

Coventry & Warwickshire

ISSUE 391 JULY 2018

# What's On

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**What's On**

MEDIA GROUP



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

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

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

**Sue Jones** sue@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281705 **Ellie Hutchings** ellie@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281706

**Lauren Cole** lauren.cole@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281716 **Adrian Parker** adrian.parker@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281714

Contributors: Graham Bostock, James Cameron-Wilson, Heather Kincaid, Katherine Ewing, Jenny Ell, Steve Adams,

Jack Rolfe, Elly Yates-Roberts, Daisy Sparkle, Carol Lovatt, Steve Taylor, Chris Eldon Lee

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

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## New shows on sale at the Coventry Belgrade

A first ever revival of Alan Bennett's *The Habit Of Art* and the Afrobeats musical *Oliva Tweest* are among the highlights of the Coventry Belgrade Theatre's recently announced 2018/19 season.

Other shows to look out for include *The Comedy About A Bank Robbery* (pictured) - Mischief Theatre's smash-hit follow-up to its hugely popular *The Play That Goes Wrong* - and musical drama *We'll Live & Die In These Towns*, featuring songs from The Enemy's debut album of the same name. For full details about the Belgrade's autumn/winter programme, visit [belgrade.co.uk](http://belgrade.co.uk)

## Arts In The Park returns...

Leamington Spa's free and family-friendly Arts In The Park festival takes place in the town's Jephson Gardens on Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 August.

The event, which features 150 artists making and creating, provides visitors with the chance to buy an original piece of art, dabble in a creative workshop or follow a knitted bird trail around the town's arboretum. They can also indulge in some 'tree spotting', catch a dance or theatre performance, listen to live music, enjoy artisan food and sample locally brewed beverages. Visit [artinpark.co.uk](http://artinpark.co.uk) for the full festival line-up.



## Tom Stade headlines new Warwick School festival

Warwick School is this month hosting its first ever arts festival.

Taking place from Sunday 1 to Saturday 7 July, the event is built around the theme of 'discovery', and features performances, exhi-

bitions, professional residencies, dance, concerts and comedy. Live At The Apollo stand-up star Tom Stade headlines.

For more information about the Discovery Festival, visit [bridgehousetheatre.co.uk/the-discovery-festival](http://bridgehousetheatre.co.uk/the-discovery-festival)

## Blue Planet Live to visit Midlands venue on tour

A live UK tour of Sir David Attenborough's award-winning BBC One television series, *Blue Planet II*, is coming to Birmingham. *Blue Planet II - Live In Concert* will present a selection of 'stunning' visuals from the television series, highlighting the natural wonders of the planet 'in breathtaking detail' and projected onto a state-of-the-art 200 square metre screen.

Accompanied by the series' original immersive score, the concert will be performed live by a full symphony orchestra.

*Blue Planet II - Live In Concert* stops off at the Genting Arena next year, on 16 March. To book tickets, visit [theticketfactory.com](http://theticketfactory.com)

## BBC pledges support for Coventry's year of culture

The team that will deliver Coventry's programme for its year as the UK City of Culture in 2021 has welcomed a fresh commitment by the BBC to help put the city on the global stage.

Lord Tony Hall, the BBC's Director General,

made the pledge during a speech at the Prospect National Conference in Birmingham. He told the audience that coverage via the BBC helped to spread the city of Hull's message in 2017 to local, national and international audiences, and that Coventry would see the same level of support.

Commenting on Lord Hall's speech, Coventry City of Culture Trust's Creative Director, Chenine Bhathena, said: "There's a real buzz about Coventry right now, and having this type of commitment from the BBC's Director General is a further boost for our plans for 2021 and beyond."

## Giraffe takeover on the streets of Worcester!

A trail of giraffe sculptures will this month be installed in Worcester.

The decorated giraffes, which will be on display from 9 July to 16 September, have been created from a range of designs submitted by children, art students, community groups, painters, sculptors and artists.

The trail, a Wild In Art initiative, consists of 30 large sculptures and 27 smaller ones, and has been brought to Worcester's city streets by St Richard's Hospice.





## The Dragon Slayer heads to Warwick

Warwick Castle is next month hosting 'a captivating, immersive live show for the whole family to enjoy'.

Dragon Slayer features 'fearless fire jousting, thrilling stunts, epic battles and a horse-led twilight procession'. A light show finale with 'real flames, mythical monsters and dazzling pyrotechnics' is also included.

The show takes place on various dates throughout August, details of which can be found at [warwick-castle.com](http://warwick-castle.com)



## Real Bodies on show at the NEC

A globe-trotting exhibition of human anatomy is currently on display at Birmingham's NEC.

Real Bodies takes visitors on a 'stunning journey', exploring the human body through physiology, culture and emotion by displaying real, perfectly preserved human bodies and over 200 anatomical specimens.

The exhibition shows at the NEC until Sunday 19 August.



## Sister Sledge set to make the summer sizzle in Solihull

Sister Sledge, 10CC, Busted, Alesha Dixon and Lightning Seeds are among the star performers who'll be gracing the stage at next month's Solihull Summer Fest.

Taking place at Tudor Grange Park over the August bank holiday weekend (Saturday the 25th & Sunday the 26th), the event also features Rak-Su, Fine Young Cannibals' Roland Gift, Razorlight, The Beat, Sugarhill Gang and The Dualers.

For more information about the two-day event and to book tickets, visit [solihullsummerfest.co.uk](http://solihullsummerfest.co.uk)

## Coventry hosts 'RAF 100' event

A special event to celebrate 100 years of the Royal Air Force takes place in Coventry city centre and at the city's airport this month (6 - 8 July). One of a series of 'RAF 100' events taking place across the UK 'to commemorate and inspire the next generation', the weekend culminates in a service of celebration at Coventry Cathedral.

## Moliere comedy gets the RSC treatment

A brand new updated version of Molière's classic comedy, Tartuffe, opens at the Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) Swan Theatre in the autumn.

Created by BAFTA and Emmy Award-winning writers Anil Gupta and Richard Pinto, the new version of the play is set in Birmingham's Pakistani Muslim community. It tells the story of charismatic chameleon Tahir Taufiq Arsuf (played by Asif Khan, pictured) - 'a Rasputin for the 21st century who's armed with a Twitter handle and the gift of the gab'. The production is directed by Birmingham-born Iqbal Khan, following his recent RSC productions of Othello and Antony And Cleopatra. Tartuffe shows at the Swan from 7 September to 23 February.





### Drag royalty to star in Coventry

Popular drag queen Courtney Act will be performing her Under The Covers show at Coventry's Rialto Reborn on Saturday 25 August. Courtney shot to fame in the UK after winning the 21st series of Celebrity Big Brother on Channel Five earlier this year, securing nearly 50 per cent of the final public vote. Advanced tickets to see Courtney in Coventry cost £28 plus booking fee and are available from [showtimelive.co.uk](http://showtimelive.co.uk)

### Tickets on sale for Leamington Oktoberfest



Tankards at the ready... Leamington's Oktoberfest will be making a welcome return at the town's Assembly venue on Saturday 22 September. The popular event features oompah bands, authentic German food stalls and plenty of German beer. Standing tickets can be purchased for the day session, from 12pm to 4pm, or the evening session, from 5pm to 9pm, at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

### Start using your Loaf in Solihull

The former Argos site on Mill Lane in Solihull is set to be taken over by furniture store Loaf. The 5,500 square foot plot is on the outer edge of Solihull's retail core but is still only a short walk to Touchwood Shopping Centre. The store will be Loaf's first in the Midlands, with the company's current range including love seats, burler chair and Orinoco furniture.

### Bear Grylls looks for thrill seekers

Birmingham's Bear Grylls Adventure park will be providing around 140 job opportunities this autumn, with posts available for sky-diving instructors and high ropes and climbing supervisors. Full training will be provided for all roles, meaning that it isn't necessary to be an expert in order to apply. The vacancies can be checked out at [merlin-careers.com](http://merlin-careers.com), with more information available at [beargryllsadventure.com](http://beargryllsadventure.com)

### New outdoor arts project to be launched at Coventry Cathedral autumn event

Coventry Cathedral (pictured) has been chosen as the launch site for an ambitious new outdoor arts project. Celebrating the intersection of art, engineering and social change, Imagineer Productions' Arts Council England-funded project, Bridge, will produce three major live-performance events in Coventry, Worcester and Grantham over the course of the next three years. The project's launch event will take place during the 2018 Festival of Imagineers in September, and will form part of the 100th anniversary celebrations of Coventry Cathedral and Diocese.



### Birmingham to host Peaky Blinders fest

Birmingham's celebrated Digbeth quarter is to play host to a major Peaky Blinders-themed experience this autumn (Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 September). The Peaky Blinders Immersive Festival will feature Victorian-inspired street food, a vintage fairground, historical talks, local ales & specialist cocktails, live and bawdy music-hall-style entertainment, traditional Irish folk musicians, tarot card readings, live boxing, shoeshines, caricatures and live magicians. More information is available by visiting [peakyblindersfestivals.com](http://peakyblindersfestivals.com)



### Meadows Day at Compton Verney



Warwickshire's Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park is getting involved with the National Meadows Day celebrations on Sunday 8 July by inviting visitors to find out about the thriving wildlife in the venue's meadows. Families can take part in creative participatory sessions in order to learn about the importance of pollinators, while specialist forager and ecologist John Noble will be on hand to chat about edible plants, meadow management and ecology. The event will also provide the chance to gather useful hints and tips on how to make or improve a wildlife-friendly garden.



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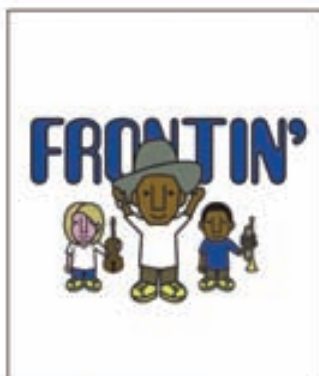
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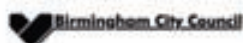
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# READ ALL ABOUT IT!

**stories from the iconic Coventry Evening Telegraph building shared on stage...**



## A collaboration exploring the history of Coventry and its people is this month being presented in one of the city's most iconic buildings...

### What's On caught up with some of the creatives behind the project to find out more...

This summer, the Belgrade Theatre celebrates its 60th anniversary in true artistic style - with a mini performance festival staged in a rather unusual space.

The Coventry Evening Telegraph (CET) building has been one of the city's iconic landmarks for many years, and is soon to be transformed into a boutique hotel. But before that happens, and thanks to a collaboration between the Belgrade and the city's Mercurial Dance company, the former publishing hub will this month be used as a temporary performance space in which its history and its stories will be explored.

In *Retold*, one of two interactive productions, Mercurial Dance will blend dance and spoken word to interpret memories sourced from locals. Audience members from each performance will also be invited to submit their own stories - resulting in the show being an amalgamation of improvised parts and rehearsed work.

"What we really want to do throughout the whole piece is explore the idea of the Telegraph as a vessel for telling people's stories," explains Mercurial Dance Artistic Director Oliver Scott. "It's important to us to find a structure that allows people's everyday lived experiences to be given validity, to be cherished and retold."

The company's second immersive production takes audiences on a journey through the CET building, with a different performance by a different youth or community group at each stage. Entitled *City Final*, it is led by the Belgrade's Community & Education department, and sees performance groups presenting pieces based on a major event covered by the Coventry Evening Telegraph. These include the Willenhall plane crash, issues surrounding racial integration and stories from the popular Locarno Ballroom in

the 1960s.

"This is a hugely exciting and ambitious project for us, offering 100 intergenerational performers the chance to create an inspiring site-specific work," adds City Final's producer Hannah Barker. "It's been a great way to connect people, deepen an understanding of inclusivity, research Coventry's rich history and develop the next generation of artists."

Innovative use of the space and context of the CET building will allow both productions to play out like a trip down memory lane.

"Having this building as a starting point is really powerful," says Oliver Scott. "All of these pieces are responding directly to what happened in this building, so to be using it as a canvas gives it a richness and an authenticity."

Scott had the idea for *Read All About It!* almost as soon as the newspaper staff had stepped out of the building for the last time. He was able to move forward with the project thanks to help from the Great Place Scheme, under which the Coventry City of Culture Trust falls.

"The whole thing started as an idea I had probably as far back as 2012, when the Telegraph first moved out of the building. At the time, I was passing it every day on my way into work, and thinking about what an interesting space it would be for a performance. So I wrote up this idea for an immersive environment piece and submitted it to the Great Place Scheme. Later on, I joined up with the Belgrade, and that's when we thought it would be great to bring in the community groups as part of a tapestry of performances throughout the building."

It's not only the pieces, performance spaces and funding partners that are firmly rooted in

Coventry soil, though. A lot of the performers are from the local area too, with many students from local colleges and universities fully committed to the project.

"What I love about Coventry is that it has a really thriving independent sector," he says, "albeit one that's perhaps unsung in many ways."

"We've got artists who are really proactive about making work happen. I think it's something that's in Coventry's DNA, and I think it's part of why we won the City of Culture bid."

One of those artists is Mercurial Dance's Coventry-born Ashley Jordan, who voiced why it's vital to keep the project local: "It was important to have Coventry-born-and-bred dancers in our show, *Retold*. We know the city and are familiar with its history and landmarks, so we have those points of reference when we're working on choreography. For me, *Retold* is really nostalgic - it's about and for the people of the city, which gives the piece a really personal edge. Coventry is blossoming! I've seen how much the city has developed over the last few years, especially in the arts sector, and I've been able to be part of its growth. Unlike other, larger cities, where opportunities to grow and develop in your practice are almost saturated, Coventry offers space and opportunity for artists to make their mark and put their stamp on the city."

.....

**Read All About It! takes place at the Coventry Evening Telegraph building from Tuesday 10 to Saturday 14 July. Tickets are available via the Belgrade Theatre.**



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## REVIEW: The Ivy Temple Row

### World famous restaurant proves to be a class act after opening in the Midlands

This year marks the 100th anniversary of world famous Covent Garden restaurant The Ivy. And what better way to celebrate than by expanding the Ivy Collection brand?

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past couple of months, you'll be aware that Birmingham was among the much-loved celebrity haunt's new-location choices, along with Manchester, Leeds, Harrogate and York.

Open seven days a week and situated just a stone's throw from New Street train station - at the top of Temple Row and overlooking St Philip's Cathedral - the restaurant couldn't be any more conveniently located for customers from both in and outside the city. The 135-cover brasserie serves an extensive all-day menu

of breakfast, elevenses, lunch, afternoon tea, cocktails, weekend brunch and dinner.

The Ivy's menus are sophisticated and all-encompassing, showcasing a selection of modern British classics and internationally inspired dishes. Slow-roasted lamb shoulder, aromatic duck curry, fish & chips and crab linguine all feature.

On arrival, my partner and I were politely taken over to our table and welcomed to the restaurant with a glass of Ivy Collection Champagne.

The evening's proceedings were certainly off to a good start!

We began with an appetiser of salt-crusted sourdough bread, with salted butter and a portion of truffle arancini. The bread was just incredible, as were the earthy, fried Arborio rice balls.

To accompany this, I chose a candy floss fizz from the cocktail menu. Comprising fairy floss and prosecco with rosé, lychee, ginger and Havana rum, it was one of the most elegant and delicious cocktails I've had the pleasure of drinking.

Next up, the steak tartare and the mozzarella di bufala. Hand-chopped beef striploin, tabasco dressing, cornichons, shallot, parsley, egg yolk and toasted granary is a flavour combination of dreams, so the steak tartare was devoured pretty quickly. The second dish - an unusual choice for us, as it's rare that we select an option which doesn't include meat or seafood - was also very tasty. The creamy mozzarella paired with fresh asparagus and edamame, topped with roasted pine nuts, pesto and baby basil, made for a fantastic flavour combination. Light and fresh, it was the perfect dish to experience alongside the steak tartare, and a top-notch starter indeed.

By this point the restaurant was full, and although the service was quick, it was in no way hurried; the environment was very relaxed.

For our main courses, we opted for the grilled whole lobster with garlic and parsley butter with watercress and thick cut chips, and the fish special - swordfish served with large couscous, pimento peppers, black olives, chimichurri and a red pepper tapenade.

As expected, the lobster was divine. Cooked to absolute perfection, the meaty crustacean tasted as though it had been caught fresh from the sea that very day. The garlic and parsley butter, as always, served as the most preferable accompaniment.

The swordfish special was another stunning main course. Again, the fish was cooked perfectly, with the peppers, olives, chimichurri and tapenade coming together to create a beautiful

flavour explosion. The dish was relatively small in size - which was no issue, as we'd ordered a lot and were fully intending to indulge in dessert!

Speaking of which, the cappuccino cake was genuinely one of the nicest desserts I've ever eaten. I'm not even a big coffee drinker, and I'd always choose savoury food over sweet, but this, for me, was the absolute star of the show. Described on the menu as a warm chocolate cake with milk mousse and a coffee sauce, it was absolutely amazing. I urge anybody who visits The Ivy to order one!

My partner opted for the chocolate bombe. This comprised a melting bombe with a vanilla ice cream & honeycomb centre, accompanied by a hot, salted caramel sauce served at the table. It tasted as naughty as it sounds, but in a good way, of course!

It's not just the food and drink that are wow factors at The Ivy, it's the whole package. Featuring their signature green palette, striking burnt orange banquettes and polished marble floors, the decor is simply stunning.

The service was exemplary, too. The staff were friendly, welcoming and knowledgeable, while our waitress, Elle, was an absolute diamond throughout our visit.

Our first Ivy experience couldn't have gone any better, and I very much look forward to sampling some more of their outstanding dishes (and cocktails!) in the near future. *Lauren Foster*

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

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



## Secret cocktail bar coming to Birmingham

A new 'secret' cocktail bar is to open in Birmingham city centre. Focused around serving the highest-quality drinks in a laidback and friendly environment, 18/81 will be situated on Thorp Street, with the exact location remaining a secret. Customers will be required to ring a doorbell in order to gain access to the premises.

## Brum gets a new seafood & steak venue

The award-winning Lasan Group has opened a new venue in Birmingham. Jailbird New York Seafood & Steak serves dishes including: sea bass marinated in creole spices with kale salad and a blackened lemon wedge; a classic surf & turf comprising grilled lobster with cheesy mustard mornay; and black risotto with prawns and soft shell crab.

To book, visit [thejailbird.co.uk](http://thejailbird.co.uk)

## Warwickshire town to get new food festival

A brand new food festival is coming to Southam in Warwickshire this autumn. Taking place on Sunday 16 September at Southam Rugby Football Club, the event will feature live music, a selection of food & drink vendors from across the region and plenty of activities to keep the kids entertained.



## Italian wine cafe pops its cork in Kidderminster

An Italian wine cafe has opened in Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

Founded by two Italian friends living in Manchester, Veenno brings the authentic Italian 'aperitivo' to the region. The venue offers everything from reds, whites, rosés and fizzes to spuntini appetisers, desserts and expert-led tasting sessions.

Commenting on the new venture, Veenno co-founder Nino Caruso said: "Our focus is creating an aperitif-centred location for relaxation, serving up high-quality food and the finest Sicilian wines around." To find out more about Veenno, visit [theveenocompany.com](http://theveenocompany.com)

## Coffee shop chain bans disposable cups in its stores

Boston Tea Party is the first coffee shop to ban all disposable cups in its stores.

The popular chain, which has branches in Solihull and Stratford-upon-Avon, is set to lose over £1million in sales due to the ban.

Hot drinks will still be available, but customers will need to bring in a reusable cup if they want to purchase one.

There's also the option of 'borrowing' a cup with a refundable deposit, or of buying a branded, reusable cup - made from bamboo fibre - at the counter.

The ban will mean that 300,000-plus disposable cups will no longer be used.







# GET YOUR BAKE ON!

**Great British Bake Off finalist Steven Carter-Bailey makes his Shropshire debut mid-month, showcasing his talents in the food theatre at the Newport Show. What's On recently caught up with him to talk about his craft, his role models and his dinner-party guest list...**

## **How did you get into baking, Steven?**

My mum showed me the basics over 25 years ago and taught me to enjoy working with food. I've self-taught myself food creativity and design over the last 10 years.

## **What inspired you to apply for the Great British Bake Off?**

I'd applied a few times before with no luck, but when the show moved channel, I thought, 'This must be a sign'. It was a work colleague who forced me into applying by telling my entire department that I was going to do it!

## **Personally speaking, what was your best moment in the show?**

I would say the first star baker was pretty incredible for me. Despite how well I did, I didn't believe that it would be me, so it was a genuine shock. I also just wanted to ring my mum and tell her the good news.

## **What's the best thing you've had the opportunity to do since appearing in the show?**

I love demonstrating live. To me, it's a kitchen with a lot of house guests, and that's my favourite place to be. Also, being a news reporter for ITV London for a week was so much fun!

## **Do you still get time to bake for enjoyment?**

Whether it's baking for lunch or baking for

work, it's always an enjoyment for me. I'm more of a cook at home, but I'll take any opportunity to bake a cake or rustle up some shortbread.

## **What does the future hold?**

The future's still undecided, but whatever happens, food will be my first love. I love performing and presenting, so if I could do that with food, then I'd be a very happy man!

## **Baking has definitely undergone a resurgence in popularity in recent years, but it's not traditionally a hobby for younger men. Do you see yourself as a role model for a new generation of bakers?**

I'm touched that, at 34, I'm still classed as a younger man! For both men and women, baking has become less of a chore and just another way to express themselves. If anything, I hope I can inspire people to at least try something new.

## **Which famous baker/chef is your role model?**

My top three are James Martin, Nigella Lawson and Ina Garten. Their approach to food has always inspired me to perfect my techniques and try new things.

## **If we invited you for afternoon tea, what cake would you hope we'd dish up?**

I'm British, so if you're serving me afternoon tea, then it has to be the classic scone with jam and clotted cream. Nothing beats it!

## **If you were heading along to the Newport Show as a visitor, what would be in your picnic basket?**

I love a picnic basket because there are so many little things to choose from, a lot like Greek food. So I would probably go for a Mediterranean-style picnic with halloumi, olives and dips. And wine, of course!

## **If you could host a dinner party for three celebrities, dead or alive, who would they be and what would you cook?**

I would have to invite Jennifer Saunders because she would be the humour and entertainment. Stephen Fry would be the intellect and dry humour, and Sandi Toksvig because I simply adore her. We would have a very simple roast lamb dinner with all the trimmings. My mum hates lamb, so we never had it growing up, hence my love of it now. Dessert would be rich chocolate tart with a cinnamon Chantilly crème, just because I made it last weekend and fell in love with it.

.....

**Steven Carter-Bailey gives two 45-minute presentations at Newport Show, Chetwynd Deer Park, Saturday 14 July.**

**You can also see Steven at Lichfield Food Festival on Monday 27 August.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**07**  
JUL

SATURDAY 07 JULY @ ASSEMBLY  
**CORTINA NIGHTS  
RELOADED - LAUNCH PARTY 21+**

**14**  
JUL

SATURDAY 14 JULY @ ASSEMBLY  
**CORTINA NIGHTS  
RELOADED - 21+**

**20**  
JUL

FRIDAY 20 JULY @ ASSEMBLY  
**CANNED HEAT  
+ SPECIAL GUESTS**

**21**  
JUL

SATURDAY 21 JULY @ ASSEMBLY  
**CORTINA NIGHTS  
RELOADED - 21+**

**21**  
JUL

SATURDAY 21 JULY @ ASSEMBLY  
**BONGO'S BINGO**

**28**  
JUL

SATURDAY 28 JULY @ ASSEMBLY  
**CORTINA NIGHTS  
RELOADED - 21+**

**28**  
JUL

SATURDAY 28 JULY @ ASSEMBLY  
**THE WILDHEARTS**

**29**  
JUL

SUNDAY 29 JULY @ ASSEMBLY  
**RAVER TOTS**

**03**  
AUG

FRIDAY 03 AUGUST @ ASSEMBLY  
**STEVE HARLEY AND  
COCKNEY REBEL**

**18**  
AUG

SATURDAY 18 AUGUST @ ASSEMBLY  
**SUMMER SPIRITS  
FESTIVAL**

**25**  
AUG

SATURDAY 25 AUGUST @ ASSEMBLY  
**WILKO JOHNSON**

**26**  
AUG

SUNDAY 26 AUGUST @ ZEPHYR  
**ELECTRIC SIX**

**07**  
SEP

FRIDAY 07 SEPTEMBER @ ASSEMBLY  
**FASTLOVE - A TRIBUTE  
TO GEORGE MICHAEL**

**09**  
SEP

SUNDAY 09 SEPTEMBER @ ASSEMBLY  
**CAMEL**

**22**  
SEP

SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER @ ASSEMBLY  
**OKTOBER FEST**

**24**  
SEP

MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER @ ASSEMBLY  
**FISH**

**28**  
SEP

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER @ ASSEMBLY  
**HUNDRED WATT  
CLUB**

**29**  
SEP

SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER @ WHITE ROCK THEATRE  
**PAUL YOUNG  
35 YEARS OF NO PARLEZ**

**03**  
OCT

WEDNESDAY 03 OCTOBER @ ASSEMBLY  
**GLENN HUGHES  
PERFORMS CLASSIC DEEP PURPLE LIVE**

**04**  
OCT

THURSDAY 04 OCTOBER @ ASSEMBLY  
**GRAHAM PARKER  
& THE GOLDTOPS**



## We Are Scientists

The Empire, Coventry, Sun 29 July

We Are Scientists' breakthrough success came with debut studio album *With Love And Squalor*, which featured hit single *Nobody Move*, *Nobody Get Hurt*, the song for which the rock duo are best known.

They visit the Midlands this month in support of latest album *Megaplex*, released earlier this year.

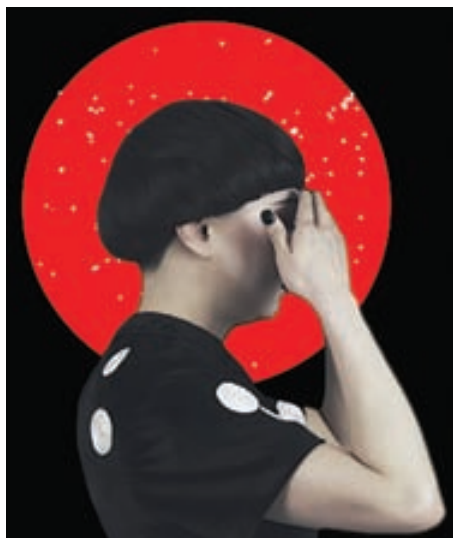


## Foonyap

The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry, Thurs 5 July

Presenting music which has been described as a deeply raw, unguarded reflection of her tumultuous journey to self-discovery, Canadian musician Foonyap started violin lessons at the age of four.

Her latest full-length album, *Palimpsest*, has drawn comparisons with Kate Bush and Bjork, and featured at number six in the *Toronto Star's* top 30 albums of 2016.



## Roger Waters

Arena Birmingham, Sat 7 July

In 1965, Roger Waters founded one of the world's biggest and most successful bands, Pink Floyd. Waters initially served as the group's bassist, but following the departure

of original guitarist, singer and songwriter Syd Barrett in 1968, he also became their lyricist, conceptual leader and co-lead vocalist.

Waters this month visits Birmingham with his *Us+Them* show as part of his European tour.

## Sam Carter

Evesham Arts Centre, Thurs 26 July

Described by Bellowhead's Jon Boden as the finest English-style finger-picking guitarist of his generation, folk musician Sam Carter was named best newcomer at the 2010 BBC Radio Two Folk Awards. He's since performed in countries across the world, appeared on *Later With Jools Holland* and backed Richard Thompson at Shrewsbury Folk Festival. Latest album *How The City Sings* features traditional English songs.



## Bratislava Hot Serenaders

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Sun 8 July

If you love swing and dance music from the 1920s and '30s, this is the show for you. Playing the music of Paul Whiteman, Duke Ellington, Count Basie and the Goldkette, Jack Hylton and Carroll Gibbons orchestras, the Bratislava Hot Serenaders is a 21-piece ensemble which includes multi reed players, three violins and the much-loved Serenaders Sisters trio.

## Del Amitri

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 23 July

Formed in Glasgow in 1983, Del Amitri have released four top 10 albums during their distinguished career, including million-selling breakthrough offering *Waking Hours*. Embarking on their first tour since 2014, the band features original members Justin Currie (vocals, guitar), Iain Harvie (lead guitar), Andy Alston (keys), Kris Dollimore (guitar) and Ashley Soan (drums).

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## Armonico Consort: Supersize Polyphony 360

Malvern Theatres, Thurs 5 July; Coventry Cathedral, Fri 6 July

Founded by organist and conductor Christopher Monks in 2001, and using authentic period instruments, Armonico baroque consort regularly perform with some of the best solo musicians in the world. This latest concert sees them celebrating large-scale works from the 16th century, which they will perform while surrounding the audience. Featured compositions include Tallis' Spem In Alium and Striggio's Ecce Beatam Lucem.

## The Cardinal's Musick

Lichfield Cathedral, Mon 9 July

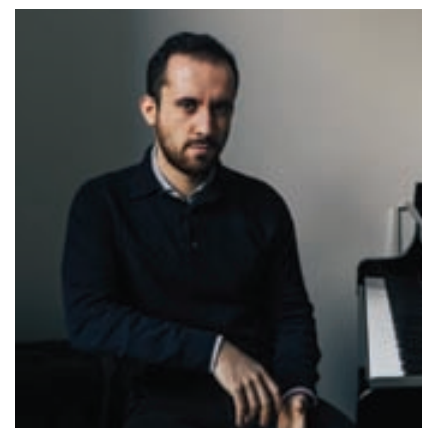
Innovative ensemble The Cardinal's Musick are highly regarded for their extensive study of renaissance music and premieres of commissioned compositions. Four times winners of the coveted Gramophone Early Music Award, the group here present The Music Makers, a 16th century and contemporary miscellany featuring compositions by Juan Gutierrez de Padilla, Byrd, Hieronymus Praetorius, Guerrero and Palestrina. A selection of work first written for The Cardinal's Musick is also included in the programme.



## Igor Levit In Recital

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 19 July

The recipient of a hugely enthusiastic standing ovation on the last occasion he played solo in Birmingham, Igor Levit is widely considered to be one of the 21st century's most exciting pianists. This full-scale recital, featuring music by Bach, Shostakovich, Berg, Wagner and Liszt, should certainly provide the Russian-German maestro with plenty of opportunity to show exactly why he's held in such high regard across the world.



## Three Choirs Festival

Various locations throughout Hereford, Sat 28 July to Sat 4 August

This year celebrating its 303rd birthday, the Three Choirs is the oldest non-competitive classical music festival in the world. The event brings together established favourites of the British classical choral tradition with works drawn from a broader, more international musical canvas. Choral and orchestral concerts feature prominently in a week-long programme that also includes cathedral services, solo and chamber music recitals, masterclasses, talks, theatre, exhibitions and walks. The action takes place each year on a rotating basis in one of three beautiful cathedral cities, Gloucester, Worcester and Hereford, the latter of which is hosting this year's proceedings.

Highlights at Hereford Cathedral include the Philharmonia Orchestra's The Planets (29 July), Tenebrae (30 July), Monteverdi Vespers (31 July), Binchois Consort (3 August) and the Philharmonia Orchestra and Three Choirs Festival Chorus' performance of Brahms' German Requiem (4 August).

## Redditch Orchestra: Family Concert

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 8 July



This year celebrating its 70th birthday, the Redditch Orchestra is one of Worcestershire's oldest amateur ensembles, presenting a varied repertoire that mainly features classical, romantic and early 20th century music. As part of their anniversary-year celebrations, the orchestra here present an afternoon of family favourites, ideal for youngsters aged four and older. A selection of creative activities are available for children to enjoy in the hour before the concert begins (at 2pm).

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## Lunar Festival

Umberslade Farm Park, Solihull,  
Fri 27 - Sun 29 July

Set in the grounds of the stunning Umberslade Estate in Tanworth-in-Arden, the birthplace of Nick Drake, this fledgling festival takes the legendary singer-songwriter as its muse, blending dreamy escapism with experiment and discovery, and all with a psychedelic sound and colour palette. Billed as 'one of the UK's most enchanting odysseys', the festival boasts an eclectic music line-up, from traditional folk to electro-pop and atmospheric DJ sets. There's fantastic food and drink on offer too, with a funfair, a forestry club, a children's farm and herbal havens also featuring.

**Line-up includes:** Goldfrapp, The Stranglers, Basement Jaxx (DJ set), Amadou & Mariam, Songhoy Blues, The Go! Team, Crazy P, Hookworms, A Guy Called Gerald, Jane Weaver, Boy Azooqa and The Unthanks.

## Timber Festival

Feanedock, National Forest, Derbyshire,  
Fri 6 - Sun 8 July

Brand new for 2018, Timber sees music, art, philosophy and sustainability weaved together for 'an exhilarating weekend' in the heart of the National Forest.

Created by Wild Rumpus, the company behind the award-winning Just So Festival, the three-day event features camping, sound installations, storytelling, soundscapes, comedy, campfires, forest films, workshops and an extensive music line-up.

**Line-up includes:** Jane Weaver (pictured), This Is The Kit, Stuart Maconie, Luke Jerram's Museum Of The Moon, Aadae, H.Hawklane, Sivu, Ewan McLennan and Alice Jemima.



## Fuse Festival

Beacon Park, Lichfield, Fri 13 - Sun 15 July



Now established as one of the Midlands' largest free music and arts festivals, Fuse this month returns to Lichfield's beautiful Beacon Park. Featured in the 2018 edition of the event is music, grassroots projects, family activities, beatboxing, storytelling, musical instrument making, drumming workshops, art & crafting, poetry, sporting challenges, close-up magic, dance, food & drink and plenty more.

**Line-up includes:** Tankus The Henge, The Cracked, The Undercover Hippy (pictured), Jeremiah Ferrari, Marquis Drive, Skaciety, Scott Doonican, Colour Me Wednesday, Cantaloop, White Eskimo, Third Angle Projection, Martian Social Club and Sugarthief.

## SummerFest

Himley Hall, Dudley, Sun 15 July

Organised by the fundraising team at Mary Stevens Hospice, this friendly family festival will take over the grounds of the Grade 2 listed Himley Hall. Featured attractions include fairground rides, a classic car show, a food festival, a cocktail bar, a beer tent, a prince & princess meet-and-greet and a full day of music on the Signal 107 main stage. All profits raised via the event will be donated towards the continuing care of families battling life-limiting illness at the Hagley Road Hospice.

**Line-up includes:** Lemar, Matt Terry (pictured), Reggie N Bollie and special guests yet to be announced.





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What's On







**REVOLT ATHENS**  
**Tues 3 July**

Last year's first-prize winners return with an extended and updated version of their performance piece. The work provides a thought-provoking insight into post-crisis Greece, bringing together figures from Greek mythology with tear-gas-choked rioters.

# BE FESTIVAL 2018

**showcasing the best of Europe's emerging performance artists...**

BE FESTIVAL is back at Birmingham Repertory Theatre this July. Voted one of the UK's top festivals by the Sunday Times (2014), it is now in its ninth year, and brings some of Europe's boldest, emerging artists to Birmingham. This annual celebration guarantees a week packed with a mix of international theatre, dance, circus, food, music and visual arts.

When BE first debuted in 2010, co-directors Isla Aguilar and Miguel Oyarzun set out to create a festival where festival goers could connect across social, cultural and artistic borders. Whilst originally from Spain, Isla and Miguel have spent the past decade living and working in both Birmingham and Madrid. These two distinctive, cultural cities have had huge influence in shaping the festival's unique and inclusive community ethos.

Nine years on, as the fabric of our European community is set to

unwind further, there is an undeniable tone in this year's programme that explores how we connect as individuals at a local and community level. The programme invites audiences to explore how we, intentionally or not, create divides between groups and/or individuals. The pieces presented in the festival attempt to break down these barriers, and in so doing test everything from the human body's boundaries to issues around the subject of social prejudice.

**BE FESTIVAL takes place at The REP, Birmingham, from 3 to 7 July. Tickets start from £16 and audiences can see up to 4 shows in one evening. Save room for the Festival Dinner which is served up during the interval each night, and if you want to tuck in for the full festival experience a pass for all five nights costs just £100. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [befestival.org](http://befestival.org).**

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## FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS...



**P-PROJECT**  
**Tues 3 July**

A co-presentation with Fierce Festival, P-Project is an interactive audience-participation-based piece by performance artist Ivo Dimchev.

Audience members are invited on stage to perform tasks based on several words beginning with 'P' - such as piano, pray, pussy, poetry and poppers - in exchange for money.

Each task is more absurd than the last, the intention being to test how far people will go in exchanging their bodies for cash.



**THREE ROOMS**  
**Wed 4 July**

Three Rooms is a hybrid performance of live theatre and video, simultaneously taking place in Paris, Istanbul and Birmingham. The play uses Skype to overcome disciplinary and literal boundaries, and has been inspired by Europe's ongoing border crisis. A response to its actors' previous experiences of being blocked from crossing Europe for work, it also reflects on the effectiveness of technology in overcoming the impact of absence.



**SOMEONE LOVES YOU DRIVE WITH CARE**  
**Thurs 5 July**

Performance artist and master of trickery Tom Cassani tests his body's limits with instruments traditionally seen in the classic sideshow stunts of the vintage US circus. Making frequent use of 'sleight of hand' throughout the show, Tom uses deceit as an artistic platform to explore how both truth and lies can be constructed in order to manipulate others.



**TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF**  
**Fri 6 July**

Swiss parkour practitioner Marc Oosterhoff searches for a mixed artform that features the perfect combination of dance, theatre, contemporary circus and performance art. Putting his life on the line to deliver a powerful message, Marc walks into a bar and takes a dangerous number of whisky shots. Will the show go on? You'll have to go along to find out...



**WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER**  
**Fri 6 July**

This original and innovative one-man Bon Jovi musical tells the tragic love story of Livin' On A Prayer's Tommy and Gina.

Local performer Paul O'Donnell hopes the piece will reveal 'the ordinary' in a 'spectacular' fashion.

"My work is often based in comedy," says Paul. "It's always personal to every audience I am met with, and aims to leave each spectator feeling a little bit more 'special' than they were before they entered the space."



**SISYPHUS**  
**Sat 7 July**

Masterful creation of intense atmosphere and controlled physicality are the stand-out features of this performance from one of Europe's most distinctive disabled artists, radical Belgian painter and performer Thibault Delferiere.

Inspired by the ancient Greek myth, Sisyphus explores all the senses, using the body, paint and brutal objects to depict endless cycles of hope and failure.





## Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival

Moseley Park, Birmingham, Fri 6 - Sun 8 July

Created by the Midlands masterminds behind the Moseley Folk and Lunar festivals, Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul sees world-class artists coming together with leading lights of the local jazz community for a laidback, family-friendly event designed to celebrate Birmingham's musical heritage.

As with its sister folk festival, the event is located in the gorgeous surroundings of Moseley Park, a stunning woodland glade tucked away behind busy Birmingham streets - making it the ideal retreat for music-loving city-dwellers.

**Line-up includes:** Jimmy Cliff (pictured), Sister Sledge, Candi Staton, Roy Ayers, Craig Charles, David Rodigan, Fred Wesley & The New JBS, Jungle Brothers, Lucky Chops, A Skillz & Krafty Kuts, Osaka Monaurail, Ezra Collective, Lack Of Afro, Laura Misch and Yazmin Lacey.

## Let's Rock Shrewsbury

Quarry Park, Shrewsbury, Sat 14 July

Take a trip back in time with some of the biggest acts of the 1980s. Leading the way for quality, family-friendly festivals since 2009, this blast from the past is suitable for all ages, whether you're looking to re-live your youth or hearing old pop classics for the very first time.

**Line-up includes:** UB40, Marc Almond (pictured), Kim Wilde, Midge Ure, Go West, Jason Donovan, From The Jam, Imagination, Five Star, Katrina, China Crisis, Toyah, Hazell Dean, Fuzzbox, Bow Wow Wow's Annabella, Brother Beyond, Peter Dinklage, Lotus Eaters and Black Lace's Conga Party.



## Warwick Folk Festival

Warwick School and Warwick town centre, Thurs 26 - Sun 29 July



One year short of its 40th, Warwick Folk Festival boasts the very best in contemporary and traditional folk arts from the UK and beyond.

As well as an extensive line-up of performers, the four-day camping event features ceilidhs, workshops, acoustic concerts, singarounds, an extended craft fair, a range of real ales, on-site catering and community-led recycling.

The organisers also deliver a fringe festival of events in the town centre, featuring dance displays, street theatre, music sessions and an evening concert on the Saturday.

**Line-up includes:** Show Of Hands, Notorious J.I.G, Jon Boden And The Remnant Kings (pictured), Korrontzi, Gordie MacKeeman And His Rhythm Boys, Granny's Attic, Vishtèn, Megson, Daoirí Farrell and Crows.

## Bromsgrove Folk Festival

Bowling Green Inn, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, Thurs 12 - Sun 15 July

Now in its 27th year, Bromsgrove Folk Festival offers patrons the chance to enjoy intimate concerts by UK-based folk, roots and acoustic performers. Taking place at the town's Bowling Green Inn, the festival spreads across two marquees (one 350-seater and one 120-seater), with sessions and singarounds taking place inside the pub.

**Line-up includes:** The Demon Barbers XL (pictured), Cosmotheke, Robin Laing, Anthony John Clarke, Ursula Holden Gill, BarlowCree, Mumbo Jumbo, Bram Taylor, Dave Gibb, Heartstrings, Rob Barratt, Miriam Backhouse, Silvington, Fairfield, Tosh Ewins and Stitherum.



# A COCKNEY REBEL

Steve Harley talks music, horse racing  
and Ernest Hemingway...





## “I’ve never felt part of the music industry, I’ve never felt a bonding with them, ’cause deep down I’m an ex-journalist who got lucky with songwriting...”

It’s Derby Day and, as Steve Harley is preparing to go on stage at the Acoustic Festival of Britain, our conversation is punctuated by racing commentaries from Doncaster and Epsom.

“I’ve had one of my biggest bets for five years,” says the 67-year-old. “It’s a horse that my friends own and they swear it’s gonna win. The horse is called Austrian School.”

Apart from forming Cockney Rebel in 1972 and releasing one of the most famous singles of all time, Harley is a passionate racing fan who once co-owned a horse with Mel Smith, so it’s fitting that our interview is taking place at Uttoxeter Racecourse.

Cockney Rebel first entered the UK charts in 1974 with the singles Judy Teen and Mr Soft, although the band’s debut 45, Sebastian, had already been a hit on the continent. However, it was Make Me Smile (Come Up And See Me) that sealed their place in the annals of rock music, a tune with lyrics that were inspired by unrest amongst Harley’s band members.

“It came out of adversity. We’d had Judy Teen, Sebastian was massive all over Europe, Mr Soft had just been a hit; we were on a roll. Then three members of the band came to me with all these ultimatums, and I said, ‘I can’t do this. It’s my band, I formed the band, you knew I was going to write three albums, a trilogy, and I’m halfway through writing the third album’. And I wrote Make Me Smile about it.”

And the rest, as they say, is history. By the middle of February 1975, Make Me Smile by the renamed Steve Harley And Cockney Rebel was top of the pops, the first of five chart entries that the single would make during the next 40 years.

To Harley’s knowledge, the song has been covered at least 130 times, with notable

recordings by Duran Duran and Erasure. However, it was a version by British indie band The Wedding Present that hit the mark with Harley.

“I think it’s very much the best ever. I saw it on Top Of The Pops and I just went, ‘Brilliant! They’re the first ones to get it, they’ve read it right’. They kicked it, they really went for it, angry and finger-poking. I kind of like that.”

Harley describes Make Me Smile as “my pension; I wish I had five or six of them”, but his thirst for songwriting remains undiminished.

“I’ve got a grand piano in the living room, a Roland (keyboard) set up in my study, I’ve got guitars in three rooms, permanently set up on stands, so I play all the time. A couple of hours every day, mostly in the evenings, with a glass of something. So I record all the time.”

An indentured newspaper reporter, Harley has always seen himself as an outsider in terms of his career in music.

“I’ve never felt part of the music industry, I’ve never felt a bonding with them, ’cause deep down I’m an ex-journalist who got lucky with songwriting, but I’m quite good at what I do.

“I really, really feel like it’s my life now, that I belong, that I’ve paid my dues and earned my place, and these kind people (at the Acoustic Festival) are giving me a lifetime achievement award today. I’ve seen the list of previous recipients, and I belong there.”

As a child, Harley suffered from polio. It was during his recuperation that he developed an enduring love for literature, with Ernest Hemingway a particular passion.

“I’ve got a first edition of Hemingway’s To Have And Have Not. I haven’t read any Hemingway for 20 years. He was a massive influ-

ence on me. He taught me not to waste words and, here I am, rereading To Have And Have Not, and I’m a chapter in and just going, ‘How did anyone get that good?’

Harley’s love for literature has been reflected in his lyrics. Tumbling Down, the third single off 1974 album The Psychomodo, features the line ‘The Hemingway staccato, the tragic bravado,’ while solo album Poetic Justice’s closing track, Riding The Waves, cites another major influence - Virginia Woolf.

“Woolf was from a special, different place. I can’t have a word against Virginia. You just have to read To The Lighthouse - it’s poetry - and then you’ve got The Waves, in a world of its own. In Riding The Waves, I borrowed from it quite heavily.”

With our interview almost at an end, Harley politely asked if he could watch the Derby, having seen his earlier tip fail to make it into the frame at Doncaster.

“I’m sorry, it’s the Derby, and I might just get my losses back.”

As we watched the horses approach the last half mile, the live stream of the race froze, resulting in a volley of expletives from Harley.

Later, he announced during a very impressive set, albeit one dogged by technical problems, that he’d backed the winner as well as the second-placed horse in the Derby. So all in all it was a good day at the races for the legendary Cockney Rebel, both on the turf at Epsom and on stage at Uttoxeter.

.....

**Steve Harley plays Leamington Assembly Rooms, Friday 3 August; Shrewsbury Folk Festival, Friday 24 August and Moseley Folk Festival, Sunday 2 September**



## Bianca Del Rio

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 30 July

"I hope you're ready for some filthy, nasty, hateful humour," says Bianca Del Rio, "because I'm coming to Birmingham with a brand new comedy show!"

Hailed as the drag world's answer to Joan Rivers, self-proclaimed 'clown in a gown' Bianca - real name Roy Haylock - is a former winner of hit US reality TV series RuPaul's Drag Race. Her 2017 UK tour went down an absolute storm, with a similar success story expected this time round.



## George Egg: The DIY Chef

Lichfield Garrick, Wed 11 July

Described as 'a Tommy Cooper for the 21st century', George Egg combines humour and food to excellent effect.

What's even more impressive than his admirably relaxed multi-tasking is the fact that the food is prepared using items including power tools, gardening equipment and office supplies.

Audience members with a desire to 'get interactive' can try out his cuisine at the end of the show.

## Hilarity Charity Gala featuring Rhod Gilbert

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 3 July

This returning Central Youth Theatre (CYT) fundraiser is once again compered by Daniel Kitson, with Welsh funnyman Rhod Gilbert this year headlining. Other comedians plying their trade at the 2018 version of the event are Aisling Bea, Alex Horne, Ivo Graham and John Kearns. This is the fourth edition of Hilarity Charity to be organised by CYT, Wolverhampton's leading youth theatre since 1983.



## All Stars Of Comedy

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 29 July

Former Coventry school teacher Guz Khan here takes his place in a line-up of comedy talent that's promising to keep punters' ribs well and truly tickled.

Guz shot to relative fame a handful of years ago after seeing his YouTube clips go viral. Since then, the only way has been up for the one-time Humanities teacher. "I think it's important to push against boundaries with comedy," says Guz. "And although I like to make people laugh while exploring issues such as religion, race and gender, I'm not somebody who's looking to cause offence just because I can."

Guz is joined at the Glee by headliner Slim, Aurie Styla, ADot and Gerry Kyei.





## Mat Ewins

MAC, Birmingham, Thurs 19 July

Offbeat silliness is definitely the name of Mat Ewins' game whenever the computer programmer-turned-standup comedian takes to the stage. Mat is visiting MAC to try out new material en route to the Edinburgh Festival. He's sharing the limelight with Larry Dean, who's heading for Bonnie Scotland having recently made his BBC Live At The Apollo debut.



## Paul Smith

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 7 July

Affable Liverpool comedian Paul Smith has waxed lyrical on all manner of topics in his time, including such peculiar subjects as who he'd most like to be haunted by (Ghandi - Paul reckons he'd do it quite quietly) and which is the largest animal he thinks he could beat in a fight (a goose). He's also 'died' on stage in front of a Babylon 5 actress, who made matters worse for him by shaking her head in pity. Widely regarded as one of the comedy circuit's most accomplished MCs, Paul is resident at Liverpool's Hot Water Comedy Club. He's starting to make a real name for himself on a national level too, courtesy of online video clips which almost routinely go viral. He visits Birmingham this month with his touring show, *Hiya Mate!*.



## Dirty White Boys

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 11 July

Keen customer service, an awkward pub quiz and an elaborate musical number all feature on the comedy menu when hugely talented but woefully underrated double act Dirty

White Boys hit town. Majoring in fast-paced idiocy, the fellas' sketches are based around all manner of subjects, from Shakespeare and the Mafia to wizards and improper uses of a banana. Expect an evening of utterly stupid but thoroughly enjoyable comedy.

## Shrewsbury International Comedy Festival

Various locations, Shrewsbury Town Centre, Thurs 19 - Sun 22 July

Already a hotbed of food, flowers and folk music, Shrewsbury last year tossed its hat into the comedy ring too, with four of the town's venues co-hosting an inaugural festival of laughter.

The event proved so popular that it's this month making a welcome return for a second year.

Contributing comedians include, among others, Britain's Got Talent 2018 winner Lee Ridley (aka Lost Voice Guy), Russell Kane, Jason Byrne, Nish Kumar, Rob Deering and Irish hip-hop improv duo Abandonman. Commenting on the event, its co-producer and one-time stand-up comic, Kevin Bland, said: "Shrewsbury has a great tradition of hosting festivals, including everything from street theatre to folk music, food to comics and beer to flowers. We reckoned it was high time we brought some comedy to the town as well."



Abandonman



## Fred Jeffs: The Sweetshop Murder

The REP, Birmingham, Wed 11 July

The Good Friday murder of Birmingham sweetshop owner Fred Jeffs in 1957 remains unsolved; which is why writer, performer and Jeffs' great nephew, Graeme Rose, has decided to reexamine the case - live

on stage.

"It took me no time at all to realise that the memory of Fred and his murder still resonates in the consciousness of local people," says Graeme. "So I set myself the task of gathering a consensus of information by interviewing local people about what they know - and also what they don't know - about the case."

## Astley's Astounding Adventures

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Sat 7 - Sat 28 July



The 250th anniversary of the first circus is celebrated in this sure-to-be-impressive show, the most ambitious ever to be staged by the New Vic Theatre... Entrepreneur Philip Astley's life began inauspiciously in Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1742. It took an unexpected turn, some 26 years later, when his invention of the circus ring kickstarted a phenomenon that would capture the attention of the

world...

New Vic Artistic Director Theresa Heskins here takes the helm for a show that's promising 'fast-paced action, humour, gripping drama and breathtaking circus spectacle'.

## The Complete Works Of William Shakespeare (abridged)

Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 24 - Sat 28 July

Now, if you feel you really should pay more attention to the works of the world's greatest ever playwright, but really don't fancy hour upon endless hour of listening to some terribly serious actors thee-ing and thou-ing in your general direction, then this is the show for you!

All of Shakey's 30-plus plays are covered in the blink of an eye, allowing you not only to become very learned very quickly, but also to get down the pub in time for last orders!

## Cirque Berserk!

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 6 - Sun 8 July; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 July

The ever-busy Zippos Circus this month make a welcome return to the Midlands with their hit show. Described as a danger-filled spectacle, Cirque Berserk! promises to 'amaze audiences of all ages' with its Globe of Death - a presentation in which daredevil motorcyclists speed around the inside of a steel cage at more than 60mph.

An international troupe of jugglers, acrobats, aerialists, dancers and drummers also make a telling contribution to proceedings.







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## Iolanthe

Malvern Theatre, Tues 10 - Sat 14 July;  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 July

Gilbert and Sullivan's seventh of 14 collaborations, Iolanthe is a biting satire lampooning numerous aspects of British government and law.

Beautiful fairy queen Iolanthe's youthful looks cause trouble for her son, Strephon, when his fiancée, Phyllis, refuses to believe that the young-looking girl in his company is actually his mother. Breaking off the engagement, Phyllis decides to marry a lord instead. Iolanthe then determines to set things right for her son by meddling in politics - with some rather unexpected results...

The production is presented by Sasha Regan's all-male company.

## Sharing Joy

MAC, Birmingham, Thurs 5 July

Courting couples, wartime nurses, a singing dog and Elvis the Pelvis are all present and correct in this full mask production from award-winning theatre company Vamos. Set in the 1940s and '50s, the show has been created for people living with dementia and their carers.

"It's a huge celebration of life and all its joys," say Vamos, "using music, dance, nostalgia, masks, puppetry and laughter to bring pleasure and meaning to everyone involved. There's plenty of music to bring back memories, dancing to enjoy or join in with, swinging dresses and best suits. It's a playful and joyous show that encourages everyone to take part, to express themselves and make connections."



## A Self Help Guide To Being In Love With Jeremy Corbyn

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Sat 21 July

Described as a lyrical, powerful and humorous look at modern politics, Jess Green And The Mischief Thieves' brand new show focuses on Jess's experiences as a card-carrying Labour supporter - from the downfall of Tony Blair to her head-over-heels love for 'the raw Communist sex appeal' of Jeremy Corbyn.

## Miss Littlewood

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until 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.

## The Egg Rumour

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 2 & Mon 9 July

As advances in technology continue to provide greater flexibility in all walks of life, this brand new musical play takes a look at the concept of social egg freezing as an 'office perk', with large corporations clearing the way for their female employees to 'have it all', freezing their eggs in order to buy them more time to make their way up the professional ladder.

But as a young woman named Iva discovers when her company gives her an out-of-this-world promotion, fitting all of her eggs into one basket is a far tougher task than it initially seems...





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

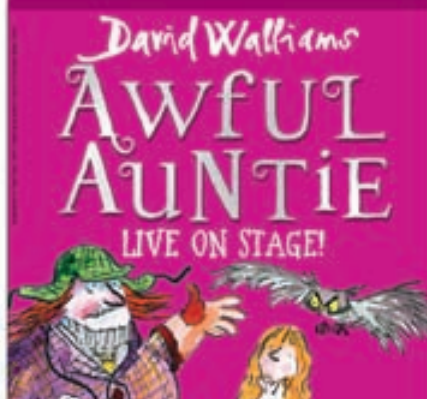
MON 24 SEP

## RUSSELL WATSON CANZONI D'AMORE



WED 26 - SUN 30 SEP

## AWFUL AUNTIE



TUE 2 - SAT 6 OCT

## DUET FOR ONE



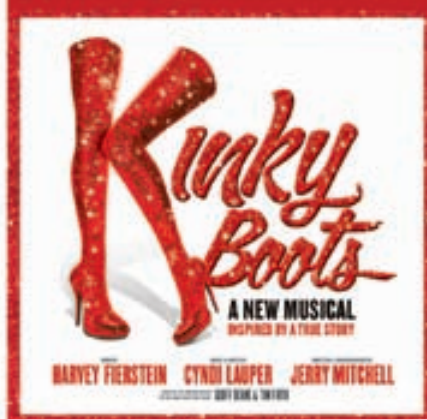
TUE 9 - SAT 13 OCT

## SSMTC PRESENTS TOP HAT



TUE 16 - SAT 27 OCT

## KINKY BOOTS



SUN 28 OCT

## THE WHITNEY HOUSTON SHOW



WED 31 OCT

## THE STYLISTICS 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR



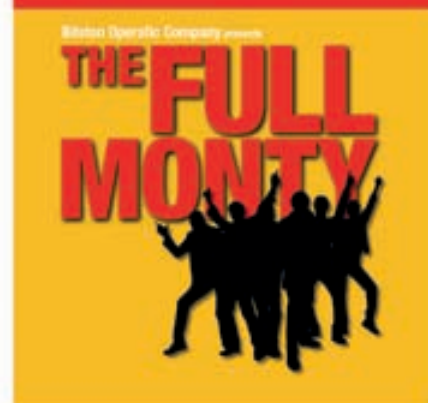
FRI 2 NOV

## DOREEN'S BIG TOP



TUE 6 - SAT 10 NOV

## BILSTON OPERATIC COMPANY PRESENTS THE FULL MONTY THE MUSICAL



## Macbeth

Stafford Castle, until Sat 14 July

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



## Little Women

MAC, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, Fri 27 July; Hanbury Hall, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire, Sat 28 July; Erddig, Wrexham, Sat 18 August

The highly rated Chapterhouse Theatre make a welcome return to Midlands venues this summer with their adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's famous story.

Written in the 19th century and widely considered to be the first US children's novel to become an enduring classic, it tells the tale of four sisters - Jo, Beth, Meg and Amy - as they experience passion, romance, heartache and hardship during the brutal and challenging years of the American Civil War.



## The Adventures Of Sherlock Holmes

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Wed 11 July

Chapterhouse Theatre are certainly having a busy old summer. As well as touring to the Midlands with their version of Little Women (see above), they're also visiting the region

with a brand new tale about the world's greatest detective. 'When the wife of Doctor Watson suddenly disappears, a desperate quest to find her begins,' explains Chapterhouse's promotional blurb for their show. 'Sherlock Holmes comes face to face with his greatest fear at the hands of his mortal enemy in this stunning new tale of romance and suspense'. We don't know about you, but that's certainly enough to get us hooked. Picnic hampers and folding chairs at the ready, we think...

## The Tempest

The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Thurs 5 July; MAC, Birmingham, Sat 14 July; Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 28 July

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!



## Pride And Prejudice

Brueton Park, Solihull, Tues 17 July; Jephson Gardens, Leamington Spa, Sat 4 August; Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire, Fri 17 August; The Wood Norton Garden & Terrace, Evesham, Fri 24 August

Elegant Georgian settings and wonderful comic characters abound in this stage adaptation of Jane Austen's famous romantic novel.

The foolish and marriage-obsessed Mrs Bennet is relentless in her pursuit of suitable men for her five daughters to marry, her increasingly desperate quest generating all manner of muddle and mayhem in the process...

This much-loved and oft-performed story is here presented by the well-established Heartbreak Productions, a company which has garnered an enviable reputation for producing high-quality theatrical fare for performance in the great outdoors.



## The Tempest

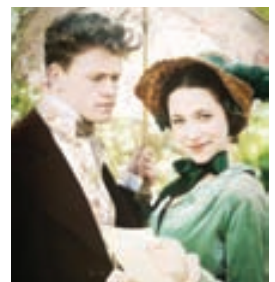
Witley Court & Garden, Worcestershire, Fri 6 July; Coughton Court, Nr Alcester, Fri 20 July; Shrewsbury Castle, Tues 7 August; Kenilworth Castle, Fri 10 August; Bantock House, Nr Wolverhampton, Sun 26 August

Shakespeare's last and most complete play, The Tempest also represents the culmination of his art, bringing together many of the themes that informed his greatest dramas. A wild storm forces a royal ship onto the rocks of an enchanted isle. The castaways, separated from one another, find themselves slipping under the control of the mysterious Prospero. Matters are confused further by the presence of supernatural spirit Ariel and the grotesque man-beast, Caliban... Presented beneath the stars by The Lord Chamberlain's Men.

## Emma

Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham; Sat 30 June - Sun 1 July; Blakesley Hall, Birmingham, Sat 7 - Sun 8 July; Selly Manor, Birmingham, Wed 11 - Thurs 12 July; Harvington Hall, Nr Kidderminster, Sat 14 - Sun 15 July

Jane Austen's comedy of manners blends Regency wonderment and heartwarming romance, to recount the story of a young woman who's determined to pair off her friends with their perfect matches. But as she goes about her business, it becomes evident there may well be the chance for Emma to find a true love of her own... Presented by Birmingham's much-loved Crescent Theatre.





## Madagascar The Musical

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,  
Tues 31 July - Sat 4 August

The smell of the greasepaint and roar of the crowd has tempted the furry cast of Madagascar the movie to forsake New York's Central Park Zoo in favour of treading the boards on a UK tour.

The blockbuster DreamWorks film comes to life in Birmingham when Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe and Gloria the hip hip Hippo stampede into summer with a great big jungle roar.

Imaginative sets and costumes are very much present and correct, in a show that the producers are confident will send your kids home positively wild (which may or may not be a good thing!). Matt Terry (pictured) stars.



## Keepy Uppy

MAC, Birmingham, Sun 1 July

"This is a play for the 2018 World Cup year, for football fans, non-football fans, children and families," explain Tutti Frutti, the Leeds-based company producing the show. "So Join us and celebrate the joy of the beautiful game with popping rhymes, fab footie moves, flicks and sidesteps, all underscored by toe-tapping live music. This is a visual treat that will ignite children's imaginations from kick-off to the final whistle."

## The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark

Lichfield Garrick, Wed 11 July

Jill Tomlinson's bestselling children's classic is here brought to the stage by the talented Riverside Performing Arts. The ensemble utilise music, puppetry and storytelling to present the delightful tale of a baby barn owl who's not as comfortable with the darkness of night as maybe he should be...

## The Snail And The Whale

Malvern Theatres, Tues 3 - Wed 4 July;  
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Fri 17 - Sat 18  
August; MAC, Birmingham, Sat 1 - Sun 2  
September

Following on from versions of The Gruffalo and Room On The Broom, highly rated ensemble Tall Stories here present a show for children aged four and older that blends imaginative storytelling, live music and plenty of humour.

When a tiny snail who longs to see the world hitches a lift on the tail of a humpback whale, she finds herself embroiled in an exciting adventure - particularly when the whale unexpectedly gets beached...



There's 'enchanted' puppetry to enjoy too, not to mention 'absorbing' storytelling, plenty of live music, lots of dancing, some positively obligatory audience participation, several slices of silliness and a super-sassy heroine! What more could your average youngster possibly want?



## Horrible Histories: Barmy Britain Part Four

Oakengates Theatre, The Place, Telford,  
Shropshire, Wed 18 - Sat 21 July

If you love the Horrible Histories series - and why the heck wouldn't you?! - then this latest Barmy Britain show is well worth catching. Alongside providing answers to such searching questions as 'would you be shaken or stirred by Richard III?' and 'can Queen Elizabeth I endure her terrible teeth?', the show also invites its audience to be reduced to rubble by the ruthless Romans, survive axe-faction with the Vikings and peep into the world of Samuel Pepys.

In short, and as its publicity says, it's 'a truly horrible history of Britain - with all the nasty bits left in!'



## Little Baby Bum

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sun 1 -  
Mon 2 July; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
Fri 6 - Sat 7 July

If you're the parent of a very young child, chances are you'll have heard of Little Baby Bum. An online and digital TV sensation, it's the world's largest educational YouTube channel, with over 13 million subscribers and 15 billion views.

This brand new live show offers the perfect opportunity to get better acquainted with some of the channel's most popular characters, including Mia, Jacus, Twinkle and all of their nursery rhyme friends.

## Little Red Riding Hood

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 24 July;  
Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 31 July

It may be the height of summer, but that hasn't stopped the ever-resourceful Moon On A Stick from adding plenty of traditional pantomime elements into their latest show.



# Matilda's coming home!



## Eight years after making its debut at the Courtyard Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, the RSC's staging of Roald Dahl's inspiring tale returns to the Midlands...

In 2010 I had the pleasure of chatting to comedian and lyricist Tim Minchin about a new project he'd been working on with director Matthew Warchus and writer Dennis Kelly.

The said project was a musical version of Roald Dahl's award-winning book, *Matilda*. Tim's enthusiasm for the project was palpable, but in that moment it was just another new show, commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Theatre as its Christmas offering for that very same year.

I listened as Tim spoke about how much he'd enjoyed the experience but how he'd nearly declined any involvement, citing his busy schedule as the reason.

As for the longevity of *Matilda*, Tim was edging his bets: "I think it's too early to say. I guess it needs someone with a big cheque book to come along and make a decision, but I certainly hope that it lives for a long time."

As soon as the curtain came down on that very first performance in Stratford-upon-Avon on the 9 November 2010, the destiny of *Matilda* was sealed. The show was a hit. The critics loved it. The audiences loved it more. Word quickly spread about the inspiring story of a super-gifted young girl.

Twelve months on, in October 2011, *Matilda* opened at the Cambridge Theatre in the West End, where it continues to show to this day.

During the interim years, it has become one of the most successful musicals of all time, smashing records and casting its shadow across some of the world's most iconic stage shows.

*Matilda* has now gone full circle and is this month coming home to the Midlands for a 10-week run at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

Tim, Dennis and Matthew still have an active involvement with the show, and the RSC's

creative team are completely involved, ensuring the production remains very much as the Company intended.

Indeed, as Catherine Mallyon, Executive Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, recently pointed out, there have been very few changes to the show, regardless of where in the world it has been presented.

"There are changes which may be noticeable, depending on how well you know the production. These have to be made to adapt the show to the different venues. There are certain special effects that you can do one way in a particular venue but that need to be done differently elsewhere. The words, the music, the design, the dances, the costumes are still the same."

*Matilda*'s universal appeal has seen the show performed to almost eight million people across the world.

"It travels really well," says Catherine, "although on the North American tour, we found that if it goes to a city where there isn't that familiarity with Roald Dahl, the audience find it slightly unexpected. They still have an absolutely great time, but you can tell that they're feeling their way into it."

"When we play it here in the UK, in the States, and certainly in Australasia, the response from people who've grown up with Roald Dahl - not necessarily the story, but the style - is amazing. Everybody just falls in love with it."

"Interestingly, on Broadway there were some tweaks made for local audiences. The Escape Artist, as he was called there, is actually known as the Escapologist in other productions. We found that there are certain words which can act as a barrier elsewhere, and therefore we felt we needed to change. That apart, it's extraordinary to me that that feeling of joy in the audience is the same

wherever you see the show. It's amazing how we all respond (universally) to live theatre."

The joy of *Matilda*, with its addictive score, larger-than-life characters - we're talking Miss Trunchbull here - and uplifting storyline ensures that you never tire of seeing the show. Catherine herself has lost count of the number of times she's seen it - and almost every time she finds something new...

"It's a very rich production in that sense. There are so many things to look at, to listen to, to follow. It's a real feast for the senses."

Numerous professional and amateur versions of Dahl's works are regularly performed on stages up and down the country, and a recent big screen adaptation of the BFG received plenty of critical acclaim. So what is it about the author's stories that make them so appealing to produce?

"They're all so imaginative and original that you can really scale them up for the stage. The beauty of *Matilda* is the way that the book was developed by the creative team - in particular by Dennis and Tim - weaving a new story into it and really giving it even more depth of theatricality than the book had in the first place. It's a wonderfully clever piece of adaptation."

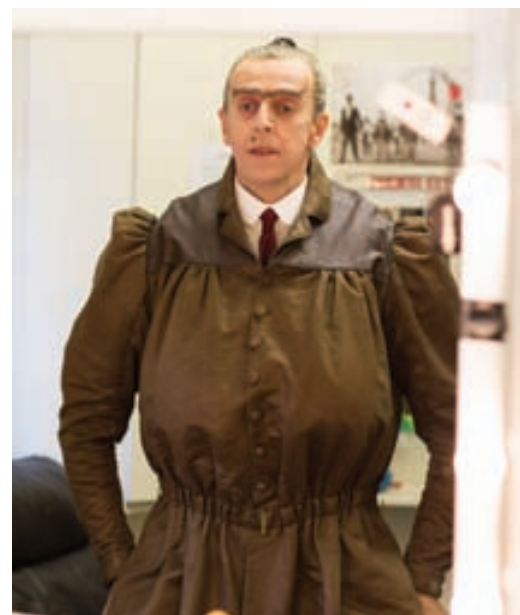
"The fact that it's been seen by almost eight million people across the world is an interesting stat, but what I love is the story behind that, which is that virtually every one of those people will have had a great time seeing the show. And that's an awful lot of people."

.....

**Matilda The Musical shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tues 3 July to Sat 8 September.**



**“the biggest challenge is to ensure that she stays within the parameters of reality and doesn’t become too grotesque”**





# craige els does the trunchformation

**Roald Dahl is famed for his larger-than-life characters - and they don't come any more formidable than Miss Trunchbull, the headmistress of Crunchem Hall Primary School, who detests children to her core. A 'tyrannical monster', she spends her days intimidating the 'revolting children' in her charge - force-feeding them cake and swinging them around the playground by their pigtails.**

**Historically played by a man, it's Welsh actor Craig El who's charged with bringing this eccentric and bloodthirsty character to life on the Hippodrome stage. What's On recently caught up with Craig El to find out more about his role...**

## **What's the best thing about playing Miss Trunchbull?**

The role itself is obviously fantastic. It's a wonderful challenge and a wonderful responsibility to be playing such a notorious villain. Dennis' script is a joy to perform every night, and I think most of all, I get to work alongside my fantastic tiny little co-stars, who are exceptional in every way. All the adults in the cast would agree that it's them who keep us going and make us laugh daily. They definitely set the bar energy-wise. Normally it's when a cast gets to that six-month point that the energy starts to dip and people get a bit tired. I think having a fresh influx of kids is a reminder that it is, in fact, the best job in the world. They're all very excited, and it's a lovely, gentle reminder halfway through a contract that it's exciting to do.

## **What personal attributes do you think helped bag you the role?**

I think I was the right height. You have to have a certain amount of flexibility to be able to do all of the athletic stuff that Miss Trunchbull has to do, and that was something I could definitely bring to the table. As far as everything else, I think I was just the lucky guy they picked on the day.

## **What research did you undertake for the role?**

All of the research is there in the book itself.

Roald Dahl's descriptions are so brilliant. She's also very masculine, which is a plus point for me, and you just work through it all in rehearsals. You find the places in the show where feminine touches can creep in, but more often than not, rather than just approaching her as 'playing a woman', I try to approach her as 'playing Miss Trunchbull'. Not necessarily gender specific but more of an ogress.

## **Tell us about your Trunchformation...**

We have a fantastic wigs & wardrobe team, and we've now got the transformation down to about half an hour. I do the make-up myself, and then the wigs team come in and put the wig on. Then I slip into the fat suit, and the rest just gets draped over me until she's complete.

## **Do you have a pre-show warm-up, to get you into the right mindset to play Miss Trunchbull?**

Before the costume goes on, we do a full company warm-up and I do my own vocal warm-up, to try and get myself into the right place for her voice. Then once the costume's on, I guess there's about 20 minutes at the start of the show when everyone else is on stage but I'm not. It's quite handy spending that time alone because in my head she's a solitary character, quite introvert and complicated, so it's nice to spend that time alone to check over my lines and get into the right place mentally.

## **How do you re-find yourself post-show?**

The end of the show is so euphoric. The bows at the end on the scooters are all very upbeat and very happy. Once you receive the applause from the audience, that tends to lift you out of any dark humour you might be in. Any residual Trunch is gone by that point.

## **What's been the most difficult aspect of her character to master?**

I suppose that having played the role for such a long time, the biggest challenge is to ensure that she stays within the parameters of reality and doesn't become too grotesque; that I

never send her up, and that she remains rooted in truth. That's the biggest challenge; to make sure she stays who she's meant to be.

## **And have there ever been any mishaps?**

There have been a few. I've had warts that have fallen off, and I bit off the hair from one of my moles once, which was particularly unpleasant when you're still trying to sing a song. I also snapped the ulnar ligament in my left thumb halfway through the big number in the second act, which was particularly grim. I had to have that operated on. That's probably the biggest serious mishap, but lots of silly things happen all the time. When you're running around at that pace in that costume, you do take a stumble from time to time. You do get caught up in things; it's impossible not to.

## **How did you deal with the thumb incident?**

The show went on. I finished the number and then, by the time I got off stage, there was only a short period of time for a quick change before my final scene. They asked if I'd be okay, and by that time the adrenaline had kicked in. There wasn't time to get the understudy in costume - we would've had to stop the show instead - so I went on and did the last scene. Luckily there was no need to pick up any children or spin anyone by the head at that point. It was just me. I finished the show and ended up having a month off while it healed. It's quite a cool scar, which the kids love.

## **Do you have a favourite scene?**

The big number Smell Of Rebellion in the second act is a lot of fun. It's one which the audience very much lets you know they're enjoying as you go along. I'm spoilt really, because most of my scenes are classroom scenes or with all of the kids, and they're such a joy to perform with. I do love the last classroom scene, where the kids have their uprising and they defeat Miss Trunchbull. That's always a real fun one to do.



EDITOR'S CHOICE

## Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again! CERT tbc

Starring **Pierce Brosnan, Dominic Cooper, Colin Firth, Andy García, Lily James, Amanda Seyfried, Stellan Skarsgård, Julie Walters, Cher, Meryl Streep** Directed by **Ol Parker (UK/USA)**

Suddenly, audiences can't get enough of a good ol' singalong. After the success of *La La Land* and *The Greatest Showman* - not to mention the phenomenal popularity of the first *Mamma Mia!* film - the

back catalogue of Abba has been raided for more of the same. So we have *Waterloo*, *Dancing Queen*, *Thank You For The Music*, et al, to beef up the story of Sophie's pregnancy as she discovers more about her mother's past. Meryl Streep returns as Donna, while Lily James plays her younger self, with a slew of new stars joining in the sunny high jinks.

**Released Fri 20 July**

## Film highlights released in July...

### Mary Shelley CERT 12a (121 mins)

Starring **Elle Fanning, Douglas Booth, Bel Powley, Ben Hardy, Tom Sturridge, Maisie Williams, Stephen Dillane** Directed by **Haifaa al-Mansour (Ireland/USA/UK)**

Saudi Arabia's first female director turns her attention from female inequality to the British literary scene. Set in the period leading up to 1818 and the publication of *Frankenstein*, the romantic drama focuses on Mary Wollstonecraft (Fanning) and her infatuation with the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley (Booth).

**Released Fri 6 July**



### Swimming With Men

CERT 12a (97 mins)

Starring **Rob Brydon, Jim Carter, Rupert Graves, Charlotte Riley, Jane Horrocks, Nathaniel Parker** Directed by **Oliver Parker (UK)**

An accountant suffering a mid-life crisis, Eric Scott (Rob Brydon) gets his life on-track when he joins an all-male synchronised swimming team. Think *The Full Monty* in a swimming pool.

**Released Fri 6 July**

### Whitney CERT 15

Directed by **Kevin Macdonald (UK/USA)**

Only last summer, Nick Broomfield brought us his critically acclaimed documentary *Whitney: Can I Be Me* (2017). So, are we ready for another documentary on Whitney Houston? If so, the subject is in good hands, as Kevin Macdonald's previous forays into non-fiction brought us the Oscar-winning *One Day In September*, the Bafta-winning *Touching The Void* and the extremely well-received musical biopic *Marley*.

**Released Fri 6 July**







## Incredibles 2 CERT PG (125 mins)

With the voices of **Craig T Nelson, Holly Hunter, Sarah Vowell, Huck Milner, Samuel L Jackson, Bob Odenkirk, Catherine Keener** Directed by **Brad Bird** (USA)

They really are incredible. However, due to a mishap that had nothing to do with Mr Incredible (Craig T Nelson), the Parr family of superheroes was forced to go undercover. That was in the first movie... In the sequel, another incident necessitates the Parrs to permanently adopt their secret identities. However, a philanthropic tycoon devises a publicity stunt to make superheroes cool

again, but this time Mrs Parr - aka Elastigirl (Holly Hunter) - is given centre stage, while Mr Incredible stays at home to look after the kids. The good news is that Brad Bird is back in the director's chair, having brought us the original cartoon (2004) which proved both a critical and commercial success. Well, it was incredible - and hugely thrilling and funny.

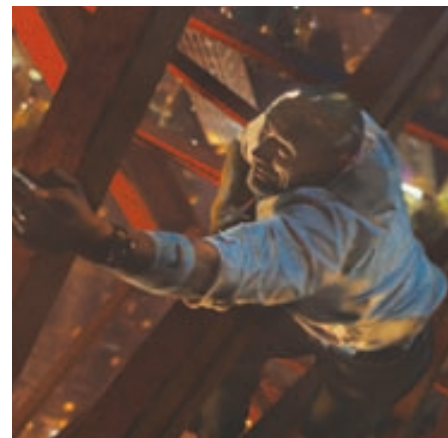
**Released Fri 13 July**

## Skyscraper CERT 12a

Starring **Dwayne Johnson, Neve Campbell, Chin Han, Roland Møller, Pablo Schreiber** Directed by **Rawson M. Thurber** (USA)

At the time of writing, The Rock's last cinematic outing, Rampage, grossed over \$400million worldwide, while his Jumanji notched up just shy of a billion. Here, he plays an 'FBI Hostage Rescue Team leader' who's framed for starting a fire in the world's tallest building (in Hong Kong) - in which his family is trapped. It will make money. In 3D.

**Released Thurs 12 July**



## Hotel Artemis CERT 15

Starring **Jodie Foster, Sterling K Brown, Sofia Boutella, Jeff Goldblum, Zachary Quinto, Charlie Day, Dave Bautista** Directed by **Drew Pearce** (USA)

The eponymous Hotel California is actually a refuge for criminals - in a dystopian Los Angeles of the near future. And the matron, dubbed 'the Nurse' (Foster), will only treat those with a membership card. Well, you have to look after your own.

**Released Fri 20 July**

## Mission: Impossible Fallout

Starring **Tom Cruise, Rebecca Ferguson, Simon Pegg, Ving Rhames, Michelle Monaghan, Alec Baldwin, Sean Harris, Henry Cavill, Angela Bassett** Directed by **Christopher McQuarrie** (USA)

Just as he's trying to save the world, secret agent Ethan Hunt finds that the CIA has taken against him. Which only makes matters worse as time is of the essence... Filmed in Norway, Paris, London, New Zealand and Essex. In 3D and IMAX.

**Released Thurs 26 July**

## Apostasy CERT tbc

Starring **Siobhan Finneran, Robert Emmis, Sacha Parkinson, Steve Evets, Molly Wright** Directed by **Daniel Kokotajlo** (UK)



Not a title to grab the casual filmgoer, this drama actually tackles a fascinating subject. Set in the north of England, it follows the lives of three ordinary sisters who, in private, lead a life of devout fanaticism. Daniel Kokotajlo, whose first film this is, is himself a former Jehovah's Witness. Reviews have been exceptional.

**Released Fri 27 July**

## Hotel Transylvania 3: A Monster Vacation CERT PG

With the voices of **Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez, Kevin James, David Spade, Steve Buscemi, Kathryn Hahn** Directed by **Genndy Tartakovsky** (USA)

Taking pity on her father, Count Dracula (Sandler) - who is committed to providing holidays for everybody else at his Hotel Transylvania - his daughter takes him on a surprise vacation on a luxury Monster Cruise Ship. But what she didn't anticipate was that he would fall for the ship's captain, Ericka (Hann).

**Released Fri 27 July**





## Vladimír Kokolia: Epiphany

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,  
Wed 4 July - Sun 9 September

"I usually paint some snapshot, some distinctly illuminated scene that I glimpse somewhere, even peripherally, and which then remains in my head," explains renowned Czech artist Vladimír Kokolia. "It tends to have a differing measure of concreteness and resolution, but it always carries light in a unique way... My paintings may look like lianas, mazes or winding footpaths, but they have a source somewhere else. Their mesh is nothing but a screen through which the image percolates during the painting process."

Combining new and recent paintings, this is Vladimír's first UK exhibition. He describes the show as exemplifying 'an intensely experimental attitude that distils abstraction from everyday experience'.

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Frederico Barroca: 'The Head of an Old Man', c.1625  
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### Drawn To Perfection The Barber Institute, B'ham, until Sun 23 September

Taking as its theme the use of drawings as prototypes for paintings and frescoes, tapestries, sculpture and architecture, Drawn To Perfection is the first exhibition in the Barber's new partnership with Royal Collection Trust. The show features a wealth of exquisite

works on paper by brilliant Renaissance and Baroque Masters, including Bernini, Carracci, Claude and Poussin. The exhibition has been curated by students from Birmingham University's MA Art History & Curating course.

### CTRL/Shift

MAC Birmingham, Sat 21 July - Sun 9 Sept

With a focus on artists whose practice has been transformed, especially in the world of textile art, CTRL/Shift features 30-plus artworks by 25 practitioners. The works on display have been produced by The 62 Group of Textile Artists, a long-established artist-led organisation which aims to challenge the boundaries of textile practice via a programme of exhibitions and events.



### Fevral: A Folklore

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Sun 2 September



Stewart Francis Easton here explores the creation and development of folkloric tale.

In an exhibition featuring works in oil, fabric, stitch, pen and yarn, the artist maps the course of a folk tale from its inception in history to the role that it plays in modern-day life.

## Within And Without: Body Image And The Self

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Sun 22 July until Fri 1 February

This is the second exhibition to take place in the museum's Story Lab gallery, a space that invites visitors to help shape the future of the venue. Exploring the ways in which body image impacts on issues such as social status, gender, stage of life, health, aesthetics, religion, politics and sexuality, the exhibition's theme has been shaped into a single narrative by volunteers working with staff on the show's development.



## Melanie Tomlinson: Ghost Horses And Guns

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 30 June - Sun 14 October

Melanie Tomlinson's fascination with the forgotten spaces between urban and rural landscapes has provided her with the inspiration for this latest presentation. The exhibition features nine new pieces created especially for the show. These are displayed alongside short stories merging childhood memories and real-life events, to reflect universal themes of nature, destruction, transformation and hope.



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# SUMMER OF FUN

With the school holidays once again upon us, parents across the Midlands will no doubt be looking for places to visit and things to do with their kids during the long summer break.

We've taken a look at what's happening where and have come up with a few suggestions to get you started...



## Brick-tastic fun at Legoland Discovery Centre

Arena Birmingham, King Edwards Rd, Birmingham, B1 2AA

A brand new attraction situated in the heart of Birmingham, Legoland Discovery Centre promises oodles of fun for the summer holidays. Aimed at children aged from three to 10, the centre offers highly interactive and educational fun. Attractions include a range of Lego play areas, interactive rides, masterclasses from the Lego Master Model Builder, special party rooms for birthdays and other celebrations, a 4D cinema and, of course, the popular Miniland area, which can be found in every Legoland Discovery Centre and Legoland theme park. The area features replicas of some of the Midlands' most iconic buildings, including The Mailbox (pictured), Birmingham Town Hall, the Council House, the Rotunda and the Library of Birmingham. Legoland Discovery Centre opens its doors on 5 July, but be warned - tickets are selling fast. For further information, visit [birmingham.legolanddiscoverycentre.co.uk](http://birmingham.legolanddiscoverycentre.co.uk)

## BBC Tours offers new family tickets for 2018

BBC Birmingham, The Mailbox, B1 1RF

Something for all the family to enjoy, BBC Tours invites visitors to step behind the scenes of the Corporation's Mailbox-based TV and radio studios - home to Midlands Today, BBC Radio WM and the longest-running soap opera in the world, The Archers.

Discover what it takes to put together high-quality news bulletins and how BBC radio drama is made. You can even have a go at making your very own radio play, which will then be sent to you as a memento following your visit.

Even BBC Midlands Today presenter Nick Owen has confessed to learning a few things on the tour, commenting: "It was fascinating looking round the BBC Radio Drama studio and seeing all of the props they use for the iconic Archers. It's amazing the tricks they employ to make it all sound authentic over the airwaves. I also discovered what a useless actor I am - a real eye-opener and tremendous fun!" [bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/tours/birmingham](http://bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/tours/birmingham)



## Birthday celebrations at British Motor Museum

Banbury Rd, Gaydon, Warwickshire, CV35 0BJ

Motoring giant Land Rover celebrates its 70th birthday in 2018 - and what better way to get in on the action than by taking part in the British Motor Museum's Land Rover Explorer Trail - and then designing your very own model!

Visit on a Wednesday and discover the wonderful world of science via a 25-minute show that's packed with 'cool interactive demonstrations' hosted by mad scientists Professor Pickle and Doctor Pumpkin.

With more than 300 cars on show and the new Car SOS exhibition to explore, there's no shortage of things to keep you entertained, so why not get your motor running and check it out... For information about all summer events, visit [britishmotormuseum.co.uk](http://britishmotormuseum.co.uk)



## Say hello to Dippy the Dinosaur at BMAG

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, B3 3DH

After more than 100 years in London, the iconic Dippy the Diplodocus has taken up summer residency in the Gas Hall at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG). The impressive installation - Dippy is 21.3 metres long, 4.3 metres wide and 4.25 metres high - is the main attraction in a season of dinosaur-themed entertainment at the popular venue. Accompanying activities include Dippy sleepovers, curator-led tours and 'meet the experts' events. The museum's Dippy Family Room, meanwhile, offers a plethora of dino activities and crafts for younger visitors to enjoy. For those planning ahead, BMAG has programmed a series of dinosaur-inspired stay-and-play sessions for the under-threes every Wednesday in August. For further information and news about forthcoming events, visit [birminghammuseums.org.uk](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk)



## Splash about at the UK's largest aqua park

Aqua Park Rutland, Oakham, Leicester, LE15 8BL

Featuring climbing walls, trampolines, balance bars, rockers, rollers and the UK's biggest jumps and slides, Aqua Park Rutland promises plenty of water-filled fun for the summer. With numerous adrenaline-pumping obstacles - think Cyclone, Revolution, Jungle Jim, Summit Express and Action Tower XL - there's huge potential for 'total wipe-outs and epic falls'. The Beast - a towering five-metre-high platform - returns for 2018 and promises to be the bees knees for thrill seekers. Aqua Park Rutland is an active attraction, meaning that visitors need to be ready for the physical challenge. In order to take part, they must be aged eight or older, 1.3 metres tall and able to swim 50 metres unaided in a buoyancy vest. The vests are provided, and wetsuits are included in the ticket price. For further information, visit [aquaparkrutland.co.uk](http://aquaparkrutland.co.uk)

## Spend a day behind bars with Jailhouse Tours

Shrewsbury Prison, The Dana, Shrewsbury, SY1 2HR

If you're looking for an experience that's a little bit different, a two-hour wander around the former Shrewsbury Prison could be just the thing. Guided by an ex-officer, visitors will be immersed in the grisly history of crime and punishment on 'the world's most interactive prison tour'.

For those wishing to visit the prison on more than one occasion, an Inmate Card offers unlimited self-guided access for a 12-month period. For further information and to find out about events throughout the year, visit [shrewsburyprison.com](http://shrewsburyprison.com)



## Enjoy a nostalgic day out at Churnet Valley Railway

Kingsley & Froghall Station, Stoke-on-Trent, ST10 2HA

Churnet Valley Railway offers visitors the chance to step back in time to the classic days of railway travel.

Your journey starts at Kingsley & Froghall station. The nostalgic train ride will take you to the beautiful volunteer-kept stations of Consall and Cheddleton, allowing you to sit back, relax and take in the views.

Whether visiting Churnet Valley Railway for one of their many events, which include afternoon tea and the dining train, or just enjoying a day out with family and friends, the experience provides something for everyone to enjoy. For more information, visit [churnetvalleyrailway.co.uk](http://churnetvalleyrailway.co.uk)



David Gibson Photography



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## A summer of science at award-winning Thinktank

Millennium Point, Birmingham, B6 6JD

This award-winning science museum is packed with things to see and do during the summer holidays. Static features include the Spitfire Gallery - showcasing the innovative design and cutting-edge technology that played such an important role in World War Two - and the Marine Worlds Gallery, exploring animals past and present that have adapted to life in the sea. There's also the Planetarium, presenting regular shows about astronomy and space. Elsewhere, the outdoor Science Garden is packed with fun things to do, with more than 30 hands-on exhibits bringing to life the subjects of engineering, mechanics and transportation. For further information, visit [birminghammuseums.org.uk](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk)

## Historic fun at Black Country Living Museum

Tipton Road, Dudley, DY1 4SQ. Tel: 0121 557 9643

Fancy some good old-fashioned fun this summer? Then pay a visit to Dudley's Black Country Living Museum. Set over 26 acres, the award-winning venue is home to an entire period village, complete with authentic shops and houses, a school, an underground mine, a fairground, a pub and a fish & chip shop. The museum's summer holiday programme (21 July-2 Sept, 10am-5pm) is jam-packed with rib-tickling traditional entertainment - and just a touch of drama - as characters prepare for some fun in the sun! Also, on selected days throughout the summer, visitors will be able to watch 'pop-up' drama unfold on the streets. For further information, visit [bclm.com](http://bclm.com)



## Saxon summer takeover at Tamworth Castle

Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire, B79 7NA

Be part of history and travel back to Anglo-Saxon times when Princess Aethelflaed was one of the most powerful women in Mercia. Learn about the archaeology of the period by getting hands-on with some digging for buried artefacts. Visit Lady Freville and learn about the activities that would fill her days. Encounter the laundress and help her prepare clothes for washing the medieval way. Meet the armourer to find out how maille was made and how medieval weapons were fashioned. Follow the riddles in the castle rooms to claim a small prize once you've completed the quiz sheet. Special events at the castle in July include The Tamworth Aethelflaed Festival (14 - 15 July) and Saxon Living History (24 - 26 July). For further information, visit [tamworthcastle.co.uk](http://tamworthcastle.co.uk)



## Marvellous Mechanicals at Compton Verney

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, CV35 9HZ



If you're looking for things to see and do over the summer, Compton Verney art gallery & park is offering plenty to keep families entertained from July through to September. Marvellous Mechanical Museum is a highlight of the summer programming and reimagines the spectacular automata exhibitions of the 18th century. Featuring early and rare automata and clockwork dating back to the 17th century, the collection of items on display has been drawn from the British Museum, the V&A and the Royal Collection.



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## Summer with the Saxons

Hear tales of our warrior princess, learn  
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## Tamworth Aethelflaed Festival

Sat 14th – Sun 15th July  
11.30am–4.00pm

We're taking you back to  
Tamworth during Saxon  
times to learn about our  
very own warrior princess  
Aethelflaed, find out about Saxon  
battle tactics, dig for artefacts and join  
the shield-wall and much more.

## Saxons at the Castle

Tues 24th – Thurs 26th July  
11.30am–4.00pm

Another chance to sample life during Saxon  
times. Try your hand at archaeology, learn  
about the warrior princess Aethelflaed, look  
at Saxon battle tactics and see if you can  
solve our runic puzzles!



## GREAT DAYS OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

## Medieval Living History

Tues 31st – Thurs 2nd August  
11.30am–4.00pm

Discover what life was like for the Medieval  
Castle, meet the Household characters and  
join in the activities that would fill their days.  
Get close to our Armorer, learn about armour-  
making and examine the unique weaponry.

## Georgian Living History

Tues 7th – Thurs 9th August  
11.30am–4.00pm

Have fun exploring the pastimes of Georgian  
children and discover the toys they would have  
played with. Help Lord Townsend with his  
scientific experiments then seek out the Lady's  
maid to have a go at Georgian dancing and etiquette.

## WWI Centenary

Tues 14th – Thurs 16th August &  
Tues 21st – Thurs 23rd August 11.30am–4.00pm

Come and join us as we commemorate the centenary of the  
end of World War I. Try and pass the military medical, learn  
about war time communications, decode secret  
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# BBC

## STEP INSIDE THE BBC

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or call 0370 901 1227\* for group bookings



\*UK wide rate charged at no more than 01/02 geographic numbers. Calls may be recorded for training





## Shark mission awaits at the National Sea Life Centre

The Water's Edge, 3 Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HL. Tel: 0871 226 5999

Younger visitors to Birmingham's National Sea Life Centre can this summer come face-to-fin with the aquarium's fascinating family of resident sharks. Solve the mind-bending puzzles of the mystery trail and take part in an exclusive meet-and-greet with Shellington - available only at Sea Life - and his Octonaut friends. Visit Professor Inkle's colour lab, take a special dive of discovery with Dashi and follow instructions from Captain Barnacles to make a shark puppet.

Other attractions include the venue's colony of Gentoo penguins, majestic jellyfish, piranhas and a plethora of strange creatures. There's also a 4D cinema and the UK's only 360° ocean tunnel (home to sharks, rays and Mo, the aquarium's resident giant green sea turtle). Octonauts: Shark Mission is included in the centre's usual admission price. For further information, visit [visitsealife.com/birmingham](http://visitsealife.com/birmingham)

## Venture back in time at Blists Hill Victorian Town

Legges Way, Madeley, Telford, TF7 5DU, Tel 01952 433424

One of 10 award-winning museums that make up the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, Blists Hill Victorian Town offers visitors the chance to step back in time to the days of Queen Victoria.

Set over 52 acres, the museum has plenty to offer and is very much an interactive experience. The town provides all you could ever need - if you were a Victorian, that is! There are general drapers, blacksmiths, a pharmacy (also home to a particularly gruesome dentist room) and a bank, where you can exchange your new money for old and try to manage with pounds, shillings and pence. Don't worry, though - these Victorians can deal with our modern currency too, but unsurprisingly they don't have any cash machines. There's also the funicular train, the clay mine ride and a funfair (pictured) to enjoy, complete with carousel, chair-o-planes and game stalls.

For further information and a list of forthcoming events, visit [ironbridge.org.uk](http://ironbridge.org.uk)



## Sharing Shakespeare's timeless stories...

Various locations, Stratford-upon-Avon.  
Tel: 01789 204016

A programme of unique events awaits those visiting Shakespeare's family homes this summer.

The five houses with connections to the Bard are Mary Arden's Farm, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Shakespeare's New Place, Hall's Croft and Shakespeare's Birthplace.

Highlights over the summer include: numerous outdoor stagings of Shakespeare's plays; The Big Picnic (21 July - see page 51 for details); Spice Up Your Life - an insight into the workings of a Jacobean kitchen (26 July); Celebration party at Shakespeare's New Place (19 August) and Shakes-paws Day - fun and games for your furry friends in celebration of National Dog Day (25 August).

For further information and all event listings, visit [shakespeare.org.uk](http://shakespeare.org.uk)



## Join the Enchanted Trail at Hawkstone Park

Hawkstone Park, Newcastle-under-Redcastle, North Shropshire, SY4 5JY  
Tel: 01948 841777

With its intricate pathways, ravines, arches and bridges, towering cliffs and follies, Hawkstone Park is a magical place for all the family to explore. Myths and legends abound, and many believe the site to be the final resting place of King Arthur. It's also rumoured that a small green chalice found at the park in the mists of time was believed to be the Holy Grail...

A new Enchanted Trail for the summer promises to provide a big adventure for younger visitors. From den building and giant telephones to trolls hiding behind rocks, the interactive trail is accompanied by illustrations by Emma Lawrence. Youngsters are required to collect leaves and ingredients for a magical spell, including finding the pot of gold from the end of the rainbow.





A photograph of a family (a man in a bowler hat, a boy, and a girl) standing in front of a historic street scene at the Black Country Living Museum. The boy is holding a large wooden horse head, and the girl is holding a red balloon. The background shows a street with brick buildings and people walking.

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## Go Ape! in Cannock Chase Forest

Cannock Chase Forest, Staffordshire, WS15 2UQ, Tel: 0845 094 9253

If you're after an awesome forest adventure, then Go Ape! at Staffordshire's Cannock Chase is the place to head for. Set in an area of outstanding beauty, this high-rope heaven features high-speed parallel zip wires, Tarzan swings, rope ladders and a variety of obstacles and crossings. Meanwhile, Forest Segway enables visitors to discover more of the forest's beautiful woodland on two wheels. For further info visit [goape.co.uk/days-out](http://goape.co.uk/days-out)

A poster for a 'TEDDY BEARS PICNIC' event. It features a large brown teddy bear sitting in a wicker picnic basket. A child wearing a white sun hat and a blue dress is sitting next to the basket. The background is a bright blue sky. The text on the poster includes the event name, date, time, and contact information.

**TEDDY BEARS PICNIC**

**Wednesday 22nd August**  
**11am - 3pm Doors Open 10am**

The Little ones and their furry friends are invited for a free picnic party (bring your own snacks or purchase from the Pavilion Tearoom), complete with children's entertainer, a magician, bouncy castle and face painting. Children are invited to dress up in their best costumes - there will be a prize for the best fancy dress!

**FREE** for members to attend and is included with general admission.

For more information please contact reception  
[birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk](http://birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk)

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**BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS**  
AN EDUCATIONAL CHARITY

## Feed your senses at Aston Hall

Aston Hall, Birmingham, B6 6JD. Tel: 0121 348 8100

Birmingham's majestic Aston Hall once again provides the backdrop for two days of 'delicious loveliness' when the Independent Birmingham Festival makes a welcome return this month (21 & 22 July). Last year, 2,000 people descended on the Jacobean heritage site for a fun-filled day of feasting, drinking, retail therapy and live music. Following on from the success of the 2017 event, organisers promise that this year's bash will be bigger and better. The food and drink line-up includes The Meat Shack, BoneHead, Buddha Belly, Burning Soul Brewing, Peel and Stone Pizzas, The Indian Brewery, Loki Wine, The Bournville Waffle Company, Pietanic and Cake Doctor, to name but a few... Live music comes courtesy of Pistol Pete Wearn, Bostin' Brass, Martyn Nelson & The Rhythm Remedies, The Heels and Call Me Unique. Tickets priced £10 are available from [designmynight.com/birmingham/whats-on/food-drink/independent-birmingham-festival-at-aston-hall](http://designmynight.com/birmingham/whats-on/food-drink/independent-birmingham-festival-at-aston-hall)



## Something for everyone at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3TR  
Tel: 0121 454 1860

Nestled away behind steel, concrete and roaring traffic in the busy heart of Birmingham, there's a lush oasis of calm that you might well never have noticed. Featuring four large glasshouses with an air of Victorian grandeur, lively animal inhabitants and interactive children's areas set in 15 acres of landscaped greenery, Birmingham Botanical Gardens is the perfect place to escape the noise and bustle of the city without the need to trek out into the countryside.

Do the kids need to let off some steam? If so, the children's playground's got it covered. You'll find it right by the picturesque Teulon Cottage gardens.

On the other hand, if you're looking for some chill-out time, you can take a moment to relax to the soothing sounds of running waterfalls at the Memory Pool, or disappear down sheltered pathways to find secluded, tranquil seating in the heart of the Bamboo Maze.

Whether you're looking for a breath of fresh air, a quick getaway from the daily grind, or a fun family day out with activities for the kids, Birmingham Botanical Gardens has plenty for everyone to discover. To find out more, visit [birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk](http://birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk)





# ENJOY SUMMER IN SOUTHSIDE!







## Traditional funfair rides, retro arcade games, theatre shows, family activities and plenty more... Birmingham Hippodrome's free annual event, Summer In Southside, makes a welcome return!

It's back! Birmingham Hippodrome's two-day family festival, Summer In Southside, returns to the city this month.

Taking place on 14 and 15 July around the Hippodrome and its foyers, this year's event has a retro theme which will see visitors recalling the carefree days of childhood.

Featuring an entirely free programme of events for both adults and children, the area will be transformed into a 'summer playground', complete with traditional funfair rides, retro arcade games and a whole host of nostalgic performances.

Brand new for this year is Fantabulousa. Housed in a technicolour pop-up grotto and devised with some of the region's leading drag artists, the event features stories, songs, dancing, dressing-up and plenty of glitter.

Another highlight of the 2018 edition of the event is the construction of French artist Olivier Grossetête's Perrott's Chinese Tower. Over the weekend, the giant structure will be built, pulled over and squashed. Birmingham Hippodrome will be running

free workshops (from Monday 9 July) for members of the general public who would like to help construct the building blocks in preparation for the festival.

Summer In Southside's theatrical delights include *There Be Monsters*. The show is a new outdoor commission from The Fabularium, an ensemble who scored a big hit at last year's festival with their production of *Reynard The Fox*.

And the fun doesn't end there. Inspired by classic arcade games, *Actual Reality Arcade* brings a life-sized interactive pop-up game zone to the city's streets, while *Fun DMC* boasts dance competitions, rap lessons, a graffiti train and a 'dad dance-off'.

And if all that's not enough, other festival highlights include street theatre, comedy, installation specialists *Dot Comedy*, pop-up theatre performances from *Pif Paf*, live brass band *Bostin Brass* and live performances from *Gorillabot*.

Visitors can also enjoy face painting, craft workshops, a whole host of family activities

and an array of independent food stalls.

Commenting on the event, Graham Callister, Associate Director, Community Engagement & Festivals at Birmingham Hippodrome, said: "Summer In Southside is a great festival for all the family to enjoy in the heart of the city. We have tons of activities to keep your little ones busy - and to entertain the big kids, too! This year, we're following the theme of 'childhood', which ties in nicely with our blockbuster show at the Hippodrome this summer - *Matilda The Musical*. "There'll be retro arcade games, pop-performances, craft workshops and food stalls flooding the streets of Southside, the Arcadian and our foyers. And it's all completely free!"

For further information about the festival's programme of events, visit [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)

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Summer In Southside takes place on Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 July in Southside, Birmingham



## 1940s Weekend Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sat 14 & Sun 15 July

Step back in time at Black Country Living Museum and immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of wartime Britain.

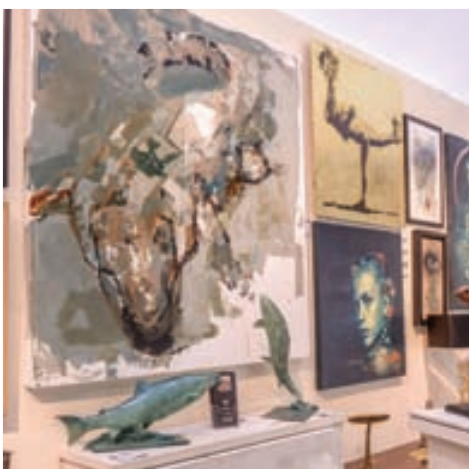
This ever-popular two-day event is set across the museum's 26 acres of recreated period houses and shops. Identity card in hand, explore wartime entertainment, food and fashion, stroll

through vintage memorabilia markets, check out vintage vehicles, meet 1940s characters and take an evacuee lesson at St James' school. And keep your eyes to the sky for the iconic Dakota too, which will be flying over the venue at various points throughout the weekend.

## The Engineering Show

Thinktank, Birmingham,  
Tues 24 July - Fri 31 Aug

Thinktank's latest show focuses on the work done by engineers, explaining how it helps to send humans into space, move heavy objects with ease and build super-strong roads. Visitors to the popular venue can take part in a bridge-building challenge, 'marvel' at rocket demonstrations and check out 'the strongest sandcastle you will ever see'. If you're visiting on a Saturday or Sunday, you can also participate in Operation Build - as part of the Thinktank Engineering Season - and learn about robots, coding and air power in one of the family-friendly workshops.



## Antiques For Everyone

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 19 - Sun 22 July

Featuring more than 200 specialist dealers, this is the largest vetted art, antiques and interiors fair outside of London.

The show features a wide range of pieces, including furniture, ceramics, sculptures, glass and jewellery, making it a must-attend event not only for collectors but also for those in need of interior inspiration.

## Victorian Handling Day

Sarehole Mill, Birmingham,  
Fri 27 July

Sarehole Mill is celebrating its industrial heritage this month by embracing all things Victorian. Visitors to the venue can discover both authentic and replica Victorian objects and learn about how they would have been used in everyday life.

Family-friendly Victorian mill tours also feature, revealing what life was like in the 19th century and how the Victorians turned flour into bread.



## Wars Of The Roses

Warwick Castle,  
Sun 1 July - Sun 2 September

This critically acclaimed live-action extravaganza, showing at Warwick Castle every weekend throughout the summer, comes complete with jousting, stunt riding and state-of-the-art special effects.

Experience the 32 years of the Wars of the Roses in just 32 minutes, as the legendary battle between the House of Lancaster and the House of York is vividly reenacted. And just to further add to the excitement of it all, on arrival visitors get to select which side they're going to root for in the forthcoming conflict. Sitting on the fence just isn't an option!







## Walking With Dinosaurs

Arena Birmingham, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 July

Dinosaurs are once again roaming the earth this summer, thanks to the welcome return of this globally acclaimed spectacular. Based on the award-winning BBC television series of the same name, the production is the

biggest dinosaur show in the world, and stars Michaela Strachan as Huxley the paleontologist. It also showcases 18 lifesize creatures fighting for survival, from the Triassic to the Jurassic eras, and features new state-of-the-art technology. In short, it's an absolute monster of an experience that'll leave a T-Rex-size imprint on your memory for many a year to come.

## The Big Picnic

Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 21 July

Pack a picnic to enjoy in the picturesque gardens of Anne Hathaway's Cottage, and check out the charming location in which a young William Shakespeare courted his bride-to-be. Face painting and garden games are also on the menu, as is an outdoor puppet theatre performance and free musical entertainment. And if you find that you're still hungry after emptying your picnic hamper of its contents, you'll be delighted to know that the event includes a barbecue too! Oh, and you'll also be delighted if you happen to live in Stratford-upon-Avon, as the event is free for CV37 residents who provide proof of address!



## Old Ford Rally

British Motor Museum, Warwickshire, Sun 15 July

Classic Ford fans will think they've died and gone to heaven at this popular event, this year taking place for a 10th time. The rally showcases around 400 vehicles produced by Ford, including commercials, tractors and vehicles with a Ford engine built up to 1990. It also features an autojumble and a live-display entertainment arena.

## Medieval Living History

Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire, Tues 31 July - Thurs 2 August

Fancy 'time-travelling' back to the medieval age? Families can do so at the end of this month, thanks to Tamworth Castle's 'household characters'. Visitors can learn from Lady Freville about the activities that fill her days, and also catch up with the laundress as she prepares clothes for washing 'the medieval way'. There's a chance to meet up with the armourer too, who'll be explaining how to make chain mail and medieval weapons.



## Step Back To The 1940s

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Sat 7 & Sun 8 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.



FRIDAY 20 JULY

6PM - 10PM

SATURDAY 21 JULY

11AM - 6PM

SUNDAY 22 JULY

12PM - 5PM



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The Jewellery Quarter Festival returns - experience the very best Birmingham's historic Quarter has to offer! Visit this unique neighbourhood and enjoy music, street food, entertainment, workshops, and tours for all ages.

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*Your week-  
by-week  
listings guide*  
**July 2018**

# the list



Lunar Festival - Tanworth-in-Arden, Fri 27 - Sun 29 July

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

## What's On

Sun 1 to Sun 8 July



Tom Stade at Bridge House  
Theatre, Warwick

**Thurs 5 July**

Mon 9 to Sun 15 July



Tom Jones Live at  
Ragley Hall, Alcester

**Thurs 12 July**

Mon 16 to Sun 22 July



Teletubbies Live! at Belgrade  
Theatre, Coventry

**Wed 18 - Thurs 19 July**

Mon 23 to Tues 31 July



Hands On History: Nature  
Detectives at Witley Court

**Wed 25 July - Fri 31 August**

## THROUGHOUT JULY

### Visual Arts

Artrix, Bromsgrove

**LACRIMARUM: CONTROL, UNCONTROLLABLE** Lacrimarum finds ways of exploring the ineffable through the artistic mediums of digital print, paint, textiles and sculpture, until Sun 12 Aug

**Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery**

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

**NEW INSPIRE 2018** Now in its third year, Inspire is a youth art competition for five-to-19-year-olds, this year taking its inspiration from the theme of colour, Sun 22 July - Sat 15 Sept

**NEW WITHIN AND WITHOUT: BODY IMAGE AND THE SELF** Exhibition examining how social, historical and cultural factors affect body image, and how this is expressed through objects and artworks, Sun 22 July- Fri 1 Feb

**Compton Verney Gallery, Warwick**

**THE MARVELLOUS MECHANICAL MUSEUM** Exhibition including early and rare automata and clockwork dating back to the 17th century, from collections such as The British Museum, V&A and Royal Collection, Sat 30 June - Sun 30 Sept

**RODNEY PEPPE'S WORLD OF INVENTION** Exhibition offering a fascinating insight into Rodney Peppé's creative career as a toy, automaton and model maker, children's author and illustrator, and graphic designer and artist, Sat 30 June - Sun 30 Sept

**Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch**

**NEW REDDITCH THROUGH THE AGES** Exhibition exploring the history and evolution of the town, featuring paintings and old photographs, Tues 10 - Tues 17 July

**BRICK BUILT** Celebration of 'the world's favourite toy', with models ranging from small animals to huge skyscrapers, Sat 21 July - Sun 2 Sept

**Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum**

**NEW ARE YOU IN THIS? LEAMINGTON**

**SPA IN THE GREAT WAR** Exhibition marking the centenary of the end of the First World War, and telling the story of Leamington Spa and its people during the conflict, Sat 28 July - Sun 11 Nov

**Rugby Art Gallery & Museum**

**RURAL RUGBY** Display featuring a small number of objects from the museum's social history collection, reflecting rural life in the borough, Sun 1 July - Sat 1 Sept

**The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**

**RARE: FROM 8-BIT TO XBOX ONE** Celebration of Rare, the award-winning and internationally renowned video games company based in Warwickshire, Sat 30 June - Sun 23 Sept

**PLAY: AN EXPLORATION OF TOYS, GAMES & FUN** Delve into the world of play in this interactive exhibition for all the family, Sat 30 June - Sun 23 Sept

**The Hive, Worcester**

**HEATHER & IVAN MORISON SCULPTURES** Heather and Ivan were 'artists in residence' at The Hive and University of Worcester in 2017, until Sun 1 July

**THROUGH THE MISTS OF TIME** Immersive experience inspired by the evolution of humans towards the end of the last Ice Age, until Sat 8 Sept, The Hive, Worcester

**LOST LANDSCAPES** Exhibition detailing all aspects of what it meant to be human in the Ice Age, until Tues 18 Sept, The Hive, Worcester

**Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery**

**ICE AGE** Celebrating half a million years of Worcestershire's history, until Sat 8 Sept

**THE WAR TO END ALL WARS** Exhibition exploring how our future was changed forever by the First World War, until Sat 10 Nov

**Other VISUAL ARTS**

**PAUL KENTON** Showcasing cityscape artist Paul's new Metallique II collection, until Sun 15 July, Castle Galleries, Stratford-upon-Avon

**MAD KING FAT KNIGHT** Exhibition of works of art created by RSC Honorary Associate Artist Antony Sher, until Sun 23 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**NEVILLE STAPLE - THE ORIGINAL RUDE BOY** Exhibition showing the many aspects of a man who has done so much for Coventry music, but also so much for other artists, until Sun 2 Dec, Coventry Music Museum



Foonyap - Tin Music & Arts, Coventry

### Gigs

**GEORGE EZRA** Sun 1 July, Cannock Chase Forest, Rugeley

**BAS** Mon 2 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**VOYAGER** Wed 4 July, The Asylum, B'ham

**JOE O'DONNELL'S SHKAYLA** Wed 4 July, The Robin, Bilston

**KING OF POP - THE LEG-END CONTINUES... STARRING NAVI** Thurs 5 July, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**FOONYAP** Thurs 5 July, Tin Music and Arts, Coventry

**CATFISH** Fri 6 July, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

**MOSTLY JAZZ FUNK & SOUL AFTERPARTY: DAVID RODIGAN** Fri 6 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**TOM HENDERSON** Fri 6 July, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**BAD PRACTICE & NEIL**

**DIABLO** Fri 6 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

**DURAN VS. TRUE GOLD** Fri 6 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**FUNKED UP FRIDAY** Fri 6 July, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**ABBA MANIA** Fri 6 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**MARTY WILDE & THE WILDCATS** Fri 6 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**WAVELENGTH** Sat 7 July, MAC, B'ham

**THE KAST OFF KINKS** Sat 7 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**WALK LIKE A MAN** Sat 7 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**CLASSIC IBIZA** Sat 7 July, Ragley Hall, Alcester

**BACK TO THE 80S PARTY WITH THE GR80S** Sat 7 July, Nailcote Hall, Berkswell

**FIREBIRD SINGERS PRESENT SATURDAY NIGHT**

**AT THE MOVIES** Sat 7 July, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**TDV20** Sat 7 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**ROGER WATERS: US AND THEM TOUR** Sat 7 July, Arena Birmingham

**PROTEST THE HERO PLUS SUPPORT FROM NORMA JEAN, LOATHE AND CYCLEMEN** Sat 7 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

**THE COUNTERFEIT SIXTIES** Sat 7 July, Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**MOSTLY JAZZ FUNK & SOUL AFTERPARTY: CRAIG CHARLES** Sat 7 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**KUMAR SANU & ANURADHA PAUDWAL** Sun 8 July, Arena B'ham

**GAMBOLERS** Sun 8 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**BRATISLAVA HOT SERENADERS** Sun 8 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester



Voyager - The Asylum, Birmingham



## Classical Music

**COME AND SING MOZART REQUIEM** Featuring Liz Green & Phil Montero (conductors), Sun 1 July, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**VERBUNKOS TRIO IN RECITAL** Featuring Yu-Mien Sun (violin), Luke Newby (clarinet) & Bernard Tan (piano). Programme includes works by Darius Milhaud, Aram Khachaturian & Béla Bartók, Mon 2 July, Birmingham Town Hall

**EMMANUEL TJEKNAVORIAN SOLO VIOLIN RECITAL** Programme includes works by Bach, Ysaÿe, Christoph Ehrenfeiler & Bartók, Mon 2 July, Birmingham Town Hall

**ARMONICO CONSORT: SUPERSIZE POLYPHONY 360** Featuring The Armonico Consort, The Choir of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge & Christopher Monks (director), Thurs 5 July, Malvern Theatres

**MUSIC FOR YOUTH NATIONAL FESTIVAL** Featuring young musicians from across the UK, Thurs 5 July, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**ARMONICO CONSORT: SUPERSIZE POLYPHONY 360** Featuring The Armonico Consort, The Choir of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge & Christopher Monks (director), Fri 6 July, Coventry Cathedral

**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Featuring Edward Gardner (conductor). Programme includes works by Schubert, Strauss & Mendelssohn, Fri 6 July, Lichfield Cathedral

**THE CARDUCCI QUARTET** Featuring Danny Driver (piano). Programme includes works by Shostakovich, Brahms & Elgar, Sat 7 July, St Michael's Greenhill Church, Lichfield

**BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL CHOIR: THE DIVINE BEAUTY** Programme includes works by Parry, Mendelssohn, Ireland & Finzi, Sat 7 July, Birmingham Cathedral

**REDDITCH ORCHESTRA: FAMILY CONCERT FAVOURITES** Sun 8 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**CARDUCCI'S BY CANDLELIGHT** Featuring Matthew Denton & Michael Fleming (violins), Eoin Schmidt-Martin (viola) & Emma Denton (cello). Programme includes works by Pärt, Cruttwell-Read & Glass, Sun 8 July, Lichfield Cathedral

**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Featuring Edward Gardner (conductor) & the CBSO Youth Chorus. Programme includes various works by Mendelssohn & Schubert, Sun 8 July, Birmingham Town Hall

**COMMUNITY SPIRIT** Join some of the best choirs and homegrown talent in the West Midlands for an evening of choral music, Sun 8 July, Symphony

Hall, Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor). Programme includes works by Stravinsky & Prokofiev, Sun 8 July, The Bramall, Birmingham University

## Comedy

**THE HILARITY CHARITY GALA** Tues 3 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**MITCH BENN, DANA ALEXANDER** Wed 4 July, The Patrick Kavanagh, B'ham

**TOM STADE** Thurs 5 July, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**ANDREW RYAN, SCOTT GIBSON & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 5 July, The Glee Club, B'ham

**GRIFF RHYS JONES** Thurs 5 July, MAC, Birmingham

**JETHRO** Fri 6 July, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**BOBBY MAIR, JACOB HAWLEY, HANNAH PLATT, BEN HOPE & TOM HAM** Fri 6 July, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

**JO CAULFIELD & HAL CRUTTENDEN** Fri 6 July, MAC, Birmingham

**ANDREW RYAN, SCOTT GIBSON, MICKY P KERR & WILSON DIXON** Fri 6 - Sat 7 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**STAND UP COMEDY SHOWCASE** Fri 6 - Sat 7 July, MAC, Birmingham

**TOM ALLEN** Sat 7 July, Lichfield Garrick

**MARLON DAVIS, GLAZZ CAMP & DEANO MAC** Sat 7 July, MAC, Birmingham

**PAUL SMITH** Sat 7 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**LUKE BENSON, KANE BROWN, SEAN MEO & STEFANO PAOLINI** Sat 7 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

**LAUGHING SOLE COMEDY CLUB FOR KIDS** Sun 8 July, MAC, Birmingham

## Theatre

**MISCHIEF MOVIE NIGHT** The team behind The Play That Went Wrong create a movie from scratch before your very eyes, until Sun 1 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

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

**MISS LITTLEWOOD** New musical based on the life story of anarchic theatre legend Joan Littlewood, until Sat 4 Aug, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**MACBETH** Starring Christopher Eccleston and Niamh Cusack, until Tues 18 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre,



Tom Stade - Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

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

**EMMA** The Crescent Theatre present Sallyanne Scotton Moonga's adaptation of Jane Austen's classic, Sat 30 June - Sun 1 July, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

**EQUUS** The Crescent Theatre Company present its version of Peter Shaffer's psychological 'detective' story, Sat 30 June - Sat 7 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**AT THE MOVIES** Showcase of works by Class Act Theatrical, Sun 1 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**ODDSOCKS' THE TEMPEST** Madcap funsters Oddssocks give a sci-fi slant to Shakespeare's last play, Sun 1 July, Fillongley Lodge, Coventry

**THE EGG RUMOUR** Musical play exploring the new office perk large corporations are offering female employees: social freezing! Mon 2 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

**THE PHYSICAL FELLOWSHIP 2018** The UK's only physical theatre festival exclusively for young people, Mon 2 - Thurs 5 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**HIP** Interactive theatre show by Jolie Booth, producer of the award-winning Backstage In Biscuit Land, Wed 4 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**13 THE MUSICAL** Amateur staging presented by SAOS Youth Theatre, Wed 4 - Fri 6 July, Stourbridge Town Hall

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** Bromsgrove Operatic Society present an amateur staging of the iconic musical, Wed 4 -

Sat 7 July, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

**SHARING JOY** Fully masked theatre company Vamos fuse puppetry, music and dance in a show that celebrates life and all its joys, Thurs 5 July, MAC, Birmingham

**DYLAN THOMAS: CLOWN IN THE MOON** Dramatic portrait of the poet's chaotic, frequently hilarious and all-too-brief life, Thurs 5 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**GRIFF RHYS JONES: WHERE WAS I?** Join the Not The Nine O'Clock News star for an evening of stories, anecdotes, reminiscences and outright lies, Thurs 5 July, MAC, Birmingham

**SUPER HAMLET 64** Edward Day's modern-day take on Shakespeare's most famous play, featuring physical comedy, live music and 16 bit animation, Thurs 5 - Fri 6 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**PARROTS OF THE CARIBBEAN** Tony Peters' comic adventure, featuring catchy songs, dances and crazy bird puppets, Thurs 5 - Sat 7 July, The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE TEMPEST** All-male theatre company The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's final play, Fri 6 July, Witley Court, Great Witley, Worcestershire

**TASSELS: AN EVENING OF BURLESQUE** Featuring top burlesque, comedy and circus performers, Fri 6 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**WHERE IS MRS CHRISTIE?** Liz Grand's one-woman show explores the events which sparked one of the biggest and most expensive police hunts in history, Fri 6 July, Lichfield Garrick



Giovanni Pernice: *Born To Win* - Palace Theatre, Redditch

**PROVIDENCE** A darkly comic journey through the life and works of America's most infamous horror writer, HP Lovecraft, Sat 7 July, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**LOCK DOWN** Foundations Youth Theatre present an immersive theatrical experience exploring what happens when a school goes into lockdown and the rule book gets thrown out of the window, Sat 7 July, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**POLARIS** Join Holly and Ted on a fantastical adventure through time and space, Sat 7 July, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**EMMA** The Crescent Theatre present Sallyanne Scotton Moonga's adaptation of Jane Austen's classic, Sat 7 - Sun 8 July, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

**HANCOCK & CO. ONE MAN, MANY VOICES** James Hurn's one-man show celebrating over 60 years of Hancock's Half Hour, Sun 8 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**PRIDE AND PREJUDICE** Heartbreak Productions adaptation of the Jane Austen classic, Sun 8 July, Caldecott Park, Rugby

**ROMEO AND JULIET** Oddsocks breathe new life into Shakespeare's famous love story by giving it a musical mods & rockers twist, Sun 8 July, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**ALAN BENNETT'S TALKING HEADS** Lichfield Festival production featuring Her Big Chance and A Lady Of Letters, Sun 8 July, Lichfield Garrick

## Kids Show

**KEEPLY UPPY** A play for the 2018 World Cup, for football fans, non-football fans, children and families, Sun 1 July, MAC, Birmingham

**LITTLE BABY BUM** Join Mia, Jacus, Twinkle and their nursery rhyme friends, Sun 1 - Mon 2 July, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**BUGSY MALONE** Amateur staging presented by QMTS Juniors, Tues 3 - Wed 4 July, Crescent Theatre, B'ham

**THE SNAIL AND THE WHALE** Tall Stories bring Julia Donaldson's bestselling picture book to life, Tues 3 - Wed 4 July, Malvern Theatres

**MATILDA THE MUSICAL** The Royal Shakespeare Company's award-winning musical, Tues 3 July - Sat 8 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

**LITTLE BABY BUM** Join Mia, Jacus, Twinkle and their nursery rhyme friends, Fri 6 - Sat 7 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

## Dance

**GIOVANNI PERNICE: BORN TO WIN** Wed 4 July, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**EVOLUTION** BOA Year 12 Pathway showcase a variety of styles and choreographic routines, Wed 4 - Thurs 5 July, The Old Rep, B'ham

**RHYTHM OF THE DANCE** Celebration of Irish culture through music and dance, Thurs 5 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**SOMNIUM: A DANCER'S DREAM** Strictly stars Neil and Katya Jones present a fusion of dance styles, Thurs 5 July, Lichfield Cathedral

**CINDERELLA** Ballet Cymru fuse classical dance with elements of circus, Fri 6 July, Lichfield Garrick

**UNDERGROUND** Leamington's Motion-house fuse physical dance, poignant imagery and aerial dexterity to explore the intimacy of a crowded carriage, Sat 7 July, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

## Talks

**REGGAE WOMEN** An evening of spoken word and song in celebration of Reggae music and its contribution to British society, Sat 7 July, MAC, Birmingham

**JAMES YARKER: STAN'S CAFE - WORDS** Sun 8 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

## Film

### INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

**THE BOY DOWNSTAIRS (12a)** Comedy/Drama. Starring Zosia Mamet, Matthew Shear. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Mon 2 July

**THE HAPPY PRINCE (15)** Drama/History. Starring Rupert Everett, Colin Firth. Malvern Theatres, until Thurs 5 July

**JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM (12a)** Adventure/Sci-Fi. Starring Bryce Dallas Howard, Chris Pratt. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, until Thurs 5 July

**BOOK CLUB (12a)** Comedy. Starring Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Thurs 5 July; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 4 & Fri 6 July

**ALL THE WILD HORSES (15)** Documentary/Adventure. Starring George Azarias, Andrew Challen. Foreign language, subtitled. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 2 July

**FINDING YOUR FEET (12a)** Comedy/Drama. Starring Joanna Lumley, Celia Imrie. Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 2 July

**ON CHESIL BEACH (12a)** Drama/Romance. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Emily Watson. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 2 - Tues 3 July

**THE LEISURE SEEKER (15)**

Comedy/Drama. Starring Helen Mirren, Donald Sutherland. No. 8, Pershore, Mon 2 - Tues 3 July

**THE BROMLEY BOYS (PG)** Comedy. Starring Martine McCutcheon, Alan Davies. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 2 - Thurs 5 July

**TULLY (15)** Comedy/Drama. Starring Charlize Theron, Mackenzie Davis. Malvern Theatres, Tues 3 & Thurs 5 July; No. 8, Pershore, Fri 6 - Sat 7 July

**MY GOLDEN DAYS (15)** Drama. Starring Quentin Dolmaire, Lou Roy-Lecollinet. Foreign language, subtitled. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 4 - Thurs 5 July

**THE BOOKSHOP (12a)** Drama. Starring Emily Mortimer, Bill Nighy. Malvern Theatres, Fri 6 - Tues 10 & Thurs 12 July

**OCEAN'S 8 (12a)** Action/Comedy. Starring Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 6 - Thurs 12 July

**WEST SIDE STORY (PG)** Drama/Musical. Starring Natalie Wood, George Chakiris. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 8 July

**EDIE (12a)** Drama. Starring Sheila Hancock, Kevin Guthrie. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 8 July

### NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 6 July, showing at selected cinemas

**THE FIRST PURGE (tbc)**

**MARY SHELLEY (12a)**

**POSTCARDS FROM THE 48% (tbc)**

**SWIMMING WITH MEN (12a)**

**UNCLE DREW (12a)**

**WHITNEY (15)**

## Events

**THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW** Featuring knitting, cross stitch, papercrafting, jewellery & dressmaking and stitching, until Sun 1 July, NEC, B'ham





# Sunday 1 to Sunday 8 July

**STEP BACK TO THE 1940S** until Sun 1 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

**RUGBY FESTIVAL OF CULTURE** Featuring over 100 events and including music, theatre, arts, crafts and comedy, until Sun 15 July, various locations in and around Rugby

**WORCESTER YEOMANRY CAVALRY** The cavalry provide an insight into life in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, Sun 1 July, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

**WIZARDRY AND MAGIC** Featuring magic shows and workshops, Sun 1 July, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

**WARS OF THE ROSES LIVE** The critically acclaimed live action show returns with even more stunts and tricks, Sun 1 July - Sun 2 Sept, Warwick Castle

**LAVENDER MONTH** Sun 1 - Tues 31 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**SOUND AND FURY: MORRIS DANCERS FROM SEATTLE** Thurs 5 July, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**OUTDOOR CINEMA: GREASE** Enjoy the hit 1978 movie on a giant inflatable screen, Fri 6 July, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**THE BIG EVENT** Featuring the UK's largest display of vehicles for disabled people, Fri 6 - Sat 7 July, NEC, Birmingham

**JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK** Sat 7 July, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

**CLASSIC IBIZA** The Urban Soul Orchestra return with a concert of Ibiza anthems, Sat 7 July, Ragley Hall, Alcester

**COUGHTON VILLAGE SUMMER FETE** Sat 7 July, Coughton Court, Alcester

**DISCOVER YOUR BRITISH FAMILY HISTORY** Workshop on how to research your family prior to 1840, Sat 7 July, Birmingham Back to Backs

**BIG BAND SHOW** Featuring a jazz or-

chestra and special guests playing tunes from the 1940s, Sat 7 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

**LARGE MODEL AIR SHOW** Sat 7 - Sun 8 July, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

**STEP BACK TO THE 1940S** Sat 7 - Sun 8 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

**CADBURY CHARACTER BREAKFAST** Sat 7 - Tues 31 July, Cadbury World, Birmingham

**CADBURY CHARACTER SHOWS** Sat 7 - Tues 31 July, Cadbury World, B'ham

**VICTORIAN DAY** Sun 8 July, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

**KNIGHTS AND PRINCESSES SCHOOL** Medieval mayhem for children, Sun 8 July, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

**MEDIEVAL ARCHERY DAY** Sun 8 July, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

## Food Festivals

**COLMORE FOOD FESTIVAL** Annual celebration of Colmore Business District restaurants, bars, cafes and hotels. Expect live cooking demos, entertainment, cocktail masterclasses, wine tasting & food galore... Fri 6 - Sat 7 July, Victoria Square, Birmingham

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL** Grab your tankard and quench your thirst with your choice of over 70 beers and 30 ciders... Fri 6 - Sat 7 July, Stratford-upon-Avon Racecourse, Warwickshire

**NUNEATON FOOD FESTIVAL** Inaugural event featuring a line-up of over 40 food & drink traders, live entertainment and kids activities, Sun 8 July, Queens Road, Nuneaton



War Of The Roses Live - Warwick Castle



## Classic Ibiza

Ragley Hall, Warwickshire, Sat 7 July

This Ministry of Sound-sponsored event offers a unique twist on iconic Ibiza anthems. A chill-out set kickstarts proceedings in fine fashion, after which there's a half-hour interval with a live DJ playing the latest Ibiza tunes. As dusk falls, the lasers will hit the Ragley skyline while the critically acclaimed Urban Soul Orchestra bring some of the White Island's finest dance tunes to orchestral life.

## Music Festivals

**LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL**

**EISTEDDFOD** Line-up includes Alfie Boe, Van Morrison, renowned baroque instrumental group Red Priest, and award winning Welsh folk band Calan, Tues 3 - Sun 8 July, Royal International Pavillion, Llangollen

**LICHFIELD FESTIVAL** Multi-arts festival bringing world class music, arts and entertainment to the West Midlands, Wed 4 - Sat 14 July, Lichfield

**NAPTON MUSIC FESTIVAL** Confirmed acts include Oas-is, Chaos, Duckworths, DirtyJACKDC, Kate and the Mooncats & Hoo Hah Conspiracy, Fri 6 - Sat 7 July, Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire

**THE MOSTLY JAZZ, FUNK AND SOUL FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Jimmy Cliff, Candi Staton, Sister Sledge, David Rodigan, Lucky Chops, Roy Ayers, Jungle Brothers, Craig Charles, Fred Wesley & The New JB's, Chali 2na & Krafty Kuts, Osaka Monaurail & Ezra Collective, Fri 6 - Sun 8 July, Moseley Park, Birmingham

**BANSTOCK SONGWRITERS' FESTIVAL** The emphasis of the festival is local

talent with The Wonder Stuff's Miles Hunt heading the event. Local boys The Wild Flowers, Two Faced Tom & The Bootleg Boys, Jess Silk, The Humdrum Express, Tasha Jerawan and Sam Draisey also feature, Sat 7 July, Bantock House, Wolverhampton

**WEST FEST** Line-up includes Ray Mytton Band, Gordon Giltrap, Demi McMahon, Hennessea, Answer Back, Temple Lake, Trever Steger, Bourbon Alley and much more... Sat 7 July, West Malvern Playing Field, Worcestershire

**WOO FEST** Line-up includes Arcadia Roots, Junction 7, Come Together and more... Sat 7 July, Drum & Monkey, near Upton Upon Severn, Worcestershire



Craig Charles - Mostly Jazz, Funk & Soul



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*What's On...*

14<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
LEAMINGTON CARNIVAL

4<sup>TH</sup> & 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
ART IN THE PARK

18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
WARWICKSHIRE PRIDE

8<sup>TH</sup> & 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
LEAMINGTON FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

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<p>Friday 13 July <b>DESPERADO</b></p> <p>EAGLES TRIBUTE - FROM CALIFORNIA TO EDEN</p>	<p>Tues 17 &amp; Thurs 19 July <b>PANDORA'S BOX</b> (PG)</p> <p>SILENT CLASSIC STARRING LOUISE BROOKS</p>	<p>Friday 20 July <b>THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE</b></p> <p>WORLD'S FINEST BON JOVI TRIBUTE</p>
<p>Saturday 21 July <b>ABBA REUNION</b></p> <p>MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN!</p>	<p>Wednesday 25 July <b>JAY FOREMAN</b></p> <p>DISGUSTING SONGS FOR REVOLTING CHILDREN</p>	<p>Tuesday 31 July <b>LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD</b></p> <p>MUSIC, SILLINESS &amp; ENCHANTING PUPPETRY</p>

**COMING SOON:** Dylan Thomas: Clown In The Moon, Duran vs True Gold, Kast Off Kinks, Redditch Orchestra, Dean Friedman, 60s Night Out, Simple Politics, Young Herbert's Horrors, The Wild Tonic, The Counterfeit Sixties, Kelly Oliver, Chantel McGregor, Scummy Mummies, Totally Tina, Ensonglopedia Of Animals, Mary-Ann Ochota & Jason Buck, Dr Phil Hammond, Gary Delaney, The Real Thing, Super Hamlet 64, The Fortunes, Pete Firman...

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Shakespeare's New Place  
Hall's Croft



### Gigs

**THE CONTORTIONIST** Mon 9 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

**DANNY MCMAHON** Mon 9 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

**DOYLE** Tues 10 July, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

**BEN DRUMMOND** Tues 10 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**THE BREEDERS** Wed 11 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**UNFORGETTABLE: A NAT KING COLE TRIBUTE** Wed 11 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**KATIE'S ORGANIC JAM NIGHT** Wed 11 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**TOM C WALKER & BAND** Thurs 12 July, The Jam House, B'ham

**IGLU MUSIC LIVE ORIGINAL ARTISTS** Thurs 12 July, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**HELLIONS** Thurs 12 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**TOM JONES LIVE** Thurs 12 July, Ragley Hall, Alcester

**DESPERADO: FROM CAL-**

**IFORNIA TO EDEN** Fri 13 July, Artrix, Broms-grove

**CLAIRE ATHERTON** Fri 13 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

**DRESSED TO KILL** Fri 13 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

**BORN IN CHICAGO - TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS** Fri 13 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**THE ATLANTIC PLAYERS** Fri 13 July, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**STATELY MADNESS** Fri 13 July, Ragley Hall, Alcester

**ALFIE JACK** Fri 13 July, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

**SINATRA AT THE SANDS: PERFORMED BY CURTIS STIGERS AND THE RONNIE SCOTT'S BIG BAND** Fri 13 July, Birmingham Town Hall

**THE HUNNA** Fri 13 July, O2 Academy, B'ham

**CELTICA 2018** Fri 13 & Sat 14 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**DEAN FRIEDMAN "WELL, WELL," SAID THE ROCKING CHAIR' TOUR** Fri 13 July, Artrix, Broms-grove

**RONI SIZE** Fri 13 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE** Fri 13 July, The River Rooms, Stour-bridge

**JAMES MORRISON WITH THE MIDLAND YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA** Fri 13 July, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

**ROCK OF AGES EXPERIENCE** Sat 14 July, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley

**HERITAGE: TOMISLAV, SI STORER & NIK GILLET** Sat 14 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**CORRUPT THE SYSTEM** Sat 14 July, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

**THE BACKBONE SLIPS** Sat 14 July, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**STRAIGHTEN OUT - STRANGLERS TRIBUTE** Sat 14 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**MAMMA MIA PARTY WITH SENSATION** Sat 14 July, Nailcote Hall, Berkswell

**ICONIC 80S** Sat 14 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**PROGRESS WRESTLING CHAPTER 73** Sun 15 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

### Classical Music

**SERVICES FOR EDUCATION YOUTH PROMS** Compered by BBC TV presenter Michael Collie, Mon 9 - Wed 11 July, The Foyer, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**IL DIVO FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST MICHAEL BALL** Sat 14 July, Ragley Hall, Alcester

**CBSO SO VOCAL SUMMER SING UP!** Featuring CBSO SO Vocal & the Little Big Time Band, Sun 15 July, Birmingham Town Hall

**NATIONAL SCHOOLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Sun 15 July, Malvern Theatres

### Comedy

**KAMIKAZE CLUB NIGHTS** Mon 9 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

**THE COMEDY HUT** Tues 10 July, The Civic, Stourport

**GLENN WOOL, SAM AVERY** Wed 11 July, The Patrick Kavanagh, B'ham  
**JOHN HASTINGS, DAVE HILL & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 12 July, The Glee Club, B'ham

**NICK DOODY & JENNY COLLIER** Thurs 12 July, MAC, Birmingham

**JOHN HASTINGS, DAVE HILL, NOEL JAMES & COMIC TBC** Fri 13 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**BARBARA NICE'S SUMMER SPECIAL FEATURING CLINTON BAPTISTE** Fri 13 July, MAC, Birmingham

**STEPHEN CARLIN & WILL MARS** Fri 13 July, Evesham Arts Centre

**LOU CONRAN, RUDI LICKWOOD, PIERRE HOLINS & GARRETT MILLERICK** Sat 14 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

### Theatre

**THE EGG RUMOUR** Musical play exploring the new office perk large corporations are offering to female employees: social freezing! Mon 9 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

**READ ALL ABOUT IT!** Double-bill of works (one immersive) based around the story of the Coventry Evening Telegraph and set within the newspaper's iconic city centre building, Tues 10 - Sat 14 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**IOLANTHE** Sasha Regan's all-male company return with Gilbert & Sullivan's topsy-turvy love story, Tues 10 - Sat 14 July, Malvern Theatres

**THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES** Worcester Repertory Company presents an amateur staging of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous mystery, Tues 10 - Sun 22 July, The Commandery, Worcester

**DIRTY WHITE BOYS** The highly acclaimed sketch duo make a welcome return, Wed 11 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES** Presented outdoors by Chapter House Theatre Company, Wed 11 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**EMMA** Sallyanne Scotton Moonga's adaptation of Jane Austen's famous story, Wed 11 - Thurs 12 July, Selly Manor, Birmingham

**LATE SHAKES** BOA Year 12 Acting Pathway present Shakespeare's The Tempest, Coriolanus and Measure For Measure, Wed 11 - Thurs 12 July, The Old Rep Theatre, B'ham

**TWELFTH NIGHT** Presented by Spitfire Theatre Company, Wed 11 - Fri 13 July, Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Coventry

**ANYTHING GOES** Starbuck Theatre Company present an amateur staging of Cole Porter's musical comedy, Wed 11 - Fri 13 July, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** Second Thoughts present an amateur staging of Shakespeare's much-loved comedy, Wed 11 - Sat 14 July, The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**TIPTOE THROUGH THE TOMBSTONES** Amateur staging of Mike Brooks' comedy thriller, Wed 11 - Sat 21 July, Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

**TINA T'URNER TEA LADY'S STEAMY BINGO** 'Laugh, dance and play to win' as Tina spins her cage of balls to a high-energy '80s soundtrack, Thurs 12 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**CINDERELLA & ROCKERFELLA** St John Fisher present 'a show with a twist', Thurs 12 July, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM** Amateur staging based on Michelle Magorian's award-winning book, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 July, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**JAY ADKINS** Magic show combining cutting-edge mentalism and mind magic, Fri 13 July, The Civic, Stourport

**A NIGHT OF MUSICAL THEATRE** Presented by KODYS, Fri 13 - Sat 14 July, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS** Amateur staging of Richard Bean's adaptation of Carlo Goldoni's Servant Of Two Masters, Fri 13 - Sat 21 July, Hall



Tom Jones - Ragley Hall, Alcester





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Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

**LADIES' DAY** Cheryl Fergison, Deena Payne and Tony Christie star in a brand new staging of Amanda Whittington's smash-hit comedy, Fri 13 - Sat 28 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

**BIRMINGHAM FEST** The city's annual theatre festival returns for a sixth year, Fri 13 - Sun 29 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham & AE Harris Building, Birmingham

**MISCHIEF & MYSTERY IN MOOMIN VALLEY** Interactive puppet show for children aged between three and seven, Sat 14 July, Henry Sandon Hall, Worcester

**ODDSOCKS' THE TEMPEST** Madcap funsters Oddssocks give a sci-fi slant to Shakespeare's last play, Sat 14 July, MAC, Birmingham

**PIRATES OF PENZANCE** Presented by Illyria, Sat 14 July, Packwood House, Solihull

**EMMA** Sallyanne Scotton Moonga's adaptation of Jane Austen's famous story, Sat 14 - Sun 15 July, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

**ROMEO AND JULIET** Oddssocks breathe new life into Shakespeare's famous love story by giving it a musical mod & rockers twist, Sun 15 July, MAC, Birmingham

**OLIVER TWIST: AN ARTS ADAPTATION** Amateur staging presented by pupils from All Round Theatre School, Sun 15 July, Palace Theatre, Redditch

## Dance

**KEVIN AND KAREN DANCE - THE LIVE TOUR** Join the Strictly duo for a high-energy evening of waltz, cha cha, fox trot, tango and salsa, Sat 14 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**ACCELERATE: DANCEFEST** Evening of work created and performed by talented dancers from West Midlands-based youth dance companies, Sat 14 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove



## Talks

**BRIGHT SMOKE** Poetry night bringing together writing and performance & featuring Harry Baker (pictured) & Georgina Wilding, Thurs 12 July, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon



**HIT THE ODE** Apples And Snakes present a performance poetry night featuring international and national poets performing alongside open micers, Fri 13 July, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

**JACK BOSKETT: FROM RAILWAYS TO ROYALTY** Tewkesbury's royal photographer presents his work on the big screen, Sat 14 July, The Roses, Tewkesbury

## Film

### INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

**ON CHESIL BEACH (12a)** Drama/Romance. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Emily Watson. No.8, Pershore, Mon 9 - Tues 10 July

**IN THE FADE (18)** Crime/Drama. Starring Diane Kruger, Denis Moschitto. Malvern Theatres, Tues 10 - Thurs 12 July

**THAT GOOD NIGHT (12a)** Drama. Starring John Hurt, Sofia Helin. No. 8, Pershore, Thurs 12 July

**EDIE (12a)** Drama. Starring Sheila Hancock, Kevin Guthrie. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 13 July

**BOOK CLUB (12a)** Comedy. Starring Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda. Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Fri 13 - Tues 17 July

**THE HAPPY PRINCE (15)** Drama/History. Starring Rupert Everett, Colin Firth. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 13 - Tues 17 July

**IDEAL HOME (15)** Drama/Comedy. Starring Steve Coogan, Paul Rudd. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 13 - Wed 18 July

**WHITNEY (tbc)** Documentary/Biography. Starring Whitney Houston, Bobby Brown. Malvern Theatres, Fri 13 - Tues 17 & Thurs 19 July

### THE BREADWINNER (12a)

Animation/Drama. With the voices of Sara Chaudry, Ali Badshah. Malvern Theatres, Sat 14 - Sun 15 July; Malvern Theatres, Sat 14 - Tues 17 & Thurs 19 July

### NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 13 July, showing at selected cinemas

**SKYSCRAPER (tbc)**

**FIRST REFORMED (15)**

**INCREDIBLES 2 (PG)**

**THE SECRET OF MARROWBONE (15)**

## Events

**A FLAVOUR OF THE FLEECE - TASTE & TOUR EVENING** Join landlord Nigel Smith for a tour of the building, Mon 9 July, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**A FLAVOUR OF THE FORTIES** Special 1940s weekend, Mon 9 - Fri 13 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** The Three Inch Fools present Shakespeare's best-loved comedy, Tues 10 July, Charlecote Park, Warwick

**RAMBLE WITH A RANGER** Find out about the conservation work and the wildlife of the hills on a five-mile ramble led by a ranger, Wed 11 July, Clent Hills, Worcestershire

**SUMMER IN SOUTHSIDE** Featuring traditional funfair rides, retro games and nostalgic performances, Sat 14 - Sun 15 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

**1940S WEEKEND** Sat 14 - Sun 15 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

### WIMBLEDON FINALS IN CENTRAL SQUARE!

Watch the 2018 Wimbledon finals live on a big screen, Sat 14 July, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

**SHAKESPEARE'S ALE** Bob Yeats from Tunnel Brewery presents a collection of hand-crafted ales for tasting, Sat 14 July, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford Upon Avon

**LEAMINGTON CARNIVAL** Large community event featuring a colourful array of floats, drummers, dancers, live bands and much more... Sat 14 July, Royal Leamington Spa

**TAMWORTH AETHELFLAED FESTIVAL** Find out what life was like for those living in Tamworth during Saxon times, Sat 14 - Sun 15 July, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

**FAMILY FUN DAY** Featuring garden games and a zipwire, Sun 15 July, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

**BRETFEST VILLAGE FETE & CLYPPING OF THE FLEECE** Celebrate the legacy of The Fleece, plus the 'Clypping' of the Fleece (as seen on Channel Four's Village Of The Year), Sun 15 July, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

## Music Festivals

**BROMSGROVE FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up includes The Demon Barber Roadshow, Cosmotheke & Silvington, Thurs 12 - Sun 15 July, The Bowling Green, Bromsgrove

**FUSE LICHFIELD** Free family community arts festival featuring a culturally diverse mix of events, performances and activities for all ages, Fri 13 - Sun 15 July, Beacon Park, Lichfield, Staffordshire



The Demon Barber Roadshow - Bromsgrove Folk Festival



Preoccupations - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## Gigs

**PREOCCUPATIONS** Mon 16 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THE BARR BROTHERS** Mon 16 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**THE MARTIN TROTMAN BAND** Tues 17 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**ELIO PACE PRESENTS ELVIS PRESLEY** Tues 17 July, Malvern Theatres

**THE WEEKS** Tues 17 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**ONLY SUN + HANDWAXX** Wed 18 July, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

**HAYSEED DIXIE** Wed 18 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS** Thurs 19 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**GAGA** Thurs 19 July, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**JONNY COLE & THE FLAT PINT OF MILD** Thurs 19 July, The Robin, Bilston

**'SOUL AND MOTOWN' PARTY WITH DAYTON GREY** Fri 20 July, Nailcote Hall, Berkswell

**WAX ON** Fri 20 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THE DRIFTERS** Fri 20 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**UPROAR THE REUNION** Fri 20 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**THE KINX** Fri 20 July, The Night Owl, B'ham

**THE BEAT BROTHERS** Fri 20 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**THE BLOCKHEADS** Fri 20 July, MAC, B'ham

**PLASTIC SCENE + JOHNNY KILLS+ M A R C + THE CREATURE APPEAL + WHAT'S LEFT** Fri 20 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

**CANNED HEAT** Fri 20 July, The Assembly,

Leamington Spa

**DIG?** Sat 21 July, The Night Owl, B'ham

**BIG LUCKY** Sat 21 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**ABBA REUNION** Sat 21 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**CYMBELINE** Sat 21 July, The O2 Academy, Birmingham

**FAITH EVANS** Sat 21 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**TWO PIANOS - ROCK N ROLL EXPERIENCE** Sat 21 July, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**THE BEAT BROTHERS** Sat 21 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**ROAD TRIP - THE SUMMERTIME TOUR** Sun 22 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**SENSATERIA WITH KINGS OF HONG KONG AND THE VOO-DOOMS** Sun 22 July, The Night Owl, Birmingham



The Blockheads - MAC, Birmingham

## Classical Music

**IGOR LEVIT IN RECITAL** Programme includes works by Bach, Busoni, Schumann, Wagner & Liszt, Thurs 19 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**THE ROSES' CHOIR CONCERT** Thurs 19 July, The Roses, Tewkesbury

**TAKE 6** 'the most awarded a cappella group in history', Fri 20 July, Birmingham Town Hall

**BRETFORTON PROMS** Sat 21 July, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA** Featuring Michael Seal (conductor) & Daniel Lehardt (piano). Programme includes works by Bartók, Beethoven & Kodály, Sun 22 July, Birmingham Town Hall

## Comedy

**SIMON MUNNERY & ANDREW BIRD** Wed 18 July, The Patrick Kavanagh, Birmingham

**PHIL ELLIS, MARK NELSON, THE RAYMOND & MR TIMPKINS REVUE AND COMIC TBC** Thurs 19 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**LARRY DEAN & MAT EWINS** Thurs 19 July, MAC, Birmingham

**TOM TOAL & DAVE CHAWNER** Fri 20 July, Evesham Arts Centre

**PHIL ELLIS, MARK NELSON, THE RAYMOND & MR TIMPKINS REVUE AND GLENN MOORE** Fri 20 - Sat 21 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**ANDREW BIRD, ROBERT WHITE, SAM AVERY & COMIC TBC** Sat 21 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

featuring traditional sword play, songs, music, dance and authentic costumes, Wed 18 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**FILMSCAPE** Presented by BOA Year 12 Music Pathway, Wed 18 - Thurs 19 July, The Old Rep Theatre, B'ham

**SIDE SHOW** Inspired by the true story of conjoined twins Daisy and Violet Hilton, Thurs 19 - Sun 22 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**ALICE - CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER** Academy Theatre Arts present its version of Lewis Carroll's magical tale, Thurs 19 - Sun 22 July, Swan Theatre, Worcester

**THE TEMPEST** All-male theatre company The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's final play, Fri 20 July, Coughton Court, Alcester, Worcester

**FUNNY FACES** Double bill of plays based on the lives and loves of two British comedy legends, Sid James and Joan Sims, Fri 20 July, Albany Theatre, Coventry

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: THE NEW MUSICAL** Sat 21 July, Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Worcestershire

**FAME THE MUSICAL** Amateur staging presented by The Star Project Solihull, Sun 22 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**GRAND INDIAN CIRCUS** All-action display of skills from a super-group of Rajasthan's elite circus and street performers, Sun 22 July, MAC, Birmingham

## Kids Shows

**TELETUBBIES LIVE!** The kids' TV favourites return in their first ever theatre show, Wed 18 - Thurs 19 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry



**THE MIDNIGHT GANG** Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of David Walliams' popular children's book, Sat 21 July, Coventry Cathedral

**THE MIDNIGHT GANG** Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor adaptation of David Walliams' popular children's book, Sun 22 July, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

## Theatre

**PRIDE AND PREJUDICE** Heartbreak Productions adaptation of the Jane Austen classic, Tues 17 July, Brueton Park, Solihull

**SEX CELLS** Anna Longaretti's play about motherhood, friendship, love & loss, Tues 17 - Sat 21 July, The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE CASE OF THE FRIGHTENED LADY** New staging of Edgar Wallace's classic thriller, Tues 17 - Sat 21 July, Malvern Theatres

**ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY MEN** Chapterhouse Theatre Company bring the legendary story of Robin Hood to life in an outdoor production



## Talks

**SPOKEN TREND** Open-mic night for local poets, Wed 18 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**AN EVENING WITH SUNNY ORMONDE** Join The Archers' Lilian Bellamy for an evening of anecdotes, banter and behind-the-scenes stories from the world's longest-running soap opera, Sun 22 July, Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

## Film

### INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

**EDIE (12a)** Drama. Starring Sheila Hancock, Kevin Guthrie. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 16 July

**PANDORA'S BOX (PG)** Crime/Drama. Starring Louise Brooks, Fritz Kortner. Silent film. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 17 & Thurs 19 July

**LEAVE NO TRACE (PG)** Drama. Starring Ben Foster, Dale Dickey. Malvern Theatres, Tues 17 - Thurs 19 July

**IN THE FADE (18)** Crime/Drama. Starring Diane Kruger, Denis Moschitto. The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 18 July

**THE HAPPY PRINCE (15)** Drama/History. Starring Rupert Everett, Colin Firth. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 20 July

### NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 20 July, showing at selected cinemas

**HOTEL ARTEMIS (15)**

**MADAME (15)**

**MAMMA MIA: HERE WE GO AGAIN! (tbc)**

## Events

**MINI MOTORISTS** Activity morning for the under-fives, Mon 16 July, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

**A FLAVOUR OF THE FORTIES** Special 1940s weekend, Mon 16 - Fri 20 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**BRINDLEYPLACE FILM FESTIVAL** Free festival showcasing a wide selection of popular movies, Mon 16 - Sun 22 July, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

**ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE** A summer festival of 'fabulous antiques and statement pieces', Thurs 19 - Sun 22 July, NEC, Birmingham

**JEWELLERY QUARTER FESTIVAL** A weekend of events celebrating the diversity and creativity of Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, Fri 20 - Sun 22

July, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

**COVENTRY BELGRADE MELA 2018** Take part in Bollywood dance workshops, try your hand at calligraphy, and browse the stalls for jewellery and crafts, Sat 21 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**CRAZY CAT FEST** Browse various stalls for cat-themed accessories and gifts, Sat 21 July, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**BRETFTON PROMS** Featuring the Bretforton Silver Band, Sat 21 July, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**THE BIG PICNIC** Featuring music, dancing, games and activities, Sat 21 July, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon

**BIG BUILD EVENT** Celebrate the start of the Brick Built exhibition by helping out on the Big Build, Sat 21 - Sun 22 July, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

**HISTORIC HOLIDAY FUN** Discover the hobbies and pastimes that entertained Black Country folk from Victorian times to the 1930s, Sat 21 July - Sun 2 Sept, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**SUMMER PLAY TRAILS** Create your own adventures and have fun exploring the hills, Sat 21 July - Sun 2 Sept, Clent Hills, Worcestershire

**SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES** Sat 21 July - Sun 2 Sept, Shakespeare's New Place, Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Garden, Mary Arden's Farm, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon

**DESIGN & MAKE AT ENGINUITY** Print your own design onto fabric, make a buggy or send your cargo down a zip line, Sat 21 July - Sun 2 Sept, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**GREAT SUMMER ADVENTURE** Featuring a host of activities, Sat 21 July - Sun 2 Sept, Hatton Adventure World, Warwickshire

**SUMMER CLAY CRAFTS** Find your inner artist and decorate ceramics every day over the summer holidays, Sat 21 July - Sun 2 Sept, Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**HANDS-ON FUN AT BLISTS HILL** Celebrate Ironbridge's industrial past with hands-on activities, trails and demonstration, Sat 21 July - Sun 2 Sept, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire

**JUNGLE BOOK TRAIL** As you walk around the gardens and grounds, follow the Jungle Book trail! Can you find all the characters? Sat 21 July - Sun 2 Sept, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

**SUMMER ARTS PROJECT** Help recreate and retell Romeo And Juliet, Sat 21



Coventry Belgrade Mela- Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

July - Sun 2 Sept, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon

**BLITZ SPIRIT OUTDOOR GAMES** Outdoor games for all the family, including giant jenga, noughts & crosses and croquet, Sat 21 July - Sun 2 Sept, Brockhampton Estate, Bromyard

**EDWARDIAN GARDEN PARTY** Bring along a picnic and take part in traditional Edwardian games and an Edwardian lantern show, Sun 22 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOP** Featuring a circus comedy show, Sun 22 July, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

**DIG IT!** Hands-on activities including sandpit exploration and microscope identification, Sun 22 July, Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster

**ANIMALS R MAGIC** Featuring a village fete and lots of stalls and activities, Sun 22 July, The Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Hanbury, Bromsgrove

## Food Festivals

**COSFORD FOOD FESTIVAL** Featuring over 90 local producers, streetfood and live music, Sat 21 - Sun 22 July, RAF Cosford, Shifnal

**KENILWORTH FOOD FESTIVAL** Gathering of the very best food and drink vendors from the region and further afield. Arts & craft workshops for the kids also feature, Sun 22 July, Kenilworth, Warwickshire

## Music Festivals

**THE 34TH BIRMINGHAM, SOLIHULL & SANDWELL JAZZ FESTIVAL** Line-up includes The Jake Leg Jug Band, Budapest Ragtime Orchestra, Art Theman Quartet and King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys (pictured), Fri 20 - Sun 29 July, various locations across Birmingham, Solihull & Sandwell



King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys - Birmingham, Solihull & Sandwell Jazz Festival

## Gigs

**DEL AMITRI** Mon 23 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**MIKE & SOLVEIG** Tues 24 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THE STARGAZERS** Tues 24 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

**DROUGHT ON MARS** Wed 25 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS** Thurs 26 July, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

**HÜDS** Thurs 26 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

**SAM CARTER** Thurs 26 July, Evesham Arts Centre

**ECHO GECCO + THE HUBBARDS** Fri 27 July, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**LE FREAK** Fri 27 July, The Night Owl, B'ham

**60S NIGHT OUT** Fri 27 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**CHOKING SUSAN PLUS SUPPORT FROM SPUNK VOLCANO, THE ERUPTIONS AND DRAG** Fri 27 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

**ROCKET** Fri 27 July, The Jam House, B'ham

**BRINGING ON BACK THE 60S** Sat 28 July, The Core Theatre, Solihull

**UNCHANGED** Sat 28 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**THE STYLE COUNCILLORS** Sat 28 July, The Empire, Coventry

**DIG?** Sat 28 July, The Night Owl, B'ham

**RIOT GRRRUNGE NIGHT** Sat 28 July, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

**STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES** Sat 28 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**JONI VOID** Sat 28 July, Tin Music and Arts, Coventry

**THE WILDHEARTS** Sat 28 July, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**LAUER** Sat 28 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**BROKEN MINDS - JUNGLE EDITION** Sat 28 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**BRAIN FOOD** Sat 28 July, The Night Owl, Birmingham

**WIZARDS OF OZ & OBSESSION** Sat 28 July, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

**RAVER TOTS** Sun 29 July, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**EARTHLESS & RUBY THE HATCHET** Sun 29 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**I SEE HAWKS** Sun 29 July, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

## Comedy

**TOM STADE & CHRIS STOKES** Wed 25 July, The Patrick Kavanagh, B'ham

**DALISO CHAPONDA, ROSCO MCCLELLAND, REVEREND OBADIAH STEPPENWOLF III & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON** Thurs 26 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham



**PAUL SINHA & LAURA LEXX** Thurs 26 July, MAC, Birmingham

**DALISO CHAPONDA, REVEREND OBADIAH STEPPENWOLF III, JO ENRIGHT & CLINT EDWARDS** Fri 27 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**CHRISTIAN REILLY, JOSH PUGH, LEO KEARSE & TOM WRIGGLESWORTH** Sat 28 July, The Comedy Loft, B'ham

**JOSH PUGH** Sun 29 July, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

**CHRIS WASHINGTON** Sun 29 July, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

**LOU CONRAN** Sun 29 July, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

**ROB KEMP** Sun 29 July, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

**AURIE STYLA, ADOT, GERRY KYEI & GUZ KHAN** Sun 29 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**BIANCA DEL RIO** Mon 30 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**SIDE SHOW** Inspired by the true story of conjoined twins Daisy and Violet Hilton, Wed 25 - Sat 28 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**CIRQUE BERSERK!** Fusion of cirque skills and thrilling stunt action, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**OLIVER!** Lollipop Youth Theatre present an amateur staging of Lionel Bart's classic musical, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 July, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

**ROMEO AND JULIET** Oddsocks breathe new life into Shakespeare's famous love story by giving it a musical mods & rockers twist, Fri 27 July, Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon

**LITTLE WOMEN** Chapterhouse Theatre present an outdoor staging of Louisa May Alcott's timeless tale, Fri 27 July, MAC, Birmingham

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: THE NEW MUSICAL** Fri 27 July, Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore, Worcs

**ODDSOCKS' THE TEMPEST** Madcap funsters Oddsocks give a sci-fi slant to Shakespeare's last play, Sat 28 July, Mary Arden's Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon

**LITTLE WOMEN** Chapterhouse Theatre present an outdoor staging of Louisa May Alcott's timeless tale, Sat 28 July, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich

## Kids Shows

**PETER PAN** Presented by Immersion Theatre, Thurs 26 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**TIDDLER & OTHER TERRIFIC TALES** Julia Donaldson's much loved children's tales are brought to life in one performance, Thurs 26 July, The Roses, Tewkesbury

**TREASURE ISLAND** Boxtree Productions present an outdoor staging of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale, Sat 28 July, Packwood House, Solihull

**LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD** Moon On A Stick fuse puppetry and storytelling with elements of pantomime in a show for younger audiences, Tues 31 July, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE MIDNIGHT GANG** Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor adaptation of David Walliams' popular children's book, Tues 31 July - Wed 1 Aug, Brueton Park, Solihull

**MADAGASCAR: A MUSICAL ADVENTURE** X Factor winner Matt Terry stars in a musical adventure based on Dreamworks' animated motion picture, Tues 31 July - Sat 4 Aug, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

### THE ALBANY theatre

**FUNNY FACES - 25 July**

**CHRIS RAMSEY 25 July**

**COMING SOON...**

**THE LITTLE MIX SHOW 26 August**

**BACKLASH BALLROOM 21 September**

**THE ROY ORBISON STORY 27 September**

**LINDISFARNE 30 September**

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## Theatre

**THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)** The National Production Company present a fast-paced romp through the bard's 37 plays, Tues 24 - Sat 28 July, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Chapterhouse Theatre Company present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's romantic comedy, Wed 25 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**DREAMBOYS** The ultimate girls' night out!, Wed 25 July, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**ANIMALCOLM** Story Pocket Theatre bring David Baddiel's comic tale to life, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 July, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



## Film

### INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

**THE HAPPY PRINCE (15)** Drama/History. Starring Rupert Everett, Colin Firth. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 23 - Tues 24 July; No. 8, Pershore, Mon 23 - Tues 24 July

**SHERLOCK GNOMES (U)** Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Kelly Asbury, Mary J. Blige. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 26, Sat 28 & Mon 30 July

**LET THE SUNSHINE IN (15)** Comedy/Drama. Starring Juliette Binoche, Xavier Beauvois. Foreign language, subtitled. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 25 - Fri 27 July

**BEAST (15)** Drama. Starring Jessie Buckley, Johnny Flynn. No. 8, Pershore, Thurs 26 July

**FINDING YOUR FEET (12a)** Comedy/Drama. Starring Joanna Lumley, Celia Imrie. No. 8, Pershore, Fri 27 July

**BOOK CLUB (12a)** Comedy. Starring Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda. No. 8, Pershore, Mon 30 - Tues 31 July

### NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 27 July, showing at selected cinemas

**MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE – FALLOUT (tbc)**

**APOSTASY (tbc)**

**HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: A MONSTER VACATION! (tbc)**

## Events

**SAXON LIVING HISTORY** Find out what life was like for those living in Tamworth during Saxon times, Tues 24 - Thurs 26 July, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

**SUMMER CRAFT ACTIVITIES** Drop-in sessions every Tuesday & Thursday throughout the summer holidays, Tues 24 July - Thurs 30 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

**THE ENGINEERING SHOW** Tues 24 July - Fri 31 Aug, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS** Trail and craft activity, available every Tuesday to Sunday throughout the summer, Tues 24



Hands On History : Nature Detectives - Witley Court, Worcestershire

July - Sun 2 Sept, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

**LITTLE SKIPPERS - WATERY WILDLIFE A** 45-minute boat trip followed by things to make and do, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 July, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

**DEN BUILDING** Wed 25 July, Blakesley

Hall, Birmingham

**EXOTIC ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS** Get up close to some exotic animals, Wed 25 - Thurs 26 July, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

**THE DUCK RACE** Traditional race down the River Arrow, Wed 25 July - Wed

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29 Aug, Coughton Court, Alcester

**HANDS ON HISTORY: NATURE DETECTIVES** Family-friendly activities in the garden, Wed 25 July - Fri 31 Aug, Witley Court, Great Witley

**COUGHS & SNEEZES SPREAD TUDOR DISEASES!** Take part in a gruesome medical facts trail, solve a bizarre remedies puzzle and make yourself a finger puppet to take home, Wed 25 July - Sat 1 Sept, Tudor House Museum, Worcester

**OUTDOOR CINEMA** Watch a movie against the backdrop of the moated manor house - and don't forget to take a picnic! Thurs 26 - Sat 28 July, Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire

**OPERATION EARTH ROADSHOW** Become an environmental scientist and explore the natural environment, Thurs 26 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC** Thurs 26 July, Hill Close Gardens, Warwick

**WALKING WITH DINOSAURS** Spectacular show based on the award-winning BBC television series, Thurs 26 - Sat 28 July, Arena Birmingham

**SAREHOLE ART CLUB** Drop by every Thursday morning throughout the summer holidays to take part in an art activity related to the natural beauty of Sarehole Mill, Thurs 26 July - Thurs 30 Aug, Sarehole Mill, B'ham

**VICTORIAN HANDLING DAY** Fri 27 July, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

**TRAM DRIVING EXPERIENCE DAY** Learn all about the history and workings of the trams in the collection, Fri 27 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**GIANT SCULPTURE MAKING SESSION** Free drop-in craft, Fri 27 July, The Core, Solihull

**AN AUDIENCE WITH HENRY VIII** Meet Henry and find out all about his life, Fri 27 July, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

**PANORAMA TOWER OPEN DAY** Enjoy 360-degree views from the balcony of the Panorama Tower, Fri 27 July, Croome Park, Worcester

**MEDIEVAL BANQUET** Sat 28 July, Warwick Castle

**LIVING HISTORY - MID VICTORIAN MILITARIA** Living history displays 'with lots of interaction, education and, of course, entertainment!' Sat 28 - Sun 29 July, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

**THE NORMAN CASTLE** Meet the Normans at one of England's great Norman castles, Sat 28 - Sun 29 July, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

**TOYS, TOYS, TOY FACTORY** Build mechanical, spinning, musical and construction toys, as well as robots and board games, Sat 28 July - Sat 1 Sept, Coventry Transport Museum

**OPERATION EARTH ROADSHOW** Become an environmental scientist and explore the natural environment, Sun 29 July, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

**RAMBLE WITH A RANGER** Find out about conservation work and the wildlife of the hills on this five-mile ramble, Sun 29 July, Clent Hills, Worcestershire

**SUMMER HOLIDAY FOOD FAIR** Sun 29 July, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

**MEDIEVAL OPEN DAY** Explore the ruins of Weoley Castle and learn about what life was like in Medieval England, Sun 29 July, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

**CLASSIC VEHICLE DAY** From Ford to Fiat, Jaguar to Lotus, Rolls Royce to Triumph, and VW Camper to Heinkel Bubble Car, Sun 29 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

**SUMMER SURGEONS CIRCUS FOR FAMILIES** Learn about the history of surgery, and experiment with new technology used by medical professionals, Mon 30 - Tues 31 July,



Megson - Warwick Folk Festival

## Music Festivals

**WARWICK FOLK FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Show Of Hands, Jon Boden & Remnant Kings, Megson, Gordie MacKeeman & His Rhythm Boys, Thurs 26 - Sun 29 July, Warwick Town Centre

**LUNAR FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Goldfrapp, The Stranglers, Amadou & Mariam, Basement Jaxx (DJ Set), The Go! Team, Songhoy Blues, A Guy Called Gerald (live), Crazy P, Hookworms, The Unthanks, Jane Weaver, Boy Azooga, Trojan Sound System & much more... Fri 27 - Sun 29 July, Umberslade Farm Park, Tanworth in Arden, Warwickshire

**MADE FESTIVAL** Line-up includes Dizzee Rascal, DJ EZ, Andy C, Krupt FM, Camelphat, Holy Goof, Not3s, SASASAS and Yxng Bane, Sat 28 July, Perry Park, Birmingham

**SHARDFEST** Line-up includes Bugzy Malone, Lotto Boyzz, Artful Dodger, Abracadabra, Big Hapz, Erin Louise and Sonique, Sat 28 - Sun 29 July, Norman Chamberlain Fields, B'ham

## Food Festivals

**BIRMINGHAM THAI FESTIVAL** A touch of Thai culture, where you can challenge your taste buds and feast your eyes on world class food and performances, Sat 28 July, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

**COVENTRY VEGAN BEER FESTIVAL** Brought to you by Fat Gay Vegan and Twisted Barrel Brewery, Sat 28 July, FarGo Village, Coventry

**CRAFT DRINK FESTIVAL** Showcasing hundreds of breweries, distilleries, cider makers, wine merchants, food stalls and more... Visitors can also expect live music, comedy performance and cinema screenings, Sat 28 - Sun 29 July, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham

**DIRTY VEGAN - A MAC POP-UP** Two-day fusion of healthy and naughty, Fri 28 - Sat 29 July, MAC, Birmingham

**STAFFORD FOOD FESTIVAL** Brand new event featuring over 100 food & drink stalls throughout the town, free children's activities and live entertainment, Sat 28 - Sun 29 July, Stafford Town Centre



Lunar Festival - Tanworth In Arden, Warwickshire



Dizzee Rascal - Made Festival, Birmingham



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