

Staffordshire

ISSUE 390 JUNE 2018

What's On

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

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AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH R&H THEATRICALS EUROPE
LICHFIELD GARRICK COMMUNITY MUSICAL 2018

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

*A musical based on the
Hans Christian Andersen fairytale
'The Princess and the Pea'*

MONDAY 30 JULY - SATURDAY 4 AUGUST

LICHFIELD GARRICK
Theatre & Studio

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BOX OFFICE: 01543 412121
www.lichfieldgarrick.com

inside:

thelist

Your 16-page week
by week listings guide

MACBETH

Shakespeare's bloodiest tale
at Stafford Castle



PALOMA FAITH

The Architect in concert
at Forest Live



CREATIVE RAGE

exhibition explores LGBTQ
themes at Potteries museum





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Sutton Coldfield

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS
NOW BOOKING



SATURDAY FIESTA IN THE PARK

Featuring the CBSO
Saturday 30 June, 1.30pm
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
Tickets £20.00 via Town Hall

ENTERTAINMENT

CANNOCK CHASE

at the PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE

JUNE

MERSEY BEATLES

7.30pm • £16
Saturday 2 June

BRINGING ON BACK THE 60S

7.30pm • £19.50
Friday 8 June

DONNA TAGGART

7.30pm • £20
Wednesday 13 June

DEREK ACORAH

7.30pm • £19.50
Thursday 14 June



JULY

THE DRIFTERS

7.30pm • £24
Friday 6 July

INTO THE SHADOWS

7.30pm • £17
Saturday 21 July



AUGUST

THE DREAMBOYS

7.30pm • £23.50 - £28.50
Friday 3 &
Saturday 4 August



crescent

EQUUS

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Everything Steampunk - popular festival returns to Ironbridge's Blists Hill Victorian Town more on page 49

Gaz Coombes



Supergrass frontman takes World's Strongest Man on tour
page 15

Beautiful



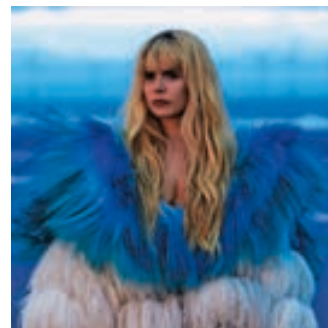
The Carole King musical stops off at Wolverhampton Grand...
page 28

Creative Rage



Potteries exhibition explores LGBTQ themes
page 45

the list



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

inside:

4. First Word

11. Food

15. Music

21. Comedy

24. Theatre

41. Film

45. Visual Arts

47. Events



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What's On

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Artsfest makes a welcome return in Wolverhampton

The University of Wolverhampton is this month staging its Artsfest event for a fourth year. Taking place at various venues from Friday 8 to Saturday 30 June, Artsfest is a celebration of the creative and cultural life of the region. The festival brings together performing arts, art & design, film & media and poetry & literature. For more information, visit wlv.ac.uk/Artsfest



College student designs new artistic landmark

The town of Cradley Heath is soon to get a new sculpture, courtesy of a student at nearby Halesowen College.

Eighteen-year-old Florence Thompson (pictured) was the winner of a project to create a representative sculpture of local hardware manufacturer A Perry & Co (Hinges) Ltd. Florence's winning design will be brought to life by local artist Phil Bayliss.



Local dance organisation 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."

Titanic show set to sail into Shrewsbury museum

A new exhibition about doomed ocean liner the Titanic opens at Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery next month.

Titanic: Honour & Glory will show at the venue from 2 July to 30 September. Commenting on the show, Lezley Picton, Shropshire Council's cabinet member for culture & leisure, said: "From all cultural and ethnic backgrounds, every age group across the world wishes to delve further into the Titanic's history and learn more. I can't wait to have a look and relive the voyage, and I'd encourage everyone to visit not just this fascinating exhibition, but the fantastic galleries throughout the museum."



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 lichfield-festival.org



Grease Is The Word at Ironbridge's Blists Hill

Ironbridge Gorge's Blists Hill Victorian Town is next month hosting an outdoor screening of hit 1978 movie Grease, to celebrate the film's 40th anniversary.

The movie will be shown on a huge 8mx4m inflatable screen on Friday 6 July. Viewers will be able to enjoy a Victorian fun-fair in the run-up to the 9.30pm screening. For further details, visit ironbridge.org.uk

Plans submitted for new Stafford history centre

Plans have been submitted for a multi-million pound history centre in Stafford.

The new centre will be located at the William Salt Library, with part of the building being demolished and replaced with a new three-storey extension. The library's existing courtyard space will be turned into an exhibition space and reception area.

Bad Manners at Shrewsbury's Buttermarket

Ska legends and much-loved 1980s pop band Bad Manners will be bringing their Christmas tour to Shrewsbury's Buttermarket. The non-stop party band, whose 12 hit singles include Lip Up Fatty, My Girl Lollipop and Special Brew, appear at the venue on Friday 16 November. Tickets for the gig are now on sale at seetickets.com

A classic event for Father's Day

Trentham Gardens in Staffordshire is hosting a 'classic' day out for car-loving dads to enjoy this Father's Day (17 June). The venue will provide a picturesque backdrop for a display of more than 1,000 vehicles and 50-plus car club, trade and auto-jumble stands.

Veteran, vintage and classic cars, plus a number of modified motors, will also be on display. For more information, visit classicismotorshows.co.uk



'Powerful and flamboyant' art on show in The Potteries

An exhibition by artists from the LGBTQ community will be on show at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent throughout the summer (until Sunday 2 September).

Creative Rage contemplates subjects including the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality and the impact on the gay community of the HIV virus. Contributing artists include Soft Cell singer Mark Almond. The exhibition contains sexually explicit images and themes of an adult nature, and is not suitable for people under the age of 18.

Wolves pub memories?

Black Country Living Museum would like to hear from people who have any pre-1969 memories of the Elephant & Castle pub that once stood on the corner of Stafford Street and Cannock Road in Wolverhampton.

The museum plans to recreate the fondly remembered watering hole as part of its ambitious new development project, Forging Ahead. Anybody with any recollections to contribute should email collections@bclm.com or call 0121 557 9643.

New play 'on the ball' in Wolverhampton

A play about Britain's obsession with football is visiting Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre this month.

Celebrating everything from weird matchday rituals to ridiculous arm-chair punditry, *The Beautiful Game* shows at the venue on Wednesday 13 June. For more information, visit wlv.ac.uk/arena-theatre





Follies festival fun!

Hawkstone Park's spectacular Follies is this month providing the backdrop for a weekend of live outdoor music.

Follies Fest takes place from Friday 29 June to Sunday 1 July and opens with The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute. The Voice's Jolan Gidney-Craigen and X Factor's Paul Akister also feature in the line-up, as do tribute acts showcasing the music of Ed Sheeran, Adele, Take That, Little Mix and Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons... For more information, go to hawkstoneparkfollies.co.uk

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.

Did you see the Fab Four in Whitchurch?

A top tribute band are appealing for Shropshire music fans to come forward and share their memories of seeing The Beatles in Whitchurch in 1963.

The Mersey Beatles will play Whitchurch Civic Centre in November, as part of a UK tour that sees them performing at venues which hosted Fab Four concerts during the era of Beatlemania.

As part of their gig, the band would like to feature local people's memories of The Beatles' Whitchurch show. Anybody with any stories to tell should email: merseybeatles@rhodesmedia.com

Tom Gates live!

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

Circus magic in Newcastle-under-Lyme

Outdoor circus extravaganza The Homecoming is returning to Newcastle-under-Lyme for a fifth time.

This year featuring 'jaw-dropping juggling, cutting-edge Spanish circus and theatrical tales of the high seas', the 2018 show coincides with the 250th anniversary of the first modern circus, an entertainment created by the locally born entrepreneur, Philip Astley.

The Homecoming takes place in the town on Saturday 30 June.

For more information about the show, visit appetitestoke.co.uk

Europe's largest Eid celebration is back

Europe's largest celebration of Eid returns to Birmingham's Small Heath Park this month.

Now in its eighth year, Eid In The Park is expected to attract an estimated 150,000 visitors when it takes place on either Thursday the 14th or Friday the 15th of June (depending on the new moon).

The date will be formally announced on Wednesday 13 June.

For more information, visit celebrateeid.co.uk



Midlands dance-circus company becomes part of the furniture

Midlands dance-circus company Motionhouse has joined forces with furniture manufacturer Vitsoe 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, Vitsoe 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

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



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 CURTIS STIGERS
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 SCOTT'S BIG BAND**
 FRI 13 JULY 2018
 8PM
TOWN HALL



**NEW PURPLE
 CELEBRATION -
 THE MUSIC OF
 PRINCE**
 FRI 17 AUGUST 2018 8PM
SYMPHONY HALL



**KEVIN AND KAREN
 DANCE - THE LIVE
 TOUR 2018**
 SAT 14 JULY 2018
SYMPHONY HALL



**BRASSED OFF
 LIVE FEATURING
 GRIMETHORPE
 COLLIERY BAND**
 FRI 7 SEPTEMBER 2018
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



DEL AMITRI
 DOORS 7PM, START TIME
 TBC
 MON 23 JULY 2018 7PM
SYMPHONY HALL



**INDIANA JONES:
 RAIDERS OF THE
 LOST ARK IN
 CONCERT!**
 FRI 21 SEPTEMBER 2018
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



**GRAHAM NASH
 AN INTIMATE
 EVENING OF
 SONGS & STORIES**
 THU 26 JULY 2018
 7:45PM
TOWN HALL



**JURASSIC PARK
 IN CONCERT!
 65 MILLION YEARS
 IN THE MAKING**
 SUN 23 SEPTEMBER 2018
 2PM
SYMPHONY HALL



**JOHN GRANT
 PLUS SUPPORT**
 THU 16 AUGUST 2018
 8PM
SYMPHONY HALL

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OFFSIDE



**acclaimed play puts women's
football centre stage at
Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn**

A glorious tale of struggle and sweat, Sabrina Mahfouz and Hollie McNish's Offside explores the story of four women from across history who live, breathe and play football. What's On recently caught up with Fizz Waller - who stars as two of the principal characters - to find out more...

Almost 100 years ago, Everton Football Club welcomed a crowd of 53,000 to its Goodison Park home for a Boxing Day fixture between Dick, Kerr Ladies and St Helen's Ladies. The match wrote itself into the record books for attracting the biggest ever attendance for a women's football match.

One member of the Dick, Kerr Ladies team, Lily Parr, is just one of the characters featured in Sabrina Mahfouz and Hollie McNish's play, *Offside*, which visits Shrewsbury this month as part of its national tour.

The show focuses on four players from three important eras in the women's game: Emma Clarke (played by Marième Diouf), who became Britain's first black female footballer in the 1890s; Parr (Fizz Waller), and two fictional characters from the world of modern-day women's football, Mickey (Diouf) and Keeley (Waller).

For Waller, transferring her love of football to the stage was a mouthwatering prospect.

"I used to play football when I was younger," she says, "so it was a bit of a no-brainer. Being theatrical and having some experience of the writers' work, it was the ideal job for me, so I was really pleased to get it."

While the drama spans three time periods covering more than 100 years, the themes of the play are nevertheless contemporary. Waller was particularly interested in the character of Parr.

"Lily was very passionate about her football; it was a massive part of her life. She played from a very young age and carried on playing well into her 40s. She'd come off at half-time and smoke some Woodbines. She was an incredible character and, in terms of women's rights, really utilised football as a bit of a catalyst in order to fight these bigger battles as well. I think there's a lot to learn from Lily Parr. But, ultimately, she loved the game, and that was why it was so heart-wrenching for her to be banned."

The ban in question happened in 1921, when the Football Association decided to prohibit the playing of women's football in its clubs' grounds. Incredibly, the ban wasn't lifted until 1971, though this didn't stop Parr from continuing her career through the 1920s and '30s. And as an openly gay footballer between the wars, Parr broke down one particular barrier that Waller feels the professional men's game has yet to address.

"Gay professional footballers are there, there's no doubt, but they're not being supported enough to express themselves. I think everyone has to take a bit of responsibility for that - the clubs, the fans, the FA. Everyone is contributing to that atmosphere, and it's got to end."

The structure of the play mixes prose and poetry in its telling of the story. As an admirer of the work of Mahfouz and McNish, it was a challenge that Waller relished.

"It jumps from prose to more poetic elements, which is beautiful, and those spoken-word elements really tie the whole piece together. But I think the shift between prose and spoken word also gives it a tempo similar to playing the match."

"There are times when you can really feel that in the words as you say them - your heart thumping in your chest as you're waiting for the whistle to blow - so it really lends itself to a sports-based environment."

Waller started playing football at a very young age. By her teens, she'd joined her local football club, Ipswich Town, where she found a number of kindred spirits.

"We eventually got enough for a seven-a-side team and created the first girls team at Ipswich. We made the step up to the Ipswich Town first team at the age of 16 and, when I was a bit older, I played for Lewes for a season as well."

As part of this tour, Waller will be reunited with The Dripping Pan, the wonderfully

named ground of Lewes FC, where the play will be staged in a space that's more accustomed to the sound of pre-match banter and the smell of embrocation.

"We're doing some shows in London, Brighton and Lewes. Lewes is a fantastic club, and they're famous at the moment for paying their men's and women's teams equal salaries. The changing rooms, I remember, are tiny, so that's certainly going to be an intimate show!"

Waller's footballing background came in handy when she was preparing to play Keeley.

"I thought about my time playing and what it was like - my fears, my anxieties, my excitement, the adrenaline of being pre-match in the tunnel and waiting to walk out. Doing this play has made those feelings come back to me very vividly, and I've really enjoyed it. I've definitely utilised my own experience in developing my character of Keeley."

While the theme of the play is football, Waller is keen to stress that this is a piece that will appeal to a far wider audience.

"You don't have to be into football to enjoy the play. There are scenes of humanity and people's fears and how to deal with them. There are themes of feeling hard done by and how to bring yourself back from when you feel oppressed. There are themes of coming out, and the fear of that. You've got Lily, who's very calm about it all, but Mickey has this tension about that."

"It's about the emotions and the feelings of the people in and around football. And I think that those things can be a feature of everyday life as well - so there's much more to this play than just football."

.....

Offside shows at Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, on Wed 27 June

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OF FIGARO**

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BACK AND HOTTER THAN EVER
THE DREAMBOYS

FRI 29 JUN
REGENT THEATRE



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PEPPA PIG'S ADVENTURE

WED 6 - THU 7 JUN
REGENT THEATRE



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FRI 6 - SUN 8 JUL
REGENT THEATRE



REWIND THE YEARS WITH
**THE MAGIC OF
MOTOWN**

FRI 8 JUN
REGENT THEATRE



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**TIDDLER AND OTHER
TERRIFIC TALES**

MON 27 - WED 29 AUG
REGENT THEATRE



SMASH-HIT MUSICAL COMEDY
HAIRSPRAY

TUE 12 - SAT 16 JUN
REGENT THEATRE



BRAND NEW COMEDY MUSICAL
CROONERS

THU 30 AUG
REGENT THEATRE



MY FAMILY: NOT THE SITCOM
DAVID BADDIEL

THU 28 JUN
REGENT THEATRE



TERRIFIC TRIBUTE
THE ELO EXPERIENCE

FRI 31 AUG
REGENT THEATRE

TIM VINE - SUNSET. MILK. IDIOT. WED 30 MAY **VH**

THE SHIRES SUN 3 JUN **VH**

ENGLISH TOURING OPERA: FIREWORKS!
TUE 5 JUN **VH**

AN AUDIENCE OF ANFIELD LEGENDS TUE 12 JUN **VH**

GRUMPY OLD WOMEN THU 14 JUN **VH**

THE STORY OF GUITAR HEROES FRI 15 JUN **VH**

SUN RECORDS - THE CONCERT SAT 23 JUN **VH**

TOTALLY TINA! FRI 6 JUL **VH**



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Secret Gin Festival

Wolverhampton's Secret Gin Festival returns this month and is expected to be 'the biggest extravaganza to date'. Featuring 100 gin brands - including some rare world gins - live music, DJs, entertainment, craft beer bars and a cocktail bar hosted by The Bohemian, the event takes place at The Grain Store on Saturday 2 June. The award-winning Digbeth Dining Club will be on hand to provide a selection of street food throughout the day.

Doughnut shop opens in Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury has a new family-run doughnut & coffee shop. Located on Claremont Hill, Planet Doughnut is open five days a week from 9am to 5pm. The shop's menu changes daily and includes a range of premium or classic flavours, including Oreo, Kinder Bueno and Reese's.

Visit facebook.com/planetdoughnut for more information.



Beer and cider festival in Wolverhampton

The 43rd Wolverhampton Beer & Cider Festival takes place at Newhampton Arts Centre from Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 June. The event will feature 70 real ales plus a range of ciders, perries and an imported bottle bar. Thursday and Friday cost £3.50, with Saturday free all day. Opening times are Thursday, 5pm to 11pm, and Friday and Saturday, noon till 11pm.



Shrewsbury Food Festival set to attract tens of thousands

Up to 30,000 people will this month descend on Shrewsbury for the town's annual food festival (Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 June), the biggest of its kind in the West Midlands.

The popular event, which has overtaken Ludlow Food Festival as the region's premier celebration of fine food, boasts a glittering line-up that includes cookery and kitchen knife-using workshops, a music stage, an on-site animal area and a family stage.

The #shropshireunsigned music stage, sponsored by local nightclub The Buttermarket,

boasts a diverse line-up that includes Libby Gliksmann, Groove Dynamite, Dirty Rockin' Scoundrels, Custard Connection and Joe Seager. Commenting on the event, The Buttermarket's Operations Director, Grant Lees, said: "The live music is a really important part of the festival because it's a place where people can settle on the grass and be entertained. There's always a good mix of music, and it provides the perfect backdrop to the festival. This year is no exception, and we're really pleased with the artists that we've programmed."

Stafford Cheese & Ale Festival returns for a fifth year

The Stafford Cheese & Ale Festival returns to the town centre from Friday 15 to Sunday 17 June.

Featuring 'more stands, music, events and street theatre than ever before', the event showcases a scone-making demonstration, provides the opportunity to enjoy 80 different

gins and also includes an alfresco bar. Top local chefs from the Staffordshire Chefs Forum will be giving cookery demonstrations, while the Great Chefs Challenge will see two local chefs go head-to-head in a Ready, Steady, Cook-style challenge.



Afternoon Teas ...

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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.

Restaurant to host Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Independent Shrewsbury restaurant The Peach Tree is holding a Mad Hatter's Tea Party on Saturday 16 June. Hosted by the Mad Hatter himself and taking place from noon till 3pm, the event features bottomless tea, coffee and drink-me potions served by Alice, face painting, themed decor, photo opportunities and family deals.

Acclaimed chef opens new restaurant

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.



Diverse vegan cuisine at pub chain's Lichfield venue

Pub chain Brewhouse & Kitchen, which has a premises in Lichfield, has launched a new summer menu offering 'the UK's most diverse vegan cuisine'.

Claiming that 'this summer, traditional pub grub dies', the venue's new menu includes British farm assured 'beer-can' chicken, West Country crab cakes, beetroot & thyme risotto,

Korean breaded tofu and falafel, Sri Lankan vegetable curry and soft shell tacos filled with options of cajun king prawns and panko breaded tofu. The eatery also serves wood-aged Belgian craft beer. To book a table at the Lichfield venue, visit brewhouseandkitchen.com

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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Gaz Coombes

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 22 June

Supergrass frontman Gaz Coombes visits the Potteries this month in support of his third solo album, *World's Strongest Man*. Released last month, the record is inspired by, amongst other things, Grayson Perry's *The Descent Of Man*, Frank Ocean's *Blonde*, Californian weed, British woodlands, unchecked toxic masculinity and hip-hop. "I shot the *Deep Pockets* video on a shoestring, mostly in LA at the end of 2017," says Gaz. "The idea came from the lyrics and memories of weird night drives over the years - a neverending car journey laced with paranoia, intermittent hallucinations and unexpected car pooling."



Martin & Eliza Carthy

Stafford Gatehouse, Wed 27 June

Martin Carthy and his twice Mercury-nominated daughter Eliza join forces to perform songs from their first ever duo album, *The Elephant*.

Eliza has previously won multiple gongs at the BBC Radio Two Folk Awards. Martin, meanwhile, is described by *Q Magazine* as 'arguably the greatest English folk song performer, writer, collector and editor of them all'. In short, this is a must-see concert for any folk enthusiast.



Lionel Richie

Montgomery Waters Meadow, Shrewsbury, Wed 13 June

Boasting in excess of 100 million album sales, a Golden Globe, numerous Grammys 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 including *Hello*, *Dancing On The Ceiling* and *Endless Love*, as well as megahits from his Commodore days like *Easy*, *Brickhouse* and *Three Times A Lady*.

Calan

Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, Sat 2 June

Vibrant five-piece Calan have certainly found their musical niche, showcasing a unique instrumental blend of accordion, fiddle, guitar, Welsh pipes, Welsh harp and the percussive sound of the Welsh clogs. Taking a contemporary approach, they breathe new life into old traditions.

Danni Nicholls

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury, Sun 3 June

Described by BBC Radio Two's Paul Sexton as "an artist with the elegance and imagination to restore your faith in the visceral power of an original song", Danni Nicholls enjoyed a spectacularly good 2017. In a year when she could do no wrong, highlights among the highlights included winning Americana Association UK's Album Of The Year award, and supporting Shakin' Stevens on a 28-date tour. Expect a velvet voice and plenty of thoroughly engaging between-song banter.

Quill

The Robin, Bilston, Fri 29 June

When bass guitarist Ben Brain died suddenly in 2012, his wife and Quill's lead singer, Joy Strachan-Brain, seriously considered calling time on the band's 30-plus years of musicmaking. Eventually, though, she decided it was more important to battle on, in so doing ensuring that the songs Ben had written for a new album would finally be heard...

The popular Tamworth band have developed a unique musical style over the years, incorporating numerous influences, including Celtic folk and rock. They here perform a repertoire that features a number of time-honoured classics.





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Ex Cathedra: Summer Music By Candlelight

St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury, Fri 8 June; 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.

English Touring Opera

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 4 June & Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 5 June

English Touring Opera travels to more regions and plays more venues than any other English opera company, presenting as many as 110 performances every year with the stated aim of making opera accessible to everyone.

Their latest stop-off in the Midlands region sees them presenting an energetic new production of Mozart's classic comedy, *The Marriage Of Figaro*.



CBSO: Pelléas Et Mélisande

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 23 June



The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's Music Director, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, here conducts Debussy's fairytale 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.



Russell Watson

Lichfield Garrick, Sat 16 June; Place In The Park Big Top, Telford, Sat 4 August; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 24 September

Often referred to as 'the people's tenor', Russell Watson first came to the nation's attention when he sang *God Save The Queen* to a packed Wembley Stadium in 1999. Two years later, his debut album, *The Voice*, topped the classical charts in both the UK and the US.

Working in the genres of classical, pop rock and operatic pop, Watson's soaring voice has garnered him an impressive army of fans, many of whom will be eager to catch up with him on this latest tour.



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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, Shine-down, 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, Rain-breakers, Redwood, 4 Men Called Bob, Shannon Flynn, Alphetbackwards, Jon-can 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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★ Guo Yue and Joji Hirota with members of London Taiko Drummers
★ Peter Knight and John Splers ★ Johnny Coppin and Phil Beer
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www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk

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 merry-makers 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...

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.



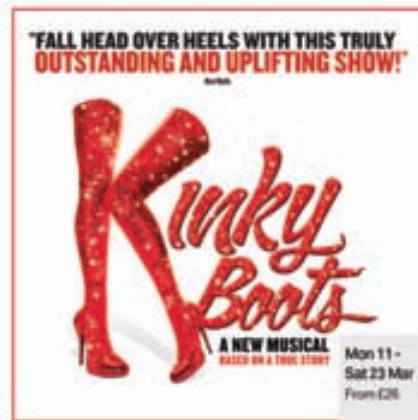
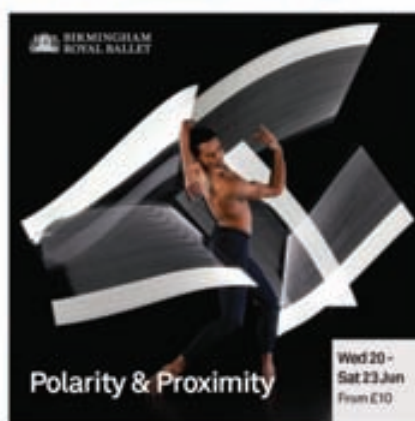


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Sunshine On Leith

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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MILKSHAKE! LIVE





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 & Loeb 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 light-hearted 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 prophecies of three supernatural women - and egged on by his conniving wife - Mac-

beth'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 en-

joyed 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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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.

"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 Liberate 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."

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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 MacMillan'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,
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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...

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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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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



Film highlights released in 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 su-

perior 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 McElvor** (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



CRITIC'S CHOICE

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."

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Federico Barocci, The Head of an Old Man, c. 1675
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Mr Puert NYC 1992, by Michael James O'Brien

CreativeRage

28 April – 1 September 2018

The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
01782 232323 | potteriesmuseum.org.uk
Tickets £5, concessions £3. Strictly 18 +

Stoke-on-Trent



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, im-

bued 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

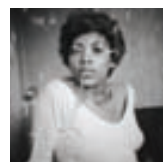
Barber Institute, Birmingham, until Sun 16 September

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.

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BM Woodrow, Crow and Cartier, 1981, Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © The artist. Image courtesy BM Woodrow.



Events previews from around the region



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.

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.

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.



STEAMPUNK WEEKEND

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Events previews from around the region



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-handful 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

Eventim Stage

Bentley Rhythm Ace // Abdoujaparov // Thousand Yard Stare // Smoove & Turrell

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*Your week-
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listings guide*
June 2018

the list



Paloma Faith - Cannock Chase Forest, Rugeley, Fri 29 June

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

What's On

Fri 1 to Sun 10 June



The Shires at
Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

Sun 3 June

Mon 11 to Sun 17 June



Ballet Cymru's Cinderella at
New Vic Theatre, Staffs

Wed 13 June

Mon 18 to Sun 24 June



Katie Arnstein - Bicycles &
Fish at Lichfield Garrick

Fri 22 - Sat 23 June

Mon 25 to Sat 30 June



David Baddiel at
Regent Theatre, Hanley

Thurs 28 June

THROUGHOUT JUNE

Visual Arts

New Art Gallery - Walsall

MIKE NELSON: LIONHEART Exhibition consisting of junk materials painstakingly collected from specific locations by the artist, and assembled to create a fictional drifter's camp, complete with skins, traps, darts, trophies and beer cans, until Sun 3 June

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

MAHTAB HUSSAIN - MITTI KA GHAR Exhibition extending from Mahtab Hussain's Floor Three exhibition, Going Back Home To Where I Came From, until Sun 24 Feb

Newcastle Borough Museum & Art Gallery

OUT OF THIS WORLD Display of space memorabilia, until Sat 9 June

PHILIP ASTLEY HIS LIFE AND LEGACY Exhibition charting the meteoric rise of Philip Astley, 'the father of modern circus', until Sun 15 July

CIRCUS POSTER COMPETITION Celebrating the life and work of Philip Astley, 'the father of modern circus', until Sun 15 July

Potteries Museum & Art Gallery - Stoke-On-Trent

MINI MUSEUM Reflecting all the collections held by the museum, this family-friendly exhibition will be asking visitors what their favourite objects are and how they would like to see them displayed, until Sun 3 June

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

CREATIVE RAGE Exhibition featuring paintings, photographs, prints and ceramics by members of the progressive LGBTQ artistic community, until Sun 2 Sept

FIRST WORLD WAR REPLICA TRENCH until Sun 11 Nov

REVEALING VOICES Celebration of the 50th anniversary of Radio Stoke, featuring a selection of photographs, archival material and film, until Sun 23 Dec

NEW BLUE Exhibition inviting visitors to think about the colour blue and its existence in the natural world, Sat 30 June - Sun 28 Oct

Qube Gallery, Oswestry

NEW MILLICENT KAYE CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION Annual competition, attracting over 350 entries each year, Sun 17 - Sat 30 June

Weston Park, Shifnal

NEW DIETER BLUM'S COWBOYS FROM THE DAIMLER ART COLLECTION The work of German photographer Dieter Blum is presented for the first time in the UK, Wed 6 June - Mon 27 Aug

NEW MARQUETRY SOCIETY EXHIBITION Exhibition of work by members of the Society, Tues 12 - Thurs 28 June

The Willow Art Gallery, Oswestry

NEW BORDERLAND VISUAL ARTS Exhibition of work by a thriving artists' community based in Oswestry and the Borders, Sat 2 June - Sat 14 July

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

NEW CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE END OF YEAR ART AND DESIGN SHOW Work from more than 60 gifted art, design and photography students from the City of Wolverhampton College, Tues 19 June - Sun 8 July

NEW MELANIE TOMLINSON: GHOST HORSES AND GUNS Exhibition of work by Melanie Tomlinson, who creates intricate three-dimensional sculptures as an archive of urban folk tales, Sat 30 June - Sun 14 Oct

Other VISUAL ARTS

CONSEQUENCE OF WAR Exhibition exploring the immediate aftermath of World War One and the quest for peace that followed. Includes works by Henry Moore and Paul Nash, presented alongside Great War artefacts and contemporary footage, until Sun 24 June, Lichfield Cathedral

NEW SECRET HILLS ART CAFE EXHIBITION Thurs 7 June - Mon 16 July, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms

NEW BISHOP'S CASTLE OPEN STUDIOS A weekend during which artists invite the public to join them in their studios, Fri 8 - Sun 10 June, Various locations in Bishops Castle

NEW BRIDGNORTH OPEN HOUSE ARTS TRAIL More than 30 houses and venues of historical interest open their doors to display the work of approximately 40 artists, Sat 9 - Sun 10 June, Various locations in Bridgnorth

NEW BORDERLAND VISUAL ARTS - OPEN STUDIOS Opportunity to see high-quality art and see talented artists working in their studios, Sat 9 - Sun 10 June and Sat 16 - Sun 17 June, Various Locations around Oswestry

Gigs

WUTHERING HEIGHTS - THE MUSIC OF KATE BUSH Fri 1 June, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

NICK HEYWARD Fri 1 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LACK OF COMMITMENTS Fri 1 June, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke on Trent

THE PEAK DISTRICT BIG BAND Fri 1 June, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Staffordshire

THE SMITHS LTD Fri 1 June, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

GREEN HAZE & ONE EIGHTY TWO Fri 1 June, The Robin, Bilston

LIBERTY LIES Fri 1 June, The Asylum, Birmingham

FRED ZEPPELIN Fri 1 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

THE SHIRES Fri 1 June, Symphony Hall, B'ham

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

STEREOPHONICS Sat 2 June, The Racecourse Ground (Wrexham FC), Wrexham, Clwyd

MERSEY BEATLES Sat 2 June, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

THE ROLLING STONES Sat 2 June, Ricoh Arena, Coventry

CALAN Sat 2 June, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

ROY WOODS Sat 2 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

QUINN & P.E.T. Sat 2 June, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

THE DECADES BAND - 80S VS. 90S SPECIAL! Sat 2 June, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

BOOKENDS: TRIBUTE TO SIMON & GARFUNKEL Sat 2 June, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton

SPECIAL KINDA MADNESS Sat 2 June, The Robin, Bilston

THE BEAT (STARRING DAVE WAKELING) Sat 2

June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ANDY CUTTING Sat 2 June, The Hive Shrewsbury

BENTLEY CALDWELL Sun 3 June, The Wightman Theatre, Shrewsbury

MOSTLY AUTUMN Sun 3 June, The Robin, Bilston

THE SHIRES Sun 3 June, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

G-EAZY Sun 3 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

DANNI NICHOLLS Sun 3 June, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

JON MOSES Mon 4 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TEQUILA MOCKINGBYRD AND RENEGADE TWELVE Mon 4 June, The Robin, Bilston

THE FRANKIE VALLI STORY - JERSEY BOY FEAT: STEPHEN JAMES Tues 5 June, The Robin, Bilston

MONEY FOR NOTHING Thurs 7 June, The Place, Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford

BRINGING ON BACK THE 60S Thurs 7 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

CHANTEL MCGREGOR Thurs 7 June, The Robin, Bilston

BRINGING ON BACK THE 60S Fri 8 June, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN Fri 8 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE MOUSE OUTFIT Fri 8

June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE JONI MITCHELL SONGBOOK Fri 8 June, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke on Trent

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

SARCOLINE & VALERAS Fri 8 June, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

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

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

GORDON HENDRICKS: STRIPPED BACK Sat 9 June, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

KINGS OF LEON Sat 9 June, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke on Trent

DIRTY DC Sat 9 June, The Robin, Bilston

ELKIE BROOKS: PEARLS GREATEST HITS TOUR Sat 9 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

PATSY CLINE & FRIENDS Sat 9 June, The Brew-house Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

DECOSTRUTTORI POST-MODERNISTI Sun 10 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

PALM Sun 10 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

VITAL'S CLEAN HEARTS ONLY SHOW Sun 10 June, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

RAYMOND FROGGATT Sun 10 June, The Robin, Bilston



The Shires - Symphony Hall, Birmingham & Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

Classical Music

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

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO English Touring Opera presents an energetic new production of one of the world's most beloved operas, Mon 4 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

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) & Stamatiia Karampini (conductor). Programme includes works by J Strauss, Bruch, Saint-Saëns & Tchaikovsky, Mon 4 June, Symphony Hall, B'ham

ENGLISH TOURING OPERA: FIREWORKS Concert featuring highlights from Rossini's greatest operas, Tues 5 June, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

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

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

BARRY CASTAGNOLA, PETER BRUSH, JENNY COLLIER & DAN NIGHTINGALE Sun 3 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

BEN HANLIN Wed 6 June, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

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

PAUL SINHA, ANTHONY KING, MANDY MUDEN & WAYNE BEESE Thurs 7 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

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

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

CHRISTIAN REILLY, ELEANOR TIERNAN, HOWARD WALKER, DAWN RIGBY & ROB MULHOLLAND Thurs 7 June, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Staffordshire

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

GRUMPY OLD WOMEN TO THE RESCUE Fri 8 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MO GILLIGAN Fri 8 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BARBARA NICE, SEAN PERCIVAL, WAYNE BEESE & PAUL SAVAGE Fri 8 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

RICH WILSON, KEVIN MCCARTHY & MICKEY SHARMA Fri 8 June, Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton

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

JONNY COLE, WES ZAHARUK, AARON SIMMONDS & WAYNE BEESE Sat 9 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

SARAH KENDALL Sun 10 June, MAC, Birmingham

SEANN WALSH, ADAM ROWE, JAKE LAMBERT & WAYNE BEESE Sun 10 June, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge



Brian Conley: The Greatest Entertainer - Stafford Gatehouse Theatre & New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Theatre

WHISKY GALORE Tribute to the all-female touring companies of the post-war years, until Sat 2 June, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

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, B'ham

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

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

HAY FEVER Noel Coward's farcical look at a dysfunctional family oblivious to their ill-mannered behaviour, Tues 29 May - Sat 9 June, The Wightman, Shrewsbury

GREASE Presented by Get Your Wiggle On, Wed 30 May - Sat 2 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

NEVILLE'S ISLAND The Albrighton Players present an amateur staging of Tim Firth's hit comedy, Thurs 31 May - Sat 2 June, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

TWO Reform Theatre Company present Jim Cartwright's oft-performed play, Fri 1 June, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

THE TEMPEST Shakespeare's tale of illusion and revenge, brought to life by the ever-zany Oddsocks, Fri 1 June, Lichfield Garrick

BRIAN CONLEY: THE GREATEST ENTERTAINER All-new show featuring brand new comedy, sketches and songs, Sat 2 June, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

DRACULA SPECTACULAR Presented by the Viv Kelly Children's Theatre Group, Sat 2 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

STICKY CARPET QUIZ NIGHT CABARET Rooftop Theatre Company host a 'riotous' quiz night with competitions and entertainment, Sat 2 June, Lud-

low Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

TOM ADAMS - MY DAD, THE MAGICIAN

The story of a magician whose greatest trick is making sure there's food on the family table, Sat 2 June, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO English Touring Opera present Mozart's famous work, with the roles being played by leading UK black and minority ethnic singers, Mon 4 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

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, 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

DYLAN THOMAS: CLOWN IN THE MOON Dramatic portrait of the poet's chaotic and all-too-brief life, Wed 6 June, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

DON JUAN IN CHICAGO Royal Birmingham

ham 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

ROMEO & JULIET Outdoor performance presented by The Handle-Bards, the world's first cycling theatre company, Thurs 7 June, The Church Green, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

THE DAMNED UNITED Red Ladder Theatre present the story of Brian Clough's brief time as manager of Leeds United Football Club, Thurs 7 June, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

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

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR Amateur staging presented by Old Swinford Hospital (OSH) Performing Arts, Thurs 7 - Fri 8 June, Stourbridge Town Hall

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

BACK TO THE 80S With HQPA productions, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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 TURNER TEA LADY'S STEAMY BINGO 'An hilarious evening celebrating bingo, music, tea and laughter!' Fri 8 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

GRUMPY OLD WOMEN Featuring 'mistresses of grump' Jenny Eclair, Dillie Keane and Lizzie Roper, Fri 8 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE TEMPEST Shakespeare's tale of illusion and revenge, brought to life by

the ever-zany Oddsocks, Fri 8 June, The Church Green, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

TABLE Tanya Ronder's thought-provoking play, a National Theatre hit when first performed back in 2013, Fri 8 - Sat 23 June, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

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

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

PEPPA PIG'S ADVENTURE Join Peppa as she gets ready to go on a camping trip to the woods, Wed 6 - Thurs 7 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE UGLY DUCKLING Musical adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale, presented by Sea Legs Puppet Theatre, Sat 9 June, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

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

BALLET CENTRAL Featuring a new programme of dance-theatre, Mon 4 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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, Sat 9 - Sun 10 June, Victoria Square, Birmingham

BOLERO Jesús Rubio Gamo (Spain) explore the fine line separating pleasure and exhaustion, 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

ANDREW MOTION: ESSEX CLAY Andrew Motion's in-verse biographical sequel to his 2006 prose memoir, *In The Blood*, Fri 8 June, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

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



Jurassic Seas - Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

and science of the environment, until Fri 1 June, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

HALF TERM: VIKINGS! Become a family from the North preparing to 'go a viking' later in the summer, until Fri 1 June, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms South Shropshire

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

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

HALF TERM AT DRAYTON MANOR Drayton Manor celebrates Love Your Zoo week with a host of activities, until Sun 3 June, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

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

DINO WEEK Enjoy all the fun of the farm plus some roarsome dinosaur activities, until Sun 3 June, National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton Upon Trent

SPRINGTIME FUN IN THE VALLEY Trains run daily, until Sun 3 June, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

GIRAFFE WEEK Celebrate all things giraffe and help raise funds for giraffe conservation, until, Sun 3 June, West Midlands Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

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

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

UV FOAM PARTY Fri 1 June, Telford Ice Rink, Shropshire

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

ARCHERY AT TRENTAM GARDENS Fri 1 - Sun 3 June, Trentham Gardens, Stoke on Trent

ANYTHING GOES GALA & CIDER FESTIVAL Fri 1 - Sun 3 June, Churnet Valley Railway, Froghall, Staffs

WOLVERHAMPTON SECRET GIN FESTIVAL Quaff your way through 100 gin brands, 'mind-blowing' garnishes and street food hosted by the legendary Digbeth Dining Club, Sat 2 June, The Grain Store, Wolverhampton

T-REX: KING OF THE DINOSAURS Travel back in time with an animatronic T-Rex. Visitors can also interact with a variety of real-life prehistoric animals, including cockroaches, scorpions, spiders, lizards, snakes, snapping turtles and birds, Sat 2 June, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

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, Shropshire

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

ETRURIA CANALS FESTIVAL Historic narrowboat gathering, family-friendly arts workshops and entertainment, Sat 2 - Sun 3 June, Etruria Industrial Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

MINI BEAST HUNT Discover what's lurking in the gardens of Sunnycroft, Sat 2 - Sun 3 June, Sunnycroft, Welling-

RACE FOR LIFE Fundraising race in support of life-saving research, Sun 3 June, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

WOLVERHAMPTON YOGA AND VEGAN FESTIVAL Featuring yoga & meditation sessions, vegan food and products, Sun 3 June, Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy, Wolverhampton

AFTERNOON TEA - BEHIND THE SCENES Combine a tour with afternoon tea in the Victorian Orangery, Sun 3 June, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal, Shropshire

SHREWSBURY RIVER FESTIVAL Includ-



T-Rex: King Of The Dinosaurs - The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

ing raft races, duck and boat races, coracles, fancy dress competitions, live entertainment and demonstrations on river safety by emergency services, Sun 3 June, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

MENU TASTING EVENINGS Enjoy six courses, for £45 per person, Thurs 7 June, The Ryder Grill at The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield

THE FESTIVAL IN A FACTORY An eclectic celebration of culture and creativity, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 June, Emma Bridge-water Pottery Factory Outlet, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

THE 43RD WOLVERHAMPTON BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL Showcasing more than 70 beers and 30 ciders, plus country wines and imported beers, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 June, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

ALE TASTING Sample a range of Sadler's finest ales, Fri 8 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

CASTLE TOURS 2018, Learn more about Dudley Castle, Fri 8 June, Dudley Castle

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, Sym-

phony Hall, Birmingham

CHANTILLY GREY'S BUTTERMARKE MARKET Featuring stalls manned by local traders, a bar and café, Sat 9 June, The Buttermarket Shrewsbury

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

IRONMAN 70.3 STAFFORDSHIRE Sun 10 June, starts at Chasewater Reservoir and end in Market Square, Stafford

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

AFTERNOON TEA - BEHIND THE SCENES Combine a tour with afternoon tea in the Victorian Orangery, Sun 10 June, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal, Staffs



Queen Victoria Cyclecross - Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire

Gigs

NOUVELLE VAGUE Mon 11 June, Birmingham Town Hall

JESSICA LYNN Tues 12 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MAZ O'CONNOR AND JACK CARTY Tues 12 June, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

ZACH SAID Tues 12 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

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

DEMI LOVATO Tues 12 June, Arena Birmingham

RICHARD DIGANCE Wed 13 June, Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford, Shropshire

DONNA TAGGART Wed 13 June, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

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

RYAN MCGARVEY BAND Wed 13 June, The Robin, Bilston

NOFX Thurs 14 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

BIG SING 2018 Thurs 14 June, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

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

ASOMVEL Thurs 14 June, The Robin, Bilston

FAITH - THE GEORGE MICHAEL LEGACY Fri 15



Maz O'Connor - Henry Tudor House - Shrewsbury

June, Lichfield Garrick

FAST LOVE - GEORGE MICHAEL TRIBUTE ACT Fri 15 June, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

THE SCOPYONS Fri 15 June, Eleven, Sandford, Stoke on Trent

GUNS WITH ROSES Fri 15 June, Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Dudley

THE STORY OF GUITAR HEROES Fri 15 June, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

SAFONE Fri 15 June, O2 Academy, B'ham

PRINCE NIGHT Fri 15 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

D-RAN D-RAN Fri 15 June, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

FLASH - A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN Fri 15 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE DOORS ALIVE Fri 15 June, The Robin, Bilston

TONY CHRISTIE Fri 15 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE DOORS ALIVE Sat 16 June, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

HOLLYWOOD VAMPIRES Sat 16 June, Genting Arena, Birmingham

THE SKA45S Sat 16 June, The Robin, Bilston

DEFINITELY MIGHTBE & ADORED Sat 16 June, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Staffordshire

KILLERSTREAM Sat 16 June, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE KILKENNYS Sat 16 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

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

BLUE COUNTRY Sun 17 June, The Wightman Theatre, Shrewsbury

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

TONY CHRISTIE Sun 17 June, Lichfield Garrick



The Kilkennys - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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 the Festivals, 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 DONOHUE: MOZART PIANO CYCLE RECITAL - 65TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE CONCERT Programme includes 5 works by Mozart, Wed 13 June, Concert 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 Eriks Esenvalds, Javier Busto. Harris, Morten Lauridsen, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninov, Shostakovich, 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

THOMAS TROTTER: GALA ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by Handel, Hollins, W Harris, Judith Weir, A Wammes & Rossini, Sat 16 June, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

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

ORGAN PROM Sat 16 June, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

RUSSELL WATSON Sat 16 June, Lichfield Garrick

CITY OF BRISTOL CHOIR Sat 16 June, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

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

THE KIDDERMINSTER FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Handel, Corelli, Bach, Vivaldi, William Boyce, Mozart, Haydn & Elgar, Sun 17 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Comedy

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

ALBERT LOVES LAUGHS Mon 11 June, Albert's Shed Bar, Shrewsbury

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

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

WEZ ZAHARUK, TOM TAYLOR, JONNY PELHAM & DAMION LARKIN Sat 16 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

Theatre

THE LADYKILLERS The Nonentities present an amateur staging of the classic Ealing comedy, Mon 11 - Sat 16 June, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

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

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

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS Little Theatre Company present their version of Richard Bean's classic comedy, Tues 12 - Sat 16 June, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME Next Door Dance present a humorous exploration of the highs and lows of being a British football fan, Wed 13 June, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

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

DEREK ACORAH: LOVE, LIFE, LAUGHTER TOUR An evening of mediumship, Thurs 14 June, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

GRUMPY OLD WOMEN Featuring 'mistresses of grump' Jennyclair, Dillie Keane and Lizzie Roper, Thurs 14 June, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

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

14/48 WOLVERHAMPTON Opportunity to witness seven brand new plays each day - written, rehearsed and performed in 48 hours, Fri 15 - Sat 16 June, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

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

SKIN DEEP Musical revue celebrating bodies of all shapes and sizes, Sat 16 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

THE COMMANDER OF MAGIC The first in a '12 live chapter' show, revealing 200 years of magical history, Sat 16 June, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire



Ballet Cymru's Cinderella - New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

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

TELETUBBIES LIVE Join Tinky Winky, Dipsy, Laa-Laa and Po as they explore the magical world of Teletubbyland, Wed 13 - Thurs 14 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND Take a trip down the rabbit hole with Chapterhouse Theatre Company, Sat 16 June, Hawkstone Park & Follies, Shrewsbury

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

Company journey from the glamour of 1920s Hollywood to the present day, Thurs 14 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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 AUDIENCE OF ANFIELD LEGENDS Featuring Liverpool Football Club legends John Barnes, Jan Molby and Neil 'Razor' Ruddock, Tues 12 June, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

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, Thurs 14 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

Dance

CINDERELLA Presented by Ballet Cymru, Wed 13 June, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

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 2018, Thurs 14 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

JAZZ DANCE COMPANY: DECADES London Studio Centre's Jazz Dance



Grumpy Old Women - Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

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- Tennis Workshops
- Tombola
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- Hair and Beauty pamper Activities
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Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS (12a) Crime/Drama. Starring Kenneth Branagh, Penélope Cruz. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 11 June

EVEN WHEN I FALL (12A) Documentary. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 11 & Wed 13 June

BEAST (15) Drama. Starring Jessie Buckley, Johnny Flynn. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 11, Wed 13 - Thurs 14 June

REDOUTABLE (15) Biography/Comedy. Starring Louis Garrel, Stacy Martin. Foreign language, subtitled. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Mon 11 - Thurs 14 June; Stoke Film Theatre, Sat 16 June

THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI (15) Mystery/Thriller. Starring Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson. Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 12 June

SUMMER HOLIDAY! (U) Comedy/Musical. Starring Cliff Richard, Laurie Peters. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 12 June

LEAN ON PETE (15) Adventure/Drama. Starring Steve Buscemi, Charlie Plummer. Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 14 June

MUSEUM HOURS (12) Drama. Starring Mary Margaret O'Hara, Bobby Sommer. The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 1 June

THE CURED (15) Horror/Sci-Fi. Starring Ellen Page, Sam Keeley. Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 15 June

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY & POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY (12a) Drama/History. Starring Lily James, Michael Huisman. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 15 & Sun 17 June

FUNNY COW (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Maxine Peake, Paddy Considine. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 12 & Thurs 14 June; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 15 & Sun 17 June

THE LEISURE SEEKER (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Helen Mirren, Donald Sutherland. Old Market hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 15 - Thurs 21 June; Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 19 & Thurs 21 June

THE BROMLEY BOYS (PG) Comedy. Starring Martine McCutcheon, Alan Davies. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 15 - Thurs 21 June

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM (12a) Adventure/Sci-Fi. Starring Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 15 Thurs 21 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



International Model Air Show - Weston Park, Nr Shifnal

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, B'ham

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

SHREWSBURY CARNIVAL & SHOW Featuring arena entertainment, a funfair, food from local producers and trade & charity stalls, Sat 16 June, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

FAMILY FUN DAY - BBQ & BAR Celebrate all things British Summer Time with an array of family activities, Sat 16 June, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

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

FORGE EXPERIENCE DAY Hands-on experience of blacksmithing, Sat 16 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

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

THE VINTAGE YEARS FESTIVAL 2018 Celebration of the lifestyles, fashion, music and classic cars of the post-

war years. Dress up in your favourite vintage style and join the fun, Sat 16 - Sun 17 June, National Brewery Centre, Burton upon Trent, Staffs

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

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

CRAFTSMANSHIP FESTIVAL The inaugural Middleport Pottery Craftsmanship Festival, featuring blacksmithing, woodturning and throwing, Sat 16 - Sun 17 June, Middleport Pottery, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent

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

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

SHREWSBURY HALF MARATHON Sun 17 June, Shrewsbury Town Centre

RACE FOR LIFE Fundraising race in support of life-saving research, Sun 17 June, West Park, Wolverhampton

TUNNEL TEDS Take along your furry friend for a ted-tastic day of bear-themed fun on and around the canal, Sun 17 June, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

FATHER'S DAY BBQ Treat Dad to a beer or a game on the tennis lawn, Sun 17 June, Biddulph Grange Garden, Stoke-on-Trent

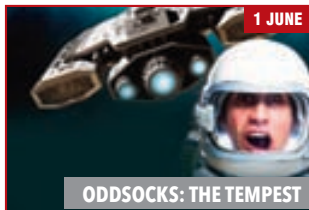
TRANSPORT FESTIVAL Sun 17 June, Trentham Gardens, Stoke on Trent



BBC Gardener's World Live - NEC, Birmingham

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JUNE HIGHLIGHTS



1 JUNE

ODDSOCKS: THE TEMPEST



17 JUNE

TONY CHRISTIE



21 JUNE

AN AUDIENCE WITH
SIMON KING



22 JUNE

THE UK PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE



22 & 23 JUNE

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30 JUNE

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THU 7 JUN - ZOE GREEN BAND
CHANTEL MCGREGOR

FRI 8 JUN
MAETLOAF & THE NEVER NEVERLAND EXPRESS

SAT 9 JUN
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SUN 10 JUN - EVE DOORS 6.00pm
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THE DOORS ALIVE

SAT 16 JUN - + THE PRESS
THE SKA45's

SUN 17 JUN - ALL SEATED SHOW
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RICHE KOTZEN

WED 20 JUN - JAMIE FLANAGAN AS
MICHAEL BUBLE WITH HIS BAND

THU 21 JUN - + AUSTIN GOLD
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FRI 22 JUN - PRONE 2 MADNESS
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SAT 23 JUN
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WED 27 JUN - DAVID YOUNG & ...
BOOTLEG BLONDIE

THU 28 JUN
SKIDS
RICHARD JORDAN, BILL SHARPEN, MIKE BAILLIE, BRUCE WATSON & JAMES WATSON

FRI 29 JUN - + DANNI G
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QUILL

SAT 30 JUN
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What's on...



Wednesday 13 June, 7.30pm

RICHARD DIGANCE
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Friday 15 June, 7.30pm

TELFORD'S GOT TALENT



Thursday 21 June, 7.30pm

THE DRIFTERS



Friday 22 June, 7.30pm

KING OF POP
THE LEGEND CONTINUES... STARRING 'NAVI'



Tuesday 26 June, 1pm & 4pm
Wednesday 27 June, 10am & 1pm

BING LIVE!



Thursday 28 June, 7.30pm

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Thursday 5 July, 7.30pm

ODDSOCKS: THE TEMPEST



Wed 18 - Sat 21 July, Various times

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Gigs

KATY PERRY Mon 18 June, Arena Birmingham



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

TAKING PART - ESCAPE Wed 20 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

LENNY KRAVITZ Wed 20 June, Arena Birmingham



STARCRAWLER Thurs 21 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE DRIFTERS Thurs 21 June, Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford, Shropshire

CILLA AND THE SHADES OF THE 60'S Thurs 21 June, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

STEVE GIBBONS Thurs 21 June, The Robin, Bilston

BILLY IDOL Thurs 21 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SURREAL PANTHER Fri 22 June, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke on Trent

THE UK PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE Fri 22 June, Lichfield Garrick

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

LIBBY SINGS ADELE Fri 22 June, The Wightman Theatre, Shrewsbury

KING OF POP - MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE. Fri 22 June, Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford, Shropshire

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

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

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

GAZ COOMBS Fri 22 June, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

JOHN COGLANS QUO Sat 23 June, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke on Trent

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

MONSKI MOUSE'S BABY DISCO DANCE HALL Sat 23 June, Birmingham

Town Hall

SUN RECORDS - THE CONCERT Sat 23 June, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

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

MY LEONARD COHEN Sat 23 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

TRAFFIC 13TH ANNIVERSARY Sat 23 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

LIMEHOUSE LIZZY Sat 23 June, The Robin, Bilston

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

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

RALPH MCTELL & WIZZ JONES Sun 24 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

PUBLIC IMAGE LTD Sun 24 June, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

PLASTIKES KAREKLES Sun 24 June, Concord College, Shrewsbury



Public Image Ltd - William Aston Hall, Wrexham

Classical Music

ENSEMBLE 360 - SCHUBERT, MENDELSSOHN AND FAURE Featuring Tim Horton (piano), Benjamin Nabarro (violin), Claudia Ajmone-Marsan (violin), Ruth Gibson (viola), Gemma Rosefield (cello), Mon 18 June, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

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. Demessieux, 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

SHREWSBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: AN EVENING OF MAGIC, MYSTERY & MUSIC Programme includes works by Wagner, Berlioz & Mussorgsky, Wed 20 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

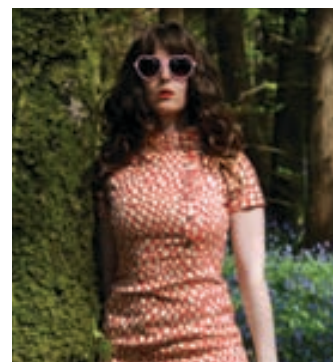
20TH CENTURY CELLO Featuring Alison Holford (cello) & Elspeth Wilkes (piano). Programme includes works by Britten, Barber & Martinu, Thurs 21 June, St Laurences Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

COMMUTER CONCERT: YU-TZU KUNG

(PERCUSSION) Also featuring Anton Clarke-Butler (clarinet), Begum Benu 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

20TH CENTURY CELLO Thurs 21 June, St Laurences Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

THALLEIN ENSEMBLE & JENNIFER WALSHE (PICTURED) 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 the two greatest film composers of all time, Fri 22 - Sun 24 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

PELLÉAS ET MÉLIANDE 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, Birmingham

CHARLES OWEN (PIANO) Programme includes works by Bach, Ravel & Schubert, Sat 23 June, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

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-Saëns, Faure & Walton, Sun 24 June, St Chad's Cathedral, B'ham

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2nd June, 11am & 2.30pm
Tom Adams: My Dad, The Magician
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6th June, 7.30pm
Once upon a Wednesday
Shonaleigh, The Emerald Sea
Tickets: £6, £8 otd

7th June, 7.30pm
Red Ladder Theatre
Damned United
Tickets: £12, £10 conc.

9th June, 7.30pm
Patsy Cline & Friends
Tickets: £17.50 Sat Mat

12th - 16th June, 7.30pm
2.30pm Sat mat
Little Theatre Company presents
One Man, Two Guvnors
Tickets: £12, £10 conc & Sat Mat

19th June, 7.30pm
The Thelmas & Ovalhouse: Coconut
Tickets: £5

28th - 30th June, 7.30pm
Burton Musical Theatre Company presents:
A Wander Round the West End
Tickets: £10

30th June, 8pm
At Burton Town Hall
Tom Allen: Absolutely
Tickets: £14

5th July, 7.30pm
Through the Decades with Roy Orbison & Buddy Holly
Tickets: £17.50

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thelist



Yianni Agisilaou - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Comedy

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

THE LEE CARROLL SHOW Tues 19 June, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

JAMES ACASTER & ALEX KEALY Wed 20 June, The Charlton Arms, Ludlow, South Shropshire

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

ROY 'CHUBBY' BROWN Fri 22 June, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

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

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

COMEDY IN THE MET Sat 23 June, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

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

SMACKEE PHANTOM AND THE MUSICALS Showcase of songs from West End, Broadway and big screen musicals, Tues 19 June, Dudley Town Hall

ASSASSINS Stafford Gatehouse Youth Theatre presents an amateur staging of Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman's award-winning musical, Tues 19 - Fri 22 June, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

DIRECTIONS South Staffs College present a musical about a group of students starting music college in 1985, Wed 20 June, Lichfield Garlick

THE TEMPEST The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's tale of illusion and revenge, Wed 20 June, Dudmaston Hall, Quatt, Nr Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

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

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Amateur staging presented by Five Towns Theatre, Wed 20 - Sat 23 June, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

A STRANGE NEW SPACE Wordless one-woman show fusing physical theatre, puppetry and music. Suitable for audiences aged four-plus, Thurs 21 June, The Hive, Shrewsbury

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

GIVE US A CLUE Tongue-in-cheek murder-mystery from Masque The-

Theatre

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

COCONUT The Thelmas present the story of a British Pakistani woman whose life spins out of control in ways she could never have predicted, Tues 19 June, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

POETS, PRATTLERS, AND PANDEMONI-ALISTS Dave, Emma and Steve

atre Company, Thurs 21 - Fri 22 June, Mitchell Arts Centre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

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

THRILL ME: THE LEOPOLD AND LOEB STORY Shocking true story of two rich kids - one obsessed with crime; the other, love, Fri 22 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

BICYCLES & FISH Katie Arnstein explores why feminism was discovered so much later than misogyny, Fri 22 - Sat 23 June, Lichfield Garrick



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

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Amateur staging of Jane Austen's famous tale, Sat 23 - Sun 24 June, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

Kids Shows

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE LIVE The creative team behind Brainiac Live present an anarchic show that takes a look at the inventors and engineers who've shaped and inspired the modern world, Tues 19 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

NOAH THE MUSICAL The Theatre On The Steps Company presents the famous biblical tale, complete with 'a large boat, animals two by two, a storm, a dove, and of course, the symbolic rainbow', Fri 22 - Sat 30 June, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

RELUCTANT DRAGON Quantum Theatre present Wind In The Willows author Kenneth Grahame's retelling of the

story of St George and the Dragon, Sat 23 June, Dosthill Park, Tamworth

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

APPLAUSE Song and dance show featuring more than 500 local children and adults from the Dance School and local area, Thurs 21 - Sat 23 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

CINDERELLA IN HOLLYWOOD Presented by English Youth Ballet and young dancers from local companies, Fri 22 - Sat 23 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

SAMARPAN: A CELEBRATION OF CLASSICAL INDIAN DANCE Jaivant Patel Dance and Arena Theatre showcase a fusion of Indian dance disciplines, Sat 23 June, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

GIOVANNI PERNICE - BORN TO WIN Strictly star Giovanni is joined by fellow dancer and assistant choreographer Luba Mushtuk in a show packed with 'sparkle and spectacular routines', Sun 24 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Talks

DAN SNOW - AN EVENING WITH THE HISTORY GUY Historian, broadcaster and TV presenter Dan recounts anecdotes from his career, Mon 18 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SIMON YATES - MY MOUNTAIN LIFE Simon is best known for his role in a harrowing expedition to the Andes, as documented in Joe Simpson's Touching The Void, Wed 20 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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 leg-



Coconut - The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

endary Black Sabbath guitarist talks about his life and career, Sat 23 June, Birmingham Town Hall

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

STRONGER (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Tatiana Maslany. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 18 June

FUNNY COW (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Maxine Peake, Paddy Considine. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 18 - Thurs 21 June

DARKEST HOUR (PG) Biography/Drama. Starring Gary Oldman, Lily James. Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 19 June

REDOUBTABLE (15) Biography/Comedy. Starring Louis Garrel, Stacy Martin. Foreign language, subtitled. Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 21 June

ON CHESIL BEACH (12a) Drama/Romance. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Emily Watson. Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 22 - Sat 23 June

SHERLOCK GNOMES (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Kelly Asbury, Mary J. Blige. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 22 - Sat 23 June

ENTEBBE (12a) Drama/History. Starring Rosamund Pike, Daniel Brühl. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 22 - Sat 23 June

THE HAPPY PRINCE (12a) Drama/Biography. Starring Rupert Everett, Colin Firth. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 22 - Thurs 28 June

BOOK CLUB (12a) Comedy. Starring Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda. Light House Media Centre, Wolverham-

pton, Fri 22 - Thurs 28 June

HUMAN FLOW (12) Documentary. With Israa Abboud, Hiba Abed. The Hive, Shrewsbury, Sun 24 June

Events

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

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

THE GIN TRAIN The Severn Valley Railway in partnership with The Little Gin Company welcomes you aboard the Gin Train! Sat 23 June, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

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

SHREWSBURY FOOD FESTIVAL Featuring 200 food, drink and craft exhibitors, cookery demonstrations, a chef school and free kids entertainments, Sat 23 - Sun 24 June, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

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

AFTERNOON TEA - BEHIND THE SCENES Combine a tour with afternoon tea in the Victorian Orangery, Sun 24 June, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal, Staffs



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Paloma Faith - Cannock Chase Forest, Rugeley

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

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

MARTIN & ELIZA CATHY Wed 27 June, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

BONGZILLA Thurs 28 June, The Asylum, Birmingham

SKIDS Thurs 28 June, The Robin, Bilston

NOSTALGIC MUSIC Thurs

28 June, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

MARY DUFF Thurs 28 June, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

DECLAN MCKENNA + FEET Fri 29 June, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

PALOMA FAITH Fri 29 June, Cannock Chase Forest, Rugeley, Staffs

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

DJ RANDALL - PERCEPTION DRUM & BASS Fri 29 June, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

QUILL Fri 29 June, The Robin, Bilston

THE MANFREDS Fri 29 June, Lichfield Garrick

UK GUNS N' ROSES Fri 29 June, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

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

DAMIAN MARLEY Sat 30 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ASHEN CROWN Sat 30 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

FALLEN, THE LOVED AND LOST Sat 30 June, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke on Trent

THE MANFREDS Sat 30 June, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

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

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

KICK UP THE 80S Sat 30 June, The Robin, Bilston

TREMONTI Sat 30 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

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

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 (harp). 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 Turner (harp). Programme includes 5 works by Graham Fitkin, Mon 25 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (8pm)

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE Featuring Roman Kosyakov (piano). Programme includes works by Haydn & Tchaikovsky, Tues 26 June, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

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 APPLE-YARD 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

HESPERION XXI - ODE TO SYRIA Jordi Savall and the spectacular Hesperion 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). 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

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

THE KING'S SINGERS GOLD Sat 30 June, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

Comedy

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

GARY DELANEY, LARRY DEAN Tues 26 June, Ludlow Brewery, South Shropshire

KEVIN BRIDGES Tues 26 - Wed 27 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

JO CAUFIELD, SALLY-ANNE HAYWARD Wed 27 June, Ludlow Brewery, South Shropshire

STEPHEN CARLIN, MAWAAN RIZWAN Thurs 28 June, Ludlow Brewery, South Shropshire

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

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

AVENUE Q Artz Productions presents its version of the award-winning musical, Tues 26 - Sat 30 June, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

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



Declan Mckenna - The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

30 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

OFFSIDE Fusion of lyrical dialogue, poetry and punchy prose combine in the story of four women from across the centuries who live, breathe and play football, Wed 27 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

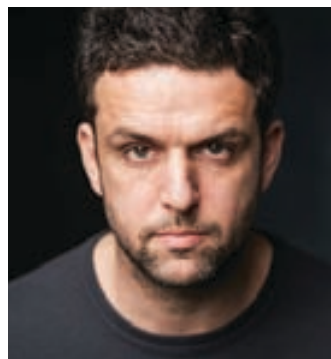
DAUGHTERS OF FORTUNE: MIA Mind The Gap present a show about learning disability and parenthood in today's society, Wed 27 June, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

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

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. Casting includes Nabil Stuart (pictured), Rosie Hilal, Sian Mannifield, Nicola Jo Cully & Mairi Hawthorn, 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

ONLY FOOLS AND BOYCIE An audience with John Challis, best known as Boycie in the hit BBC comedy series Only Fools And Horses, Fri 29 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DREAMBOYS 'The UK's top male strip show, perfect for a girls' night out with all your friends', Fri 29 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

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

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Amateur staging presented by Seasons Theatre Company, Fri 29 - Sat 30 June,

Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

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

BING LIVE! Join Bing, Sula, Coco and Pando as they find out how to tell stories by pretending, dressing up and singing songs, Tues 26 - Wed 27 June, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

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

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

Dance

BORN TO DANCE Viv Kelly's children and youth dancers showcase a mix of classic and up-to-the-minute dance routines, Sat 30 June, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

BREATHE (12A) Biography/Drama. Starring Andrew Garfield, Claire Foy. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 25 June

THE LEISURE SEEKER (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Helen Mirren, Donald Sutherland. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire,



David Baddiel: My Family: Not The Sitcom - Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

Mon 25 - Wed 27 June

THE SHAPE OF WATER (15) Drama/Fantasy. Starring Sally Hawkins, Octavia Spencer. Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 26 June

GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN (PG) Biography/Drama. Starring Domhnall Gleeson, Margot Robbie. Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Tues 26 June

ENTEbbe (12A) Drama/History. Starring Rosamund Pike, Daniel Brühl. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Thurs 28 June

REVENGE (18) Action/Thriller. Starring Matilda Anna Ingrid Lutz, Kevin Janssens. Foreign language, subtitled. Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 28 June

AQUARIUS (18) Drama. Starring Sônia Braga, Maeve Jinkings. The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 29 June

EDIE (U) Drama. Starring Sheila Hancock, Kevin Guthrie. Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 29 June

THAT GOOD NIGHT (12a) Drama. Starring John Hurt, Sofia Helin. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 29 June

THE HAPPY PRINCE (12a) Drama/Biography. Starring Rupert Everett, Colin Firth. Fri 29 - Sat 30 June; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 29 - Sat 30 June

HOW TO TALK TO GIRLS AT PARTIES (15) Comedy/Music. Starring Elle Fanning, Nicole Kidman. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 29 - Sat 30 June

A QUIET PLACE (15) Horror/Thriller. Starring Emily Blunt, John Krasinski. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 29 - Sat 30 June

LEAN ON PETE (15) Adventure/Drama. Starring Steve Buscemi, Charlie Plummer. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 29 - Sat 30 June

THE BREADWINNER (12a) Animation/Drama. With the voices of Sara Chaudry, Ali Badshah. Stoke Film Theatre, Sat 30 June

SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY (12a) Sci-fi/Drama. Starring Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harrelson. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Sat 30 June

Events

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

UNDER 5S DAY Featuring Himley Beach, Baby & Toddler Sense, Music Bugs, Rugby Tots, Creation Station, Active Adventurers, Baby Ballet and more, Fri 29 June, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

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

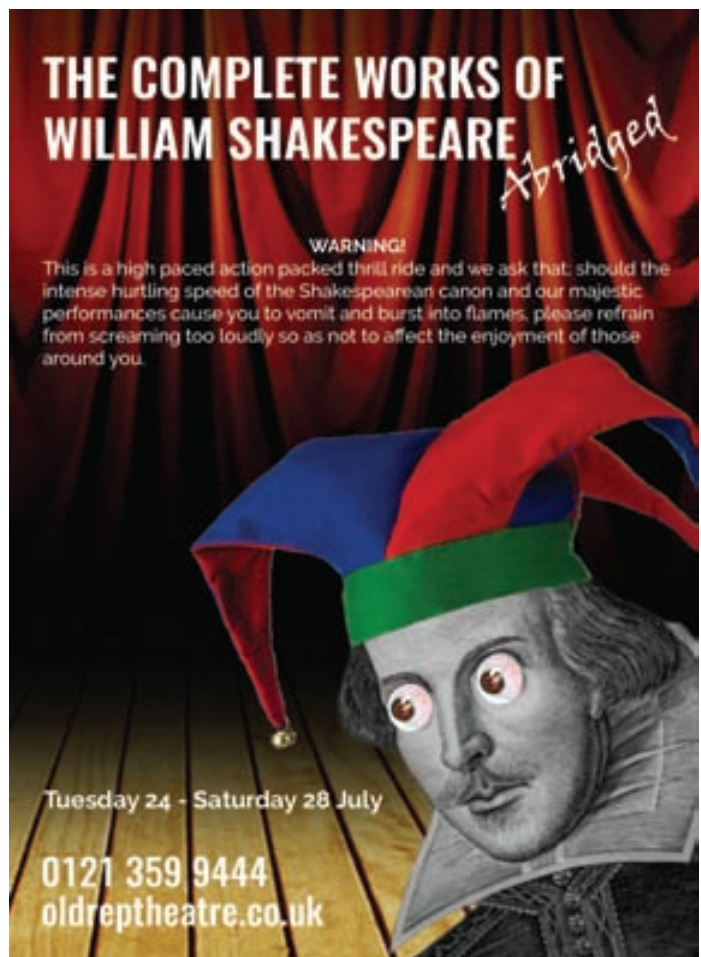
BANKS'S BLACK COUNTRY BEERS Try Banks's finest ales and meet the brewer and owner of Banks's Brewery, Sat 30 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

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

COMPTON HOSPICE COLOUR BLAST 5k colour run/walk around the park to raise money for Compton Hospice, Sat 30 June, East Park, W'hampton

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

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





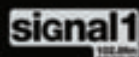
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