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Birmingham

ISSUE 390 JUNE 2018

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Your 16-page week by week listings guide

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the return of Birmingham International Dance Festival

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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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Double delight for fans of Birmingham folk group

Birmingham band The Conservatoire Folk Ensemble are set to release a new mini-album - on the same day that they hold their fifth Power Folk festival at Digbeth's Spotted Dog (Sunday 10 June).

Sleepy Maggie + Remixes Reworkings And Rarities features a four-and-a-half-minute instrumental and various other remixed and reimagined versions of the track.

Commenting on the new record, band leader Joe Broughton said: "The idea of remixing the instrumental track, Sleepy Maggie, is very much in keeping with the group's approach to making music, of using what could be a straightforward melody as the basis for a tune and seeing how that can be developed."

For more information about the album, and Power Folk festival, visit folkensemble.co.uk

Brum theatre launches 'creative conversations'

Birmingham Hippodrome has launched a new series of 'thought-provoking' lunchtime events.

Creative Conversations will explore the role and impact of the creative industries on urban place-making, regeneration, education and employment.

The first conversation takes place on Monday 11 June, with BBC broadcaster Mishal Husain (Pictured) and Catherine Mallyon, Executive Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, taking part.

Commenting on the new series, Judith Greenburgh, Head of Business Development at Birmingham Hippodrome, said: "At this exciting time in Birmingham's transformation into a global city, these invigorating lunchtime Q&As offer the chance to probe into the impact of the creative industries on our region's economy and beyond."

For more information, visit birminghamhippodrome.com/creativeconversations

Tinkling the ivories

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is this month hosting the city's International Piano Festival.

Taking place at the venue from 11 to 15 June, the festival features guest appearances by some of the world's greatest pianists, including Tchaikovsky Competition silver medallist Peter Donohoe (pictured).

The programme also includes a rare recital by the legendary Paul Badura-Skoda.

Another Tchaikovsky silver medallist, Natalia Trull, performs Brahms, Mozart, Chopin and Debussy... For further information, visit bcu.ac.uk/concerts

Tom Gates live on stage!

Birmingham Stage Company will next year tour a brand new production inspired by author and illustrator Liz Pichon's award-winning Tom Gates books. The new show, written especially for the stage, visits Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Wednesday 13 to Saturday 16 March 2019.

For more information, visit atgtickets.com

Dance Hub Birmingham announces new funding

Dance Hub Birmingham has announced that it will provide funding for a number of local dance practitioners and companies, in order to further establish the region's position as an international centre of excellence for dance.

Commenting on the announcement, the organisation's director, Monique Deletant, said: "Dance Hub Birmingham is bringing additional investment to the dance sector in the West Midlands, ensuring independent artists have professional development opportunities and enabling more new dance to be created here. In doing so, we continue to establish the region's position as an international centre of excellence for dance."

CBSO announces new season

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) has announced its 2018/19 concert season at Symphony Hall.
The line-up features UK premieres, concerts marking historic events in the Baltic States, the return of Sir Simon Rattle and a wealth of international artists making their CBSO debuts. For further information, visit cbso.co.uk

Indian film festival returns to the city

Birmingham Indian Film Festival makes a welcome return this month.
Now in its fourth year, the event takes place from Friday 22 June to Sunday 1 July. Films will be screened at Cineworld Broad Street, MAC Birmingham and The Mockingbird Cinema & Kitchen. For more information, visit birminghamindianfilmfestival.co.uk

New music event set to Shiiine

Birmingham's Genting Arena will host a new one-day music festival this autumn.
Shiiine On Festival will feature more than 20 iconic bands - including Orbital, Shed Seven, Happy Mondays and Julian Cope - and a Hacienda afterparty.
The event takes place on Saturday 8 September. More information is available by visiting gentingarena.co.uk

Birmingham experimental music festival is just Supersonic

An experimental music and arts event is making a return to Birmingham this month.
Supersonic Festival was first held in the city in 2003 and brings together live performance with visual art, audience participation and kids' gigs. This year's event takes place in Digbeth from Friday 22 to Sunday 24 June. For more information, visit supersonicfestival.com

Making it up as they go along...

The team behind hit West End show The Play That Goes Wrong are returning to the Midlands to present an improvised movie - live on stage!
Mischief Theatre will be taking suggestions from the audience for the film's genre, location and title. The talented ensemble will then create a 'movie', complete with rewinds, fast forwards, director's cuts and a live score. Mischief Movie Night runs at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 26 June to Sunday 1 July.

Grammy Award winners return to Brum

Grammy Award-winning a capella group Take 6 return to Birmingham next month to perform at Symphony Hall.
The Friday 20 July concert is their only full UK show of 2018.
The group, who've been praised by luminaries including Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Brian Wilson, Ella Fitzgerald and Whitney Houston, last year celebrated their 25th anniversary. For more information about their Birmingham show, visit thsh.co.uk

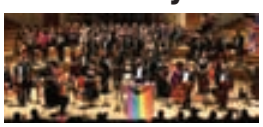
Midlands dance-circus company becomes part of the furniture

Midlands dance-circus company Motionhouse has joined forces with furniture manufacturer Vitsœ to pioneer 'a vibrant working community' in the latter's new production building in Leamington Spa.
The two companies are 'uniting arts and business in one inspirational space' with the assistance of £377,087 from Arts Council England's capital funding programme through the National Lottery.
Commenting on the initiative, Peter Knott, Area Director for Arts Council England, said: "Together, Vitsœ and Motionhouse can inspire and complement each other, blending the best of art and business to form a unique and productive atmosphere where creativity can thrive."

Lichfield woman lands Lego job

A HR administrator from Lichfield has landed the coveted title of official Master Model Builder at Birmingham's new Legoland Discovery Centre.
Thirty-seven-year-old Michelle Thompson beat 7,000 other applicants to land the job. As the official Master Model Builder, she will construct attraction structures, curate exhibitions and mentor children and families in the creation of their own model masterpieces in the centre's Creative Workshop.

Gay orchestra celebrates 10th anniversary



Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra (BGSO) is this month celebrating its 10th anniversary by performing a special concert at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.
Considered by many to be one of the UK's most vibrant non-professional orchestras, BGSO will be playing a wide selection of music, from John Williams' score for Jurassic Park to Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake.
The concert takes place at the Conservatoire on Saturday 16 June.

Festival recognises #ExtraordinaryWomen

To mark the women's suffrage centenary, next month's Lichfield Festival (various venues, 4 to 14 July) will feature a series of shows, concerts and events on the theme of #ExtraordinaryWomen.
Highlights include artist-in-residence Jessica Walker's specially curated cabaret, Soldiers, Sirens And Suffragettes, the Malachites Theatre Company's suffrage-inspired reworking of The Taming Of The Shrew, and Fascinating Aida star Liza Pulman's homage to Barbra Streisand.
For full details of all Lichfield Festival events, visit lichfieldfestival.org

Birmingham and Coventry submit bids to bring Channel Four to the West Midlands

Birmingham and Coventry have both formally submitted a bid to bring Channel Four to the West Midlands.
As part of its '4 All The UK' strategy, Channel Four wants to exist in three locations outside London - one of which will become its headquarters.
The shortlist is being announced in the days immediately following our going to print, with the final decision coming later in the year. The move is expected to happen in early 2019.

Superprix could return to Brum

Birmingham's Superprix could be set to make a return for the first time in almost 30 years.
West Midlands mayor Andy Street has confirmed that he is in negotiations to revive the race as a Formula E event.
Commenting on the news, the mayor said: "We are now in the advanced stages of these negotiations. We are eager for two main reasons. First, it means we can showcase to the world the changing face of Birmingham city centre, which has seen unprecedented investment in recent years. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, it showcases our region's position as a world leader in next-generation automotive technologies."

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IVO DIMCHEV

doles out the dosh for P-Project

“At the end of the day, anyone who performs on stage works for money - we just don’t see the exchange.”

by Patsy Moss

Performance artist Ivo Dimchev's work is often described as provocative and 'off the wall'. In a rare visit to the UK, Ivo next month performs in Birmingham as part of the city's acclaimed BE Festival. Prior to that, he'll be showcasing his musical prowess in a solo production at Birmingham REP.

In P-Project - an interactive performance based on several words beginning with the letter P - Ivo uses cash incentives to entice audience members to become involved. What's On recently caught up with the Bulgarian artist to find out what audiences can expect from his shows...

How would you best describe your art form, Ivo?

Probably schizophrenic. I have very diverse interests and a big passion for theatre and acting. I guess it's very messed up, but I'm very happy that these things - my different interests - can collide and support each other. Of course, it really depends on the context and where I present my work. When I have concerts in the music venues, I don't pretend I'm a visual artist or a choreographer - I'm a singer-songwriter and I'm okay with that.

You sing, dance, draw, write and perform. Which of these came first?

Theatre was the first thing. I had a lot of trouble as a kid, which caused me to be bullied. I stepped into the professional theatre when I was 12 years old and channeled all my extravagance into that, which acted as a kind of relief. It was the first sense of freedom I'd experienced, and I was accepted for who I was. I was also singing all the time, but I didn't take it seriously.

Who has inspired you the most as a performer?

When I was a kid, I was inspired a lot by Charlie Chaplin and Elvis. Later on in life - in my early teenage years - I liked Elton John. In Bulgaria he was the only gay artist I knew - and I needed someone to look up to.

Are you able to describe a typical Ivo Dimchev audience?

I'm very happy with the 'contemporary art audience' label. My shows have been described as provocative and difficult for some people, as they push boundaries. I know my audiences are built of elitists and my shows are not to everyone's taste. Audiences are usually built up of artists, young students and kind of more intelligent people who know more about culture. They're generally comfortable watching something they don't really know and might not have an interest in. Now I'm singing songs, my audiences are expanding - I'm seeing children and groups of grannies at my concerts.

You have a very diverse vocal range. Have you received any formal vocal training?

When I was 20 years old I tried to study opera, but I was unhappy with it because of the restrictions you have when you try to sing. There was always a right and wrong way to do things, and I didn't like it. I got frustrated, so I quit those vocal lessons. I started to develop my voice by myself. It's always been a passion, but I've never looked at it professionally.

You've described your work as being provocative. Is there anywhere you'd dare not tread?

Nothing is forbidden. The more unusual the subject or topic is, the more interesting it is to me. Themes alone are not interesting; it's the relations an artist creates between topics or elements that's interesting.
I'm not a fan of violence; I'm very respectful and audience-friendly, I think. When I deal with a very difficult topic, I ensure that people understand the context, and that it won't cause a sense of rejection or disgust. I'm very careful in my articulation if a subject is more forbidden, dangerous or weird. I have to be clear and precise because it's very easy to offend people and cause them to leave. I don't want to be that type of artist.

Tell us about P Project, which you'll be performing at BE Festival...

P Project is the first project I did with dramaturgical interaction with the audience. The whole project is made up from an idea based on elements of our failing. The show explores the taboos in our minds towards money. I offer money for people to collaborate with me on stage, whether it's to write or dance or do different performances, and I offer them part of my fee. The money is transferred on stage for the different tasks. Sometimes people in the audience feel uncomfortable about it - they connect it to prostitution or something really bad. Sometimes they blame me for showing how greedy people are and what they'll do just to earn a bit of money. At the end of the day, anyone who performs on stage works for money - we just don't see the exchange.

What tasks do you set your audience?

They're invited to take to the stage to dance or perform whatever task I instruct them to do for money - £20, £30 or £40. These people aren't dancers and it's usually their first time on stage, so they're naturally very shy. Their dance isn't great, but they're so beautiful in their vulnerability and shyness. It's just what they are. There's also a fake sex scene, which is sure to be a failure. The couple meet each other for the first time on stage and they're just there to earn some money - £220, for example. Of course, as a sex scene it fails, but it's so funny and entertaining.

Are audiences generally prepared for what they see in your shows?

I think so, yes. I'm quite experienced as a performer and I will make them feel very comfortable. Nobody is forced to do anything, and there's nothing really horrifying or difficult.

How does the reaction of British audiences to your work vary to reactions in other European countries?

I've been invited to the UK twice in my life. Because my shows' genres aren't very clear, it probably makes it feel uncomfortable for British audiences. I suppose there's some conservatism in Britain, and this is probably one of the reasons I perform very rarely in the UK. I think it's due to the UK's performing arts scene being very compartmentalised - this is dance, this is theatre, this is a concert. If you blur the lines, it's more difficult - maybe not for the audience but for the programmers of the institutions.

What's next on the horizon for you?

Right after my shows in Birmingham, I have concerts in Estonia, Portugal, the Netherlands and Vienna. I'll also be in Vienna for a month teaching whilst performing some concerts. I've also been invited to audition for The X Factor, so I'll be looking forward to that, too.

Ivo Dimchev performs his solo show, under the name of I-VO, at Birmingham REP on Saturday 30 June. He then returns to present P-Project (a co-presentation with Fierce) as part of BE Festival on Tuesday 3 July. For information visit befestival.org

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Thai Express to open in Brum's Grand Central

A new Thai street food restaurant is launching in Birmingham city centre. Opening in Grand Central on Saturday 9 June, Thai Express will be serving tasty meals that are 'perfect for on the go'. The menu includes crunchy spring rolls, chicken dumplings, spicy soups and pad Thai. All dishes are made in under two minutes.

Japanese restaurant's Happiawa Fridays

Birmingham Japanese restaurant Nozomi has launched a new 'happy hour' initiative to start the weekend. Happiawa Fridays not only provides customers with two-for-one cocktails from 5pm to 9pm every Friday, but also includes a free selected plate of food with every drink purchased. Options include sushi, wings, edamame beans and chicken lollipops. For more information, visit nozomi.co.uk

Jewellery Quarter gets new rotisserie chicken restaurant and bar

New chicken restaurant & cocktail bar Rebel Chicken is opening on Friday 1 June in Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter.

The new restaurant will serve 'twice-marinated, spit-roasted, free-range, locally sourced and expertly prepared chicken', as well as numerous other meals, including a Caesar salad sharer, buffalo hot wings and veggie bean burgers. Sides, cocktails, craft beers and a wide range of spirits will also be available.

Holy Moly! Birmingham entrepreneur to open new eatery

Birmingham entrepreneur Anthony Duffy is set to open his first ever restaurant late this month. Dishes available at Holy Moly Macaroni, located in the city's Grand Central, will include four cheese macaroni, double-dipped fried chicken in a ginger beer batter, and baby back eight-hour smoked ribs. Lactose-free, gluten-free and vegan options are also available. Commenting on the launch, Anthony said: "Good food is just so important; it can bring friends and family together for a unique, enjoyable experience, and that's what Holy Moly is all about. It gives me such pride to open an independent restaurant in Birmingham that has its individuality and personality. It's not a corporate and never will be. I want to openly invite everybody from Birmingham to come and try just how good mac'n'cheese can be. You won't regret it!"

World Gin Day celebrated at Birmingham museum

Get ready for a 'glamorous' night at the museum as Edinburgh Gin teams up with Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery to celebrate World Gin Day on Saturday 9 June. A six-course meal, created by Executive Chef Christopher Lovatt, will be served alongside a complementary gin. Tickets cost £85 and must be booked in advance. To do so, visit birminghammuseums.org.uk.

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Super-cool ice cream arrives at Selfridges

A new concept in ice cream - made using liquid nitrogen - has launched in Selfridges Birmingham.
Nitrogenie takes the freshest milk and cream, selected ingredients such as fruit, chocolate, biscuit and nuts, and freezes them using liquid nitrogen in special mixers.
Originally launching in Australia, Nitrogenie prides itself on its weekly changing menus and 'fantastic' combinations of ingredients, including honeycomb, natural salted caramel and lemon meringue pie.

Smokey Barrels Bar & Grill opens in Brum

New restaurant Smokey Barrels Bar & Grill has opened on Birmingham's Coventry Road.
The new venue features a menu that's full of smokehouse favourites, including low and slow ribs, pulled pork, ultimate burgers and rib-eye steaks, all prepared on the in-house hickory smoker.

A summer of skinny cocktails beckons...

The mixology team at Bar Opus have come up with some low-calorie twists on classic cocktails.
Their menu features Gin Martini, Gin & Tonic, Tom Collins, Gimlet, French 75, Greyhound and Skinny Lager.
Each drink is under 180 calories, making getting into shape for the summer seem a whole lot easier!

Acclaimed chef opens new Birmingham city centre venue

Acclaimed chef Richard Turner has opened a new Birmingham restaurant.
One of many recent additions to the city's thriving culinary scene, Maribel is located at the Brindleyplace premises previously occupied by Edmunds.
The new eatery's menu, set to change weekly to reflect the best seasonal produce, features eight, six and four-course options, as well as a special two-course option for lunchtimes.
Commenting on his latest venture, Richard said: "It's so great to be back in the kitchen, especially in such a fantastic new venue. I've always had such great support from Birmingham throughout my career, and it's my intention to deliver something really special for the city yet again!"
To book a table, visit maribelrestaurant.co.uk

MasterChef 2018 winner to appear at Foodies Festival

MasterChef 2018 winner Kenny Tutt is to appear at this month's Birmingham Foodies Festival.
Other attractions at the three-day event include a range of street food, an artisan producers market, the chance to meet Michelin-star chefs Glynn Purnell and Brad Carter, cream-pie throwing, chilli-eating competitions, and prosecco and parmesan masterclasses. Live music comes from Toploader, The Hoosiers and Dodgy, all of whom will be playing on the brand new Musicians Against Homelessness music stage.
There's plenty at the event for youngsters to enjoy too, including a kidzone with craft area, a bouncy castle, face painting and the Kids Cookery Theatre.
The Birmingham Foodies Festival takes place in Cannon Hill Park from Friday 22 to Sunday 24 June.

ALL ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE

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Grafton Ash

The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham, Fri 22 June

Worcestershire pop/folk band Grafton Ash released their debut EP, Avalanche, in summer 2015. It quickly gained attention and backing from BBC Introducing, and won Track Of The Week twice. Fusing electronic and acoustic styles, accompanied by strong vocal harmonies and subtle, meaningful lyrics, the four-piece are making good progress in a career that shows plenty of promise.

Sheryl Crow

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 19 June

Nine-time Grammy Award winner Sheryl Crow has released 10 studio albums which have collectively sold over 35 million copies worldwide.
With number one hits including The First Cut Is The Deepest, All I Wanna Do and Soak Up The Sun, Crow has had more number one singles in the Triple A Listings than any other female artist.
She visits Birmingham in support of latest album Be Myself, released last year.

Hollywood Vampires

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Sat 16 June

Featuring Alice Cooper, Johnny Depp (yes, Johnny Depp!) and Aerosmith lead guitarist Joe Perry, Hollywood Vampires promises to be a 'non-stop, energetic concert like no other'. The gig will include the boys' original single, Bad As I Am, and renditions of some iconic rock favourites.
Support comes from The Darkness and The Damned. There will also be appearances by some 'superstar friends' whose identities have yet to be revealed.

Damian 'Jr Gong' Marley

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sat 30 June

The youngest son of Bob Marley, Grammy Award-winning artist Damian is embarking on his first solo UK tour since the release of critically acclaimed album Stony Hill.
Best known for songs Welcome To Jamrock and Road To Zion, and albums such as Distant Relatives (on which he collaborated with Nas), Damian is the only reggae artist to win two Grammys on the same night.

NOFX

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Thurs 14 June

Punk rock band NOFX are this month bringing their loud, wild and spectacularly full-throttle live performance to the UK for the first time in three years.
Forming way back in 1983, the four-piece came out of the same fiery furnaces of the LA hardcore scene as Bad Religion, Suicidal Tendencies, The Germs and Descendants.
Label mates Bad Cop Bad Cop offer support for this Birmingham date.

Katy Perry

Arena Birmingham, Mon 18 June

Singer-songwriter Katy Perry made her Capitol Records debut with 2008's One Of The Boys. In her 10 years with the label, she's racked up more than 18 billion streams and worldwide sales of over 40 million adjusted albums and 125 million tracks.
Chained To The Rhythm, the first single from her new album, has become the biggest UK airplay hit of the past 12 months. In the process it set an all-time Spotify record for the best first day of streaming of a single track by a female artist.

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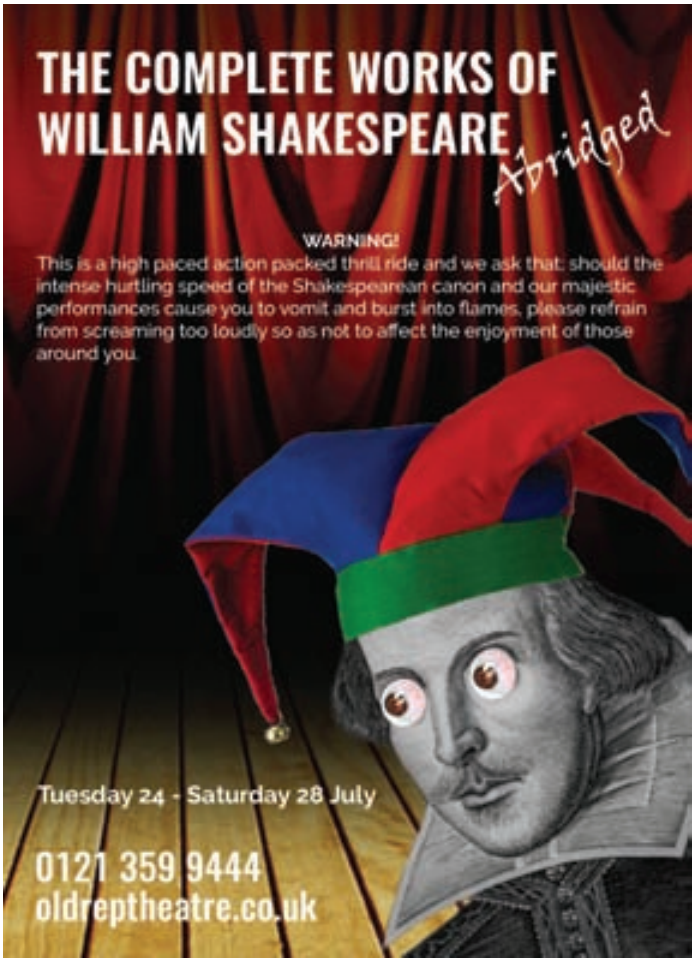
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Ex Cathedra: Summer Music By Candlelight

Birmingham Cathedral, Tues 19 & Wed 20 June

Jeffrey Skidmore once again takes the baton to conduct Birmingham's highly rated early music ensemble, this time in a midsummer night's concert that promises to transport the audience to an enchanted world. The programmes for these annual concerts, presented by candlelight as dusk falls, move seamlessly from seasonal favourites to rare, rediscovered, contemporary and lighter repertoire. Compositions by both Debussy and Gershwin are featured in the 2018 line-up of works.

Birmingham Bach Choir

St Alban's Church, Birmingham, Sat 30 June

One of the city's oldest and most distinguished musical groups here gets its collective teeth into a programme of 'sun-drenched Italian choral music spanning four centuries'.
Highlights from the programme include madrigals by Claudio Monteverdi and Carlo Gesualdo, the latter of whom murdered his wife and her lover on discovering them 'in the act'. Works by Lotti, Gabrieli, Rossini and Pizzetti also feature. Paul Spicer (pictured) conducts.

CBSO: Pelléas Et Mélisande

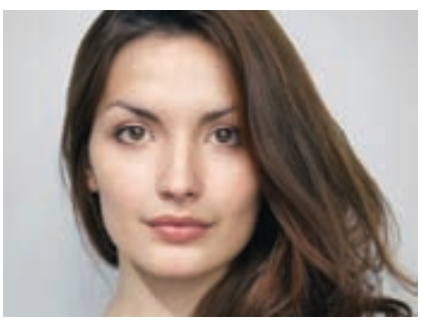
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 23 June

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's Music Director, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (pictured), here conducts Debussy's fairy-tale opera. The concert brings to a close the orchestra's celebration of the legendary French composer on the 100th anniversary of his death.
The CBSO are joined by a stellar cast to tell the story of Mélisande, a princess who, after falling in love, finds herself exposed to passions which are both wonderful and deadly. The production features a 60-minute interval after act three.

Last Night Of The Summer Proms

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 30 June

As quintessentially English as cucumber sandwiches and Pimms, the ever-popular Last Night Of The Summer Proms promises to provide an evening of uplifting classics and prom favourites.
Works from some of the world's greatest composers will be played out alongside rousing favourites Rule, Britannia!, Land Of Hope And Glory, Nessun Dorma and The Dam Busters March. The concert is performed by the London Concert Orchestra and features soprano Anna Patalong (pictured) with Hilary Davan Wetton conducting.



Thallein Ensemble & Jennifer Walshe

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Fri 22 June

The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's Thallein Ensemble turn their attention to the work of Jennifer Walshe, a composer whose star has most definitely been in the ascendant in recent times. Developing since 2007 a project, Grúpat, in which she's assumed 12 different alter egos, Walshe has also created a fictional history of the musical avant-garde in Ireland.
Thallein here perform work from across the Dublin-born composer's career.

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Download Festival

Donington Park, Derby, Fri 8 & Sun 10 June

With top billing consistently taken by some of the biggest names in rock and metal, it's not hard to see why Download is one of the most popular and well-attended festivals in the UK.
Conceived as a follow-up to Donington Park's previous Monsters Of Rock Festival, Download makes its 16th outing this year, owing its name partly to its pioneering use of technology to connect with audiences and build a community around the event.

Line-up includes: Guns N' Roses (pictured), Ozzy Osbourne, Avenged Sevenfold, Bullet For My Valentine, Black Stone Cherry, Marilyn Manson, Volbeat, Thunder, Shinedown, Rise Against and Parkway Drive

Upton Jazz Festival

Upton-upon-Severn, Thurs 21 - Sun 24 June

Now in its 33rd year, the Upton Jazz Festival boasts a star-studded international line-up - including bands from the US - and annually attracts thousands of jazz fans from across the country.
Festival-goers can expect more than 50 gigs in Upton's renowned pubs and clubs, as well as riverboat shuffles aboard the town's iconic Conway Castle river cruiser. There's also a lively fringe festival to enjoy, which raises money for the Nathan Tomkins Trust. In addition, the festival's well-regarded Best Of Young Jazz programme showcases rising jazz stars from schools, colleges and conservatoires across the region.

Line-up includes: Mama Shakers, Jazz Connection, Les Zauto Stompers, James Evans, Vitality Five, The Water Gypsies, Jake Leg Jug Band, Madi Stimpson, Tom Bell, Alan Barnes, Amy Roberts, Robert Fowler, Keith Nicholls and Craig Milverton

Lichfield Blues & Jazz

Lichfield Guildhall & other city centre venues, Fri 1 - Sun 3 June

Having launched in 2015, this growing festival is fast establishing itself as a firm fixture on Lichfield's cultural calendar.
Taking place across multiple city centre venues, the long weekend celebrates the best in local jazz and blues talent, as well as showcasing quality musicianship from further afield. Concerts can be booked individually, with an assortment of hands-on workshops and lively street bands to enjoy alongside the main acts.

Line-up includes: King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys (pictured), Stan Webb, Robert Jackson, Zoe Green, Emma Jonson, Steve Ajao's Blues Giants, The Shooters, Theo Travis, Annie Whitehead and Sara Gillespie.

Tenbury Music Festival

The Burgage Recreation Ground, Tenbury Wells, Sat 30 June

Now in its fourth year, the one-day Tenbury Music Festival is a family-friendly event featuring multiple stages, renowned food & drink stalls, camping opportunities and (of course) plenty of live music. Although the festival itself is taking place on the Saturday, there will be a Friday night screening of The Who's 1975 rock-opera movie, Tommy, at restored art deco cinema The Regal.

Line-up includes: Lightning Seeds (pictured), Arcadia Roots, Blue Moon, Dissident Prophet, Stone Mountain Sinners, Rainbreakers, Redwood, 4 Men Called Bob, Shannon Flynn, Alphabetbackwards, Joncan Kavlakoglu and Liquorice Lounge

Acoustic Festival Of Great Britain

Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire, Fri 1 - Sun 3 June

Standing out from the crowd of ever-louder electronic festivals, the Acoustic Festival Of Great Britain marks a welcome return to the basics of good-quality music.
Stripped back, unplugged performances are the focus of this relaxed, friendly event. Beyond that, it's open to music of all genres. With five-star-rated camping infrastructure, glamping options, seated food tents and kids' play areas, it's the perfect way to spend a lazy weekend with the family.

Line-up includes: Dire Straits, Steve Harley, Ferocious Dog, Think Floyd, Chris Difford, Urban Folk Quartet, Lucy Ward (pictured), Brooks Williams, Juzzie Smith, The Whiskey Rebellion, The Jar Family, Sian Evans and Eric Faulkner

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★ Peter Knight and John Spiers ★ Johnny Coppin and Phil Beer
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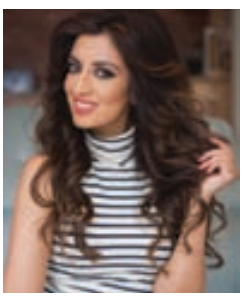
The Muslims Are Coming

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 17 June

Described as a 'halal-arious family-friendly comedy show to celebrate the end of Ramadan and Eid', The Muslims Are Coming features Noreen Khan (pictured), Ali Official, Eshaan Akbar, Aatif Nawaz and local lad Guz Khan.

Former school teacher Guz shot to relative fame a handful of years ago after seeing his YouTube clips go viral. "I think it's important to push against boundaries with comedy," says Guz, "and while I like to make people laugh while exploring issues such as religion, race and gender, I'm not somebody looking to cause offence just because I can."



Mischief Movie Night

Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 26 June - Sun 1 July

Mischief Theatre, the award-winning company behind smash-hit comedy The Play That Goes Wrong, make a welcome return to the Midlands to present an improvised movie live on stage. Taking suggestions from the audience for the film's genre, location and title, the talented ensemble will then bring to life 'a comedy blockbuster' of a show, complete with rewinds, fast forwards, director's cuts and a live score.

Angela Barnes

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 16 June

When Angela Barnes's inspirational father died, it proved to be the catalyst for her to finally follow his advice and hurl herself into the rough, tough world of stand-up comedy. And if her early-career success is anything to go by, she's certainly made the right decision.

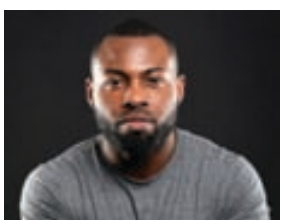
A BBC New Comedy Awards winner, Angela is a self-confessed BBC Radio Four nerd who looks to have a bright future in the UK comedy arena.

Flight Of The Conchords

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Tuesday 26 June

New Zealand folk comedy duo Jemaine Clement and Bret McKenzie stop off in Birmingham - albeit a little later in the year than expected - as part of a brand new UK and Ireland tour, their first in seven years. Their appearance in the city has been somewhat delayed due to Brett breaking bones in his hand while falling down the stairs.

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.



Edinbrum

MAC Birmingham, various dates between Thurs 7 June & Thurs 26 July

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

The venue's Thursday night line-up of mirthful merrymakers should certainly ensure a chuckle or several is never too far away. And the comedians in question will no doubt be measuring the audience reaction to their every gag, as they frantically try to hone their material in preparation for their forthcoming trip to Bonnie Scotland.

MAC Birmingham's June Edinbrum shows this month are as follows: Jarred Christmas & Viv Groskop (7 June); Lloyd Langford & Chris Stokes (14th); Pat Monahan & Darren Harriott (21st); and Angela Barnes & Mitch Benn (28th).

David Edgar
50 years on...

by David Edgar

David Edgar is used to writing plays but not so used to performing in them - but that's all about to change. The Birmingham-born playwright is marking his 70th birthday by taking to the stage in Trying It On, a new show in which he contemplates the ways in which both the world and his own views have changed during the last 50 years. Here, David writes for What's On about his brand new production...

The last time I appeared on a stage was as Captain Bligh in a university production of Mutiny On The Bounty, 44 years ago. Since then my career as a playwright has kept me - mercifully - offstage. Why on earth am I treading the boards again?

The story starts around three years ago, after a show at Warwick Arts Centre, when I bumped into its artistic director, who asked me what I was doing and what I was planning. On impulse, I said that I'd been considering doing a solo show (not just written but also performed by me) to mark my 70th birthday in 2018. He said that was a wonderful idea and he'd like to commission it at once. I was locked in.

Even more so when my producers persuaded a number of other theatres - including Midlands Arts Centre, the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, and the Royal Court in London, to take the show. Plus - most importantly of all - the Birmingham Rep, to which I've a very particular attachment. As young actor/stage managers, my parents met on the stage door steps of the theatre in 1938. I first went to the theatre when I was three-and-three-quarters. I began writing for the theatre in 1972.

The idea of the show is to look back over the last 50 years not just of my life but of our times. I was 20 in 1968, at the height of the worldwide student revolt against adult authority in general and the Vietnam war in particular. I was among millions of young people who wanted to change the world. Fifty years on, what does the 70-year-old me think of that young idealist? More importantly, perhaps, what does he think of me? You could say that our lives are a constant conversation between our present and our past, but the debate between the 2018 of Jeremy Corbyn, Donald Trump and #MeToo and the 1968 of Robert Kennedy, Richard Nixon and Women's Liberation is particularly timely.

Researching the show, I've asked myself questions about the influence of 1968. Was its principal legacy an increase in personal freedom, and some great music (so, just sex, drugs and rock'n'roll)? Or did it transform the world politically (as we thought at the time)? 1968 saw a kind of global uprising against the older generation, from America via Europe to Pakistan and Japan. Did that spirit of internationalism find expression in the world-wide web? Was the revolt just a matter of fashion, a flash in the pan which petered out as the students graduated and got jobs, families and mortgages? Or have the political movements which 1968 gave birth to - most particularly, feminism and the environmental movement - remained remarkably resilient, and permanently changed the way we live our lives?

Certainly, the initial hopes of 1968 were dashed - at the end of a year of rebellion in America, France and Eastern Europe, the ruling parties remained firmly in place. If the late '60s were just about personal freedom, then there's an argument that they found their full expression in the individualism of Margaret Thatcher's market economics (though she herself hated the '60s, blaming them for everything that had gone wrong with Britain). The Eastern European revolts which led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 drew heavily on the style, slogans and music of the 1960s, but they resulted in a renewal of capitalism and nationalism. And, talking of nationalism, why did most people who were 20 in 1968 vote Brexit?

I've explored these questions by talking to people who were involved in the events of 50 years ago, as well as my own biography, as an (intermittent) activist but also a playwright. I was incredibly lucky to start writing plays professionally in the early '70s: following the abolition of theatre censorship (another 1968 anniversary) there was a huge expansion of what came to be called fringe theatre across Britain, which was thirsty for new plays by new playwrights. Since then there have been great changes: the expansion of large theatre institutions like the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Companies (both of which see new plays as an important part of their repertoire), as well as the growth of small-scale companies, making plays in new, collaborative ways.
The biggest change in theatre repertoire over the last 50 years has been the decline of revivals and the growth of new work. Naturally, as a playwright, I defend the individually-written play as the bedrock of theatre (as it remains). But I am interested in alternative ways of playmaking, and have explored some of them to create Trying It On.

It's also been fascinating to perform again. The play is around an hour and a quarter long - the length of the part of Hamlet. My respect for the skill (and energy) of actors was already high, but has got even higher. Having watched some of the show on film, I am painfully aware of the difference between how it feels as it comes out of me and how it looks when it arrives at the audience. I am working on my voice (in collaboration with experts) and trying to get early nights.

If you've been writing for as long as I have, you're aware of the need to ring the changes. Apart from plays for the REP, my personal favourites from my work include many for the RSC, including adaptations of Stevenson's Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde, and the RSC is reviving Maydays (at the Other Place in September) and A Christmas Carol is coming back in December. But, inevitably, the premiere of my first solo show - and my professional stage debut - will be the highlight of my year.

David Edgar presents Trying It On at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, from Thurs 7 to Sat 9 June; Birmingham Repertory Theatre, from Tues 12 to Wed 13 June; MAC Birmingham, Fri 12 October & The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, from Thurs 18 to Sat 20 October

Woyzeck

The REP, Birmingham, Fri 15 - Sat 23 June

Although ostensibly written by Georg Büchner in the mid-19th century, Woyzeck was posthumously finished by numerous authors, editors and translators. It wasn't premiered until 1913, 76 years after its primary author's death. The title of the work refers to a lowly soldier named Franz Woyzeck, who's stationed in a provincial German town and living with Marie, the mother of his child, who was born out of wedlock and therefore not blessed by the church. To make extra money, Franz agrees to take part in medical experiments, but soon finds his mental health severely compromised as he begins to experience a series of apocalyptic visions... Bringing together theatre and dance and being presented as part of the Birmingham International Dance Festival, this home-made REP production features a community chorus of 100 performers and dancers.

Birdsong

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 18 - Sat 23 June; Malvern Theatre, Tues 26 - Sat 30 June

Sebastian Faulks' epic and bestselling novel is set both before and during the Great War. It follows the fortunes of the young Stephen Wraysford as he embarks on a passionate and dangerous affair with the beautiful Isabelle Azaire...

This stage version was written by Rachel Wagstaff, who claims she got the nod from Faulks to adapt his novel after she impressed him by knowing the most recent result of his beloved football club, West Ham United.

Oddsocks' The Tempest

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 1 June; The Church Green, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Fri 8 June; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 19 - Thurs 21 June; Whitbourne Hall, Worcester, Wed 27 June

Madcap funsters Oddsocks aren't the first to give William Shakespeare's last ever play a seriously sci-fi slant - hit West Ender Return To The Forbidden Planet is an outer space version of The Tempest, too.

Advertising their show as 'boldly going where no other Shakespeare has gone before', the hugely popular ensemble will be bringing their ever-winning brand of anarchic humour to proceedings - not to mention a flying saucer's-worth of music and a galaxy of zany aliens!

The Unbinding

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 22 & Sat 23 June

A journey into 'a dark and spellbinding world' is in prospect for audience members joining Wrong Shoes Theatre Company for this evening of thought-provoking drama. Combining physical theatre and original music, The Unbinding tells the story of four women accused of witchcraft who're awaiting sentencing together. In recounting their tale, the show explores the subject of mob mentality, contemplating the seemingly insatiable desire within society to punish those who present themselves as being different.

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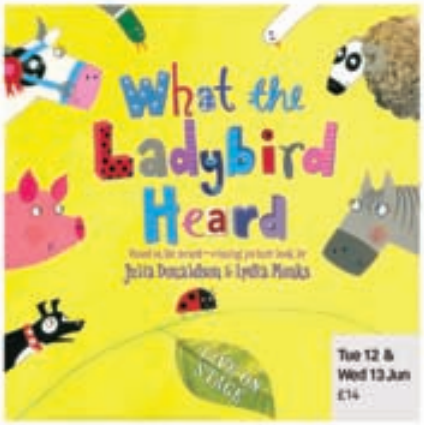

Sunshine On Leith

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 5 - Sat 9 June

Inspired by The Proclaimers album of the same name, Sunshine On Leith went from stage musical to the silver screen. Following the story of two soldiers from Afghanistan as they try to adjust to civilian life back home in Edinburgh, the show features numerous catchy tunes, included among which are The Proclaimers' best-known hits, I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles) and Letter From America.

Suitable for audience members aged 12 and older, the show is returning to the Belgrade for the first time in eight years, and has been produced by West Yorkshire Playhouse.

Rhondda Rips It Up

MAC, Birmingham, Sat 9 June; Malvern Theatre, Tues 26 June

Usually setting up camp at Birmingham Hippodrome when they visit the Midlands, Welsh National Opera here break with that tradition by visiting MAC with the world premiere of a 'rip-roaring, uproarious musical comedy'.

Focusing on the unsung heroine of the Welsh Suffrage movement, Margaret Haig Thomas, the Viscountess Rhondda, WNO describe the show as a 'thigh-slapping romp through the world of suffrage and song'.

Told through the lens of music hall, it boasts an all-female cast and creative team including Lesley Garrett and Madeleine Shaw (pictured above)

Beautiful: The Carole King Musical

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 12 - Sat 16 June

Touring to the Midlands on the back of Olivier Award-winning West End success, Beautiful is a homage to the life and music of legendary singer-songwriter Carole King. Featured numbers include You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman, Take Good Care Of My Baby, You've Got A Friend, So Far Away, It Might As Well Rain Until September, Up On The Roof and Locomotion.

Daughters Of Fortune: Mia

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Wed 27 June

"Think pop culture with popcorn, science with silliness, stories with statistics," advise Mind The Gap theatre company in promoting their latest show. "Fast-moving, raw and eye-opening, Mia reveals the truth about learning disability and parenthood in today's society, challenging often-taken-for-granted ideas about what it means to be a parent."

Miss Littlewood

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 22 June - Sat 4 August

Perhaps best known for her development of the Theatre Workshop, a group launched in the 1940s whose best-known shows included Oh! What A Lovely War and A Taste Of Honey, Joan Littlewood is often referred to as 'the mother of modern theatre'. This brand new musical charts Littlewood's journey from the East End to the West End, celebrating the life and times of a woman who was unquestionably one of the most anarchic revolutionaries of 20th century theatre.

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Hairspray

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 12 - Sat 16 June

It's 1962, and in Tracy Turnblad's Baltimore hometown, massive hairdos, dancing the twist and Corny Collins' daytime dance show are the hottest tickets in teen culture.
In some ways, life for this starry-eyed girl starts out as big and bright and breezy as a bubblegum balloon - but there's trouble brewing just beneath the surface. And as Tracy grows up and wakes up to the everyday injustices in her neighbourhood, it looks as though that bubble could well be set to burst...
This Tony Award-winning hit of a show returns to the Midlands with a jukebox-worth of 1960s-style dance music and 'downtown' rhythm and blues to enjoy.
"We might not be doing the same things now as we were in the '60s," says Rebecca Mendoza, who stars as Tracy, "but we're still fighting the same problems, just in a different form. There's an important message at the show's core, but it's so well wrapped up in a whirlwind of colour, dialogue, tunes and choreography, that it never once feels preachy."

Thrill Me: The Leopold & Leob Story

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 15 - Sat 19 May

Given that the events which unfold in Stephen Dolginoff's award-winning musical took place across the Atlantic over 90 years ago, it's perhaps not surprising that relatively few people are familiar with the story of Nathan Freudenthal Leopold Jr and Richard Albert Loeb.
Two wealthy and intelligent law students, Leopold and Loeb signed a contract in blood to commit the perfect crime, kidnapping and murdering a 14-year-old boy named Robert Franks.
"A play about two gay child killers isn't the easiest sell in the world," says Dolginoff, "but what made it really difficult was the fact it was a musical. When people think of a musical, they tend to think of something lighthearted and comedic, but this is a serious piece. There's nothing lighthearted or comedic about Thrill Me."

Macbeth

Stafford Castle, Thurs 28 June - Sat 14 July

Having been spurred into action by the prophesies of three supernatural women - and egged on by his conniving wife - Macbeth's desire to be king of Scotland sees him slaughtering first Duncan and then Banquo. As the pressure mounts and his grip on sanity weakens, he decides to commit even more atrocities - including the murder of women and children... Performed outdoors in the grounds of Stafford Castle.

Table

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Fri 8 - Sat 23 June

The handcrafted dining table in the Best's home has seen use by six generations of the family, in the process becoming a powerful symbol of the lives which have been lived. But as people remain connected through the centuries by stories and possessions passed down by their ancestors, how much can they actually trust their memories?
Containing no shortage of adult content, including nudity, scenes of a sexual nature and strong language, this regional premiere of Tanya Ronder's thought-provoking play is no walk in the park. It is, however, extremely good, and was first produced, to great acclaim, at the National Theatre in 2013.

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Teletubbies Live

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 13 - Thurs 14 June; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 18 - Thurs 19 July; The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Sept; Malvern Theatres, Wed 19 - Thurs 20 Sept

Despite having been around for many a year, the world famous Teletubbies are here appearing in their first ever theatre show, created especially for little ones. Tinky Winky, Dipsy, Laa-Laa and Po continue to enchant and delight pre-school youngsters a full 21 years after making their television debut on BBC Two. Brand new songs and the popular supporting characters of Tubby Phone, Noo-noo and Sun Baby also feature.

Bing Live!

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Shropshire, Wed 27 June; Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 24 & Sat 25 August; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Sept

Bing Live!'s promoters are confident that their show is a perfect 'first theatre trip' for pre-schoolers and their families. And why wouldn't they be, given that it's awash with 'fun, laughter, music and dressing-up'?
For those not in the know, the show is based on an animated CBeebies television series.

Peppa Pig's Adventure

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 6 & Thurs 7 June; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 28 - Wed 29 Aug

If you've taken your little ones to any of the previous Peppa Pig stage shows - and enjoyed the experience of watching them having a fantastic time - you'll already know that this latest production is well worth catching. "It seems hardly any time at all since we started on the first Peppa Pig live stage show," observes writer and director Richard Lewis. "It's been an incredible experience seeing the children's reactions, not only in the UK but throughout the world. Peppa Pig really is a worldwide phenomenon."

The Ugly Duckling

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 9 June

Hans Christian Andersen's The Ugly Duckling tells the story of an odd-looking baby duck who's evicted from the farmyard and finds himself all alone in a scary and hostile world. Thankfully there's a happy ending to ensure your youngsters head for home in fine spirits! This quacker of a well-hatched story is presented by Sea Legs Puppet Theatre and features 'brilliant storytelling, fantastic puppets and a delightful musical score'.
Suitable for children aged three-plus.

Doctor Dolittle

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sat 16 June; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 24 June; The Core Theatre, Solihull, Fri 3 Aug

Hugh Lofting's delightful character is a friend to all manner of furry, four-legged creatures, and certainly knows how to have an adventure or two!... Featuring original music, lots of audience participation and some 'amazing' puppets, this brand new show is 90 minutes in length and suitable for youngsters aged seven and older.

Chocolate Cake

Malvern Theatres, Sat 9 June

Chocolate Cake is a brand new show based on Michael Rosen's much-loved poem of the same name, which has recently been published as a picture book.
With the creative team behind the production having previously enjoyed success with We're Going On A Bear Hunt and Helen Stephens' How To Hide A Lion, this lively musical about two brothers and the nighttime disappearance of a chocolate cake should be well worth catching.

Ministry Of Science

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 19 June; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Wed 4 July

An anarchic approach to science communication is the name of the game when the Ministry Of Science comes to town. As well as taking a look at the inventors and engineers who've shaped and inspired the modern world, the show's presenters will be conducting clever demonstrations aplenty - so expect the occasional loud bang!

Kindur: The Adventurous Life Of Icelandic Sheep

MAC, Birmingham, Sat 16 & Sun 17 June

Presented as part of Birmingham International Dance Festival, this 'magical interactive theatre experience' sees three dancers assuming the role of kindur (sheep in Icelandic) to take the audience on an immersive adventure through a fairytale landscape.

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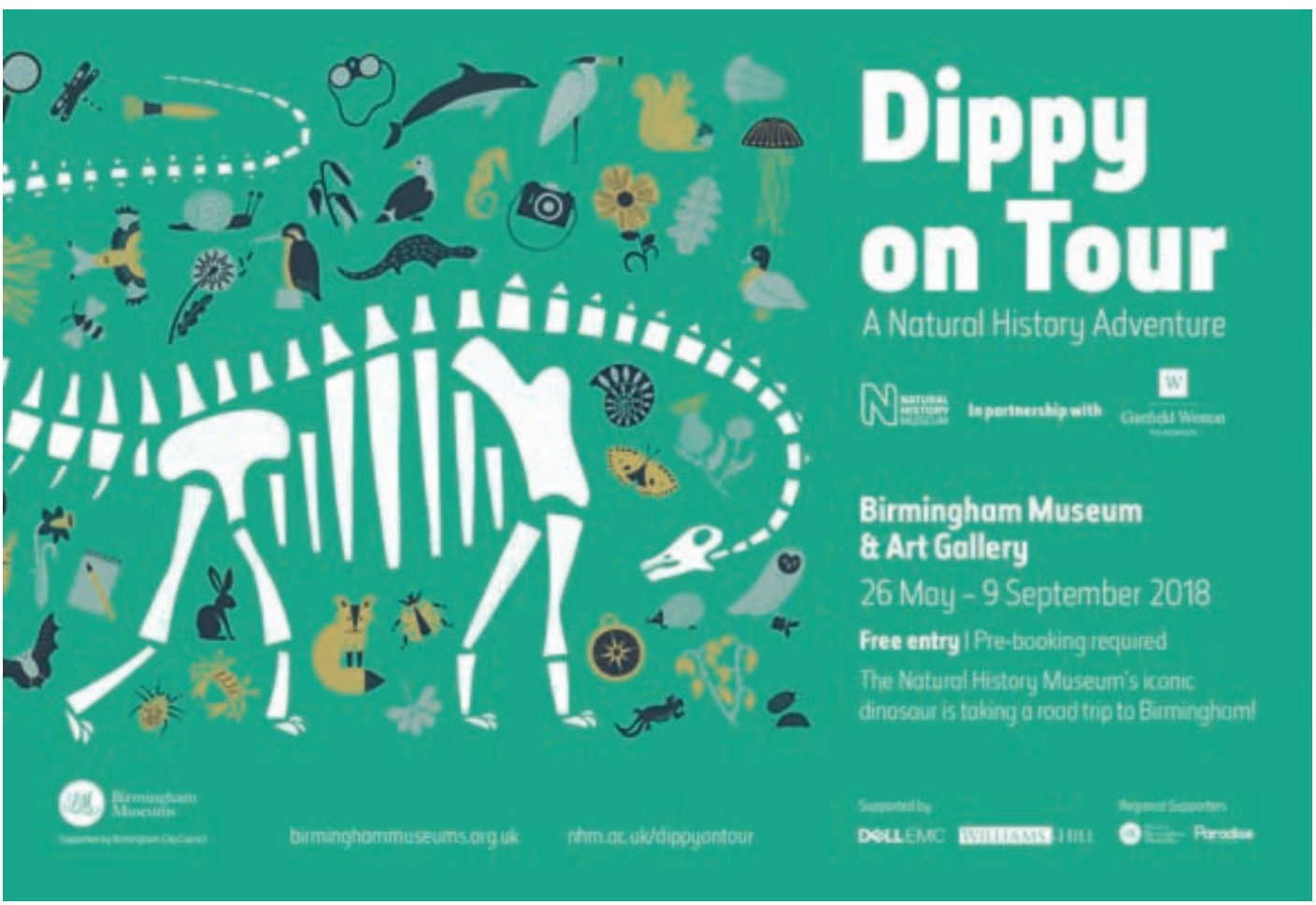
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Paradise

The stage version of classic 1963 Cliff Richard movie Summer Holiday is coming to the Midlands this month - complete with the multi-talented Bobby Crush. What's On recently caught up with Bobby to chat about the hit musical and his recently rejuvenated career...

Brand new stage show Summer Holiday has been called the feelgood musical of 2018. Promising to bring 'music, fun and laughter to the stage', the show tells the story of Don and his fellow London Transport mechanics as they journey together in a red double-decker bus through Paris, the Alps, Italy and Greece. Along the way, they pick up a female singing group and a young American pop star. The latter is on the run, not only from a domineering mother but also from her own agent, Jerry, who's played in the show by Bobby Crush.

by Lauren Foster

"I'm really enjoying the role," says Bobby. "I play the part very cockney. I'm going back to my roots, really - I'm originally from the East End of London. Jerry wears the most appalling wig - it's shocking! It's like a dead animal perched on my forehead. It's deliberately bad; he thinks that no one notices."

Packed full of classic Cliff Richard hits, including Summer Holiday, In The Country, Move It and Bachelor Boy, as well as bundles of energy and lots of laughs, the show unashamedly recalls a bygone era. "It's lovely because it's from a much more innocent age than the one we're in now. There are no swear words, there's the obligatory happy ending and everyone's having a lovely time. There's no message in it - it's just pure entertainment.
"We're keeping all of the original music. There's the addition of some Cliff hits that weren't actually in the movie, like The Young Ones and The Next Time, so it's a big treat for Cliff fans. In terms of the storyline, I think those who have a happy memory of the film won't be disappointed by what's happening in the musical. All of the most important bits remain in it - including, of course, the full-size London double-decker bus."

Starring alongside Bobby, and taking the Cliff role of Don, is Ray Quinn. Having first risen to prominence in Channel Four's Brookside, Quinn achieved more public recognition after finishing second to Leona Lewis in the 2006 series of The X Factor. In 2009 he won the fourth series of Dancing On Ice. Ray's debut album, Doing It My Way, entered the charts at number one and quickly achieved platinum status. His more recent theatre credits include The Wedding Singer, Legally Blonde and Dirty Dancing.

"Ray will be a revelation when people see him in this role," says Bobby. "He's sticking very closely to the template of Don in the film, and he's a good little dancer. We get on really well; he's a really nice guy. They're all really great."

At sixty-four, Bobby is the oldest member of the Summer Holiday cast, but he's certainly lost none of his enthusiasm for working. He recently appeared in the ITV series Last Laugh In Vegas. The show followed eight well-known variety performers from the '60s, '70s and '80s - including Anita Harris, Su Pollard, Bernie Clifton and Jess Conrad - as they went on a two-week trip to Las Vegas. Whilst living in a house together, they explored the city and prepared for a one-night-only variety performance.

"I think it was on the back of having been in Last Laugh In Vegas that the Summer Holiday producers decided I'd be a suitable Jerry. It was hard work; there were a lot of late nights and a lot of early starts, but on the final show we all did our own thing and the audience reaction was just stupendous. It's something that I'll remember for the rest of my life. I've been fortunate enough to do some brilliant work, and to work with some terrific people. I've done three seasons at the London Palladium and all of that, but to be able to say in your mid-60s that you've just been given the opportunity to work in Las Vegas, and been given a standing ovation - that was just amazing! It was so unusual and so unexpected. It's something that I will look back on in the future as a career highlight.

"There's talk that there's going to be a live tour at some point, featuring everybody who took part in the show - which is one of the reasons why I've only signed for the first eight weeks of the Summer Holiday tour. It's great to have all these opportunities suddenly arrive out of nowhere. My agent is negotiating panto at the moment too, so it looks like I'm going to have a very busy year!"

Bobby believes he was always destined to be a performer. "I'd been playing the piano since I was four years old. I started playing in front of the public at the age of 12, in amateur dramatics and concert parties. Then I started playing in pubs when I was 15 or 16, and turned pro at 18. When anybody asked me, from a very, very early age, what I would end up doing, I always said I would be on the stage."

Bobby first came to public attention in 1972, after six winning appearances in the Hughie Green talent show, Opportunity Knocks. He was 18 at the time. "My memories of my teenage years and my early 20s are the inside of TV studios and hotel rooms. I wasn't really given the opportunity to develop in terms of my personal life because everything was geared towards my professional life. I shouldn't complain because it was what I wanted, or what I thought I wanted at the time, but I think it should have been tempered with a little bit more time given over to my emotional development. It was a very heavy schedule for me in those early years, just dancing from one thing to another. I was also very cosseted by my parents. At the time, my father gave up his job to go out on the road with me. He drove me to all my gigs and arranged the hotels etc, so it meant that all I had to think about was performing and putting on a good show. Part of that was great because it was my dad and he had my best interests at heart. But also, it's your dad, and you're spending all your time with your dad when really you should be out with mates and having fun and having relationships and what have you. That never really happened for me until I got into my mid-20s. I was quite a late developer because I was shielded."

Bobby came out publicly as gay in an interview with Gay Times in 2004, at the age of 50. "The journalist I was speaking to about a Liberace show I was doing in London knew that I was gay. He said that if I would like to use that occasion to come out, then they'd give me a three-page spread, and I thought, what's not to love about that? It was great publicity for the show, too. I'd always planned to come out in an autobiography, but I thought, let's do it now and get it all done and dusted. One reason it took until I was 50 was the fact that nobody had actually asked me straight out. If they had, I would've bitten the bullet and been truthful. Another reason was that in the early '70s, if you'd actually spoken openly about those things, it had the potential to finish your career.

"Opinions are much more relaxed now. We have openly gay pop stars and gay storylines in soap operas. All of that was a million miles away in 1972. Thank god that people have become a little bit more savvy and relaxed about these things! My nieces, who are now in their early 20s, have always known that they've got a gay uncle, and they've just shrugged it off. The younger generation seem to think that way, whereas for my generation it was a whole different ball game."

Summer Holiday runs at the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from 12 to 16 June & Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent from 2 to 6 October

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Company Wayne McGregor - Atomos

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 1 & Sat 2 June

Visiting Birmingham under the umbrella of the city's international dance festival, cutting-edge choreographer Wayne McGregor's Atomos sees 10 dancers presenting a performance that's been described as 'sculptural, rigorous, jarring and hauntingly beautiful'.

McGregor is well known for his tenacious style of questioning, not only through body and mind but also across the art and science interface.

This latest piece sees him atomising bodies, movement, film, sound and light into what he describes as 'miniature shards of intense sensation'.

The production is suitable for audience members aged eight and older.

Ballet Central

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 4 June

Works by renowned choreographers including Matthew Bourne and Wayne McGregor feature in this mixed bill, presented by young dancers on the cusp of their professional careers. Bourne's Fairies Prologue, from his gothic reworking of Sleeping Beauty, and an excerpt from McGregor's Far are performed alongside Jenna Lee's brand new creation, Black Swan. Christopher Gable's Cinderella and an excerpt from Kenneth MacMillan's rarely seen Valley Of Shadows also feature.

Candoco Dance Company

MAC, Birmingham, Wed 13 & Thurs 14 June

Aiming as always to produce cutting-edge work that challenges and broadens perceptions of art and ability, Candoco here present an imaginative double bill as part of Birmingham International Dance Festival.

Yasmeen Godder's new work, Face In, is set to an urban indie score and described by Candoco as 'a sensual and disturbing ode to intimacy and imagination, expressed through striking images and daring, uninhibited dance'.

Hetain Patel's Let's Talk About Dis, meanwhile, is an exploration of the dancers' personalities, 'a playful and intimate piece' that asks questions about the nature of identity and how it is formed.

BRB Romeo & Juliet

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 26 - Sat 30 June

Kenneth McMillan's celebrated work remains one of the finest and most popular versions of Sergei Prokofiev's stunning ballet, and here makes a welcome return as part of the 2018 Birmingham International Dance Festival programme. Birmingham Royal Ballet's exquisite version has garnered widespread praise and is unquestionably one of the company's most admired productions.

The show lasts for just short of three hours and features two intervals.

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Elements Of Freestyle

Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 14 June

Making use of four skating ramps assembled in a variety of ways, Elements Of Freestyle showcases performances of breakdance, in-line skating, skateboarding, freerunning, BMX and freestyle basketball.

The show has been put together by Marco Gerris (former jury member of The Freestyle Games and So You Think You Can Dance), and delivers 'a fresh look at urban arts'.

Presented under the Birmingham International Dance Festival banner, the production is performed by ISH Dance Collective.

2Faced Dance Company: Moon

Victoria Square, Birmingham, Sat 9 & Sun 10 June

Herefordshire's 2Faced Dance Company describe their show as a combination of 'breathtaking dance and a whole host of mess and mayhem'. It also features an aerial hoop and has been specially created for family audiences. Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen and bringing together dance, circus and music, the show follows the story of the lonely and scared Jack, and the amazing adventure he enjoys with the Moon.

Move To The Rhythm

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 9 June

This showcase event for the Keep Fit Association (KFA) features regional teams representing their members across the UK. Dedicated to the provision of safe and effective exercise, movement and dance, the KFA promotes a holistic workout that uses creative choreography to help its members achieve 'lifelong fitness'.

New Creation

The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome, Sat 23 June

A collaborative experimentation, reflecting on the interface of nature and the artifice of the human body, New Creation sees celebrated choreographers Cecilia Bengolea and Florentina Holzinger teaming up to contemplate 'the limits of the body and its representation in relationship to nature'.

Focusing on hybrid insects existing in a lake of slime, the show takes a look at how the unpredictable conditions of their environment force constant adaptation, gradually disfiguring both their physical and sensory worlds. The production is presented as part of Birmingham International Dance Festival.

Embracing life

Midlands-born choreographer George Williamson talks about premiering his new ballet as part of a Birmingham Royal Ballet mixed programme...

by Jenny Ell

In November last year, professional dance development programme Ballet Now announced the first team of choreographers and composers who would be creating new one-act ballets for the stage. Emerging talent George Williamson, from Worcestershire, was one of the choreographers chosen. His new ballet, Embrace, premieres this month.

Twenty-seven-year-old Williamson has danced and choreographed professionally all over the world since graduating from the English National Ballet School in 2010. During his training there, he won a succession of awards, and is fast becoming 'one to watch' in ballet circles.

His new production is essentially about disregarding who we're expected to be and instead embracing who we are. In a world of patriarchy, Embrace explores the weight, grief and loneliness of 'otherness'. Expressed through movement, this is a very personal project for Williamson. "I've never done a narrative work based on anything to do with myself before, but this way I can really tap into all of the different emotions and ideas in the piece."

Embrace features a number of Birmingham Royal Ballet dancers who're working with Williamson in between fulfilling their commitments to the company. "It's been quite a long process, as rehearsals have been broken up around the dancers' touring schedule. The ballet is finished, but we have to keep going over everything that we've been doing during the last four months."

Williamson won't see his dancers again until one week before Embrace premieres in London, due to the fact that they're touring in Japan.

Although Williamson's CV is impressive, he's never before been involved in such a collaborative process. "It's new music, a completely new concept, story and designs."

On being given the Ballet Now opportunity, Williamson approached American composer Sarah Kirkland Snider to write the music, visiting her in the States. "I got to spend some time with Sarah out there, where we finalised the music and discussed all the finer details. I've loved working with her, and I'm really excited to hear the music with an orchestra for the first time."

Amazingly, the first four weeks of rehearsal for Embrace were choreographed to no music at all. "We'd created a lot of material before we had the music, and because of this, we were able to try whatever we liked. Once you have the music, it sets final parameters, so it was actually a relief to finally have it; you can't just keep creating endless amounts of movement."

Williamson usually works with music from the outset, but he's enjoyed the collaborative nature of not initially having any. "We've been able to change our minds about the movement and music in rehearsal. When you dance in the studio, trying out ideas, the music that works in your head potentially doesn't work with the dancers' bodies. I was able to feed that back to Sarah, and she would then edit or adjust the music, which is the true sense of collaboration."

An additional challenge was that the composer had never worked with ballet before, so Williamson had to explain a lot along the way. "The thing that attracted me so much to Sarah's work was that she shows a strong sense of 'story' in her music. I knew she would be really good at facilitating the narrative and making sure that everything had its time and place."

Williamson is no stranger to creating new ballets, so does he prefer this to reinventing existing material? "Yes, definitely. I really love creating. I want to be a choreographer who creates stories that relate to the world we live in now; creating movement that's exciting, new and challenging for the dancers. At the same time, I want to make stories that are challenging and interesting for the audience."

Williamson feels that development programmes like Ballet Now are incredibly important in today's industry. "It's an amazing opportunity, to be trusted to build a show to whatever you want it to be. It's allowing me to be quite brave in what I'm doing. This is developing me as a choreographer and therefore developing everyone around me as well."

Being brought up fairly local to Birmingham, Williamson attended Birmingham Royal Ballet's Junior Associates when he was younger, and also performed in The Nutcracker as a child. "When I went to Elmhurst School, we would go and watch the Birmingham Royal Ballet company, so it feels quite surreal to now be working with them!"

The best moment for Williamson will undoubtedly be seeing all of the elements of his ballet coming together on stage. "Hearing the music, seeing the set design, the lights and costume; that's ultimately what I've been working on for the last year, so it will feel really special."

Embrace is part of the Polarity & Proximity mixed programme being presented at Sadlers Wells, London, from Fri 15 to Sun 17 June. It then shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Wed 20 to Sat 23 June.

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Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom CERT 12a

Starring **Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Ted Levine, Rafe Spall, Toby Jones, Justice Smith, BD Wong, James Cromwell, Geraldine Chaplin, Jeff Goldblum** Directed by **JA Bayona (USA)**

Will they ever learn? When the reptilian survivors of the island of Isla Nublar are threatened by a volcano blowing its top, former park manager Claire Dearing (Bryce Dallas Howard) mounts a rescue operation. Her aim, with the help of raptor handler Owen Grady (Chris Pratt), is to relocate the dinosaurs to a massive sanctuary on the US mainland. However, the future of the dinos appears to be in the balance when unscrupulous operators attempt to profit from the move...

The Barcelona-born JA Bayona previously directed the extraordinarily powerful and imaginative A Monster Calls (2016). Steven Spielberg acts as executive producer. **Released Wed 6 June**

Film highlights released in June...

L'Amant Double

CERT **18 (108 mins)**

Starring **Marine Vacth, Jérémie Renier, Jacqueline Bisset** Directed by **François Ozon (France/Belgium)**

Chloé's psychoanalyst, Paul (Jérémie Renier), is not all she thinks he is. And this she only discovers after moving in with him... Expect some pretty raunchy nookie.

Released Fri 1 June

Ismael's Ghosts

CERT **15 (35 mins)**

Starring **Mathieu Amalric, Marion Cotillard, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Louis Garrel, Alba Rohrwacher, László Szabó Ben Cross** Directed by **Arnaud Desplechin (France)**

Just as he's embarking on the production of his latest film, the director Ismaël Vuillard (Amalric) is dumbfounded by a ghost from his past. His wife Carlotta (Cotillard), who had disappeared 21 years ago, turns up to resume her life...

Released Fri 1 June

Book Club CERT 12a (104 mins)

Starring **Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Candice Bergen, Mary Steenburgen, Andy García, Don Johnson, Richard Dreyfuss, Craig T Nelson, Alicia Silverstone** Directed by **Bill Holderman (USA)**

A quartet of lifelong friends find their lives transformed when they read EL James' Fifty Shades Of Grey. Maybe, there really is sex after the menopause... Nice to see that Don Johnson is among the senior paramours, particularly as his daughter Dakota played Anastasia Steele on screen.

Released Fri 1 June

The Ciambra CERT 15 (123 mins)

Starring **Pio Amato, Koudous Seihon**
Directed by **Jonas Carpignano (Italy)**

If nothing else, Jonas Carpignano's The Ciambra achieves a bracing authenticity. A probing, non-judgmental, documentary-like portrait of Romany life in Calabria, Italy, the film is loose on narrative but strong on atmosphere. The Amato family plays itself, while 14-year-old Pio Amato is our protagonist, an inveterate liar and thief who is desperate to follow in his brother's questionable footsteps. If this is peer pressure, it is irrevocable. There is a faint honour among thieves painted here, but the relentless stealing and disrespect for other people's property hardly warms the viewer to this particular Romany family.

Released Fri 15 June

The Happy Prince

CERT **15 (105 mins)**

Starring **Rupert Everett, Colin Firth, Colin Morgan, Emily Watson, Tom Wilkinson, Anna Chancellor, Alister Cameron**
Directed by **Rupert Everett (UK/Belgium/Germany/Italy)**

Having portrayed Oscar Wilde on stage in David Hare's The Judas Kiss, Rupert Everett obviously got a taste for Wildean theatrics. Here, his own screenplay chronicles the last days of the Irish wit and playwright when he suffered terrible recrimination whilst in exile in Naples and Paris. The film also marks the directorial debut of Everett.

Released Fri 15 June

Hereditary CERT 15 (127 mins)

Starring **Toni Collette, Alex Wolff, Milly Shapiro, Ann Dowd, Gabriel Byrne**
Directed by **Ari Aster (USA)**

Following the critical acclaim heaped upon Get Out, Raw and A Quiet Place, another superior horror film hits the multiplex. The feature directorial debut of Aster (who also scripted), this chiller stars Toni Collette (in a career-high performance, if that's possible) as an artist who has just lost her mother. Then the secrets start tumbling out of the closet. Ideally, you should avoid all the spoilers built into the trailer.

Released Fri 15 June

Super Troopers 2

CERT **15 (99 mins)**

Starring **Jay Chandrasekhar, Kevin Heffernan, Steve Lemme, Paul Soter, Erik Stolhanske, Rob Lowe, Brian Cox**
Directed by **Jay Chandrasekhar (USA)**

The troopers in question are a group of Vermont state troopers and this time, when an international border dispute arises between Canada and the US, they are called on to set up a new Highway Patrol station. Although the original comedy was a flop, and was released back in 2002, a crowdfunding campaign managed to set the belated sequel on its way. Oh, joy.

Released Fri 15 June

Ocean's 8 CERT 12a (110 mins)

Starring **Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway, Mindy Kaling, Sarah Paulson, Rihanna, Helena Bonham Carter, James Corden, Matt Damon** Directed by **Gary Ross (USA)**

One for the girls: Debbie Ocean (Bullock), the estranged sister of arch crook Danny Ocean, is determined to out-do her brother by mounting the heist of the century: at the annual Met Gala in New York. All she needs are some female accomplices...
Expect lots of starry cameos.

Released Mon 18 June

The Bookshop CERT PG (113 mins)

Starring **Emily Mortimer, Patricia Clarkson, Bill Nighy, Honor Kneafsey**
Directed by **Isabel Coixet (UK/Spain/Germany)**

Based on the 1978 novel by Penelope Fitzgerald, this is the tale of a woman who - against fierce local opposition - decides to open a bookshop in her small coastal town.
Set in 1959, the film joins the recent bibliophilic dramas The Guernsey Literary Society... and Book Club. We're now waiting for the first Kindle classic.

Released Fri 29 June

Leave No Trace

CERT **PG (109 mins)**

Starring **Ben Foster, Thomasin McKenzie, Jeff Kober, Dale Dickey**
Directed by **Debra Granik (USA)**

Will (Foster) and his 13-year-old daughter (McKenzie) are happy living off the grid in the woodlands of Oregon. Then social services catches up with them... From Debra Granik, the director of the gritty, eloquent Winter's Bone (2010), which launched Jennifer Lawrence's career. Granik's new film has also received raves from US critics.

Released Fri 29 June

Sicario 2: Soldado

CERT **15 (122 mins)**

Starring **Benicio del Toro, Josh Brolin, Isabela Moner, Jeffrey Donovan, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, Catherine Keener, Matthew Modine**
Directed by **Stefano Sollima (USA/Italy)**

While Emily Blunt, star of the first Sicario film, has been busy unpacking her carpet bag for Mary Poppins Returns, her colleagues-in-crime-fighting, Alejandro Gillick (del Toro) and Matt Graver (Brolin), have their hands full with new drug-related problems on the Mexican border. This time, though, they're also dealing with jihadi terrorists. Expect some pretty strong violence.

Released Fri 29 June

Zoo CERT PG (97 mins)

Starring **Art Parkinson, Toby Jones, Penelope Wilton, Ian O'Reilly, Amy Huberman**
Directed by **Colin McIvor (UK/Ireland)**

As the Germans bomb the hell out of Belfast in 1941, young Tom (Parkinson) and his friend attempt to save the zoo's prize attraction, Buster the baby elephant. The film should prove an interesting companion piece to last year's The Zookeeper's Wife, which was set in the Warsaw Zoo during the Second World War. Both films are based on true incidents.

Released Fri 29 June

In The Fade CERT 18 (106 Mins)

Starring **Diane Kruger, Denis Moschitto, Johannes Krisch, Ulrich Tukur**
Directed by **Fatih Akin (Germany/France)**

Winner of the Golden Globe for best foreign language film, this German-language crime drama stars Diane Kruger in what is arguably her finest performance to date. Indeed, she walked away with the best actress award at last year's Cannes Film Festival. She plays Katja Sekerci, a wife and mother who has to pick up the pieces of her life after her husband and son are killed in a nail bomb attack. The title is taken, of course, from the song of the same name by Queens Of The Stone Age.

Released Fri 22 June

Adrift CERT tbc

Starring **Shailene Woodley, Sam Claflin, Jeffrey Thomas** Directed by **Baltasar Kormákur (USA)**

Like The Mercy, which opened this February, this is the true story of an ocean-going drama. Having just fallen in love, passionate sailors Tami and Richard decide to embark together on an epic voyage across the Pacific. However, they hadn't bargained on the wrath of a history-defining hurricane...

Released Fri 29 June

Patrick CERT PG (94 mins)

Starring **Ed Skrein, Tom Bennett, Jennifer Saunders, Beattie Edmondson, Adrian Scarborough, Gemma Jones**
Directed by **Mandie Fletcher (UK)**

Patrick is a problem, a real handful, and he's not very big. He's actually a spoiled pug, inherited by Sarah (Beattie Edmondson) from her grandmother, a week before she's due to start a new job. From Disney. For the whole family.

Released Fri 29 June

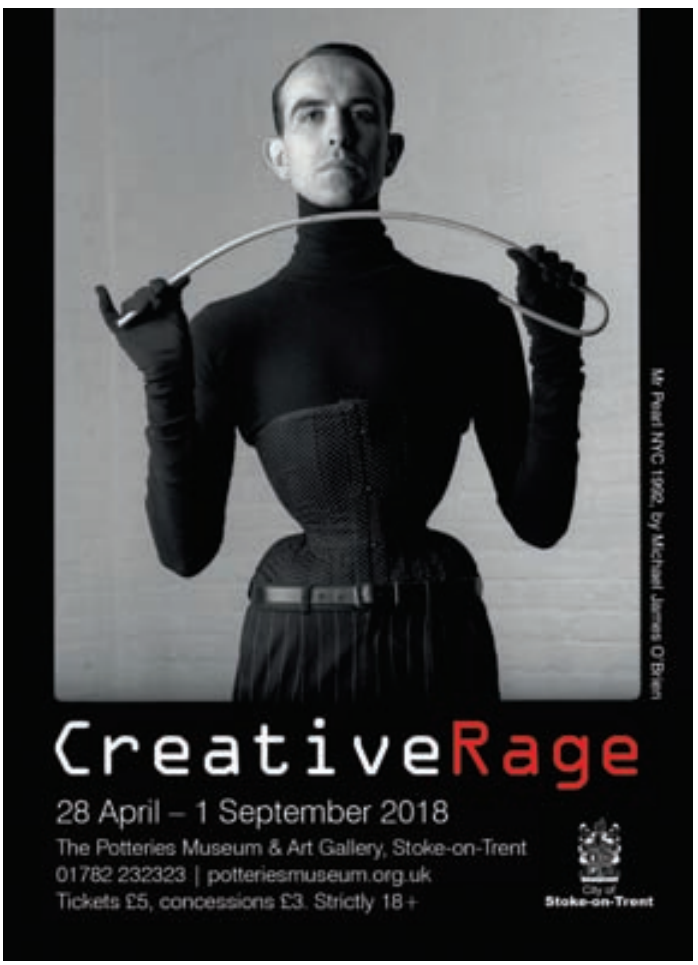
International Garden Photographer Of The Year

Fusion Building, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire, until Mon 17 September

Images celebrating the beauty of plants, wildflower landscapes and 'the bountiful Earth' all feature in this year's International Garden Photographer Of The Year exhibition (IGPOTY), returning to Ironbridge Gorge as part of its worldwide tour.

Commenting on the show, the exhibition's manager, Curtis McGlinchey, said: "Ironbridge is a remarkable place, and it's an absolute privilege to bring the exhibition there. The show celebrates plant life in its many diverse forms, but it also helps us reflect upon our relationship with the natural world.

"The importance of the intersection between nature and technology is a prominent quality shared between both Ironbridge and IGPOTY, and is one that makes the exhibition feel especially relevant at this historic location."



Osman Yousefzada: Bring Somewhere Else

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, Wed 6 - Fri 29 June

Birmingham-born fashion designer Osman Yousefzada showcases a style which has been described as combining haute couture techniques and fabrics with a clear perception of modernity. His multi-disciplinary design practice, imbued with a strong sense of social commentary, has been shaped by a clear awareness of political contexts. Osman's Ikon show features imported garments made by low-wage workers for 'fast fashion' in the West.

Creative Rage

Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, until Sun 2 September

Creative Rage brings together paintings, photographs, prints and ceramics to follow three artists' 'vibrant and confrontational' exploration of LGBTQ themes. Proud, committed and uncompromising members of the progressive LGBTQ artistic community, the trio of contributors create visually startling works that explore themes of bravery, aggression and 'trailblazing, combative non-conformity'.

The Marvellous Mechanical Museum

Compton Verney Art Gallery, Warwickshire, Sat 30 June - Sun 30 September

Marvellous Mechanical Museum reimagines the spectacular automata exhibitions of the 18th century, in order to explore the boundaries of 'what is lifelike and what is alive, where artists, inventors and engineers collide'.

Featuring early and rare automata and clockwork dating back to the 17th century, many of the items on display have been taken from the British Museum, the V&A and the Royal Collection.

Highlights include a miniature Faberge moving elephant and kinetic artist Tim Lewis' uncanny Crimson Prince.

New York City Life

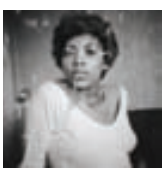
Barber Institute, Birmingham, until Sun 16 September

A contemporary of George Bellows, John Sloan's prints provide fascinating historical insights into Manhattan life during a period of rapid social change. The exhibition at the Barber features the only complete set of Sloan's prints outside the US. They were gifted to the venue by Delaware Art Museum, a gesture prompted by the Barber's 2016 exhibition, Bellows And The Body.

Miss Black And Beautiful

MAC, Birmingham, until Sun 1 July

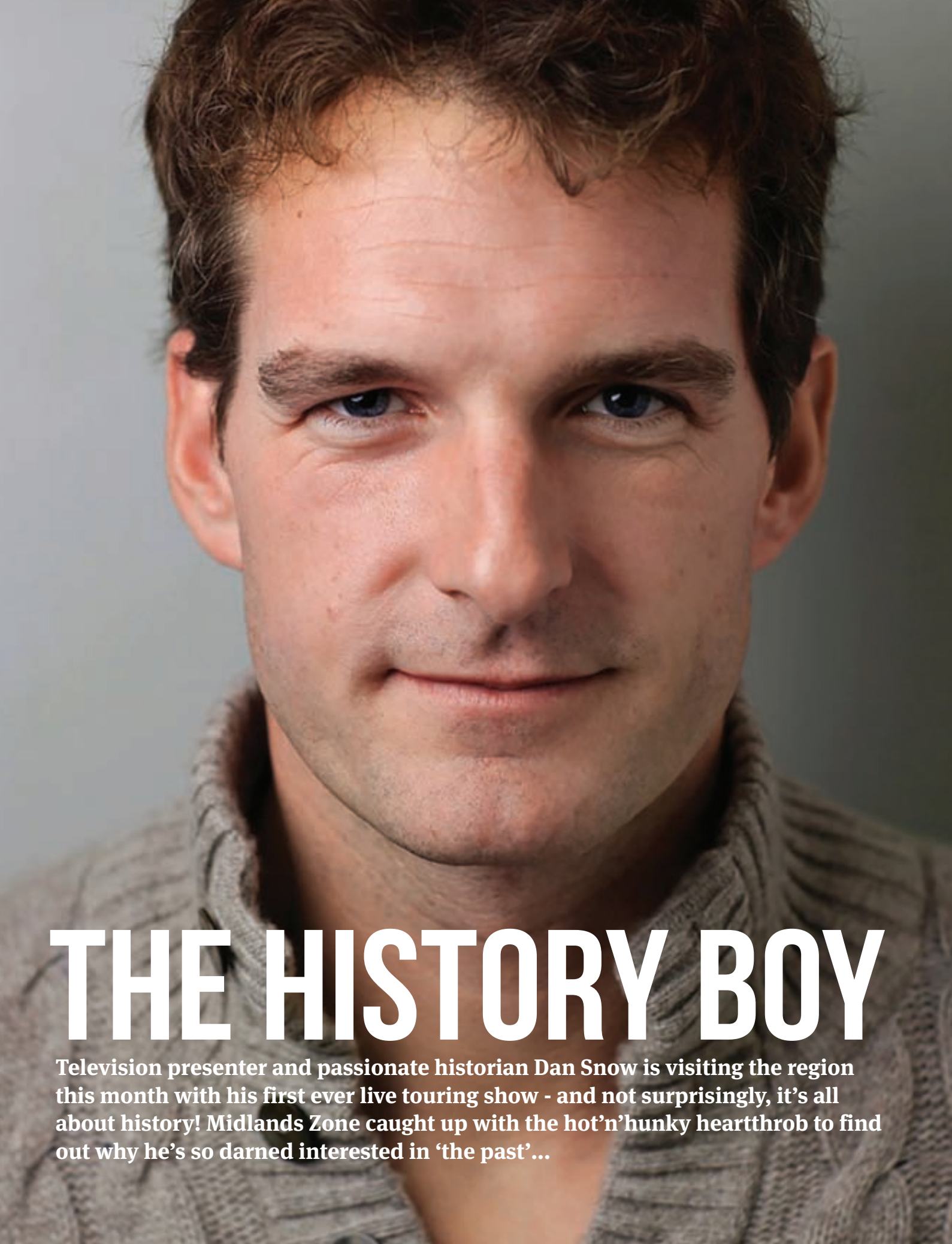
An exhibition of photographs taken by the late Raphael Albert, Miss Black And Beautiful documents numerous black British beauty pageants organised by Albert from the late 1960s onwards. The pageants were a celebration of the 1970s' 'Black is beautiful' aesthetic, the most notable among them being the annual Miss West Indies In Great Britain contest.



Andrew Tift: Immortalise

New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Sun 2 September

Walsall figurative artist Andrew Tift specialises in portraiture and finds much of his inspiration in the New Art Gallery's collections and exhibitions. Already well known to regular visitors to the museum, Andrew is here presenting a range of paintings, drawings, photographs and sketchbooks that combine his love of portraiture with more recent experimental works.



THE HISTORY BOY

Television presenter and passionate historian Dan Snow is visiting the region this month with his first ever live touring show - and not surprisingly, it's all about history! Midlands Zone caught up with the hot'n'hunky heartthrob to find out why he's so darned interested in 'the past'...

Talk us through the motivations behind doing your first live tour, An Evening With The History Guy...

When you're making television and podcasts, it's very lonely. You sit by yourself and think, "Is anyone watching?" That's why TV presenters take to Facebook Live. That gives you the number of viewers at the bottom of the screen. It might be only five people, but at least you know someone is there!

What will you be talking about in the show?

The UK tour of The Sound Of Music in around 2010, which, weirdly, Jason Donovan ended up doing as well.

Do members of the public help with your research?

Yes, they do. I get lots of messages on my Facebook page. There's so much history out there, it's ridiculous - and I find the stories that people send me fascinating. Also, it's easier to become knowledgeable in an aspect of history. It's not like physics, where you need a $300billion particle accelerator in the house to become an expert. I'm really looking forward to interaction with the audiences at my shows.

Do people want to recount their personal histories, too?

Yes, they often want to tell me all about their family history, or the part their family played in history, like a soldier in the First World War. A huge number of people tell me stories about their ancestors. They will say something like, "My father was the first black RAF pilot". Listening to them, you realise how many firsts there are.

Is your hope that you will captivate audiences with your infectious enthusiasm for your subject?

Yes! History isn't all about dead kings, old libraries and dust. It's everything. It's your parents' eyes meeting across a crowded room, and why we are who we are, and why we're speaking English, and why it's acceptable for women and men to mingle together. I hope people walk out of the theatre saying that they had a really good time. I also hope they leave having thought deeply about the past of their town, their country and their world.

History has become fashionable again...

Yes. In the 1990s, history was very unfashionable. But 9/11 changed all that. It was a huge wake-up call. It reminded everyone that many people around the world felt that history wasn't finished. They felt enormous resentment about the fact that some people thought that the hands of history had stopped.

Can you explain your passion for history?

The first question I'm always asked at events is, "What's the best place you've ever been to?" They expect me to say something like Angkor Wat. But, perhaps weirdly, I just love this country - there's so much character and history here. Wherever you go in Britain, there are so many stories. For example, you can visit a place just outside Manchester and find the perfect Industrial Revolution-era textile mill where global industrialisation began.

So history is constantly beckoning you towards it?

Absolutely. I drove up the M3 recently to interview a Second World War veteran. On the way, I visited Odiham Castle in Hampshire. It was built by King John, besieged twice and various people were murdered there down the centuries. The M3 is a road I use all the time, and I'd never heard of Odiham Castle before. There's so much history on this island just waiting to be discovered. It's such a treat. We may complain, but we do have a great respect for history. I'm half Canadian, and in Canada they would simply bulldoze a historic site and put a new building in its place. We're so lucky that we've preserved so much in Britain.

What do you think are the benefits of studying history?

It's very good for your mental health to go to these places. When I went to Odiham Castle, for example, it was a beautiful sunlit morning - not a bad way to spend 20 minutes. Being a historian is a lovely job, but we can all do it at any time.

Does studying history also help us to understand more about the present day?

Definitely. It explains so much about today. Why can't you book a boozy holiday in Somalia? That's down to history. The country's instability is the result of colonial interference, food scarcity and the interference of America. In the same way, why can't you go to a pub in Armagh and sing God Save The Queen without being glassed, while 20 miles away it would be fine? That's all about history. If you're curious about the world today, history can help you understand it. It will also make you realise that we're so lucky to be alive today. It gives things a real sense of perspective.

Is it important that children learn history at school?

Yes. History is a fantastic thing to teach kids. It teaches young people about the things they say and hear, and it teaches them to be profoundly distrustful of politicians - and also not to invade Russia! Literacy about history is vital. People are mad to believe politicians without checking the evidence first. Young people need to learn about the reliability of sources, sifting through people's motivations and understanding why they're saying something to you. There's nothing more important than questioning those in authority.

You go into schools and teach children about history...

Yes, I try and help kids to think about history in the best possible way. I give them a sense of why we bother studying the past. It affects the present, what we wear, our economics, the fact that there's violence on some streets. All those things are products of history. But it's stuff that a teacher might not get the time to cover in a planned lesson.

Tell us about your channel, History Hit TV.

Life is very exciting at the moment. Our podcasts have a million listeners. It's no longer about going to a publisher and waiting for a commission. It's about going out there and making instant connections with people. I love doing the podcast because of its simplicity and speed.

What you do in your spare time?

We go on holiday and visit historic sites! The kids are more manageable when you're doing stuff with them. Having them around the house in winter is brutal. Looking around Winchester or Basingstoke is great fun. Walking around the Roman walls of Chester is a really good day out. You're a better parent if you take your children out to these historic places. It will make them better citizens. We're also on the water all the time. I often row with the kids near our house.

So were you introduced to the joys of history at a very young age?

Yes. Every weekend as a child, I was taken to a historical site, a castle, palace or a museum. I got History Stockholm Syndrome as a boy, and now I'm inflicting it on my own children! I don't bother asking them how they feel about it. They seem to tolerate it - they don't know any better! Two weeks ago, I took my two-year-old daughter to HMS Victory. It was just another day in the office for her!

An Evening With The History Guy shows at: Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wednesday 6 June; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Monday 18 June; Crewe Lyceum, Tuesday 19 June; and Stafford Gatehouse, Wednesday 4 July.

Theatre in the Gardens
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Robin Hood
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25 July
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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Creative Craft Show

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 29 June - Sun 1 July

If you're a fan of all things hand-made, the Creative Craft Show is the event for you. Featuring an impressive selection of supplies, the show provides the chance to glean advice from industry experts and take part in an impressive range of workshops.

Visitors can try their hand at silk painting, or join Crafty Beggar's Julie Peasgood and Wendy Turner-Webster to learn how magazine pages can be used to create beautiful beads.

The show offers plenty of fun for children too, with Sugartots Sand Art allowing them to create their very own sand masterpiece.

Festival Of Black Country Vehicles

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sun 17 June

Given the Black Country's historical reputation as a major centre for the manufacturing of bicycles, motorcycles, cars, lorries and buses, this one-day event should prove to be a fascinating experience. The festival features classic cars and an array of vehicles made by Black Country brands including AJS, Clyno and Sunbeam.

RAF Cosford Air Show

RAF Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Sun 10 June

Attracting thousands of visitors each year, Cosford's annual air show is considered to be one of the country's top aviation events.

Alongside a six-hour aerial display, the 2018 event also boasts a collection of up to 100 never-before-seen static aircraft, featuring in the show in celebration of the RAF's centenary.

The hugely popular Vintage Village makes a welcome return too, complete with period entertainment and tea room.

Trampoline & Tumbling

Arena Birmingham, Sat 16 & Sun 17 June

Some of the country's top gymnasts here come together to show off their skills and battle it out in the regional team finals.

Expect a show jam-packed to the proverbial rafters with high-flying somersaults and aerial tricks.

International Model Air Show

Weston Park, Weston-under- Lizard, Nr Shifnal, Fri 15 - Sun 17 June

Now in its 26th year, this popular event features a host of displays and exhibitors. Model aircraft enthusiasts from across Europe will be in attendance, demonstrating their hugely impressive flying skills in Weston's picturesque grounds.

Step Back To The 1940s

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster, Sat 30 June & Sun 1 July

All aboard for a Severn Valley Railway train journey back in time to the 1940s!

The railway's lighthearted homage to wartime Britain features an impressive selection of attractions up and down the line, including vintage vehicle displays, musical entertainment and costumed reenactors.

The ever-popular Big Band Show - featuring a jazz orchestra playing music from the '40s - also makes a return.

STEAMPUNK WEEKEND

BLISTS HILL VICTORIAN TOWN
23 & 24 JUNE 2018

Grab your goggles and top hat and join in the Steampunk fun and games. Exhibitions, speciality market, demonstrations and talks.

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Steampunk Weekend

Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Sat 23 & Sun 24 June

Blists Hill once again showcases all things steampunk this month, after last year's inaugural event proved such a success.
Ironbridge Gorge Museums has teamed up with Asylum - the organisers of Lincoln's Steampunk Festival - to present an event that features exhibitions about steampunk art, costumes and sculpture. Fashion designers, authors and artists will also be on hand, as will specially selected artisan traders of steampunk jewellery, comics, art and gadgets.
A number of themed activities should ensure there's plenty to keep your kids happy and entertained.

BBC Good Food Show

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 14 - Sun 17 June

If you're looking for some summer recipe inspiration, look no further than the BBC Good Food Show.
Some of the UK's top chefs will be in attendance at the ever-popular event, including queen of baking Mary Berry, Michelin master Michel Roux Jr and the always-entertaining Hairy Bikers.
With hundreds of fine food and drink producers also in attendance, you can shop till you drop and taste away all day!
A ticket to the show also allows you to explore the BBC Gardeners' World Live event.

The World Of Park & Leisure Homes Show

NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, Fri 8 - Sun 10 June

View and explore around 60 park homes and leisure lodges from 19 leading manufacturers at this well-established event.
There's also the opportunity to meet representatives from a huge range of leisure, holiday and residential park sites across the UK and beyond, in the process discovering a selection of fantastic locations in which to enjoy the benefits of a leisure or residential lifestyle!

Tudor Weekend

Blakesley Hall, Birmingham, Sat 2 & Sun 3 June

Sample Tudor dancing, learn about sword fighting, have a go at feather quill writing or try your hand at face-painting at this family-friendly event.
Visitors can also meet reenactors at the Tudor Travelling Camp or blend entertainment with education by joining one of the costumed tours.

400 Years Of Aston Hall

Aston Hall, Birmingham, Sun 24 June

Aston Hall celebrates its 400th anniversary this month by going back in time - to the year 1642, to be precise - when Sir Thomas Holte, the venue's original owner, played host to King Charles I.
Visitors on the day will have the opportunity to meet the 'formidable' Sir Thomas himself - not to mention his servant and even the king(!) - but not before receiving some sure-to-be-handy tips on 17th century etiquette!

Shiiine On Festival

Orbital
Main Stage

Shed Seven // Happy Mondays
Embrace // Cast // Glasvegas // Black Grape

Julian Cope // The Wedding Present // Gang Of Four
Forum Live
A Certain Ratio // The Membranes // The Stairs // Psyence // Deja Vega

Reverend And The Makers // Dreadzone // Jim Bob (Carter USM)
Eventim Stage
Bentley Rhythm Ace // Abdoujaparov // Thousand Yard Stare // Smoove & Turrell

FAC51 THE HACIENDA **Official Haçienda aftershow:**
Aftershow
Todd Terry // Marshall Jefferson // Jon Dasilva

Clint Boon (Inspiral Carpets) // Steve Cradock (Ocean Colour Scene)
DJs & Clubnights
Dave Booth // Keith Parker // Uke2 // Star Shaped // Little Indie Night

Steve Lamacq (BBC Radio 6) // Steve "The Adj" Atherton // Steve Harrison (Omega Music)
In Conversation

Birmingham Genting Arena Sep 08 2018

Absolute Radio 90s TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM shiiineon.com & eventim What's On

thelist

Your week-by-week listings guide

June 2018

Titanic The Musical - Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 4 - Sat 9 June

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

What's On

Fri 1 to Sun 10 June

Birmingham International Dance Festival - various city locations

Fri 1 - Sun 24 June

Mon 11 to Sun 17 June

Doug Stanhope
O2 Academy, Birmingham

Tues 12 June

Mon 18 to Sun 24 June

Supersonic Festival
Custard Factory, Birmingham

Fri 22 - Sun 24 June

Mon 25 to Sat 30 June

Damian Marley
O2 Academy, Birmingham

Sat 30 June

THROUGHOUT JUNE

Visual Arts

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

THE PAST IS NOW: BIRMINGHAM AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE Exhibition challenging the typical colonial narrative used to present the history of the British Empire, until Sun 24 June

VANLEY BURKE: PHOTOGRAPHING BIRMINGHAM (1968 - 2011) Exhibition showing how Burke has documented the poignant and everyday moments of life in Birmingham. Burke's photographs capture scenes of childhood, crowds, community and faith, power and protest, as well as portraying influential men and women of our time, until Sun 1 July

ASIAN YOUTH CULTURE: EXPLORING THE HERITAGE & HISTORY OF YOUNG BRITISH ASIANS IN BIRMINGHAM Exhibition that explores the heritage and history of the lives and contributions young Asian people have made across three distinct periods: the 1950s-60s, 1970s-1990s, and 2000 to the present day, until Sun 29 July

DIPPY ON TOUR: A NATURAL HISTORY ADVENTURE The Natural History Museum's famous Diplodocus, known as Dippy, is taking a road trip to Birmingham. This is a free ticketed event, but advanced booking is strongly advised, until Sun 9 Sept

NEW THE EVERYDAY AND EXTRAORDINARY Exhibition exploring the potential of objects to be transformed and seen in new and insightful ways. Showcasing over 70 modern and contemporary artworks, Sat 9 June - Sun 9 Sept

Ikon Gallery

NEW FRANCIS ALŸS - KNOTS'N'DUST Exhibition by Mexico-based artist Francis Alÿs, reflecting on the notion of turbulence, from simple instability to chaos, Wed 20 June - Sun 9 Sept

MAC, Birmingham

FROM A SMALL ISLAND Exhibition by award-winning photographer Andrew Jackson, who presents a new series of work exploring identity, migration, memory and family. Following a visit to Jamaica in 2017, he investigates the identities of Jamaican Diaspora since the post-war migration to Britain, and the lives of second and third generation migrants born here, until Sun 8 July

VANLEY BURKE: 5000 MILES AND 70 YEARS Inspired by the collection and his family history, Burke has created a new site-specific installation - a collage of Caribbean migration and settlement - that transforms the venue into a vibrant space, until Sun 8 July

MADE AT MAC: PRESENTING PORTRAITS Group exhibition by MAC students and tutors, until Sun 22 July

AMPERSAND PROJECTS: GREEN LUNGS A project that introduces recently settled refugees to the city's green spaces through creative activity. The exhibition presents new work created collaboratively by participants and artists which explores their experiences in the landscape, until Sat 28 July

RBSA Gallery

NEW YASMIN BOYLE, NAWM PRIZE WINNER Yasmin was awarded this exhibition as a prize during the New Art West Midlands exhibition 2017. Her sculptures explore gender stereotypes, addressing the binaries of 'male' and 'female', Mon 11 June - Sat 14 July

NEW GEOFF HODGSON, PHOTOGRAPHIC PRIZE 2017 WINNER Geoff was awarded this exhibition as a prize during the RBSA Photographic Prize 2017. His series explores the Duddeston Viaduct, which was built by the Great Western Railway Company across Digbeth in the 19th century, Mon 18 June - Sat 28 July

NEW GABRIELLE ROBERTS-DALTON RBSA Menopause: A Change In Life - Collection of self-portraits in oil, ink and print that explore different thoughts and ideas about the physical and emotional effects of the menopause, Mon 18 June - Sat 4 Aug

NEW FRIENDS EXHIBITION 2018 Annual display of artwork by the Friends, promoting their artistic talents, Wed 27 June - Sat 21 July

The Barber Institute

NEW DRAWN TO PERFECTION Masterworks from the Royal Collection, exploring their use as prototypes for paintings and frescoes, tapestries, sculpture or architecture, Fri 15 June - Sun 23 Sept

NEW CENTRE STAGE - ENTERTAINMENT IN ART Selection of works on paper from the Barber's collection, exploring how Degas, Sickert and others have portrayed figures linked to the stage, such as actors and performers, Fri 22 June - Sun 7 Oct

Gigs

DETROIT SOUL COLLECTIVE Fri 1 June, The Jam House, B'ham

CULT FICTION Fri 1 June, Route 44, B'ham

MOTOWN LIVE REVUE: 'SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED' Fri 1 June, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

COME TOGETHER Fri 1 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

NICK HEYWARD Fri 1 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE BONGO CLUB Fri 1 June, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

FLEETWOOD BAC Fri 1 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LIBERTY LIES Fri 1 June, The Asylum, Birmingham

FRED ZEPPELIN Fri 1 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

THE SHIRES Fri 1 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THOSE AMONGST US ARE WOLVES, WHITE NOISE CINEMA, RUBELLA MOON & THE DRAKEFLOW MAY Fri 1 June, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK - THE ROD STEWART STORY Sat 2 June, Lichfield Garrick

DIG? Sat 2 June, The Night Owl, B'ham

ABSOLUTE BOWIE - 50 YEARS OF BOWIE Sat 2 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

REAL TO REEL Sat 2 June, Route 44, B'ham

ROY WOODS Sat 2 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DJ SEINFELD & PROJECT PABLO Sat 2 June, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

UPRAWR'S 8TH BIRTHDAY Sat 2 June, The Asylum, Birmingham

THE BEAT (STARRING DAVE WAKELING) Sat 2 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE BOOTLEG SHADOWS Sun 3 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

G-EAZY Sun 3 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

The Mouse Outfit - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JON MOSES Mon 4 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KEITH SLATER'S SONGBOOK Tues 5 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

NECRONOMIDOL, SCREAMING SIXTIES AND DOUBLE AND Tues 5 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TEISHA GEORGE BAND Tues 5 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

SHELLY QUARMBY BAND Wed 6 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

DONNA TAGGART Wed 6 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

ROLLING BLACKOUTS COASTAL FEVER Wed 6 Jun, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HIMALAYAS, VALERAS & CANDID Wed 6 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

DAVID FORD Thurs 7 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JAKI GRAHAM Thurs 7 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE MILK Thurs 7 June, Mama Roux's, B'ham

SMOOVE & TURRELL Thurs 7 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE MOUSE OUTFIT Fri 8 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

QUILL WITH BEV BEVAN Fri 8 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BAREFOOTIN' Fri 8 June, The Night Owl, B'ham

GAGA QUEEN TRIBUTE Fri 8 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MO GILLIGAN AKA MO THE COMEDIAN: COUPLA CANS TOUR Fri 8 June, O2 Academy, B'ham

COURTNEY ACT - UNDER THE COVERS Fri 8 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

LAZY DAY, ANIMAL SONS & HUNGER MOON Fri 8 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

YOUNG BRAVES, MONICO BLONDE & FREE GALAXY Fri 8 June, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

JANE MCDONALD Fri 8 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

MAETLOAF & THE NEVER NEVERLAND EXPRESS Fri 8 June, The Robin, Bilston

THE HEELS Fri 8 June, The Night Owl, B'ham

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE: A TRIBUTE TO THE POLICE Sat 9 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

DIG? Sat 9 June, The Night Owl, B'ham

ALMOST EASY Sat 9 June, Route 44, B'ham

HERITAGE: DJ SS, GEORGE MOREL, STANTON WARRIORS & GRAEME PARK Sat 9 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BIG BOSS MAN Sat 9 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

CLASSIC CLAPTON Sat 9 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PALM Sun 10 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ALLISON ADAMS TUCKER'S WANDERLUST Sun 10 June, Pizza Express Live, B'ham

THE MERSEY BEATLES Sun 10 Jun, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Classical Music

THE SALVATION ARMY: SYMPHONY SOUNDS Also featuring The Amsterdam Staff Songsters, the Salvation Army's International Staff Sections and special guests, Sat 2 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CLASSICAL OPERA - LA FINTA SEMPLICE OPERA IN 3 ACTS Featuring Ian Page (conductor), Regula Mühlemann (Rosina), Chiara Skerath (Ninetta), Sophie Rennert (Giacinta), Alessandro Fisher (Don Polidoro), Thomas Elwin (Fracasso), Lukas Jakobski (Don Cassandro) & Božidar Smiljanić (Simone), Sat 2 June, Birmingham Town Hall

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CHORUS: PARRY'S CHORAL WORKS Sat 2 June Lichfield Garrick

THOMAS TROTTER (ORGAN) & ROGER OWENS (PIANO) Programme includes works by Williams (The Dream of Olwen), Lutoslawski, Bedard and Mendelssohn, Mon 4 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MIDDAY MUSIC Featuring Tim Smith (piano) & Tzu-Jo Huang (percussion). Programme includes works by Schubert, Masson & Cangelosi, Mon 4 June, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

THE WURTH PHILHARMONIC Featuring Maxim Vengerov (conductor/violin) & Stamatia Karampini (conductor). Programme includes works by J Strauss, Bruch, Saint-Saëns & Tchaikovsky, Mon 4 June, Symphony Hall, B'ham

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: MOZART'S JUPITER Featuring Jörg Widmann (Director/Clarinet). Programme includes works by Widmann, Weber & Mozart, Wed 6 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

COMMUTER CONCERT: COUPERIN SERIES RECITAL The second of the Conservatoire's year-long series of events celebrating the 350th year since Couperin's birth, Thurs 7 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: BEST OF BOLLYWOOD Featuring Richard Davis (conductor), Piali Ray (choreographic director), Dancers from Sampad South Asian Dance & Shin DCS, Navin Kundra, Rekha Sawhney & Priti Kaur (vocalists), Fri 8 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

TRADITIONAL TALES Featuring Catherine Arlidge (presenter) & the CBSO String Ensemble, Fri 8 - Sat 9 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

Comedy

PATRICK MONAHAN Fri 1 - Sat 2 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NICK DOODY, JIMMY MCGHIE, JOSH HOWIE & LOYISO GOLA Fri 1 - Sat 2 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BILL BAILEY Sat 2 June, Arena B'ham

SEAN PERCIVAL, STEVE BUGEJA, MIKE NEWALL & PETE OTWAY Sat 2 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

TIM KEY Sun 3 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOE SUTHERLAND Thurs 7 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

SCOTT CAPURRO, FERAZ OVEL & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 7 June, The Glee Club, B'ham

JARRED CHRISTMAS & VIV GROSKOP Thurs 7 June, MAC, Birmingham

IAN D MONTFORT, ALEX HYLTON, RAYMOND AND MR TIMPKINS REVUE & BARRY DODDS Thurs 7 June, The George Hotel, Lichfield

HELEN LEDERER, JOE SUTHERLAND Thurs 7 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MO GILLIGAN Fri 8 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LAUREN PATTISON, MATT REED, SCOTT CAPURRO & SCOTT BENNETT Fri 8 - Sat 9 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JACK GLEADOW, STEVE HARRIS, BARBARA NICE & TIM CLARK Sat 9 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

SARAH KENDALL Sun 10 June, MAC, Birmingham

Theatre

OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD Timberlake Wertenbaker play based on the true story of a group of convicts and a young officer who rehearse and perform Australia's first theatrical production, until Sat 2 June, The REP, Birmingham

KING LEAR Return of Gregory Doran's acclaimed production, with Antony Sher reprising his role as King Lear, until Sat 9 June, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE FANTASTIC FOLLIES OF MRS RICH Mary Pix's comedy of manners, until Thurs 14 June, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI Maria Aberg directs John Webster's tale of revenge, until Fri 3 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

Titanic The Musical

Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 4 - Sat 9 June

In the final hours of 14 April 1912, the RMS Titanic, on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, collided with an iceberg. The 'unsinkable ship' slowly sank. It was one of the most tragic disasters of the 20th century, with 1,517 men, women and children losing their lives. Based on real people aboard the most legendary ship in the world, Titanic The Musical first opened on Broadway in 1997 and won five Tony Awards. This new production visits the Midlands direct from London, and has enjoyed critical acclaim across the board.

MACBETH Shakespeare's psychological thriller stars Christopher Eccleston and Niamh Cusack, until Tues 18 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

ROMEO AND JULIET Shakespeare's famous story of love at first sight, until Fri 21 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

URINETOWN THE MUSICAL The Crescent Theatre Company presents its version of the hit show, set in a time when water is worth its weight in gold, Sat 26 May - Sat 2 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

84 CHARING CROSS ROAD Hollywood actress Stefanie Powers stars alongside Clive Francis, Tues 29 May - Sat 2 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

STOMP Smash-hit production, combining dance, comedy and music, in which familiar objects are used to create a universal language, Tues 29 May - Sat 2 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

CONCUBINE REP Foundry alumni Amahra Spence's one-woman show exploring womanhood, sexuality and faith, Thurs 31 May - Sat 2 June, The REP, Birmingham

THE ART OF BELIEVING Musical production from Daniel Martinez Flamenco Company, Sat 2 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE BINGO CALLER Stephen Jackson's one-man comedy show, Sat 2 - Sun 3 June, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

DAVID BADDIEL - MY FAMILY: NOT THE SITCOM Olivier-nominated one-man show about 'memory, ageing, infidelity, dysfunctional relatives, moral policing on social media, golf and gay cats', Sun 3 June, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

A GRAND MUSIC HALL Fun and nostalgia featuring Ian Adams, Don Maclean, Van Buren & Allyson, Julie Paton, Guy Rowland and Keith Minshull, Mon 4 - Tues 5 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

TITANIC THE MUSICAL Award-winning show focusing on the hopes, dreams and aspirations of those who boarded the RMS Titanic for her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, Mon 4 - Sat 9 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

"AIN'T NO ANGELS" Role-Play Productions recount the meeting of Al Jolson and Frank Sinatra, Tues 5 - Wed 6 June, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, Birmingham

CAROUSEL Trinity Players present Rodgers & Hammerstein's hit show, Tues 5 - Sat 9 June, Lichfield Garrick

SUNSHINE ON LEITH Brand new adaptation of the Proclaimers musical, Tues 5 - Sat 9 June, Belgrade Theatre, Birmingham

atre, Coventry

DREAMBOYS 'The UK's top male strip show, perfect for a girls' night out with all your friends', Wed 6 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SONIC YOUTH SLEPT ON MY FLOOR Moseley-born music writer and Hacienda DJ Dave Haslam 'unveils his autobiography', Wed 6 June, Birmingham Town Hall

DON JUAN IN CHICAGO Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Theatre School presents David Ives' time-travelling comedy, Wed 6 - Sat 9 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE LADYBOYS OF BANGKOK: WONDER WOMEN TOUR Cabaret show celebrating a host of female icons, Thurs 7 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

LES MUSICALS G4's Jonathan Ansell joins forces with Rhydian Roberts for an evening of song, Thurs 7 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

TRYING IT ON David Edgar makes his performance debut in a one-man autobiographical play reflecting on the series of student revolts that took place across the world in 1968, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 June, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry. *Read David's feature on page 22.*

BACK TO THE 80S Birmingham Youth Theatre present a nostalgic romp through the 1980s' greatest hits, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 June, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

THE COMMANDER OF MAGIC The first in a '12 live chapter' show, revealing 200 years of magical history, Fri 8 June, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

TINA T'URNER TEA LADY'S STEAMY BINGO 'An hilarious evening celebrating bingo, music, tea and laughter!' Fri 8 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

TWIST & SHOUT Sing and dance along with a West End cast to the music of The Beatles, Hermans Hermits., Gerry & The Pacemakers and many more... Sat 9 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

APPLAUSE: A CABARET OF SONG & DANCE Sat 9 June, Dovehouse Theatre, Olton, Solihull

THE TEMPEST The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's tale of illusion and revenge, Sat 9 June, Packwood House, Lapworth, Nr Solihull

RHONDDA RIPS IT UP Lesley Garrett stars in a riotous romp through the life of Margaret Haig Thomas (Lady Rhondda), the Newport suffragette whose activities paved the way for women's rights, Sat 9 June, MAC, Birmingham

BRIAN CONLEY: THE GREATEST ENTERTAINER All-new show featuring brand new comedy, sketches and songs, Sun 10 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

YOUR BEST GUESS New theatrical offering from the co-founder of Unlimited Theatre, Chris Thorpe, and Portuguese theatre company mala voadora, Sun 10 June, MAC, B'ham

The Ladyboys Of Bangkok: Wonder Women Tour - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Kids Show

PINOCCHIO Blue Orange Arts presents its version of Carlo Collodi's much-loved children's tale, Sat 26 May - Sat 2 June, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

FIRST STAGES: LITTLE RED HEN Theatrical experience inviting younger audiences to join the Little Red Hen and plant some grains of corn. Suitable for children aged three-plus, Sat 2 June, The REP, Birmingham

THE OWL & THE PUSSYCAT Full House Theatre present a staging for younger audiences, inspired by the nonsense world of Edward Lear, Sun 10 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Dance

COMPANY WAYNE MCGREGOR: ATOMOS Ten dancers perform McGregor's contemporary-style choreography. 3D glasses are provided for part of the performance, Fri 1 - Sat 2 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

MIDLANDS MADE Programme of new commissions and presentations by artists living and working in the Midlands. Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, Mon 4 - Fri 8 June, Victoria Square, B'ham

D-CONSTRUCTION Six dancers experience the liberation of the mind through movement. Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, Fri 8 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham

ROLL UP, ROLL UP Simple Cypher (UK) fuse circus and dance in a fast-paced show featuring hypnotic juggling, breakdancing and daring Cyr wheel feats... Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, Fri 8 - Sat 9 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham

INTRODUCING Showcase of new work designed for unconventional performance spaces, Sat 9 June, Vivid Projects, Minerva Works, Birmingham

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE Adage Dance & Fitness Studio presents its dance interpretation of CS Lewis's magical tale, Sat 9 - Sun 10 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

GRAVITAS Dance and acrobatics combine in a performance exploring the basic and powerful forces of nature. Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, Sat 9 - Sun 10 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham

AIR & LA GRANDE DIDIER THERON Funny and original show featuring four dancers dressed in inflatable latex suits which transform and magnify their movements. Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, Sat 9 - Sun 10 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham

MOON Follow Jack as he meets the Moon and embarks on an amazing adventure. Performed by 2Faced Dance Company. Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, Sat 9 - Sun 10 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham

BOLERO Jesús Rubio Gamo (Spain) explore the fine line separating pleasure and exhaustion. Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, Sat 9 - Sun 10 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham

Talks

ANDREW MOTION: ESSEX CLAY Andrew Motion's in-verse biographical sequel to his 2006 prose memoir, In The Blood, Sat 2 June, MAC, Birmingham

DAN SNOW - AN EVENING WITH THE HISTORY GUY Historian, broadcaster and TV presenter Dan recounts anecdotes from his career, Wed 6 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

AUDIENCE WITH ANTONY SHER Sir Antony talks about his new book, Year Of The Mad King, an account of his experience playing King Lear for the Royal Shakespeare Company, Thurs 7 June, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY & POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY (12a) Drama/History. Starring Lily James, Michael Huisman. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 1 June

LADY BIRD (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Laurie Metcalf. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 1 June

THAT GOOD NIGHT (12a) Drama. Starring John Hurt, Sofia Helin. Roses Theatre, Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 4 & Sat 9 June

EDIE (U) Drama. Starring Sheila Hancock, Kevin Guthrie. MAC, B'ham, Fri 8 June

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM (12a) Adventure/Sci-Fi. Starring Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 6 - Thurs 21 June

FINDING YOUR FEET (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Joanna Lumley, Celia Imrie. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 8 June

THE WOUND (15) Drama/Romance. Starring Nakhane Touré, Bongile Mantsai. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, B'ham, Fri 8 - Sun 10 June

MCQUEEN (15) Documentary. Starring

Alexander McQueen. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 8 - Thurs 14 June

GREASE (18) Musical. Starring John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John. This showing includes brunch. Mockingbird Cinema, B'ham, Sun 10 June

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 1 June, showing at selected cinemas

BOOK CLUB (12a)

ISMAEL'S GHOSTS (15)

L'AMANT DOUBLE (18)

MY FRIEND DAHMER (15)

Released from Wed 6 June, showing at selected cinemas

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM (12a)

Released from Fri 8 June, showing at selected cinemas

THE BOY DOWNSTAIRS (12)

Events

CASTLE QUEST A must for those who love solving riddles and having a go at challenges, until Fri 1 June, Tamworth Castle

OPERATION EARTH SHOW New family show exploring the amazing stories and science of the environment, until Fri 1 June, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

HALF-TERM FAMILY CRAFTS Find out what keeps bees buzzing and have a go at bee-themed crafts, until Fri 1 June, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

WAR OF THE ROSES LIVE The War of the Roses unfolds in a new live action show, complete with stunt riders, jousting and state-of-the-art special effects! Until Sun 3 June, Warwick Castle

HALF-TERM FAMILY FUN The museum celebrates the 70th birthday of Land Rover with a selection of themed activities, until Sun 3 June, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

WITSUN WEEK HALF TERM Family fun, until Sun 3 June, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

JURASSIC SEAS Journey back in time to when dinosaurs roamed the land and fearsome creatures lurked in the depths of the sea, until Sun 3 June, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

MADE IN THE BLACK COUNTRY Discover how manufacturing prowess put the region on the map, until Sun 3 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

SOOTY & FRIENDS Join Sooty, Sweep and Soo as they showcase their latest inventions, including the Super Sonic Sootamatic, until Sun 3 June, Cadbury World, Birmingham

PIRATE WEEK Until Sun 3 June, Selly Manor, Bournville, Birmingham

BEYOND WINDRUSH: CARNIVAL WORKSHOP Get in the spirit of the Caribbean by designing and creating smart footwear or a head dress in this 'fun-filled carnival workshop', Fri 1 June, MAC, Birmingham

UK GAMES EXPO The premier event in the UK, featuring all aspects of the tabletop gaming hobby, Fri 1 - Sun 3 June, NEC, Birmingham

BACKSTAGE TOUR: GENERAL Journey behind the scenes at one of Britain's premier producing theatres, Sat 2 June, The REP, Birmingham

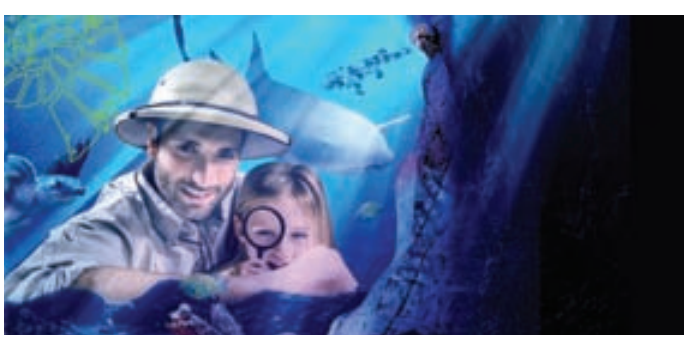
MUSICAL THEATRE OPEN MIC NIGHT Strut your stuff to anything and everything musical theatre, Sat 2 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK Learn about the area's history, its buildings and businesses, Sat 2 June, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

QUEEN VICTORIA CYCLOCROSS Featuring 300 riders from across the UK, all competing over 'a course like no other', Sat 2 June, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

COLLECTORMANIA 25 A unique event for fans of pop culture and collectables, Sat 2 - Sun 3 June, NEC, B'ham

TUDOR WEEKEND Have a go at Tudor games, quill pen writing and Tudor dancing, Sat 2 - Sun 3 June, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham



Jurassic Seas - National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

Inspired Family Day

Birmingham City University (Parkside Building), Sat 9 June

Taking place as part of the university's annual Inspired Festival, this action-packed day of free events and activities includes play-in-a-day and Matilda-inspired illustration workshops, presented in association with Birmingham Hippodrome. Other attractions include make & take sessions, arts & craft drop-ins, exhibitions, the chance for visitors to star in their own TV show, jewellery making, textile workshops and a Commonwealth Games-inspired sports day.

THE WORLD OF PARK & LEISURE HOMES SHOW View and explore around 60 park homes & leisure lodges, Fri 8 - Sun 10 June, Stoneleigh Park

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS Sat 9 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE SPIRIT OF DANCE The Keep Fit Association (KFA) presents its National Festival of Dance, Sat 9 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

WAR OF THE ROSES LIVE The War of the Roses unfolds in a new live action show, complete with stunt riders, jousting and state-of-the-art special effects! Sat 9 - Sun 10 June, Warwick Castle

STEAM POWER WEEKEND Featuring talks by engineers, and engines thundering into action! Sat 9 - Sun 10 June, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

THE ORIGINS OF MIDDLE EARTH WALK A guided walk exploring the area that inspired JRR Tolkien, Sun 10 June, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, B'ham

RAF COSFORD AIR SHOW Featuring 'spectacular' flying displays, military exhibitions and static aircraft displays, Sun 10 June, RAF Cosford, Shifnal

Gigs

NOUVELLE VAGUE Mon 11 June, Birmingham Town Hall

JESSICA LYNN Tues 12 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ZACH SAID Tues 12 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BROTHER FIRETRIBE Tues 12 June, The Actress & Bishop, B'ham

DEMI LOVATO Tues 12 June, Arena B'ham

LIONEL RICHIE - ALL THE HITS Wed 13 June, Montgomery Waters Meadow, Shrewsbury

NOFX Thurs 14 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

GARY BARLOW PLUS SUPPORT FROM JASON BROCK Thurs 14 & Fri 15 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EMILY MAGUIRE Fri 15 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

FAITH - THE GEORGE MICHAEL LEGACY Fri 15 June, Lichfield Garrick

THE QUO EXPERIENCE Fri 15 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

VICE SQUAD, THE LURKERS, THE VIBRATORS, YEAR ZERO & COMPLETE DYSFUNCTION Fri 15 June, The Flapper, Birmingham

SAFONE Fri 15 June, O2 Academy, B'ham

PRINCE NIGHT Fri 15 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

THE ELO ENCOUNTER Sat 16 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

URBAN INTRO Sat 16 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

DIG? Sat 16 June, The Night Owl, B'ham

GOSPEL REVISITED PROJECT Sat 16 June, The Bramall, Birmingham

HOLLYWOOD VAMPIRES Sat 16 June, Genting Arena, Birmingham

SURF'S UP Sat 16 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SOULED OUT 2 FUNK Sat 16 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

CHARLOTTE CARPENTER Sat 16 June, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

HOLLOWS, COLTANA, MALONE & CHONG BOOGIE Sun 17 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY CASH - KEEP IT CASH Sun 17 June, The Robin, Bilston

TONY CHRISTIE Sun 17 June, Lichfield Garrick

Lionel Richie

Montgomery Waters Meadow, Shrewsbury, Wed 13 June

Boasting in excess of 100 million album sales, a Golden Globe, numerous Grammy Awards and the Crystal Award for Humanitarianism, Lionel Richie is a 24-carat superstar. This latest concert - All The Hits - blends new material with old. Undoubtedly on the playlist will be classics from his extensive and much-loved repertoire, such as Hello, Dancing On The Ceiling and Endless Love, as well as mega-hits from his Commodore days, like Easy, Brickhouse and Three Times A Lady.

Classical Music

MIDDAY MUSIC: MIKHAIL KAZAKEVICH (PIANO) Mon 11 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

JULIAN JACOBSON LECTURE RECITAL: THE TEMPEST Julian Jacobson, President of the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe, begins a Beethoven thread that runs through Birmingham International Piano Festival, with the first of three Lecture Recitals on a single Beethoven piano sonata, The Tempest, Mon 11 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

PAUL BADURA-SKODA (PIANO) Tues 12 June, Concert Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

MIDDAY MUSIC: THE FITZROY QUARTET Programme comprises Beethoven's String Quartets Op.18 No.3 & 4, Tues 12 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CHEN SHUHUA (PIANO) & CHEN JIAFENG (VIOLIN) Programme includes works by Chopin, Wanghua Chu & Beethoven, Tues 12 June, Concert Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

JULIAN JACOBSON LECTURE RECITAL: 'WALDSTEIN' SONATA Programme comprises Beethoven's Piano Sonata No.21 in C major, Op.53 ('Waldstein'), Wed 13 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

VOLKOV CONDUCTS BRAHMS Featuring the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Ilan Volkov (conductor) & Alisa Weilerstein (cello). Programme includes works by Holst, Shostakovich & Brahms, Wed 13 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

YOUNG ARTIST RECITAL: SUSANNA BRAUN (PIANO) Part of Birmingham International Piano Festival, Wed 13 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

PETER DONOHOE: MOZART PIANO CYCLE RECITAL - 65TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE CONCERT Programme includes 5 works by Mozart, Wed 13 June, Cocnert Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

JULIAN JACOBSON LECTURE RECITAL: APPASSIONATA Part of Birmingham International Piano Festival, Thurs 14 June, Concert Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

MONTEVERDI: MADRIGALS OF WAR AND LOVE (STAGED) The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire presents Monteverdi's epic tales of conquered hearts and lovelorn battlefields. Jeffrey Skidmore conducts while Matthew Sharp directs, Thurs 14 - Sat 16 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

FESTIVAL VOICES Featuring Sidney Brass (conductor). Programme includes works by Ēriks Eśenvalds, Javier Buston. Harris, Morten Lauridsen, Mendellsohn, Rachmaninov, Sheremetev, arr. Moresan & Moses Hogan, Fri 15 June, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

NATALIA TRULL (PIANO) Programme includes works by Mozart, Brahms, Chopin & Debussy, Fri 15 June, Concert Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CITY OF BRISTOL CHOIR: CHORAL MASTERPIECES Featuring David Ogden (conductor), Richard Johnson (organ), Kate Pearson (harp) and Jeremy Little (percussion). Programme includes works by Howells, Finzi, Rheinberger, Chilcott & Bernstein, Sat 16 June, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

BIRMINGHAM GAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT Sat 16 Jun, Birmingham Conservatoire

Comedy

KAMIKAZE CLUB NIGHTS Mon 11 June, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

DOUG STANHOPE Tues 12 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

CRAIG DIXON Thurs 14 June, The Patrick Kavanagh, Moseley, B'ham

TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, IAN COPPINGER & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 14 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LLOYD LANGFORD, CHRIS STOKES Thurs 14 June, MAC, Birmingham

TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, IAN COPPINGER, CHRIS BETTS & COMIC TBC Fri 15 - Sat 16 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JARLATH REGAN, STEVE SHANYASKI, PHIL ELLIS & RO CAMPBELL Sat 16 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

KEVIN PRECIOUS & DOM HOLLAND Sat 16 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

JOEL DOMMET, TROY HAWKE, ROB DEERING & WAYNE BEESE Sat 16 June, Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Dudley

Theatre

TRYING IT ON David Edgar makes his performance debut in a one-man autobiographical play reflecting on the series of student revolts that took place across the world in 1968, Tues 12 - Wed 13 June, The REP, B'ham
Read David's feature on page 22

BEAUTIFUL - THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL The inspiring true story of the chart-topping music legend, Tues 12 - Sat 16 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE CASE OF THE FRIGHTENED LADY The Agatha Christie Company present a new thriller from the pen of Edgar Wallace, Tues 12 - Sat 16 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

SUMMER HOLIDAY Brand new staging based on the iconic 1960s film of the same name. Ray Quinn and Bobby Crush star, Tues 12 - Sat 16 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

HAIRSPRAY Smash-hit musical following the story of Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart who's on a mission to follow her dreams and dance her way onto national TV, Tues 12 - Sat 16 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

SISTER ACT Amateur staging of the feelgood musical comedy based on the 1992 film of the same name, Tues 12 - Sat 16 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

CRIMES OF THE HEART Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Theatre Company present a staging of Beth Henley's dark comedy, which tells of three Mississippi sisters loving, feuding and fussing their way through a very bad day, Wed 13 - Sat 16 June, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

MADRIGALS OF WAR AND LOVE Royal Birmingham Conservatoire presents Monteverdi's opera - an epic tale of conquered hearts and lovelorn battles, Thurs 14 - Sat 16 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

YOUNG REP: SEE ME The Young REP Intermediate Company present a show based on their own experiences in the education system, Fri 15 - Sat 16 June, The REP, Birmingham

MURDER, MARGARET AND ME Amateur staging of Philip Meeks' black comedy, Fri 15 - Sat 23 June, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

WOYZECK Theatre and dance combine in an exhilarating story about fighting for a better life, Fri 15 - Sat 23 June, The REP, Birmingham

DIVORCED, BEHEADED, DIED: AN AUDIENCE WITH KING HENRY VIII His Majesty recounts the events of his reign, Sat 16 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Kids Show

WHAT THE LADYBIRD HEARD Two crafty robbers, one tiny ladybird, and a whole farmyard of fun!, Tues 12 - Wed 13 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

KINDUR: THE ADVENTUROUS LIFE OF ICELANDIC SHEEP A 'magical interactive theatre experience' for young audiences. Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, Sat 16 - Sun 17 June, MAC, B'ham

Dance

CANDOCO DANCE COMPANY Brand new double bill. Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, Wed 13 - Thurs 14 June, MAC, Birmingham

ELEMENTS OF FREESTYLE Explosion of sports, music, dance and theatre, delivering a fresh look at urban arts. Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival, Thurs 14 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

KALLO COLLECTIVE: ONLY BONES V 1.0 Award-winning solo production by physical theatre company Kallo Collective and production company Show Pony. Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, Fri 15- Sat 16 June, MAC, Birmingham

MINI Immersive dance activity for children aged two to four. Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, Sat 16 - Sun 17 June, MAC, Birmingham

Talks

AN EVENING WITH PETE WATERMAN Pete talks about his career, from Stock, Aitken & Waterman to Pop Idol, Wed 13 June, Birmingham Town Hall

THE LIFE AND RHYMES OF BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH Birmingham-born writer Benjamin shares a selection of favourite stories and poems, Fri 15 June, Birmingham Town Hall

HIT THE ODE Apples And Snakes present a unique performance poetry night, Fri 15 June, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

The Life And Rhymes Of Benjamin Zephaniah

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 15 June

Birmingham-born poet Benjamin Zephaniah here presents a touring show in support of his recently published autobiography. With his life experiences including befriending Nelson Mandela, fighting in the 1980s race riots and recording radical reggae music with Bob Marley's former band, Benjamin certainly has a fascinating story or several to tell, and will also be sharing a selection of his favourite poems.

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

LADY BIRD (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Laurie Metcalf. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 11 June

REDOUBTABLE (15) Biography/Comedy. Starring Louis Garrel, Stacy Martin. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Mon 11 - Thurs 14 June

FINDING YOUR FEET (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Joanna Lumley, Celia Imrie. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 13 June

THAT GOOD NIGHT (12a) Drama. Starring John Hurt, Sofia Helin. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 15 June

HEREDITARY (15) Horror/Mystery. Star-

crescent

EQUUS

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Tickets £20 / £10 plus booking fee

RAPUNZEL
Featuring George Sampson
Saturday 14 July, 8pm
Tickets £18 / £16.50 via Town Hall

KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS
Thursday 26 July, 7.30pm
Tickets £15.00 via Town Hall

DIVAS:THE LEGENDS
Friday 28 Sept, Doors 6pm
Tickets £15.50

A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT
Thursday 18 Oct
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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

ring Toni Collette, Gabriel Byrne. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 15 June

A GENTLE CREATURE (18) Drama/Mystery. Starring Vasilina Makovtseva, Liya Akhedzhakova. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 15 - Sun 17 June

MY FRIEND DAHMER (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Ross Lynch, Alex Wolff. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 15 - Thurs 21 June

THROUGH OUR EYES (18) Documentary. Includes Q&A with Director. MAC, Birmingham, Sat 16 June

SHIRAZ: A ROMANCE OF INDIA (U) Drama/Romance. Silent film. MAC, Birmingham, Sun 17 June

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 15 June, showing at selected cinemas

HEREDITARY (15)

SUPER TROOPERS 2 (15)

THE CIAMBRA (15)

THE HAPPY PRINCE (15)

Events

BBC GOOD FOOD SHOW SUMMER Featuring live demonstrations by Michel Roux Jr, Tom Kerridge, Raymond Blanc, James Martin, Mary Berry and the Hairy Bikers. Don't forget, you can explore BBC Gardeners' World Live as part of your ticket too, Thurs 14 - Sun 17 June, NEC, Birmingham

BBC GARDENERS' WORLD LIVE Featuring 'stunning' show gardens, a floral marquee, and live demonstrations by Monty Don, Alan Titchmarsh, Carol Klein, Joe Swift and Adam Frost. Don't forget, your ticket includes free entry to the BBC Good Food Show, Thurs 14 - Sun 17 June, NEC, Birmingham

TRAM DRIVING EXPERIENCE DAY Join the expert team to learn about the history and workings of the trams in the collection, Fri 15 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

INTERNATIONAL MODEL AIR SHOW Popular model air show featuring a whole host of displays and exhibitors, Fri 15 - Sun 17 June, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal, Staffs

ROYAL THREE COUNTIES SHOW Try your hand at different activities, 'bond' with friendly animals and enjoy non-stop main arena entertainment, culminating in the Grand Parade of Livestock, Fri 15 - Sun 17 June, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

80S NIGHT Sat 16 June, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

HOME ON THE RANGE Discover the challenges of feeding the family in the Victorian period, from working the range to washing the pots. Cook some hearty Black Country fayre for your lunch and bake a cake to take home, Sat 16 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

MINI Immersive dance activity for children aged between two and four. Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival, Sat 16 - Sun 17 June, MAC, Birmingham

WAR OF THE ROSES LIVE The War of the Roses unfolds in a new live action show, complete with stunt riders, jousting and state-of-the-art special effects! Sat 16 - Sun 17 June, Warwick Castle

DROITWICH SPA FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL One of the Midlands' leading food festivals, Sat 16 - Sun 17 June, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire

TRAMPOLINE AND TUMBLING REGIONAL TEAM FINALS Sat 16 - Sun 17 June, Arena Birmingham

MINI BUILDERS WEEKEND Featuring Lego workshops, crafts and storytelling, Sat 16 - Sun 17 June, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

BEST OF BRITISH: CLASSIC CARS Sat 16 - Sun 17 June, Kenilworth Castle

FALCONRY DAY Sun 17 June, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

FESTIVAL OF BLACK COUNTRY VEHICLES Featuring cars, motorcycles and commercial vehicles built in the Black Country, Sun 17 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

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Lenny Kravitz - Arena Birmingham

Gigs

KATY PERRY Mon 18 June, Arena B'ham

GEORGE BENSON Mon 18 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

J.I.D & EARTHGANG Tues 19 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

RICHIE KOTZEN Tues 19 June, The Robin, Bilston

JAZZLINES PRESENTS... LUCINDA Tues 19 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

LENNY KRAVITZ Wed 20 June, Arena B'ham

AOEDE Wed 20 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

STARCRAWLER Thurs 21 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MAMAS GUN Thurs 21 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

STEVE GIBBONS Thurs 21 June, The Robin, Bilston

JACQUI DANKWORTH: BROMSGROVE FESTIVAL Thurs 21 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BILLY IDOL Thurs 21 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE BARRON KNIGHTS Thurs 21 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE UK PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE Fri 22 June, Lichfield Garrick

SENSATERIA WITH KINGS OF HONG KONG AND THE VOO-DOOMS Fri 22 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

ZIMMER VS. WILLIAMS Fri 22 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE BLUEJAYS ROCK AND ROLL REVOLUTION Fri 22 June, Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Dudley

THE JAM'D Fri 22 June, The Robin, Bilston

B'SPOKE Fri 22 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

CARA DILLON: WANDERER TOUR Fri 22 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PAUL LAMB & THE KING SNAKES Fri 22 June, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

THE FOOD FIGHTERZ Fri 22 June, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

BARRY STEELE & FRIENDS - THE ROY ORBISON STORY Sat 23 June, Lichfield Garrick

DIG? Sat 23 June, The Night Owl, B'ham

PIST.ON Sat 23 June, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE ONLY WAY IS GARAGE #5 Sat 23 June, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

B'SPOKE Sat 23 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

LIMEHOUSE LIZZY Sat 23 June, The Robin, Bilston

CHEMIKILL, SPIRAL DIVE, INFLUENS & HAMEREX Sat 23 June, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR Sat 23 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

HIGHER ON MAIDEN Sat 23 June, Route 44, Birmingham

KICK UP THE 80S Sat 23 June, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE STRAIGHT ACES Sat 23 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

OASIS MAYBE WORLD CUP PARTY Sun 24 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

George Benson - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Classical

MIDDAY MUSIC: BAX Featuring Joe Wallace (clarinet) & Veronika Tabakova (piano). Programme includes a selection of piano solos and Bax's Clarinet Sonata, Mon 18 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE CHAMBER CHOIR Programme includes works by James MacMillan & Henryk Gorecki, Mon 18 June, St Alban The Martyr, Highgate, Birmingham

BCMG: NEW WORK Programme to include works by Susannah Self, Oliver Farrow, Hannah Liu, Ivan Cancialosi, Rob Roberts, Soul Zisso & Georgia Denham, Mon 18 June, The Lab, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THOMAS TROTTER LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT: LADIES' DAY Programme includes works by E. Wallen, J. Marsh, K. Kulkova, M. Dring, J. Weir & J. Demessieuz, Mon 18 June, Birmingham Town Hall

MIDDAY MUSIC: ALEXANDER BAILLIE (CELLO) Also featuring John Thwaites (piano), Tues 19 June, Concert Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

BAXFEST Featuring The Artume Quartet and special guests Lucia Veintimilla (violin) & Greta Astedt (piano), Tues 19 June, Concert Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

EX CATHEDRA: SUMMER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Tues 19 - Wed 20 June, Birmingham Cathedral

ANNA VIENNA HO (PIANO) Programme includes works by Wagner/Liszt, Debussy, Ravel & Liszt, Wed 20 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

MUSSORGSKY MEETS MOZART Featuring the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Brass Band, Tredegar Town Band & Ian Porthouse (conductor), Wed 20 June, Concert Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

COMMUTER CONCERT: YU-TZU KUNG (PERCUSSION) Also featuring Anton Clarke-Butler (clarinet), Begum Bensu Ünsal (violin) & Gloria Yehilevsky (percussion). An eclectic programme includes solo percussion with electronics, a percussion duo piece, a trio for violin, clarinet and marimba and a special focus on jazz music, Thurs 21 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THALLEIN ENSEMBLE & JENNIFER WALSHE Featuring Daniele Rosina (conductor), Fri 22 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA: ZIMMER VS. WILLIAMS Featuring Anthony Inglis (conductor) Programme includes some of the very best scores from two great film composers, Fri 22 - Sun 24 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

PELLÉAS ET MÉLISANDE Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor), Jacques Imbrailo (Pelléas), Katja Stuber (Mélisande), Laurent Naouri (Golaud, Grandson of Arkel), Matthew Best (Arkel, King), Dame Felicity Palmer (Geneviève, Mother) plus members of CBSO Chorus, Sat 23 June, Symphony Hall, B'ham

JUNIOR CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT Soloists, chamber musicians, choirs and orchestras from the Junior Conservatoire join together in a fitting finale to the end of term, Sat 23 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

WNO FAMILY CONCERT Welsh National Opera's Family Concert is the perfect way to introduce all of the family to some of the extraordinary characters from the opera world, Sun 24 June, Birmingham Town Hall

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: ORGAN SYMPHONY Featuring David Saint (organ) & Robin Ireland (viola). Programme includes works by Saint-Saens, Faure & Walton, Sun 24 June, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

SUTTON COLDFIELD CHOIR Sun 24 June, The Bramall, Birmingham

Comedy

NOREEN KHAN, ALI OFFICIAL, GUZ KHAN, ESHANN AKBAR & AATIF NAWAZ Sun 17 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MATT PRICE, MARK MAIER & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 21 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MATT PRICE, MARK MAIER, TEZ ILYAS & CRAIG HILL Fri 22 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

YIANNI AGISILAOU & ALFIE BROWN Fri 22 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BEN MCCARTHY Sat 23 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

MATT PRICE, MARK MAIER, DOMINIC HOLLAND & CRAIG HILL Sat 23 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TEZ ILYAS, ADAM ROWE, ELLIOTT STEEL & THE RAYMOND AND MR TIMPKINS REVIEW Sat 23 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

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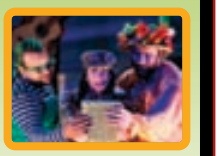

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Theatre

BIRDSONG An epic tale set both before and during the Great War, Mon 18 - Sat 23 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

TWIST Quentin Tarantino meets British farce in a 'rip-roaring' comedy thriller from Baroque Theatre Company, Tues 19 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

POETS, PRATTLERS, AND PANDEMONIALISTS Dave, Emma and Steve meet in a pub somewhere a lot like Wolverhampton to plot their path to fame and fortune, Tues 19 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MEASURE FOR MEASURE Outdoor staging of the Bard's darkest comedy, Wed 20 - Sat 23 June, Italian Gardens, Maple Hayes School, Lichfield

WHISKY GALORE Tribute to the all-female touring companies of the post-war years, Wed 20 - Sat 23 June, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

FORBIDDEN NIGHTS 'Thrilling action and provocative choreography, with the ultimate forbidden strip tease (and a few men in uniform thrown in for good measure)', Thurs 21 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

INTO THE WOODS Akorn Theatrical Productions present a concert version of the Stephen Sondheim show, Thurs 21 - Fri 22 June, MAC, Birmingham

WASTE Royal Birmingham Conservatoire presents Harley Granville Barker's controversial political masterpiece, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 June, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

THE UNBINDING Wrong Shoes Theatre Company present a dark and spell-binding world, where those who dare to stand out from the crowd are treated with hatred and suspicion, Fri 22 - Sat 23 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MISS LITTLEWOOD New musical based on the life of theatre director and anarchic revolutionist Joan Littlewood, Fri 22 June - Sat 4 Aug, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

Kids Shows

DOCTOR DOOLITTLE Brand new musical show for all the family, Sun 24 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Dance

BRB POLARITY & PROXIMITY Triple bill of work: Alexander Whitley's Kin, Twyla Tharp's In The Upper Room and George Williamson's Embrace, Wed 20 - Sat 23 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

DEEPSPACE Intimate performance - combining dance, sound and installation - which examines our curiosity for the unknown... Fri 22 - Sat 23 June, Quantum Exhibition Space, The Works, Birmingham

NEW CREATION Celebrated choreographers Bengolea and Holzinger join forces to confront the limits of the body and its representation in relationship to nature. Part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, Sat 23 June, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

Talks

AN AUDIENCE WITH SIMON KING Fully illustrated talk in which Simon shows how to communicate with the animals in your neighbourhood, Thurs 21 June, Lichfield Garrick

AN EVENING WITH TONY IOMMI The legendary Black Sabbath guitarist talks about his life and career, Sat 23 June, Birmingham Town Hall

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

JEUNE FEMME (15) Drama. Starring Laetitia Dosch, Souleymane Seye Ndiaye. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Mon 18 - Thurs 21 June

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY & POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY (12a) Drama/History. Starring Lily James, Michael Huisman. Artrix, Mon 18 & Fri 22 June

OCEAN'S 8 (12a) Comedy/Crime. Starring Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 22 June

ALL THE WILD HORSES (15) Documentary/Adventure. Starring George Azarias, Andrew Challen. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 22 - Sun 24 June

THOROUGHBREDS (15) Drama/Thriller. Starring Olivia Cooke, Anya Taylor-Joy. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 22 - Sun 24 June

SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY (12a) Sci-fi/Drama. Starring Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harrelson. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 22 - Thurs 28 June

MY SON IS GAY (12a) Drama/Family. Starring Anupama Kumar, Ashwinjith. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Sat 23 June

2001 A SPACE ODYSSEY (U) Adventure/Sci-Fi. Starring Keir Dullea, Gary Lockwood. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 23 - Sun 24 June

UMA (PG) Drama. Starring Jishu Sengupta, Sayantika Banerjee. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, B'ham, Sun 24 June

Gazelle Twin - Supersonic Festival at The Custard Factory, Birmingham

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Mon 18 June, showing at selected cinemas

OCEAN'S 8 (tbc)

IN THE FADE (18)

Events

SUPERSONIC FESTIVAL Capsule's internationally renowned experimental music and arts festival, Fri 22 - Sun 24 June, The Custard Factory, Birmingham

JAGUAR SUPER SATURDAY Featuring an array of vehicles spanning 90-plus years of motoring, Sat 23 June, Coventry Transport Museum

SUPERSONIC FESTIVAL: KIDS GIG WITH THE EX Featuring an underground band from the Netherlands who form a riot of sound and fury that's 'both sonically adventurous and feverishly compelling', Sat 23 June, MAC, Birmingham

VALE OF EVESHAM NATIONAL MORRIS FESTIVAL A weekend of 'colour, music and movement', Sat 23 June, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

FABULOUS FASCINATORS Have a go at making your own fascinator, Sat 23 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

DISCOVERY DAY Take part in fun workshops and activities, including face painting, a scar bar, crafts, wigs and more, Sat 23 June, The REP, B'ham

STEAMPUNK FESTIVAL WEEKEND Featuring market stalls, exhibitions, talks and shows celebrating all things steampunk, Sat 23 - Sun 24 June, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire

WAR OF THE ROSES LIVE The War of the Roses unfolds in a new live action show, complete with stunt riders, jousting and state-of-the-art special effects! Sat 23 - Sun 24 June, Warwick Castle

MIDSUMMER MADNESS Watch the Tudors get into midsummer mischief as they celebrate the longest day of the year, Sat 23 - Sun 24 June, Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon

400 YEARS OF ASTON HALL: A ROYAL VISIT - Travel back to 1642, when Sir Thomas Holte is honoured by a visit from King Charles I, Sun 24 June, Aston Hall, Birmingham

SUMMER FOOD FAIR Sun 24 June, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

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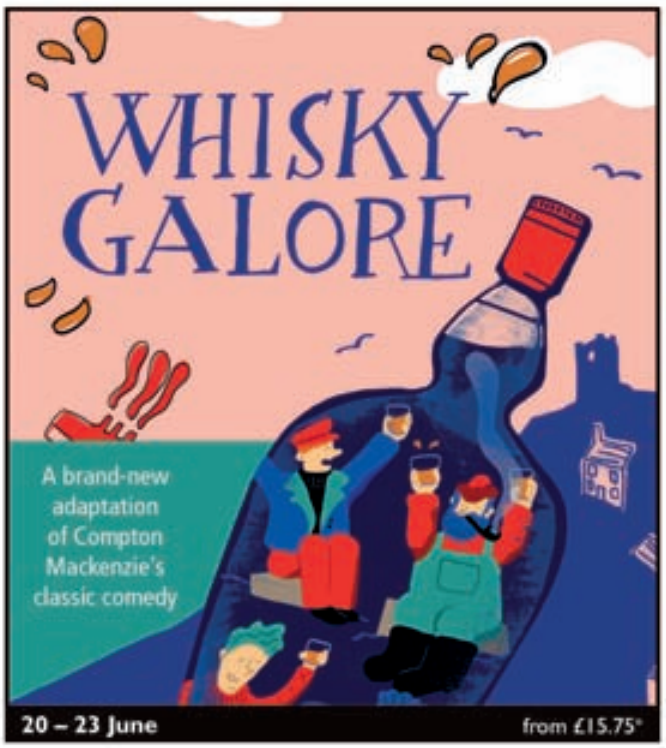

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Travis - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Gigs

FRESH, GREAT WIGHT, ECHO BEACH & P.E.T. Mon 25 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

TRAVIS Mon 25 June, Symphony Hall, B'ham

HE IS WE Tues 26 June, The Asylum, B'ham

OCEANS ATE ALASKA Tues 26 June, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

BOOTLEG BLONDIE Wed 27 June, The Robin, Bilston

GABIDDON Wed 27 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

H2O Wed 27 June, Mama Roux's, B'ham

DEL CAMINO Thurs 28 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

BONGZILLA Thurs 28 June, The Asylum, Birmingham

SKIDS Thurs 28 June, The Robin, Bilston

THE MANFREDS Thurs 28 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

LED HENDRIX Fri 29 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

JANINE JOHNSON 'SOUL IN THE CITY' Fri 29 June, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

JIVE TALKIN' PERFORM THE BEE GEES Fri 29 June, The Bramall, Birmingham

DEVIL IN DORIAN Fri 29 June, Route 44, B'ham

THE MANFREDS Fri 29 June, Lichfield Garrick

THE KILKENNYS Fri 29 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE HIGH TONES Sat 30 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

DIG? Sat 30 June, The Night Owl, B'ham

ASHEN CROWN Sat 30 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TOMMY BLAIZE Sat 30 June, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

GROUPER Sat 30 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

DAMIAN MARLEY (PICTURED) Sat 30 June, O2 Academy, B'ham

RUST FOR GLORY Sat 30 June, Route 44, B'ham

KATE VOEGELE AND TYLER HILTON Sat 30 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TREMONTI Sat 30 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE SHEEPDOGS Sat 30 June, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

The Kilkennys - The Core, Solihull

Classical Music

FITKINWALL: PARTIAL SCREAMING Featuring Graham Fitkin & Ruth Wall (piano/synthesizers), Mon 25 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (12.10pm - 1.10pm)

FITKINWALL Featuring Graham Fitkin (Moog synthesizer & electronics) & Ruth Wall (harps). Programme comprises Graham Fitkin (Lost - extracts) & Steve Reich (Harp Phase), Mon 25 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (6pm - 7pm)

FITKINWALL: HARD FAIRY Featuring the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Saxophone Department, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Harp Department, Ruth Wall & Eleanor Turmer (harps). Programme includes 5 works by Graham Fitkin, Mon 25 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (8pm)

MIDDAY MUSIC: JESS GILLAM Tues 26 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM WITH NICOLA BENEDETTI Also featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor) & the CBSO Youth Chorus (27 June only). Programme includes works by Stravinsky, Shostakovich & Lithuanian folk songs, Wed 27 - Thurs 28 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

COMMUTER CONCERT: PENELOPE APPLEYARD WITH FLORISMA ENSEMBLE Also featuring Michelle Holloway (recorders), Gail Hennessy (baroque oboe), Marta López (harpsichord), Aileen Henry (triple harp) & Henry Buckoke (baroque cello), Thurs 28 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

HESPÈRION XXI - ODE TO SYRIA Jordi Savall and the spectacular Hespèrion XXI play for Syria, in music that crosses cultures and centuries, Fri 29 June, Birmingham Town Hall

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Barry Wordsworth (conductor - pictured). Programme includes works by Michael Wolters & Stravinsky, Fri 29 June, Concert Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

SINFONIA OF BIRMINGHAM ORCHESTRAL DELIGHTS Programme includes works by Dvorak, Villa-Lobos, Beethoven, Sat 30 June, St Andrews Church, Barnt Green, Birmingham

SINFONIA OF BIRMINGHAM: SUMMER SERENADE Featuring Richard Laing (conductor). Programme includes works by Dvorak, Villa-Lobos & Beethoven, Sat 30 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA: LAST NIGHT OF THE SUMMER PROMS Featuring Anna Patalong (soprano), Nicky Spence (tenor) & Hilary Davan Wetton (conductor). Programme includes works by Rossini, Sousa, Pachelbel, Sibelius, Elgar, Bizet, Tchaikovsky, Puccini, Verdi, Suppe, Gounod, Handel, Holst & Wood, Sat 30 June, Symphony Hall, B'ham

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR ESPRESSIVO! Featuring a programme of Italian choral music, Sat 30 June, St Alban's Church. Birmingham

JUNIOR WIND ORCHESTRA & CHORAL CONCERT Sat 30 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Comedy

FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS Tues 26 June, Genting Arena, Birmingham

DANE BAPTISTE, RAY BADRAN & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 28 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANGELA BARNES & MITCH BENN Thurs 28 June, MAC, Birmingham

DANE BAPTISTE, RAY BADRAN, KIRI PRITCHARD-MCLEAN & GEORGE EGG Fri 29 - Sat 30 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RICH WILSON, PETER BRUSH, CAREY MARX & JULIAN DEANE Sat 30 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Theatre

THE LADYBOYS OF BANGKOK: WONDER WOMEN TOUR Cabaret show celebrating a host of female icons, Mon 25 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

OH! WHAT A LOVELY WAR Blue Orange Theatre's Adult Acting Devising & Performance Group perform Joan Littlewood's satirical masterpiece, Tues 26 - Wed 27 June, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

REVOLVING DOOR Play about male suicide that tells the story of a young gay man distressed about the state of the world, Tues 26 - Wed 27 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

CHITTY, CHITTY, BANG, BANG Amateur

staging presented by BMOS, Tues 26 - Sat 30 June, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE Tony Award-winning musical based on the 1967 film of the same name. Coronation Street and Emmerdale actress Hayley Tamaddon stars, Tues 26 - Sat 30 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MISCHIEF MOVIE NIGHT: THE IMPROVISED MOVIE LIVE ON STAGE The team behind the award-winning comedy The Play That Goes Wrong present an improvised movie live on stage, Tues 26 June - Sun 1 July, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

RISE & SHINE Mixed bill of work from BOA's Year 12 Musical Theatre Pathway, Wed 27 - Thurs 28 June, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL Amateur staging presented by Sutton Coldfield's Brit Youth Theatre, Thurs 28 - Sat 30 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

MACBETH Outdoor staging of the Bard's bloodiest play, Thurs 28 June - Sat 14 July, Stafford Castle

THE TEMPEST The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's tale of illusion and revenge, Fri 29 June, Winterbourne House & Garden, Birmingham

REX THE KING Wassail Theatre Company tell the story of a Somerset darts champion who ruled the world - but lost it all, Fri 29 - Sat 30 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

EMMA Jane Austen's famous tale about the perils of misconstrued romance, Sat 30 June - Sun 1 July, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

EQUUS The Crescent Theatre Company presents Peter Shaffer's psychological 'detective' story, Sat 30 June - Sat 7 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Kids Shows

MONSTERSAURUS Energetic show for younger audiences, packed with 'thrills, spills, magic, mayhem, original music and plenty of audience participation', Sat 30 June, Lichfield Garrick

Talks

CAITLIN MORAN LIVE: HOW TO BE FAMOUS Caitlin describes her show as an excuse 'to dress up, gather together with likeminded people and laugh your head off on cider', Thurs 28 June, Birmingham Town Hall

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE POST (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks. Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 25 June

LET THE SUNSHINE IN (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Juliette Binoche, Xavier Beauvois. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Mon 25 - Tues 26 June

MARLINA THE MURDERER IN FOUR ACTS (15) Drama/Thriller. Starring Egy Fedly, Dea Panendra. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Mon 25 - Wed 27 June

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY & POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY (12a) Drama/History. Starring Lily James, Michael Huisman. Artrix, Tues 26 June

THREE AND A HALF (12a) Drama. Starring Zoya Hussain, Jim Sarbh. Q&A with Director. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Tues 26 June

Thoroughly Modern Millie - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Monstersaurus - Lichfield Garrick

BIRD OF DUSK (U) Documentary. Q&A with Director. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Wed 27 June

102 NOT OUT (PG) Comedy/Drama. Starring Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Thurs 28 June

VILLAGE ROCKSTARS (U) Drama. Starring Bhanita Das, Basanti Das. Q&A with Director. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Thurs 28 June

EATEN BY LIONS (12a) Comedy. Starring Antonio Aakeel, Jack Carroll. Q&A with Director. MAC, Birmingham, Thurs 28 June

ON CHESIL BEACH (12a) Drama/Romance. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Emily Watson. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 29 June

SICARIO: SOLDADO (15) Action/Crime. Starring Josh Brolin, Isabela Moner. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 29 June

HALKAA (tbc) Drama/Family. Starring Paoli Dam, Ranvir Shorey. MAC, Birmingham, Sat 30 June

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 29 June, showing at selected cinemas

ADRIFT (tbc)

LEAVE NO TRACE (PG)

PATRICK (PG)

SICARIO 2: SOLDADO (15)

THE BOOK SHOP (PG)

Events

CASTLE TOURS 2018 Learn more about Dudley Castle, Thurs 28 June, Dudley Castle

THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW The latest supplies, ideas and innovations in the hobby world, Fri 29 June - Sun 1 July, NEC, Birmingham

FOLLIES FEST Live music and family activities, Fri 29 June - Sun 1 July, Hawkstone Park & Follies, Weston-under-Redcastle, Nr Shrewsbury

TENBURY MUSIC FESTIVAL Featuring The Lightning Seeds, Sat 30 June, The Burgage, Tenbury, Worcestershire

BANKS'S BLACK COUNTRY BEERS Try Banks's finest ales and meet the brewer and owner of Banks's Brewery, Sat 30 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

STEP BACK TO THE 1940S All aboard for a Severn Valley Railway train journey back in time to the 1940s, Sat 30 June - Sun 1 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

WAR OF THE ROSES LIVE The War of the Roses unfolds in a new live action show, complete with stunt riders, jousting and state-of-the-art special effects! Sat 30 June - Sun 1 July, Warwick Castle

MARVELLOUS MECHANICAL MUSEUM

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JP COOPER NINA NESBITT

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