THE SYNTHESISERS Thurs 1 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

THE SENSATIONAL 60S EXPERIENCE Fri 2 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

PALE WAVES Fri 2 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

DIRTY THRILLS Fri 2 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

VELVET UNDERGROUND TRIBUTE TO LOU REED Fri 2 Mar, The Newhampton Inn, Wolverhampton

FEARS CHELLA Fri 2 Mar, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

SWEET 45 Fri 2 Mar, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

CARO Fri 2 Mar, The Flapper, Birmingham

HEATWAVE & ODYSSEY Fri 2 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MELOTONE, HEY BROOKLYN, MAYO & PINK LAKE Fri 2 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

THE DEEP PURPLE FAMILY TREE Fri 2 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

SCOTT BRADLEE & POST-MODERN JUKEBOX Fri 2 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

FRED ZEPPELIN Fri 2 Mar, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

PAUL WELLER Fri 2 Mar, Genting Arena, Birmingham



TABLE SCRAPS Fri 2 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MAGNUM Fri 2 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

THE OVERTONES Fri 2 Mar, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

THE KITCHEN COLLECTIVE Sat 3 Mar, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

VAMPIRES ROCK Sat 3 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

FAITH: GEORGE MICHAEL Sat 3 Mar, Dudley Town Hall

SATINDER SARTAAJ Sat 3 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

NUNS OF TUNDRA Sat 3 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE JONI MITCHELL SONGBOOK Sat 3 Mar, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffordshire

FINDLAY NAPIER & REBECCA LOEBE Sat 3 Mar, The Hive, Shrewsbury

SINATRA MEETS ELLA - THE TONY FARRELL BIG BAND Sat 3 Mar, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

MALLAVORA & THE WHITE NOISE Sat 3 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

MUSICAL PICNICS

MARCH Sat 3 Mar, Symphony Hall, B'ham

FEED THE RHINO Sat 3 Mar, The Flapper, Birmingham

HIGH HORSES Sat 3 Mar, The Night Owl, Birmingham

EVERYTHING EVERYTHING Sat 3 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE GRAHAMS Sat 3 Mar, Lichfield Guildhall

ELBOW Sat 3 Mar, Genting Arena, Birmingham

STONE BROKEN Sat 3 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

U2-2 Sat 3 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

MAETLOAF & THE NEVER NEVERLAND EXPRESS Sat 3 Mar, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

DANCE GAVIN DANCE & VEIL OF MAYA Sat 3 Mar, The Asylum, Birmingham

REJJIE SNOW Sat 3 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

CAROUSEL VERTIGO Sun 4 Mar, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

HOOKWORMS Sun 4 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND Sun 4 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

AMIT DATTANI Sun 4 Mar, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

EDITORS Sun 4 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall



BLAZE BAYLEY Sun 4 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

MAN OF MOON, YOUR DIRTY BLUE & BLUE TONGUES Sun 4 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

HARRIET Sun 4 Mar, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury



Classical Music

BEST OF THE WEST END Featuring Michael England (conductor), West End vocalists & City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Programme includes numbers from Cats, Evita, The Lion King, 42nd Street, Wicked & more... Fri 2 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

STEVEN OSBORNE PIANO RECITAL Programme includes works by Debussy & Prokofiev, Fri 2 Mar, Alington Hall, Shrewsbury School

CORNUCOPIA CONCERT Featuring Fiddlesticks, a youth violin folk group; the Travellers Barbershop Quartet; Greta Roberts (harpist); Shrewsbury Sixth Form College Jazz Band & singers from Thomas Adams School, Wem, Fri 2 Mar, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

THE PHOENIX SINGERS Programme comprises Bach's Mass in B Minor, Sat 3 Mar, Holy Trinity Church, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury

SINGALONG WITH THE CBSO - BRAHMS' GERMAN REQUIEM Featuring Simon Halsey (conductor) & the CBSO Chorus, Sun 4 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Daniele Rosina (conductor) & Luke Riedlinger (saxophone). Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Glazunov, Prokofiev & Peter Leavy, Sun 4 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

Comedy

MARK THOMAS Wed 28 Feb - Sat 3 Mar, MAC, Birmingham

JONATHAN PIE Thurs 1 Mar, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

BOBBY MAIR Thurs 1 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

MIKE WILMOT, MANDY KNIGHT & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 1 Mar, The Glee Club, B'ham

MARK SIMMONS, MUNDO JAZZ, CHRIS KEHOE, DAN TIERNAN & LOU CONRAN Thurs 1 Mar, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

GARY DELANEY, LUKE TOULSON, MATT STELLINGWERF & SAM AVERY Thurs 1 Mar, The George Hotel, Lichfield

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

ELLIE TAYLOR Fri 2 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOHN ROBERTSON Fri 2 Mar, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

IAIN STIRLING Fri 2 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

CRAIG CAMPBELL Fri 2 Mar, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

CHARLIE BAKER, MANDY KNIGHT, MIKE WILMOT & PAT CAHILL Fri 2 - Sat 3 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PHILL JUPITUS Sat 3 Mar, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

DALISO CHAPONDA Sat 3 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SHAZIA MIRZA Sat 3 Mar, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

DAVID TRENT, ADAM BLOOM, MARK SIMMONS & CRAIG MURRAY Sat 3 Mar, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

ROFL! COMEDY CLUB Sat 3 Mar, The Old Post Office, Stoke-On-Trent

RICH HALL Sun 4 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Theatre

AN ACT OF KINDNESS Award-winning play exploring gender pressure and its impact on our identity, until Thurs 1 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

US AND THEM Dark comedy that begins with two groups of wanderers looking for a place to settle, until Fri 2 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

ELEPHANT Highly anticipated return of Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti's work, which centres on family relationships and lies... until Sat 3 Mar, The REP, B'ham

RELATIVELY SPEAKING Alan Ayck-bourn's comedy of manners, until Sat 3 Mar, The Wightman, Shrewsbury

ROMEO & JULIET Presented by Sutton Coldfield Arts & Recreational Trust, until Sat 3 Mar, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

THE WINSLOW BOY Tessa Peake-Jones and Aden Gillett star in a major revival of Terence Rattigan's classic family drama, until Sat 3 Mar, The REP, Birmingham

HAMLET Shakespeare's tragedy told through the eyes of those who came after him... until Sat 3 Mar, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

HAIRSPRAY Brenda Edwards stars as Motormouth Maybelle in the smash-hit musical comedy, until Sat 3 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

HAYFEVER Noel Coward's period comedy, until Sat 17 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH ABOUT ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING Black comedy about the crisis of humanity, Thurs 1 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

THE WICKED WIZARD OF FIZZOG Black Country theatre favourites Fizzog present their version of The Wizard Of Oz, Fri 2 Mar, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

MEDEA ELECTRONICA A powerful and deeply moving gig-theatre retelling of

the ancient Greek tragedy, set in the technological turbulence of the 1980s, Fri 2 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton



SYLVIA Lynx Theatre tell the story of Sylvia Pankhurst, Fri 2 Mar, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

NAZANIN'S STORY Following the true and ongoing struggle faced by Nazanin Radcliffe and her family after she and her baby were taken in Tehran in 2016, Fri 2 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

CHIME HOURS Amateur staging of Jessica Brown's supernatural thriller, Fri 2 - Sat 10 Mar, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

NO FINER LIFE The true tale of an unlikely Cotswold hero and an enduring romance, Sat 3 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

SWING WITH LAUGHTER WITH BOBBY DAVRO Featuring Kenny Lynch, Anita Harris, Jessica Martin & The Rat Pack, Sat 3 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

DYLAN THOMAS: CLOWN IN THE MOON Dramatic portrait of the poet's chaotic, frequently hilarious, and all too brief life, Sat 3 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

VAMPIRES ROCK: THE GHOST TRAIN Classic rock musical concert featuring a tongue-in-cheek story presented alongside some of the greatest-ever rock anthems, Sat 3 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE The Crescent Theatre Company present a staging of Agatha Christie's dark novel, Sat 3 - Sat 10 Mar, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE PENDLE WITCH Join the infamous Jennet Device as she tells her version of the events which led to the hanging of 10 people, Sun 4 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SING-A-LONG-A SOUND OF MUSIC Screening of the classic Julie Andrews musical, complete with subtitled lyrics to help the audience sing along... Sun 4 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

MRS BEETON, MY SISTER Award-winning playwright Alison Neil provides a

lively retelling of the entertaining and moving story of Isabella Beeton's surprising life... Sun 4 Mar, Chelmarsh Village Hall, Nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire

Dance

018 DANCE SHOW: ONCE UPON A DANCE Tues 27 Feb - Sat 3 Mar, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

TERRA FIRMA National Dance Company Wales present a triple bill featuring new works by Marcus Morau, Mario Bermudez Gil & Green House from the company's Artistic Director, Caroline Finn, Thurs 1 - Fri 2 Mar, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

IN THE HANDS OF BOYS Shropshire Boys Dancing fuse dance, poetry & photography to share stories about the county's involvement in the First World War, Thurs 1 - Wed 28 Mar, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire

AT THE CROSSROADS Atreyee Dance Group present a theatrical dance performance based on a novel by Rabindranath Tagore - the story of a woman at the crossroads of the Indian freedom movement, Sun 4 Mar, MAC, Birmingham

Events

IAAF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Featuring more than 400 athletes from 150 countries, Thurs 1 - Sun 4 Mar, Arena Birmingham

ST DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATIONS Welsh language sessions available, with crafts and activities for children to enjoy, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Mar, Erddig Hall, Wrexham

THOMAS & FRIENDS WEEKENDS Sat 3 - Sun 25 Mar, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

THE TUDOR WOMAN Celebrate International Women's Day at Blakesley Hall, Sun 4 Mar, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

DONINGTON STAGE RALLY The first round of the Dukeries MC Rally Championship, and also round six of the Motorsport News Circuit Rally Championship in association with MSVR, Sun 4 Mar, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

AFTERNOON TEA WITH QUEEN VICTORIA AND PRINCE ALBERT Hear about Victoria's extraordinary reign and Albert's love of new technologies, Sun 4 Mar, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

DIGITAL ENGINEERING FOR KIDS & FAMILIES Learn more about coding with your kids at these brand new three-part workshops, Sun 4 Mar, Engineering, Ironbridge, Shropshire

Gigs

SUPERORGANISM Mon 5 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ELLI INGRAM Mon 5 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR Mon 5 Mar, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

FEEDER Mon 5 Mar, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

MARTIN SIMPSON Mon 5 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre



THE LIONEL RICHIE SONGBOOK Tues 6 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

JADE BIRD Tues 6 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KERRY ELLIS Tues 6 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

PHIL BEER Tues 6 Mar, Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley, Shropshire

ARCANE ROOTS Tues 6 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

HOLDING ABSENCE & LOATHE Wed 7 Mar, The Asylum, B'ham

NO AMPS, NO CHAT, NO CHARGE Wed 7 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

JOE DOLMAN Wed 7 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

POKEY LAFARGE Wed 7 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

STEVIE NIMMO TRIO Wed 7 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

DAXX & ROXANE Wed 7 Mar, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

BUDDY HOLLY AND THE CRICKETERS Wed 7 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

HOPSIN Wed 7 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ULTIMATE COLDPLAY Thurs 8 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

BLANCMANGE Thurs 8 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MOYA BRENNAN Thurs 8 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

FEROCIOUS DOG Thurs 8 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MOOSE BLOOD Thurs 8 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JOE BROWN Thurs 8 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

CILLA & THE SHADES OF THE 60s Thurs 8 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

MOTÖRHEADACHE Fri 9 Mar, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

ELO EXPERIENCE Fri 9 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE ELVIS YEARS Fri 9 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

HELLO AGAIN NEIL DIAMOND Fri 9 Mar, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

SATINDER SARTAJ Fri 9 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MAJID JORDAN Fri 9 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS TOUR Fri 9 Mar, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

JUPITER'S BEARD, SEPRONA & SARCOLINE Fri 9 Mar, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

THE JERSEY 4 VS TAKE THAT Fri 9 Mar, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

OBITUARY Fri 9 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

ANDREW BROWNING AS GEORGE MICHAEL Fri 9 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

METAL MILITIA Sat 10 Mar, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

MERSEY BEATLES Sat 10 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE SKA45'S Sat 10 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

ROY G HEMMINGS' HITS OF MOTOWN Sat 10 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

ROY G HEMMINGS' HITS OF MOTOWN Sat 10 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

Mar, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

H.E.R. Sat 10 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

WILLOW Sat 10 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PEARCE/GREEN QUINTET Sat 10 Mar, The Hive, Shrewsbury

LIMEHOUSE LIZZY Sat 10 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

BUDDY HOLLY AND THE CRICKETERS Sat 10 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

BRIT FLOYD Sat 10 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

PURPLE ZEPPELIN Sat 10 Mar, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

THE EVERLY BROTHERS & FRIENDS TRIBUTE SHOW Sat 10 Mar, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

KILLERSTREAM Sat 10 Mar, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THINK FLOYD Sat 10 Mar, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

WINGS OVER ABBEY ROAD Sat 10 Mar, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth

THE WAILERS Sat 10 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE JOKERS Sat 10 Mar, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

100 YEARS OF JAZZ IN 99 MINUTES Sun 11 Mar, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

HELL'S GATES, TEAR IT DOWN, NOT MY WORDS, RIDING LIGHT, ABSENCE & RELUCTANT CURSE Sun 11 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

BULLETBOYS Sun 11 Mar, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

THE ARTHUR DOHERTY BAND Sun 11 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

BOOGIE NIGHTS 2018 Sun 11 Mar, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

TOM MISCH Sun 11 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TOM MISCH Sun 11 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TOM MISCH Sun 11 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TOM MISCH Sun 11 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

Classical Music

NICOLA BENEDETTI IN-THE-ROUND Programme includes works by Bach, Wynton Marsalis & Ysaÿe, Tues 6 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

THOMAS ADÈS CONDUCTS Featuring Thomas Trotter (organ) & the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Programme includes works by Britten, Gerald Barry, Thomas Adès & Stravinsky, Wed 7 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

AN EVENING OF BACH Featuring Birmingham Cathedral Choir, David Hardie (conductor), Alistair Donaghue (bass-baritone) & Nicholas Morris (organ), Fri 9 Mar, Birmingham Cathedral

RUISI QUARTET Featuring Alessandro Ruisi & Oliver Cave (violin), Luba Tunncliffe (viola) & Max Ruisi (cello). Programme includes works by Haydn & Kodály, Fri 9 Mar, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

MAGICAL MYSTERIES Featuring Jane Wright (presenter) & the CBSO 10-piece mini-orchestra, Fri 9 - Sat 10 Mar, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA: HARMONIC SPIRITUAL THEATRE Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor). Programme includes works by Carissimi & Charpentier, Sat 10 Mar, Birmingham Cathedral

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE OFFICIAL ROYAL OPENING GALA CONCERT Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor) & Andrey Ivanov (piano). Programme includes works by Ravel, Clurionis, Chopin & the world premiere of Joe Cutler's Elsewhereness, Sun 11 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Comedy

RUSSELL BRAND Thurs 8 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GRIFF RHYS JONES Thurs 8 Mar, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

JONATHAN PIE Thurs 8 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

STEPHEN BAILEY Thurs 8 Mar, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

DAVE JOHNS, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 8 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DALISO CHAPONDA Fri 9 Mar, MAC, Birmingham

BOBBY MAIR Fri 9 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAVE JOHNS, NIGEL NG & COMICS TBC Fri 9 - Sat 10 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BOBBY MAIR Sat 10 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

DANA ALEXANDER, SAM AVERY, EDDIE BRIAMSON & SIMON LUCAS Sat 10 Mar, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

ROFL! COMEDY CLUB Sat 10 Mar, The Old Post Office, Stoke-On-Trent

JON RICHARDSON Sat 10 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

HARDEEP SINGH KOHLI Sun 11 Mar, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

Theatre

WE ARE THE LIONS, MR MANAGER! The story of Jayaben Desai, the inspirational leader of the 1976-78 Grunwick Film Processing Factory Strike, Mon 5 Mar, MAC, Birmingham

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL Cheryl Ferguson, Maureen Nolan, Rebecca Wheatley & Hilary O'Neil star in an all-singing, all-dancing comedy set in a department store, Mon 5 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SUPERPOSITION Playful journey of discovery about science, sensuality, spirituality, and how the body 'magically mirrors the universe through the constellation of particles twinkling within us', Tues 6 Mar, MAC, Birmingham

LA FORZA DEL DESTINO Welsh National Opera perform a new staging of Verdi's epic opera. Sung in Italian, with English and Welsh surtitles, Tues 6 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE YEOMAN OF THE GUARD Birmingham Savoyards present Gilbert & Sullivan's Savoy Opera, Tues 6 - Sat 10 Mar, The Old Rep Theatre, B'ham

QUARTET Paul Nicholas, Wendi Peters, Sue Holderness & Jeff Rawle star in Ron Harwood's bitter-sweet comedy concerning four ageing opera singers residing in a magnificent retirement home in Kent, Tues 6 - Sat 10 Mar, The REP, Birmingham

NINA - A STORY ABOUT ME AND NINA SIMONE Backed by a band, Olivier Award-nominated actress Josette Bushell-Mingo (Disney's The Lion King) mixes story and song as she draws together tales from the life and career of Nina Simone, Tues 6 - Sat 10 Mar, The REP, Birmingham

WEST SIDE STORY Amateur staging presented by The Tab, Tues 6 - Sat 10 Mar, Stourbridge Town Hall

VOTES FOR WOMEN Elizabeth Robins' 'gripping' exploration of the suffrage movement, Tues 6 - Sat 24 Mar, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

SLEEPING TREES: WESTERN? The Sleeping Trees find themselves slowly crisping under the sun of the

Wild West, as gunslinger Harry Sudds takes on bulls, scorpions and many other animals largely found in America, Wed 7 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

DON GIOVANNI Welsh National Opera transport Mozart's comic opera to the Spanish Golden Age. Sung in Italian, with English and Welsh surtitles, Wed 7 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

CASKET CASE Flickbook Theatre present a show about the fear of death, dying and being dead, Wed 7 Mar, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

HERE I BELONG Pentabus Theatre tell the story of a woman's 'funny and moving journey through 60 years of village life', Wed 7 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

LA TRAVIATA Opera & Ballet International perform Verdi's interpretation of one of the most popular love stories of the 19th century... Wed 7 Mar, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

PLAYHOUSE CREATURES Amateur version of a 'vivacious comedy' set backstage in a Restoration playhouse, Wed 7 - Sat 10 Mar, The Wightman, Shrewsbury

TOSCA Welsh National Opera present Puccini's story of love, lust, loyalty and corruption. Sung in Italian, with English and Welsh surtitles, Thurs 8 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

MADAMA BUTTERFLY Opera & Ballet International present Puccini's heart-breaking and dramatic story. Korean soprano Maria HeeJung Kim and international soprano Alyona Kistenyova star, Thurs 8 Mar, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

NUMBERED DAYS Award-winning play exploring love in the digital age, as two students five thousand miles apart fall in love, Thurs 8 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

A BRAVE FACE Fully masked theatre company Vamos tackle the emotional subject of post-traumatic stress, Fri 9 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, South Shropshire

THE TAILOR, THE DEVIL AND OTHER BRETON TALES Collection of John Edgar's dark, eccentric and bleakly funny tales of Breton life, Fri 9 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

DOREEN: THE RISE OF THE YAM-YAM Brand new live show fusing stand-up, sit-down, video surprises and unforgettable music, Fri 9 Mar, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire

TOUCH OF EVIL: A CELEBRATION OF VILLAINY IN SONG Musical numbers celebrating villains, evil-doers and baddies, Fri 9 - Sat 10 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BRIAN CONLEY - STILL THE GREATEST ENTERTAINER IN HIS PRICE RANGE Brand new show featuring comedy, sketches and songs alongside some

of Brian's best material from stage and screen, Sat 10 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE Swansea City Opera revive the Rossini classic, Sat 10 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

HERE I BELONG Pentabus Theatre tell the story of a woman's 'funny and moving journey through 60 years of village life', Sat 10 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, South Shropshire

ONLY FOOLS AND BOYCIE An evening with John Challis, best known as Boycie in BBC TV's *Only Fools and Horses*, Sat 10 Mar, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

SUGGS - WHAT A KING CNU: A LIFE IN THE REALMS OF MADNESS Smash-hit one-man show which charts the road to fame of Madness frontman Suggs, Sun 11 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS The critically acclaimed *Pantaloons* recreate 'deadly heat-rays, giant fighting-machines, squidgy-tentacled Martians and interplanetary warfare on an epic scale', Sun 11 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Kids Shows

PENGUIN Long Nose Puppets present a show for younger audiences based on the award-winning book by Penny Dunbar, Fri 9 Mar, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

WHITE Catherine Wheels Theatre Company present a playful, visual show for young children - a 'perfect first-time theatre experience', Fri 9 - Sun 11 Mar, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

LITTLE BO PEEP A theatrical version of the classic nursery rhyme, featuring puppets aplenty!, Sat 10 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

WHERE'S MY IGLOO GONE? Children's show which journeys into an Arctic world of soaring snow geese, pet husky dogs and starry nights, Sun 11 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, South Shropshire



Here I belong - showing at Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury & Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

Dance

TERRA FIRMA National Dance Company Wales present a triple bill featuring new works by Marcus Morau, Mario Bermudez Gil & Green House from the company's Artistic Director, Caroline Finn, Tues 6 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

VERVE Northern School of Contemporary Dance present a programme of bold new work created by internationally-acclaimed and multi award-winning choreographers, Tues 6 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

DISCOVER DANCE National Dance Company Wales present a relaxed introduction to dance stage shows, Wed 7 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

TEN Ace Dance present a full-length dance production inspired by global migration, Thurs 8 Mar, MAC, B'ham

TANGO MODERNO New stage 'spectacular' featuring Strictly Come Dancing stars Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace, Fri 9 - Sat 10 Mar, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

PROPEL Diverse youth dance platform showcasing new and developing works. Hosted by Flexus Dance Collective, Sat 10 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

SPIRIT OF INDIA Dance show celebrating India's spirituality, mythology, rich history, diverse culture, colourful festivals, flamboyant weddings, music, dance and Bollywood, Sun 11 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

Events

CRUFTS The world's biggest dog event, featuring 'the best in dog shopping and hundreds of canines for you to meet', Thurs 8 - Sun 11 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

CANDLELIT TOURS OF THE BACK TO BACKS Fri 9 Mar, Birmingham Back to Backs

HIDDEN HISTORIES Experience the caverns in a new way, without leaving the Portal building. Featuring virtual reality presentations, a live presenter and genuine handling objects, Fri 9 Mar, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

VAMOS THEATRE: MASK WORKSHOP Adapted version of Vamos' full mask workshop, using touring show *A Brave Face* as the basis for learning, & Fri 9 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

MOTHER'S RUIN - GIN TASTING EVENING Enjoy an evening in the Bottle & Glass Inn, as local wine & spirit merchants Nickolls & Perks Est 1797 explore the history and styles of gin, Fri 9 - Sat 10 Mar, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

HANDBAGS AND GLADRAGS Displays of the collection not normally seen by visitors, Fri 9 - Mon 12 Mar, Sunnycroft, Wellington, Shropshire

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS Sat 10 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS - A DRAMATIC, COSTUMED EVENING TOUR OF ATTINGHAM Lord Berwick conducts a private tour of the ground floor of Attingham Mansion, Sat 10 Mar, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

CHEESE FEST WOLVERHAMPTON Featuring 'incredible melted cheese delights and delicious cheese-based cuisine', Sat 10 Mar, Starworks Warehouse, Wolverhampton

ULTIMATE DUBS The UK's largest indoor VAG enthusiasts' event, bringing together the Ultimate VW, Audi, Seat & Skoda Show Cars from all over Europe, Sun 11 Mar, Telford International Centre, Telford, Shropshire

DIGITAL ENGINEERING FOR KIDS & FAMILIES Learn more about coding with your kids at these brand-new 3-part workshops, Sun 11 Mar, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire

Gigs

AT THE DRIVE-IN Mon 12 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

VENOM INC. & SUFFOCATION Mon 12 Mar, The Asylum, Birmingham

JACKSON LIVE IN CONCERT Tues 13 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

JIMMY OSMOND: MOON RIVER AND ME Tues 13 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

G4 LIVE! Tues 13 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

MICHAEL MCDONALD Tues 13 Mar, Symphony Hall, B'ham

AS IT IS Tues 13 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

JAMIE LAWSON Tues 13 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SUSANNE SUNDFØR Wed 14 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ELLIOT GALVIN TRIO Wed 14 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SKERRYVORE Wed 14 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

ELLEN NISBETH Wed 14 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

JOAN BAEZ: FARE THEE WELL TOUR Wed 14 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

COVENANT Wed 14 Mar, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

NEVER 42 Wed 14 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

FEEDER Wed 14 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

ALL TIME LOW Thurs 15

Mar, Genting Arena, Birmingham

FIELD MUSIC Thurs 15 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

INSECURE MEN Thurs 15 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

STICK MEN, TONY LEVIN, MARKUS REUTER & PAT MASTELOTTO Thurs 15 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

SLEEPER & THE LOTTERY WINNERS Thurs 15 Mar, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

ALABAMA 3 Thurs 15 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

PAUL YOUNG Thurs 15 Mar, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

GORDON HENDRICKS IS ELVIS Fri 16 Mar, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

A BEAUTIFUL NOISE - NEIL DIAMOND Fri 16 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

VARIUS MANX & KASIA STANKIEWICZ Fri 16 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

WAX ON Fri 16 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

REWS Fri 16 Mar, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

THE VOODOO ROOM Fri 16 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

SWEET Fri 16 Mar, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

AMPLIFIER Fri 16 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

KNOXVILLE HIGHWAY Fri 16 Mar, Forest Arts

Centre, Walsall

DRESSED TO KILL - THE TRIBUTE TO KISS Fri 16 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

JOE BONAMASSA Fri 16 Mar, Genting Arena, Birmingham

TURIN BRAKES Fri 16 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

MIST Fri 16 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TOM GRENNAN Sat 17 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CAUSE TO EFFECT Sat 17 Mar, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

SHOWADDYWADDY Sat 17 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

40 YEARS OF DISCO Sat 17 Mar, Genting Arena, Birmingham

FEARS CHELLA Sat 17 Mar, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

MIK ARTISTIK Sat 17 Mar, The Morris Hall, Shrewsbury

SPACE Sat 17 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE BARRICADE BOYS Sat 17 Mar, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

THE TINA TURNER EXPERIENCE SHOW Sat 17 Mar, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

WOUNDED SPIRIT Sat 17 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

NEARLY DAN IN CONCERT Sat 17 Mar, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

THE COSMICS Sat 17 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE STRANGLERS Sat 17 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE DUBLIN LEGENDS Sat 17 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

DAN PATLANSKY Sat 17 Mar, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

KARKOSA Sat 17 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

NOBLE JACKS Sun 18 Mar, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

PETE BODDIS BAND + FREEWHEELIN' BAND Sun 18 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Corelli (arr. T Billington), Stanley, J. MacMillan & Liszt, Mon 12 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GARNIER ORGAN RECITAL 3: NATHAN LAUBE Programme includes works by Muffat, J.S. Bach, Haydn & Mendelssohn, Tues 13 Mar, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

G4 LIVE 2018 Tues 13 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

FRETWORK: FOR FOUR Programme comprises Purcell's Two Fantasias in 4 parts; J S Bach's Passacaglia BWV582 & Matthew Locke's Consort of Flower Parts No.2 in D, Wed 14 Mar, The Barber Institute, B'ham

LUDLOW CHORAL SOCIETY Featuring Katie Alder (soprano), Chris McKeon (baritone) & Patrick Larley (conductor), Wed 14 Mar, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

PETER DONOHUE PLAYS SHOSTAKOVICH Featuring Jason Lai (conductor) & Peter Donohue (piano). Programme includes works by Prokofiev, Shostakovich & Schubert, Wed 14 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

ELLEN NISBETH IN RECITAL Featuring Bengt Forsberg (piano). Programme includes works by Schumann, Katarina Leyman, Rebecca Clarke, Britten & Brahms, Wed 14 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

PRINCE REGENT'S BAND Programme includes works by Böhme, Glazunov & Ewald, Fri 16 Mar, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

BRASS BANDS AND CHAMBER CHOIRS Programme includes works by T.J. Powell, Paul Lovatt Cooper, Rameau, Sullivan & Saint Saëns, arr. Philip Wilby, Fri 16 Mar, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

CBSO: SENSUAL DEBUSSY Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor - pictured), the CBSO Youth Chorus & Birmingham University Singers. Programme includes works by Debussy, Szymanowski & Wagner, Sat 17 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



HALESOWEN ORCHESTRA:

BEETHOVEN'S SEVENTH Featuring Christopher Hoggarth (conductor) & Richard Tattum (bassoon). Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Weber & Beethoven, Sat 17 Mar, Cornbow Hall, Halesowen

PASSIONATE DEBUSSY Featuring Marie-Christine Zupancic (flute), Jonathan Martindale & Jane Wright (violins), Adam Römer & Christopher Yates (violins), Helen Edgar (cello) & Professor Helen Abbott (narrator), Sat 17 Mar, CBSO Centre, B'ham

DEBUSSY'S LEGACY Featuring Birmingham Contemporary Music Group Programme includes works by Boulez & Tristan Murail, Sun 18 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DEBUSSY - CHILDREN'S CORNER Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor) & Catherine Arledge (presenter), Sun 18 Mar, Symphony Hall, B'ham

MODERN DEBUSSY Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor) & the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Programme includes works by Debussy, Stravinsky & Takemitsu, Sun 18 Mar, Symphony Hall, B'ham

CARDUCCI STRING QUARTET: VOYAGES FROM BUDAPEST Programme includes works by Haydn, Bartok & Brahms, Sun 18 Mar, The Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL ORCHESTRAS & CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENT A GALA CONCERT Sun 18 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy

IVAN BRACKENBURY, IAN D. MONTFORT & ROB MULHOLLAND Thurs 15 Mar, The Bramall, Birmingham

JO ENRIGHT, CHRIS KENT & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 15 Mar, The Glee Club, B'ham

DALISO CHAPONDA Fri 16 Mar, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

GEOFF NORCOTT Fri 16 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ADAM BLOOM, CHRIS KENT & COMIC TBC Fri 16 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RUDI LICKWOOD, MANDY MUDEN & MARK SIMMONS Fri 16 Mar, Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton

STAND UP COMEDY SHOWCASE Fri 16 - Sat 17 Mar, MAC, Birmingham

SCOTT BENNETT, JOSH HOWIE, RUDI LICKWOOD & LEO KEARSE Sat 17 Mar, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

LOL COMEDY CLUB Sat 17 Mar, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

ROFL! COMEDY CLUB Sat 17 Mar, The Old Post Office, Stoke-On-Trent



Mik Artistik - The Morris Hall, Shrewsbury

SEVERN JESTERS #57 Sun 18 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Theatre

A BRAVE FACE Fully masked theatre company Vamos tackle the emotional subject of post-traumatic stress, Mon 12 Mar, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme



DOREEN: THE RISE OF THE YAM-YAM Brand new live show fusing stand-up, sit-down, video surprises and unforgettable music, Mon 12 - Tues 13 Mar, Stourbridge Town Hall

UP'N'UNDER John Godber's award-winning comedy, performed by a cast of deaf and hearing actors using British Sign Language and spoken English, Mon 12 - Wed 14 Mar, The REP, Birmingham

THE LAST SUPPER Reckless Sleepers present a unique performance piece inviting audience members to eat and drink while they perform a series of scenarios - some real, some invented, Tues 13 - Thurs 15 Mar, St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury

SON OF A PREACHER MAN Michelle Gayle and Alice Barlow star in Craig Revel Horwood's touching musical, featuring the music of Dusty Springfield, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL Smash-hit Broadway and West End musical starring Lucie Jones as Elle Woods and Rita Simmonds as Paulette, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Mar, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

CITY LOVE Fast-paced comedy telling the story of two city workers whose lives are transformed by a chance meeting with one another, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SWEENEY TODD Amateur staging of Stephen Sondheim's critically acclaimed work, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MADE IN DAGENHAM Amateur staging of the musical based on the film of the same name, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Mar, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE KITE RUNNER Much-acclaimed play based on Khaled Hosseini's haunting tale of a friendship which

spans cultures and continents, Tues 13 - Sat 24 Mar, The REP, B'ham

THE GLASS MENAGERIE Tennessee Williams' memory play, based on himself, his mother and his mentally fragile sister, Rose, Tues 13 - Sat 24 Mar, The Wightman, Shrewsbury

HOW TO SURVIVE A POST-TRUTH APOCALYPSE An epic adventure through 'a wonderland of lies, fictions and Wikipedia facts' in a show 'for anyone who's ever said they read the terms and conditions', Wed 14 Mar, MAC, Birmingham

A BRAVE FACE Fully masked theatre company Vamos tackle the emotional subject of post-traumatic stress, Wed 14 Mar, MAC, Birmingham

SNAKESKIN Storytellers Peter and Gorg Chand present a collection of 'dark, powerful and thoughtful' snake stories shared from Indian myth and folktale, Wed 14 Mar, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

GREAT EXPECTATIONS One-man adaptation of Dickens' classic tale, Wed 14 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

ELECTRA Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Theatre Company presents its version of Sophocles' tale of lust, vengeance and murder, Wed 14 - Sat 17 Mar, Crescent Theatre, B'ham

OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD The Crescent Theatre Company presents its version of Timberlake Wertenbaker's famous play, Wed 14 - Sat 17 Mar, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

RHINOCEROS Birmingham Royal Conservatoire Theatre Company presents its version of Eugène Ionesco's post-war avant-garde drama, Wed 14 - Sat 17 Mar, The Old Rep, B'ham

CIRQUE BERSERK! Evening of 'thrills and skills' combining 'contemporary cirque-style artistry with adrenaline-fuelled stunt action, Wed 14 - Sun 18 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham

LITE Marlene McKenzie uncovers the emotional and physical journey required by many to fit into today's society, where pressure from the media constantly reinforces the need to conform, Thurs 15 Mar, MAC, B'ham

TEACHERS Blackeyed Theatre Company present John Godber's classic classroom comedy, Thurs 15 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

HERE I BELONG Pentabus Theatre tell the story of a woman's 'funny and moving journey through 60 years of village life', Thurs 15 Mar, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

SLEEPING TREES: WESTERN? The Sleeping Trees' first show of the evening sees the quartet slowly crisping under the sun of the Wild West, as gunslinger Harry Sudds takes on bulls, scorpions and many other animals largely found in America, Thurs 15 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



The Kite Runner - The REP, Birmingham

SLEEPING TREES: MAFIA? The Sleeping Trees' second installment promises to be a surreal, physical and fast-paced sketch comedy inspired by the movies, Thurs 15 Mar (9pm), Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

NAPOLEON DISROBED Comic alternative history from Told By An Idiot, based on Simon Leys' novel, The Death Of Napoleon, Thurs 15 - Sat 17 Mar, The REP, Birmingham

CRIMES UNDER THE SUN Comedy thriller inspired by Agatha Christie, The 39 Steps and film noir, Sat 17 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

I BELIEVE IN UNICORNS The Olivier Award-nominated Wizard Presents brings bestselling children's author Michael Morpurgo's story to life, Sat 17 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

THE 4 CLOWNS OF THE APOCALYPSE A 'sensorial, nonsensical delight for the whole family', brought to the stage by Portugal's Teatro do Montemuro and the UK-based Absolute Theatre, Sun 18 Mar, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

CHARGE Motionhouse present an 'electrifying' dance-circus, inspired by the role of electricity in the human body, Tues 13 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY Vienna Festival Ballet presents a choreographed version of the classic fairytale, Wed 14 Mar, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

IT'S BETWEEN US Just Us Dance Theatre present a mixed bill of dance and music from award-winning dance-maker Joseph Toonga and British R&B singer-lyricist Orin Norbert, Fri 16 Mar, Wern Town Hall, North Shropshire

BRENDAN COLE: ALL NIGHT LONG Join the ex-Strictly star as he takes to the stage with a cast of guest dancers, a 14-piece band and singers, Fri 16 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BALLET BC Canada's leading contemporary dance company presents an evening of work from three internationally celebrated artists, Fri 16 - Sat 17 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome



HOLI: BASANT KE RANG An evening of music & dance celebrating the rich and diverse South Asian heritage and culture that's evident in the UK today, Sat 17 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

DETROIT (15) Drama/Thriller. Starring John Boyega, Anthony Mackie. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 12 Mar

GIGI (PG) Comedy/Musical. Starring Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 13 Mar

THE FLORIDA PROJECT (15) Drama. Starring Brooklynn Prince, Bria Vinaite. Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 13 Mar

MENASHE (U) Drama. Starring Menashe Lustig, Yoel Falkowitz.



WHAT'S ON MARCH HIGHLIGHTS



SAT 10 MARCH



THE RONALDOS SAT 24 MARCH

PLUS LOTS MORE!

Ask about our
VIP Seated packages!
www.havanarepublic.co.uk

What's on...



Thursday 8 March, 7.30pm
GRIFF RHYS JONES



Saturday 10 March, 7.30pm
PURPLE ZEPPELIN



Wednesday 11 April, 7.30pm
T J HIGGS PSYCHIC MEDIUM



Saturday 14 April, 7.30pm
ROXY MUSIQUE



Friday 20 April, 7.30pm
THE QUO EXPERIENCE



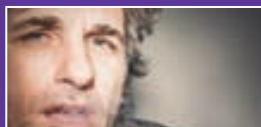
Saturday 21 April, 7.30pm
WANNABE: THE SPICE GIRLS SHOW



Sunday 22 & Monday 23 April,
Sun 2pm & 5pm, Mon 10am & 2pm
**HORRIBLE HISTORIES: MORE BEST
OF BARMY BRITAIN**



Wednesday 2 May, 7.30pm
**AN AUDIENCE WITH
THE REVEREND RICHARD COLES**



Friday 4 May, 8.00pm
TOM STADE: I SWEAR

01952 382382
www.theplacetelford.com



Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL
TWC GP 01228

Monday 12 - Sunday 18 March

Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 13 Mar

JOURNEY'S END (12a) Drama/War. Starring Sam Claflin, Paul Bettany. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 13 & Wed 14 Mar; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Fri 16 Mar

DARKEST HOUR (PG) Biography/Drama. Starring Gary Oldman, Lily James. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 13 & Thurs 15 Mar

PHANTOM THREAD (15) Drama/Romance. Starring Vicky Krieps, Daniel Day-Lewis. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 13 - Thurs 15 Mar

ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD (15) Biography/Crime. Starring Mark Wahlberg, Michelle Williams. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Wed 14 & Fri 16 Mar

MY GENERATION (12a) Documentary. Starring Michael Caine, Joan Collins. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Wed 14 Mar; The Red Carpet Cinema, Barton Marina, Burton-upon-Trent, Sun 18 Mar

GRADUATION (15) Crime/Drama. Starring Adrian Titieni, Maria Dragus. Foreign language, subtitled. The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 16 Mar

I, TONYA (15) Biography/Comedy. Starring Margot Robbie, Allison Janney. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 16 - Thurs 22 Mar

LADY BIRD (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Laurie Metcalf. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 16 - Thurs 22 Mar

FINDING YOUR FEET (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Joanna Lumley, Celia Imrie. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 16 - Thurs 22 Mar

GOD'S OWN COUNTRY (15) Drama/Romance. Starring Josh O'Connor, Alec Secareanu. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Sat 17 - Mon 19 Mar

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 16 Mar, showing at selected cinemas

MARY MAGDALENE (15)

PETER RABBIT (PG)

THE SQUARE (15)

TOMB RAIDER (tbc)

Events

THE BIG BANG UK YOUNG SCIENTISTS & ENGINEERS FAIR The UK's largest celebration of science, technology, engineering & maths (STEM) for young people, Wed 14 - Sat 17 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

YONEX ALL ENGLAND OPEN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS Featuring 155 matches and over 50 hours of live badminton, Wed 14 - Sun 18 Mar, Arena Birmingham

SEWING FOR PLEASURE AND FASHION EMBROIDERY Thurs 15 - Sun 18 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW A haven for knitting, cross stitch, paper crafting, stitching, jewellery & dressmaking enthusiasts, Thurs 15 - Sun 18 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

SUPERSLAM WRESTLING 2017 Featuring top international talent from the world's major federations, Fri 16 Mar, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

MIDLANDS WHISKY FESTIVAL Fri 16 - Sat 17 Mar, Stourbridge Town Hall

SPRING STEAM GALA Get up close to an array of steam locomotives and sample a selection of attractions up

and down the line, Fri 16 - Sun 18 Mar, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

FORGE EXPERIENCE DAY Hands-on experience, Sat 17 Mar, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

DISCOVER YOUR IRISH FAMILY HISTORY Presented by a family-history expert, Sat 17 Mar, Birmingham Back to Backs

MCM BIRMINGHAM COMIC CON Sat 17 - Sun 18 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

THE PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW Ideal for amateur and professional photographers alike, Sat 17 - Tues 20 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

DIGITAL ENGINEERING FOR KIDS & FAMILIES Learn more about coding with your kids at these brand new three-part workshops, Sun 18 Mar, Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire



Produced by Feld Entertainment

Disney ON ICE

WORLDS OF ENCHANTMENT

GENTING ARENA
BIRMINGHAM

28th March - 1st April 2018

theticketfactory.com

Arrive early for the **Fit to Dance** pre-show

www.disneyonice.co.uk

© Disney, © Disney/Pixar



Hawkstone Park EVENTS

Sunday 11th March:
Mother's Day Lunch
3 Course Meal - **£19.00** per person



Friday 30th March - Friday 13th April:
Easter Egg Hunt
at Follies Park



Friday 27th April:
Wham Tribute
3 Course Meal with entertainment - **£34.95** per person



Saturday 16th June:
Alice in Wonderland Theatre Production
at Follies Park



Friday 29th June - Sunday 1st July:
Follies Fest



Saturday 2nd September:
Colour Run
In Partnership with Hope House



Friday 19th - Wednesday 31st October:
Follies Fright Nights



Friday 26th October:
West End Horror Show
3 Course Meal with entertainment - **£34.95** per person



Weston-Under-Redcastle, Shrewsbury, SY4 5UY
Tel: 01948 841700 | enquiries@hawkstone.co.uk

BANKS'S Robin 2

www.therobin.co.uk

THIS 1 MAR: FEATURING TRIBUTES TO
GARY NUMAN
+ **KRAFTWERK**

FRI 2 MAR: DEEP PURPLE FAMILY TREE
WHITESNAKE UK
PURE PURPLE & RAINBOW RISING

SAT 3 MAR: + TROUBADOUR
TRIB TO U2 **U2-2**

SUN 4 MAR: + FAITH IN GLORY
LEGENDARY
IRON MAIDEN VOCALIST
BLAZE BAYLEY

WED 7 MAR: + LUKE DOHERTY BAND
STEVIE NIMMO TRIO

THU 8 MAR: + JACK FLETCHER BAND
ULTIMATE COLDPLAY

FRI 9 MAR: ANDREW BROWNING AS
WITH HIS
BAND
GEORGE MICHAEL

SAT 10 MAR: + SUPPORT + DJ
THE SKA45'S

SUN 11 MAR: CHARITY GIG FEATURING
HELL'S GATES
TEAR IT DOWN - NOT MY WORDS
RISING LIGHT - ABSENCE
RELUCTANT CURSE

WED 14 MAR: + TOM WRIGHT
NEVER 42 TRIBUTE TO
LEVEL 42

THU 15 MAR: KING CRIMSON LEGENDS
STICK MEN
TONY LEVIN - MARKUS REUTER
PAT MASTELOTTO

FRI 16 MAR: DRESSED TO KILL
TRIB TO KISS

SAT 17 MAR: DEBUT ALBUM LAUNCH PARTY AND
ST PATRICKS DAY CELEBRATIONS
WOUNDEDSPiRiT

SUN 18 MAR: CHARITY EVENT
'BREAST CANCER NOW'
PETE BODDIS BAND +
FREEWHEELIN' BAND

THU 22 MAR: PSYCHIC MEDIUM EVENT WITH
DAVID MADDOCK

FRI 23 MAR: TEX MEX PARTY!
LOS PACAMINOS
FEATURING
PAUL YOUNG

SAT 24 MAR: **WHITE TYGER**
PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS
SISTER SHOTGUN

SUN 25 MAR: **LINDISFARNE**
BOO CLEMENTS - DAVID HULL - DENHOLM
STEVE DAGGETT - CHARLIE HALLCOURT
IAN THOMPSON - PHIL THOMPSON

WED 28 MAR: **DIAMOND**
THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO
NEIL DIAMOND

THU 29 MAR: ON STAGE 8.30pm
CREDENCE CLEARWATER
REVIEW

FRI 30 MAR: **LEGEND - TRIBUTE TO**
BOB MARLEY

SAT 31 MAR: + KING OF LIES
KICK UP
THE 80'S

BOX OFFICE 01902 401211
MOUNT PLEASANT - BILSTON
WOLVERHAMPTON - WV14 7LJ

the brewhouse arts centre & café bar

COMING SOON...



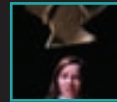
1st Mar, 7.30pm
California Dreamers

Tickets: £20, £18 conc



3rd Mar, 7.30pm
The Tony Farrell Big Band
Sinatra meets Ella

Tickets: £12, £10 conc



7th Mar, 8pm
Rickback Theatre
Casket Case

Tickets: £5



14th Mar, 7.30pm
Once upon a Wednesday:
SNAKESkin by Peter & Gorg Chand

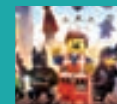
Tickets: £6, £8 ordn (M)



20th & 21st Mar, 7pm
b Dance:
Youth Platform

Tickets: £8, £5 conc

Burton Children's Easter Festival



30th Mar, 6.30pm
On The Big Screen - Burton Market Hall
Lego Movie (U)

Tickets: £5, £15 family



31st Mar, 10am - 4pm
Burton Market Place
Play In The Place

Tickets: FREE



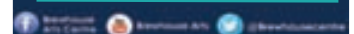
31st Mar, 7pm
On The Big Screen - Burton Market Hall
The Goonies (12A)

Tickets: £5, £15 family

Box office:
01283 508100

BOOK ONLINE AT
www.brewhouse.co.uk

Brewhouse Arts Centre
Union Street, Burton-upon-Trent
Staffordshire DE14 1AA



The IMPORTANCE of being EARNEST BY OSCAR WILDE



TUES 27 - SAT 31 MARCH | 7.30PM
THURS 29 & SAT 31 MARCH | 2.30PM

www.lichfieldgarrick.com | Box Office 01543 412121

Gigs

KNOWER Mon 19 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DAMIEN DEMPSEY AND HIS BAND Mon 19 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

ANNE-MARIE Mon 19 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ZAK ABEL Tues 20 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

MOYA BRENNAN Tues 20 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

YES - 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR Tues 20 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

VÖK Tues 20 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

YOUNG FATHERS Tues 20 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CLOUDBUSTING - A TRIBUTE TO KATE BUSH Wed 21 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

TAKING PART - ESCAPE Wed 21 Mar, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

MT. WOLF Wed 21 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PALOMA FAITH Wed 21 Mar, Genting Arena, Birmingham

BETH NIELSEN CHAPMAN Wed 21 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

RAE MORRIS Wed 21 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

80S MANIA Thurs 22

Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

RODDY WOOMBLE Thurs 22 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

YXNG BANE Thurs 22 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

REWS Thurs 22 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

STEVEN WILSON Thurs 22 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE MAGIC GANG Thurs 22 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DOCTORS OF MADNESS Fri 23 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE LIONEL RICHE SONGBOOK Fri 23 Mar, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

BACKSTREET THUNDER Fri 23 Mar, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

JOY ORBISON & JON K Fri 23 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HEAVY BEAT HOUSE PARTY Fri 23 Mar, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

SOT FESTIVAL - HALLE - MARCH Fri 23 Mar, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

CLIVE CARROLL AND CHRIS QUINN Fri 23 Mar, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

JEAN GENIE - TRIBUTE TO DAVID BOWIE Fri 23 Mar, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

IAN PROWSE AND AMSTERDAM Fri 23 Mar, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

THE WOMBATS Fri 23 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE WHOLLS Fri 23 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

LOS PACAMINOS FEAT PAUL YOUNG Fri 23 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

TOM WALKER Fri 23 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Fri 23 - Sat 24 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

BLUE OCTOBER Sat 24 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE FUREYS Sat 24 Mar, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

ARRIVAL - THE HITS OF ABBA Sat 24 Mar, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

NEARLY NOEL GALLAGHERS HIGH FLYIN' BIRDZ Sat 24 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE Sat 24 Mar, Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley, Shropshire

MARK SEVEN Sat 24 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FABIO & DIGITAL Sat 24 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CLAIRE HASTINGS & JENN BUTTERWORTH Sat 24 Mar, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

BUDDY HOLLY AND THE CRICKETERS Sat 24 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

KICK UP THE 80'S Sat 24 Mar, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

BLACK ROSE Sat 24 Mar, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

WHITE TYGER Sat 24 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

ALEX LAHEY Sun 25 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LINDISFARNE Sun 25 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

OMO BELLO - LA BELLE ÉPOQUE Featuring Omo Bello (soprano) & Jeff Cohen (piano). Programme includes works by Jules Massenet, Debussy, Faure & Erik Satie, Fri 23 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

HALLE ORCHESTRA Featuring Benjamin Grosvenor. Programme includes works by Weber, Beethoven & Saint-Saens, Fri 23 Mar, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

CBSO: SACRED DEBUSSY Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor), Julian Wilkins (organ) & the CBSO Chorus, Sat 24 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

WOMBOURNE & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY Programme comprises Mozart's Requiem, Sat 24 Mar, Church of St John in the Square, Wolverhampton

CALLUM SMART & RICHARD UTLEY Programme includes works by Debussy, Prokofiev, Brahms & Ysaye / Saint-Saens, Sat 24 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR Featuring Paul Spicer (conductor) & Martin Rawles (organ). Programme includes works by William Byrd & John Donne, Sat 24 Mar, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

CALLUM SMART AND RICHARD UTLEY Sat 24 Mar, Lichfield Guildhall

CBSO EXOTIC DEBUSSY Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor). Programme includes works by Debussy (orch. Matthews), Britten, Ravel, Debussy, Sun 25 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: TOMBEAU DE DEBUSSY Programme includes works by Dukas, Goossens, Bartok, Ravel & Satie plus world premieres by selected French and British composers, Sun 25 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: NATURAL DEBUSSY Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor), Marie-Christine Zupancic (flute). Programme includes works by Debussy & George Benjamin, Sun 25 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

JOHN ROBINS Wed 21 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CHARLIE BAKER, CHRISTIAN SCHULTE-LOH & DAN NIGHTINGALE Wed 21 Mar, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

RICHARD HERRING Thurs 22 Mar, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton,

North Shropshire

FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS Thurs 22 Mar, Genting Arena, Birmingham

AMY HOWERSKA, IAN STONE, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 22 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

HAL CRUTTENDEN, PIERRE NOVELLIE, JUNIOR SIMPSON & KIRI PRITCHARD MCLEAN Fri 23 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

COMEDY WITH DAVE GREEN & JOSH PUGH & CHRIS PURCHASE Fri 23 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

JOHN BISHOP Fri 23 Mar, Genting Arena, Birmingham

IAN STONE, SEAN PERCIVAL, ALLYSON SMITH & CHRISTIAN SCHULTE-LOH Fri 23 - Sat 24 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROY 'CHUBBY' BROWN Sat 24 Mar, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

RICHARD HERRING Sat 24 Mar, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

COMEDY IN THE MET Sat 24 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

ANDREW BIRD, MATT RICHARDSON, TEZ ILYAS & CATHERINE BOHART Sat 24 Mar, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

ROFL! COMEDY CLUB Sat 24 Mar, The Old Post Office, Stoke-on-Trent

Theatre

WHERE'S MY IGLOO GONE? Children's show which journeys into an Arctic world of soaring snow geese, pet husky dogs and starry nights, Mon 19 Mar, The Dome, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

PETER PAN Presented by Lichfield Cathedral School, Mon 19 - Tues 20 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

SHRINKING ATLAS New work devised and performed by the Young REP satellite companies, Mon 19 - Tues 20 Mar, The REP, Birmingham

THE CASE OF THE FRIGHTENED LADY Classic thriller starring Rula Lenska, Gray O'Brien, Denis Lill, Philip Lowrie, April Pearson and Ben Nealon, Mon 19 - Sat 24 Mar, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE 4 CLOWNS OF THE APOCALYPSE A 'sensorial, nonsensical delight for the whole family', brought to the stage by Portugal's Teatro do Montemuro and the UK-based Absolute Theatre, Tues 20 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

EDUCATION EDUCATION EDUCATION The Wardrobe Ensemble pay tribute to the schools of the 1990s' Cool Britannia era, Tues 20 Mar, MAC, B'ham

THE FULL MONTY Amateur staging presented by Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Mar, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall



Steve Wilson - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CLASSIC EVENTS  **CLASSIC VENUES**

MOTORFEST

SUNDAY 1ST APRIL - EASTER SUNDAY
OPEN 10-4PM - WESTON PARK, TF11 8PX

FREE ENTRANCE
INTO PARK & GARDENS
VISIT HOUSE FOR £3
PLUS FREE PARKING

PERFORMING LIVE!
THE QUIK BEATS
KEEP CALM AND CARRIE-ANNE



UP TO 1,000 CLASSIC CARS
PLUS: LIVE ARENA, DECIBEL DUEL, FAMILY EASTER FUN,
LIVE MUSIC FROM THE QUIK BEATS
AND 'KEEP CALM AND CARRIE-ANNE'

ADULT £10 / CHILD (4-16YRS) £5 / FAMILY £25
DISCOUNTED ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE
SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

SAVE THE DATE
CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW
CATTON HALL
DE32 8LN
6TH MAY

FURTHER INFO. OR TO ENTER YOUR VEHICLE VISIT
CLASSICMOTORSHOWS.CO.UK
TRADE & AUTOJUMBLE ENQUIRIES 07582 486209

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
classicline
INSURANCE

Brownhills Musical Theatre Company

HALF A SIXPENCE

Another musical from the award winning
Brownhills Musical Theatre Company

**15th - 19th
May**

At the
Lichfield Garrick Theatre

Visit: www.lichfieldgarrick.com
or call
01543 412121

LICHFIELD GARRICK
Life & Style



NSC
NORTH SHROPSHIRE COLLEGE
SHAPING FUTURES

COME ALONG TO OUR SPRING LAMBING DAY

Here is a taste of what's on offer...

New-born Lambs - you may even see a lamb being born if you are lucky!
Come and see our animals, we have over 90 species from Snakes and Chinchillas to Meerkats and Alpacas!

We also have Pony Club Display, Treasure Hunt, Climbing Wall, Face Painting, Vintage Machinery, Porthywaen Silver Band, Milking Display and much, much more!

Sunday 25th March
10.30am - 4.00pm

11.30am - New Milk Vending Machine Grand Opening

Walford Campus, Baschurch
FREE parking at Walford Campus or park and ride
Just £10 per car / family on foot
#WalfordLambing



01939 262100 WWW.NSC.AC.UK

f t y i



Weston Park Horse Trials

7th & 8th April 2018
Two Full Days Of Exciting Competition

**Show Jumping
Cross Country
Dressage**

**Admission
£10**
Under 12's FREE
FREE PARKING

Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Nr Shifnal, Shropshire
Directions: M6, J12, M54, J3 - TF11 8LE

www.westonht.co.uk



EVITA Smash-hit musical starring Madalena Alberto in the role of Eva Peron, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE SHAHNAMEH Storyteller Xanthe Gresham Knight brings to life a selection of hand-picked stories drawn from the mythology of Persia, Wed 21 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

PARADISE LOST (LIES UNOPENED BESIDE ME) Lost Dog fuse theatre, comedy and movement in a condensed retelling of the creation of everything, Wed 21 Mar, All Stretton Village Hall, Church Stretton, South Shropshire

RAVING ROYAL Birmingham Conservatoire Theatre Company present Simon Paisley Day's comic play, which focuses on three couples as they spend a disastrous weekend together away from the city, Wed 21 - Sat 24 Mar, Crescent Theatre, B'ham

PRAYER ROOM Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Company present Shan Khan's humorous allegory, Wed 21 - Sat 24 Mar, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

OLIVER! Shrewsbury Amateur Operatic Society presents its version of Dickens' famous tale, Wed 21 - Sat 24 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE 4 CLOWNS OF THE APOCALYPSE A 'sensorial, nonsensical delight for the whole family', brought to the stage by Portugal's Teatro do Montemuro and the UK-based Absolute Theatre, Thurs 22 Mar, Pentabus Theatre, Bromfield, Nr Ludlow, South Shropshire

THE MINISTRY OF BISCUITS The Foundry Group present a musical comedy about, er... biscuits!, Thurs 22 Mar, The Talbot Theatre, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

TOM AND BUNNY SAVE THE WORLD 'Gender stereotype-destroying black and bloody comedy' with a live folk soundtrack, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE Midlands Academy Musical Theatre presents its version of the multi award-winning musical, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 Mar, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

REHEARSAL FOR MURDER Amateur staging presented by Stourbridge Theatre Company, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 Mar, Stourbridge Town Hall

CIRCUS OF HORRORS Amalgamation of 'bizarre and fantastic circus acts', woven together into a shock horror story featuring the darkest of magic, Fri 23 Mar, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

LA TRAVIATA Opera & Ballet International perform Verdi's interpretation of one of the most popular love stories of the 19th century... Fri 23 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

WHERE IS MRS CHRISTIE? Liz Grand takes centre stage in a one-woman

show which reveals the secret behind one of the biggest and most extensive police hunts in history, Fri 23 Mar, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

CROSSING BORDERS Newly devised work of theatre which sees The Young REP 18-25 Company and Young REP Lightpost exploring the shifts in generational attitudes, Fri 23 - Sat 24 Mar, The REP, Birmingham

A VICTORIAN ROMP Three-part performance presented by Walsall Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Fri 23 - Sat 24 Mar, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

DARLSTON DOG FIGHT The amazing story of Rough Moey - collier, innkeeper, hell-raiser, dog-fighter - and the last man to sell his wife in Wednesbury market, Fri 23 - Sat 24 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD Amateur staging of Thomas Hardy's romantic story, Fri 23 - Sat 31 Mar, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

THE FANTASTIC FOLLIES OF MRS RICH Mary Pix's comedy of manners, combining mischief-making with a mind-bending plot, Fri 23 Mar - Thurs 14 June, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

MADAMA BUTTERFLY Opera & Ballet International present Puccini's heart-breaking and dramatic story. Korean soprano Maria HeeJung Kim and international soprano Alyona Kistenyova star, Sat 24 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

CIRCUS OF HORRORS Amalgamation of 'bizarre and fantastic circus acts', all woven together into a shock horror story featuring the darkest of magic, Sun 25 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

A FEAST OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN Featuring former singers of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company and the British Philharmonic Orchestra, Sun 25 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Evening of nostalgia, laughs and rock'n'roll, Sun 25 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Dance

BRENDAN COLE: ALL NIGHT LONG Join the ex Strictly star as he takes to the stage with a cast of guest dancers, a 14-piece band and singers, Tues 20 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Ballet Theatre UK turn their attention to another of Shakespeare's best-loved plays, Thurs 22 Mar, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

TORO: BEAUTY AND THE BULL DeNada Dance Theatre present



Toro: Beauty & The Bull - The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

Spanish choreographer Carlos Pons Guerra's gender-questioning Hispanic take on the fairytale Beauty And The Beast, boldly dealing with the eroticism of the original story, Thurs 22 - Fri 23 Mar, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

Talks

EVENING WITH HENRY BLOFELD Join the 'cherished golden voice of cricket' for an evening of previously unheard anecdotes, Fri 23 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Events

2018 GYMNASTICS WORLD CUP Male gymnasts go for glory on the floor, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars and high bar; elite women wow the crowds as they compete on vault, uneven bars, beam and the floor, Wed 21 - Thurs 22 Mar, Arena Birmingham

THE NATIONAL HOMEBUILDING & RENOVATING SHOW Ideal show for anyone planning an extension, a remodelling of the internal layout of their home or a new kitchen overlooking a landscaped garden, Thurs 22 - Sun 25 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

MURDER MYSTERY AT THE BACK TO BACKS The venue hosts its first ever murder-mystery event, Fri 23 Mar, Birmingham Back to Backs

PRACTICAL CLASSICS CAR & RESTORATION SHOW Show featuring all aspects of classic motoring, including barn finds discovered after many years of storage and restorations just getting back on the road, Fri 23 - Sun 25 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

BURTON CHILDREN'S EASTER FESTIVAL

New festival featuring a host of events for children of all ages and their families, Fri 23 Mar - Wed 4 Apr, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

CREATE AN EASTER RAG WREATH Learn how to make your own Easter decoration and find out why rag rugs were so popular with back-to-back families, Sat 24 Mar, Birmingham Back to Backs

RAGGED VICTORIANS - THE GREAT UNWASHED The award-winning living-history group provide an insight into how the lower classes of Victorian England lived, Sat 24 Mar, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

MINIATURA Specifically aimed at the scales favoured by the dolls' house hobby, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

CHANTILLY GREY HOST SHREWSBURY STEAMPUNK SPECTACULAR Sat 24 - Sun 25 Mar, Various Locations around Shrewsbury

CADBURY EASTER EGG HUNTS Sat 24 - Sun 25 Mar, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

THUNDERSPORT GB CLUB BIKE CHAMPIONSHIPS Featuring complex two-wheeled machines and examples of technical innovation, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Mar, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

BRITISH ALPACA SOCIETY NATIONAL SHOW Sat 24 - Sun 25 Mar, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

EGG-CITING EASTER ACTIVITIES Sat 24 Mar - Sun 15 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

EASTER HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN Enjoy two exclusive stage shows, Sat 24 Mar - Sun 15 Apr, Cadbury World, B'ham

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE SHOW Including nutrition, wellbeing, health & fitness, speciality food and retail, Sun 25 Mar, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

DISCOVER DUDLEY

Visitors to the borough of Dudley will find plenty to see and do in the area. Attractions are diverse, cater for all ages and offer lots of opportunities for people to try something new, experience unique environments, gain knowledge and, most of all, enjoy themselves...



The **Red House Glass Cone** stands proud in the historic Stourbridge Glass Quarter. At 100ft tall, it's testament to over 400 years of glass making in the area. Now a museum, it offers visitors the opportunity to learn new skills in the glass studio, marvel at glass blowing, visit bespoke craft studios and exhibitions, and purchase gift items.

Still within the Stourbridge Glass Quarter, you can visit the **Ruskin Glass Centre**, home to past greats of the glass industry such as Royal Doulton and Webb Corbett. You can enjoy pre-booked heritage tours for a small donation and learn about the history of glass making in the area. Artisans operate independent craft studios, and an organic cafe offers tempting treats. Entrance to the Glass Quarter attractions is free of charge.



Dudley Zoological Gardens is home to hundreds of exotic and endangered animals. Why not take part in one of their bookable 'experience' days, or instead just amble around the paths, taking in the World Monument Status Tecton enclosures. Located at the top of the hill, you'll find the 11th century motte and bailey castle. An

informative guided tour will take you back through its history - and who knows, you may even see the infamous Grey Lady ghost!



Celebrating the region's heritage, the award-winning **Black Country Living Museum** takes visitors back in time via 300 years of history. Enjoy the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of a traditional industrialised landscape, complete with period shops, houses and fascinating experiences to sample. Relive the past with original trams and traditional fish & chips, and raise a glass at the Bottle & Glass Inn public house.

Why not discover the art of legging inside the fantastic **Dudley Canal Tunnel & Limestone Mines**? Experience a 45-minute skipper guided tour, view the spectacular light show and educational interpretation. And while you're there, why not sample some delightful Black Country food in the on-site Gongoozler Restaurant?



Opened last year, the **Dudley Museum at the Archives** celebrates the borough's past. Visitors take a journey through geology displays and view collections including

Dudley Castle finds and Stourbridge glass. You can get close to fine art too, including a famous Turner and the Frank Brangwyn exhibition. Regular 'taster' arts & crafts sessions and talks also take place.



If you fancy treating yourself, visit **Himley Hall & Park** to enjoy their 'indulgent afternoon tea' experience, featuring delicious finger sandwiches, cakes and scones. Set in Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's 180-acre designed parkland, this 18th century country house holds many events, activities and walks throughout the year.



Dudley's 16 miles of navigable canals are ideal for walking, cycling and fishing. Or perhaps you'll take in a show at one of the area's borough halls, which offer a packed programme of entertainment suitable for people of all ages.

.....
There's something for everyone, so why not visit discoverdudley.org.uk to find out more.

Gigs

CYCLES OF TRIO Mon 26 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DOYLE Mon 26 Mar, The Asylum, B'ham

DODIE Tues 27 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

A LIFE MORE ORDINARY: SONGS Tues 27 Mar, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

JACOB BANKS Tues 27 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FALL OUT BOY Tues 27 Mar, Arena B'ham

THE YOUNG'UNS Tues 27 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SHIFA: RACHEL MUS-SON, PAT THOMAS AND MARK SANDERS Tues 27 Mar, MAC, B'ham

HENRY GROSS Tues 27 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

DUSTY & THE SHADES OF THE 60S Tues 27 Mar, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

THE FRATELLIS Tues 27 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE RAT PACK LIVE FROM LAS VEGAS Tues 27 - Sat 31 Mar, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

MACCA: THE CONCERT Wed 28 Mar, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

HARSHDEEP KAUR Wed 28 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

BOB LOG III Wed 28 Mar, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

DIAMOND - THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO NEIL DIAMOND Wed 28 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

YES LAD Thurs 29 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

BLACKSTREET + MYA + CASE Thurs 29 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THIRTY SECONDS TO MARS Thurs 29 Mar, Arena Birmingham

FABIO & GROOVERIDER Thurs 29 Mar, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

FAITH Thurs 29 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DUB PISTOLS Thurs 29 Mar, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

WE ARE SCIENTISTS Thurs 29 Mar, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIEW Thurs 29 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

ADY SULEIMAN Thurs 29 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BLOODY KNEES Fri 30 Mar, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

WARRIOR SOUL Fri 30 Mar, The Asylum, Birmingham

HARBHAJAN MANN Fri 30 Mar, Arena B'ham

KOSSOFF: THE BAND PLAYS ON Fri 30 Mar, Eleven, Sandford, Stoke-on-Trent

THE YOUNG'UNS PRESENT: THE BALLAD OF JOHNNY LONGSTAFF Fri 30 Mar, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire

LEGEND - THE BOB MARLEY EXPERIENCE Fri 30

Mar, The Robin, Bilston

FLATLINE STEREO Fri 30 Mar, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

CHAMPIONS OF ROCK Fri 30 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

AC/DC UK Fri 30 Mar, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

ELIZA AND THE BEAR Fri 30 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MØ Fri 30 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE REEL HOT CEILIDH PEPPERS Fri 30 Mar, Lichfield Guildhall

BLOODY KNEES Sat 31 Mar, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

MOTOWN - HOW SWEET IT IS Sat 31 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE VIOLETTE Sat 31 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

REAL TO REEL Sat 31 Mar, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

ODYSSEY & JAKI GRAHAM Sat 31 Mar, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

OASIS MAYBE Sat 31 Mar, The Night Owl, Birmingham

T.REXTASY Sat 31 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE FESTIVALS EXPERIENCE Sat 31 Mar, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

KICK UP THE 80'S Sat 31 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

TESTAMENT Sat 31 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

Classical Music

THOMAS TROTTER LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT Programme includes works by Widor, Couperin, Deruffe, Pierne & Vienne, Mon 26 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

SHREWSBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Zoë Beyers (violin). Programme includes works by Sibelius, Dvorak & Schubert, Wed 28 Mar, Shrewsbury College (SCAT), Shropshire



MAHLER'S FIRST WITH MIRGA Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor) & Joannes Moser (cello). Programme includes works by Onutė Narbutaitė, Elgar & Mahler, Thurs 29 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GOOD FRIDAY BACH ST MATTHEW PASSION Featuring Ex Cathedra Choir & Baroque Orchestra; Ex Cathedra Academy of Vocal Music; Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Toby Spence (Evangelist & tenor); James Rutherford (Jesus & bass) & James Geidt (Pilate) Fri 30 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

RUSSELL BRAND Mon 26 Mar, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent



MARLON DAVIS, DAMIAN CLARK & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 29 Mar, The Glee Club, B'ham

STEPHEN BAILEY Fri 30 Mar, The Glee

Club, Birmingham

ANDREW BIRD, BE BRIDGEMAN, MEL BYRON & PAUL RICKETTS Fri 30 Mar, National Brewery Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

MARLON DAVIS, DAMIAN CLARK CRAIG DEELEY & ANDREW WATTS Fri 30 - Sat 31 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAMIAN CLARK, RICH WILSON, PIERRE HOLINS & IAN SMITH Sat 31 Mar, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

ROFL! COMEDY CLUB Sat 31 Mar, The Old Post Office, Stoke-On-Trent

Theatre

DOREEN: THE RISE OF THE YAM-YAM Brand new live show fusing stand-up, sit-down, video surprises and unforgettable music, Mon 26 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ME AND MY GIRL Amateur staging presented by Lollipop Theatre Arts, Mon 26 - Tues 27 Mar, Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Gwen Taylor stars as the formidable Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's witty comedy, Tues 27 - Sat 31 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

SCARY BIKERS John Godber's new comedy about life, love and staying on your bike, Tues 27 - Sat 31 Mar, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG Fawlty Towers meets Noises Off in this award-winning smash-hit comedy, Tues 27 - Sat 31 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

DNA The Young REP presents its version of Dennis Kelly's explosive look at group mentality, Tues 27 Mar - Sat 7 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

JACK STARK Clowning for the 21st century from 'an unusual everyday person', Wed 28 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

POLICE COPS IN SPACE The Pretend Men embark on a mission to find Earth, uncover the mystic legend of the Police Cops and overthrow FutureTech, Wed 28 Mar, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

ONE NIGHT ONLY Viv Kelly dancers present a celebration of music, dance and theatre, Wed 28 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

HERE I BELONG Pentabus Theatre tell the story of a woman's 'funny and moving journey through 60 years of village life', Wed 28 - Thurs 29 Mar, MAC, Birmingham

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Shropshire Youth Theatre present an amateur staging of Shakespeare's story of trickery, treachery and true love, Wed 28 - Thurs 29 Mar, Theatre Sev-



Thirty Seconds To Mars - Arena Birmingham

ern, Shrewsbury

ROTTERDAM Here To There Productions present Jon Brittain's bitter-sweet comedy about gender, sexuality and being a long way from home, Wed 28 Mar - Sat 31 Mar, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

LEXICON A world premiere from the UK's leading circus company, Wed 28 Mar - Sat 21 Apr, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

TESTOSTERONE Rhum & Clay present a gender-transition story inspired by the narrative of The Wizard of Oz and drawing influences from iconic movies, pop culture and pulp fiction, Thurs 29 - Fri 30 Mar, MAC, B'ham

GRUMPY OLD WOMEN TO THE RESCUE Featuring Jenny Eclair, Dillie Keane & Lizzie Roper, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Mar, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

STONES IN HIS POCKETS The Crescent Theatre Company presents its version of Marie Jones' poignant tragedy-comedy, Sat 31 Mar - Sat 7 Apr, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Kids Shows

PANTOMANIA Telford pantomime about Telford, made in Telford, by Telford people!, Thurs 29 Mar - Thurs 5 Apr, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

TIDDLER & OTHER TERRIFIC TALES A whole host of colourful characters from Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's much-loved tale are brought to life via live music and puppetry, Fri 30 Mar - Tues 3 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

THINGAMABOB PanGottic present a blend of circus, invention and humour as part of Burton's Children's Easter Festival, Sat 31 Mar, Brew-house Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

Dance

TRANSITIONS DANCE COMPANY Three choreographers, 14 dancers and the promise of 'one extraordinary show', Tues 27 Mar, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

VICTORIA & ABDUL (12) Biography/Drama. Starring Judi Dench, Ali Fazal. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 26 Mar

LADY BIRD (15) Comedy/Drama. Star-

ring Saoirse Ronan, Laurie Metcalf. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 26 & Wed 28 Mar; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Mar

HAMPSTEAD (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Diane Keaton, Brendan Gleeson. Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Tues 27 Mar

FILM STARS DON'T DIE IN LIVERPOOL (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Jamie Bell, Annette Bening. Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 27 Mar

LEGO MOVIE (U) Animation/Action. With the voices of Chris Pratt, Will Ferrell. Burton Market Hall, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffs, Fri 30 Mar

THE HANDMAIDEN (18) Drama/Mystery. Starring Min-hee Kim, Jung-woo Ha. Foreign language, subtitled. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 30 Mar

THE SHAPE OF WATER (15) Drama/Fantasy. Starring Sally Hawkins, Octavia Spencer. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Mar

EARLY MAN (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Tom Hiddleston, Eddie Redmayne. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Thurs 29 - Fri 30 Mar; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Mar; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 30 - Sat 31 Mar

THE GOONIES (12A) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Sean Astin, Josh Brolin. Burton Market Hall, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffs, Sat 31 Mar

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 30 Mar, showing at selected cinemas

BLOCKERS (tbc)

ISLE OF DOGS (tbc)

READY PLAYER ONE (tbc)

JOURNEYMAN (tbc)

Events

KIKI LOVECHILD'S CLOWN WORKSHOP Introduction to the underlying principles of theatre clowning, Wed 28 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

DISNEY ON ICE PRESENTS WORLDS OF ENCHANTMENT Featuring four popular Disney stories, Wed 28 Mar - Sun 1 Apr, Genting Arena, Birmingham

EASTER DINO EGG HUNT Try to find the large Dino eggs hidden around the museum, Thurs 29 Mar - Sun 15 Apr, Thinktank at Millennium Point, B'ham

CADBURY EASTER EGG HUNTS Fri 30 - Sat 31 Mar, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA Daily bonnet competitions plus an Easter egg



Big Fish Little Fish - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

hunt around the venue, Fri 30 Mar - Mon 2 Apr, Cadbury World, B'ham

CADBURY EASTER EGG HUNTS Fri 30 Mar - Mon 2 Apr, Carding Mill Valley & The Shropshire Hills, Church Stretton, South Shropshire & Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

BRINGING THE PIT TO LIFE Highlighting the newly restored Racecourse Colliery, which tells the story of coal mining at the heart of industrialisation in the Black Country, Fri 30 Mar - Mon 2 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

INSOMNIA62 Fri 30 Mar - Mon 2 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

LAMBING LIVE EASTER WEEKEND See the new-born Jacob and Hebridean lambs and learn all about them from the resident farmer, Fri 30 Mar - Mon 2 Apr, Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent

EASTER HALF TERM Easter family fun, including a trail around the grounds and craft activities for children, Fri 30 Mar - Sun 8 Apr, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

EGG HUNT Fri 30 Mar - Wed 11 Apr, Tamworth Castle, Staffs

EASTER FUN ON THE FARM Meet the Easter bunny, join a fun Easter egg quiz trail, take part in egg & spoon races and create springtime crafts, Fri 30 Mar - Wed 11 Apr, Lower Drayton Farm, Nr Penkridge, Staffs

EASTER EGG HUNT Fri 30 Mar - Sat 14 Apr, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA Including the Great Egg Hunt and lamb feeding, Fri 30 Mar - Sun 15 Apr, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

SPRINGTIME AT SHUGBOROUGH Nature-inspired activities and trails, including canoeing sessions on the River Sow, Fri 30 Mar - Sun 15 Apr, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

BIG FISH LITTLE FISH Critically acclaimed family rave, Sat 31 Mar, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MCE INSURANCE BRITISH SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP Home hero Leon Haslam gears up to take on arch rival Shane 'Shakey' Byrne, Sat 31 Mar - Mon 2 Apr, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby



Insomnia62 - NEC, Birmingham

no**fit**state
circus

LEXICON

28 MARCH – 21 APRIL 2018

The Big Top, Ryecroft, Corporation St,
Newcastle-under-Lyme town centre

Featuring vivid storytelling, evocative live music and spectacular physical performance, LEXICON is a breath-taking celebration of circus theatre from an internationally renowned circus company.

**“boy, do they put
on a show”** THE TELEGRAPH

**“the total theatre experience
that British circus has been
striving for so long”** THE GUARDIAN

TICKETS

£8 (conc.) - £18

Family tickets available, suitable for all ages.

BOOK NOW

01782 717 962

nofitstate.org/lexicon



Commissioned by New Vic Theatre, part of Circus Past, Present and Future.
Charity No. 1102850 Company No. 3180348



Cynor Gelfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

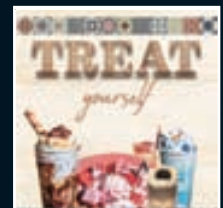
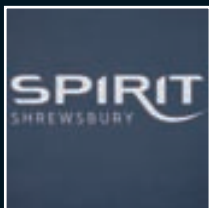
We love parties!



Here at The Peach Tree, Havana Republic, Spirit, Momo's, and the new Treat Yourself - we're all about making your event a very special occasion!

So whether you're looking at organising a special birthday party, kids party, anniversary etc - pop in and have a chat with us.

Contact Lucy or Steve on 01743 355055



18-22 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. SY2 6AE www.thepeachtree.co.uk