Wolverhampton & Black Country

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

RHOD GILBERT - HILARITY CHARITY

GALA IN WOLVERHAMPTON









THE STORY OF FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS

TUE 28 AUG — SAT 8 SEP

GRAND 01902 42 92 12 | grandtheatre.co.uk

inside:

thelist

Your 16-page week by week listings guide

IT'S LADIES' DAY at Wolverhampton Grand feature inside...



MATT TERRY joins the SummerFest line-up at Himley Hall



SUMMER FUN where to go and what to do in the school holidays



Legends of Darts

Friday 6th July starts 6pm Try your luck and play darts with the greats!

- VIP Ticket £30: Early admission at 6pm, priority seating, welcome drink, meet and greet with players, meal and photograph
- · General Tickets £20: Admission 7pm

Tickets available from Skiddle.com





Ladies' Day - spend a day at the races at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre - page 8

George Ezra



chart-topper ventures into Cannock Chase Forest

page 15

Abandoman



stars in Shrewsbury's second comedy festival

page 25

Matilda comes home



award-winning RSC musical returns to the Midlands

feature page 32

the list



Your 16-page week-by-week listings guide

page 53

inside:

4. First Word 11. Food 15. Music 24. Comedy 26. Theatre 36. Film 38. Visual Arts 50. Events



@whatsonwolves

Wolverhampton What's On Magazine

@whatsonstaffs

Staffordshire What's On Magazine

@whatsonshrops

Shropshire What's On Magazine





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

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

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

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



Voalá Station takes to the skies in Stoke-on-Trent

An 'astonishing' skyline show visits Stokeon-Trent this month.

Presented by arts programme Appetite, Voalá Station is a high-flying outdoor performance taking place in the night sky at Central Forest Park on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 July.

Created by acclaimed Spanish company Voalá, the production is described as 'an extraordinary skyline show featuring aerial performance, live music and a mysterious tale that comes to life 40 metres above the audience's heads'.

Tickets for the event can be booked online at appetitestoke.co.uk or by telephoning the New Vic Theatre box office on 01782 717 962.

Birmingham to host new Peaky Blinders festival

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 musichall-style entertainment, traditional Irish folk musicians, tarot card readings, live boxing, shoeshines, caricatures and live magicians. More information is available by visiting peakyblindersfestivals.com



Dudley museum needs help in Forging Ahead...

The Black Country Living Museum is asking for people to share their memories of Wednesbury-based women's fashion shop E Minett.

Founded by Edith Dabbs Minett, the shop was very much 'the place to go' for the best-dressed ladies of Wednesbury.

As part of its BCLM: Forging Ahead development project, the Black Country Living Museum will be recreating the shop as it appeared in the late 1950s. The museum is hoping that people will be able to help with the task by contributing any recollections they may have about the shop. Anybody with a relevant tale to tell should email collections@bclm.com or call 0121 557 9643. For more information about BCLM: Forging Ahead, visit bclm.com/ForgingAhead.

Award-winning show gallops back to the region

The National Theatre production of Michael Morpurgo's War Horse will return to the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent next year (Wednesday 27 March - Saturday 6 April). War Horse last visited Stoke in 2014, when it became the Regent's most successful ever show, with over 30,000 people seeing it during its stay in the Potteries.

Tickets for the production are now on sale and can be booked by calling 0844 871 7649 or by visiting atgtickets.com/stoke



CBeebies star to spend Christmas in Lichfield

The actress who plays popular CBeebies character Nina, in the TV hit show Nina And The Neurons, is to star in this year's Lichfield Garrick pantomime. Nina is played in the award-winning television series by Katrina Bryan (pictured), who



will be taking on the role of Fairy Moonbeam in the venue's production of Dick Whittington (Thursday 29 November to Monday 31 December).

Commenting on joining the Garrick's panto cast, Katrina said: "I visited Lichfield when I was a child and remember having a lovely time there, so I'm thrilled to be coming back for pantomime! It's a beautiful city, and I can't wait to perform in Dick Whittington!"

A happy 25th in prospect for classic car restorers

A company in Bridgnorth is celebrating 25 years of classic car restoration by inviting classic car owners from across the UK to join its birthday party.

Classic Motor Cars, which has restored hundreds of classics from numerous marques, is planning a huge celebration at its restoration HQ in Bridgnorth on Saturday 18 August. The day's highlight will be a classic car concours, which will be open to everyone.

Peek behind the scenes at Himley...

Visitors to Himley Hall can take a look 'behind the scenes' this summer, courtesy of a season of guided tours around the venue. The 90-minute tours take in the servants' quarters and cellars, the butler's sitting room and the Earl of Dudley's bedrooms. The tours take place on selected days during July and August. For more information, visit himleyhallandpark.co.uk



Harry Potter star Mark to talk to the animals...

Midlands-born Harry Potter, Fast Show and Father Brown star Mark Williams is to play the title role in Doctor Dolittle The Musical when it visits the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next year, from 29 January to 9 February.

The production is touring to the Grand to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the much-loved movie starring Rex Harrison. Visit doctordolittlemusical.com for more information.





Giant animal puppets to take to the streets of Lichfield

A parade of giant animal puppets is set to march through the streets of Lichfield to mark the opening weekend of this month's Lichfield Festival.

The Festival Animal Puppetry Parade (Saturday 7 July) features puppets which have been created by local groups working with professional artists. The procession will finish at the city's cathedral, prior to the venue's evening concert - a performance of Benjamin Britten's children's opera, Noye's Fludde. For details about other family-friendly events taking place during this year's festival (4 - 14 July), visit lichfieldfestival.org

Five Go Nuts In Nagaland - in Shrewsbury!

The story of a remarkable expedition into the Indian jungle - which saw theatre being taken to communities that had never seen it before - is to be told in a fundraising show for an Indian primary school at The Wightman Theatre in Shrewsbury on Saturday 14 July.

Earlier this year, Chris Eldon Lee's sell-out play, Ursula, Queen Of The Jungle, toured to Nagaland in North East India, where its story was set. As a result, the fledgling Jaitinga primary school in Assam twinned with Shrewsbury's Martin Wilson School, and teacher/actor Joanna Purslow and her team vowed to raise money to help them get established.

Five Go Nuts In Nagaland features a first-hand account of the trip, extracts from Ursula, music by expedition members Mary Keith and Sally Tongue, and performances from The Mere Singers and comedy group Three Men In A Bowtie. Tickets are £5 from The Wightman or purslow@ymail.com

Muse concert screening at media centre

Wolverhampton's Light House Media Centre is hosting a special screening of rock band Muse's Drones World Tour on Thursday 12 July. Filmed and recorded over multiple shows, the concert movie includes exclusive insight from the band themselves. Tickets for the screening can be booked at light-house.co.uk or by calling 01902 716055.

Beware The Moon at Dudley Castle

Dudley Zoological Gardens is again teaming up with Flatpack Projects and Film Hub Midlands to present a two-night open-air cinema experience. Beware The Moon, taking place in Dudley Castle, will feature screenings of zombie horror Night Of The Living Dead (Friday 3 August) and cult vampire classic The Lost Boys (Saturday 4 August). To book tickets for the event, visit dudleyzoo.org.uk





JCB Dancing Diggers to take centre stage at the Newport Show

Impressive displays by the internationally famous team of JCB Dancing Diggers take centre stage at this month's Newport Show. The mechanical monsters, which only perform at a handful of shows across the UK each year, are one of the main attractions at the one-day event, which is being held at Chetwynd Deer Park on 14 July. For more information, visit newportshow.co.uk.

Bully in the swing!

Wolves legend Steve Bull is entering a team on behalf of his charitable foundation to support the Grand Theatre's inaugural Golf Day on Thursday 5 July.

The Steve Bull Foundation is dedicated to helping improve young people's lives.

The event takes place at Wergs Golf Club. It will raise vital funds to support operation and education projects at the Grand.



A grand line-up at the Grand



There's certainly no shortage of musicals to enjoy in the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre's autumn/winter programme.

Among the shows to get you dancing in the aisles are Menopause The Musical, Rock Of Ages, Dirty Dancing, Madagascar The Musical, Club Tropicana & Avenue Q (pictured),

Other new-season highlights include Circus of Horrors making a welcome return with brand new show Psycho Asylum, Tony Christie performing in concert and a show paying tribute to the Bee Gees.

To check out the whole lineup, visit grandtheatre.co.uk



6 whatsonlive.co.uk

Chillington Hall hosts dragon boat race



Staffordshire's Chillington Hall is this month hosting a dragon boat race featuring up to 30 companies and organisations. The race, which takes place on Sunday 29 July, is part of an event that also features craft stalls, food trucks, drinks emporia and family-friendly entertainment.



New Stourbridge exhibition set to explore the art and science of colour

An exhibition exploring the art and science of colour opens at the Glasshouse Arts Centre in Stourbridge next month.

The show features large-scale exhibits, hands-on displays and numerous experiments.

Visitors to the exhibition can stand inside a rainbow, play with the shadows of an eclipse, explore reflection and investigate the mystery of coloured shadows. The exhibition will be accompanied by a programme of talks, workshops and evening events. It shows at the Glasshouse from 29 August to 14 October.

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.

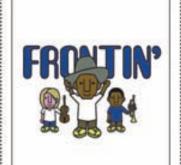


BOOK ONLINE www.thsh.co.uk Box office 0121 780 3333





TAKE 6 FRI 20 JULY 7:30PM TOWN HALL



17-PIECE ORCHESTRA FRONTIN' PHARRELL - LIVE

FRI 27 JULY 8PM TOWN HALL



SAM OUTLAW PLUS SUPPORT MOLLY PARDEN & DEMI MARRINER

THU 2 AUGUST 7:30PM TOWN HALL



BING! LIVE FRI 24 – SAT 25 AUGUST NEW DATES ADDED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND!

TOWN HALL



YOUSSOU NDOUR THU 30 AUGUST 7:30PM SYMPHONY HALL



AN EVENING WITH ADAM HENSON THU 6 SEPTEMBER 7PM TOWN HALL



BRASSED
OFF LIVE
FEATURING
GRIMETHORPE
COLLIERY
BAND

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL FRI 7 SEPTEMBER 7:30PM SYMPHONY HALL



GRANDMASTER
FLASH - HIP HOP
PEOPLE,
PLACES
& THINGS THE VISUAL
EXPERIENCE
SAT 8 SEPTEMBER 8PM

SAT 8 SEPTEMBER 8PM TOWN HALL





thsh_birmingham

townhallsymphonyhall







Town Hall renovation also funded by







GIRLS AT THE GALLOP!

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre's second major in-house production is Ladies' Day, Amanda Whittington's hit play about four likely lasses and their day at the races... What's On recently caught up with Amanda and cast member Cheryl Fergison to find out more about the show...

Work, love and life are just one long, hard slog for fish-filleting foursome Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda. Will their fortunes change when they head to Ladies' Day at Wolverhampton Racecourse?

Written by one of the most widely performed playwrights in the UK, Amanda Whittington, Ladies' Day is an exuberant comedy about four likely lasses and their day out at the racecourse.

"Pearl is retiring," explains Amanda. "She's almost the ringleader of the group, so they decide to have a day out at the races. We see them transform from their fish factory outfits - the overalls, the hair nets - into their finery. They don't really know anything about horse racing but cotton on to the fact that they've got an accumulator bet that keeps on winning. Really it's about four, in the best sense of the word, ordinary women with ordinary lives, and it's about friendship, love, marriage, work and who we are. There's a lot of laughs, but also there's hopefully a lot of stuff that people will relate to and empathise with."

The play, which stars ex-EastEnder Cheryl Fergison as Jan, former Emmerdale favourite Deena Payne as Pearl, Emma Rigby as Shelly, Roisin O'Neill as Linda and Sean McKenzie in multiple roles, was written 15 years ago when Amanda worked for Hull Truck Theatre.

"When the Grand approached me and asked if I would like to look at it for Wolverhampton, I thought it was just perfect. There's a fish factory in Wolverhampton, there's a racecourse, the themes, subjects and the ideas in the play are still very relevant. I've rewritten the play for Wolverhampton in 2018 and updated it. Same story, same characters, but it's set present day. It's been really great to come and refresh it and revive it.

"The cast selection was Wolverhampton Grand's decision, and I think they've made some great choices. They've got a cast that people will know from television and, again, which people are able to relate to. I think it's very exciting to have such a high-profile, talented bunch of ladies. I'm very happy!"

As well as the core characters, Amanda has introduced a community chorus. "The chorus are really going to bring the racecourse to life and give us a sense of scale - that's something I've never done before with this play.

We're going to have lots of race-goers and people working there. You can do that in a space like the Wolverhampton Grand."

Having never visited the theatre prior to her initial Ladies' Day conversation, Amanda is thrilled that her play is going to be performed at a theatre of the Grand's calibre. "When I first visited, I was just blown away; it's absolutely beautiful. It's like one of those chocolate box theatres. When you were a kid, it's how you would imagine a theatre to look-red and gold and so magical in its atmosphere."

In keeping with the original show, the music of legendary singer Tony Christie features in the production. "He was number one at the time, so we decided to incorporate his music - it really captured the spirit of the play. It's gone on to be one of the most performed plays on the amateur circuit, with dozens of productions being shown each year. It's just always had a life, and I think that's because it's very relatable."

Sharing top billing is Cheryl Fergison. Best known for her role as Heather Trott in East-Enders, Cheryl explains a bit about the character she plays in Ladies' Day. "Jan is a single parent. She makes out to everybody that she kicked her husband out, but actually her husband left her. She's focused totally on her daughter and will do everything and anything for her. She lives in the past a little bit and believes in respect, love and all those things. She becomes let down during the play, as a lot of the things she believes in are challenged. She doesn't drink, but at the races she has a tipple and lets out a whole heap of secrets that she's been warned not to say anything about. She kind of lets the cat out of the bag a little bit."

Although having not long visited Wolverhampton Grand with the touring production of Menopause The Musical, Cheryl is certainly looking forward to returning. "Every time I go there, the audiences are so good. They're really warm and welcoming. I think this is a cracking cast, and they're going to know the people in the show from outside the show, which is going to make them intrigued as to how these people are going to come together for something new. It's like when I do panto sometimes, people don't expect that I'm able to sing. I don't play Heather Trott from EastEnders all my life - that's not

who I am or what I was made to do."

Talking about her journey, Cheryl reveals that being an actor was the career path that she was always destined to take.

"I've always been a bit of a show off - ever since I was little, really - and I don't know how to do anything else. I'm not entirely sure when my interest in the arts actually began, because we were from a very working-class background. Nobody read books in our house or anything like that. I just think it was that thing of being quite a big girl when I was little - as well as being a big girl now! It was a way of fending off bullies. If I was funny, they would leave me alone, so I would entertain at school. From that, you become popular because you're seen as someone who can make people laugh."

After school, Cheryl trained at Rose Bruford College. She then got a 'fluke' phone call asking whether she would understudy for someone in the West End. Her acting career progressed from there. Her TV work includes Big School, opposite David Walliams, Doctor Who, Little Britain and Casualty. On stage she's appeared in Man Of The Moment, Measure For Measure, The Blue Angel and Dance Of Death.

"I auditioned for Ladies' Day with what I perceived to be the best Black Country accent I could do! Out of all the accents, the only ones I can't do are Black Country, Welsh and Newcastle, so I was thinking, 'Oh no, how am I going to do this?' In my head, I was thinking that I'd gone off and started talking in every other accent, from Australian to Indian to Swedish, but they said at the end that it seemed to be fine. It's a challenge for me, and as an actress I think it's really important that you have these challenges.

"And it's really important to me that people support live theatre, too. It's one of those arts that I really don't want to see die out. It's really expensive and people have to save up hard-earned money to go to the theatre these days, so it's got to be good. People need to feel that they've had a good evening out. That's important."

Ladies' Day shows at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Friday 13 to Saturday 28 July.

WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT



MY FAMILY: NOT THE SITCOM
DAVID BADDIEL

THU 28 JUN

REGENT THEATRE



BRAND NEW COMEDY MUSICAL CROONERS

THU 30 AUG

REGENT THEATRE



BACK AND HOTTER THAN EVER THE DREAMBOYS

FRI 29 JUN

REGENT THEATRE



TERRIFIC TRIBUTE THE ELO EXPERIENCE

FRI 31 AUG

REGENT THEATRE



ADRENALINE-FUELLED SPECTACULAR CIRQUE BERSERK!

FRI 6 - SUN 8 JUL

REGENT THEATRE



AN EVENING OF ADVENTURE WITH SURVIVAL EXPERT ANT MIDDLETON

FRI 14 SEP

REGENT THEATRE



THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

FRI 17 - SAT 18 AUG

REGENT THEATRE



CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF THE BEE GEES YOU WIN AGAIN

SAT 15 SEP

REGENT THEATRE



SUMMER FUN FOR THE FAMILY TIDDLER AND OTHER TERRIFIC TALES

MON 27 - WED 29 AUG

REGENT THEATRE



JOIN US AT THE SOLANA WITH BENIDORM LIVE

MON 24 - SAT 29 SEP

REGENT THEATRE

JOE LYCETT: I'M ABOUT TO LOSE CONTROL AND I THINK JOE LYCETT THU 6 SEP WI

ABBA MANIA FRI 14 SEP W

JANE MCDONALD FRI 21 SEP WI

THE DRIFTERS WED 26 SEP WH

DANIEL O'DONNELL WED 3 OCT WI

HALFWAY TO PARADISE: THE BILLY FURY STORY THU 4 OCT W

JAMES MARTIN: ON THE ROAD... AGAIN

FRI 5 OCT W



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

Shrewsbury eatery launches new tapas-style menu

Independent Shrewsbury restaurant Havana Republic has launched a new tapas-style menu.

Providing dishes such as piggy bits, scampi bites, breaded mushrooms, edamame beans, sweet potato fries and catsu chicken pieces, the eatery also stocks the largest range of rum in town and hosts live music every weekend.



Albrighton pub hosts its first beer & gin festival

Albrighton pub The Dartmouth Arms is holding its first ever beer & gin festival this month. Taking place on Saturday 28 July from 12pm to 6pm, the family-friendly event will feature six beers in the courtyard and a selection of gin & tonics. A barbecue and face painting will also be available to enjoy throughout the day.

Sausage & cider fest at Shrewsbury venue

A sausage and cider festival is being held at Shrewsbury's Buttermarket venue this month (Saturday 28 July). Attendees can enjoy a selection of cider, sausages, gin and prosecco while enjoying music from Geoff Rodgers, Vertigo and the Dirty Rockin' Scoundrels.

Organisers Shropshire Festivals have said to expect 'fantastic street food on offer outside, loads of cider and sausage inside, great vibes, tasters galore and great entertainment'. Tickets cost $\pounds 5$ and can be booked via shropshirefestivals.co.uk



New artisan pizzeria and bistro opens in Albrighton

A new artisan pizzeria and family bistro has opened on Albrighton High Street.

La Famiglia offers a range of pizzas to eat-in or take away, classic Italian favourites including spaghetti bolognese, homemade meatballs, Moroccan lamb and fillet steak, and 'a delicious taste of the wider Mediterranean'.

The pizzas - which include Margherita and Hawaiian as well as more innovative options such as Frutti di Mare and goats cheese & caramelised onion - are handmade from

scratch each day using locally sourced ingredients.

Commenting on the new venue, General Manager Rachael Beith said: "We offer something for everyone - a delicious lunch menu, an innovative and contemporary evening selection and, of course, a traditional Sunday lunch offer. Children are also very welcome, and our carefully created junior menu and activity packs will keep them satisfied, amused and wanting to come back."

Popular food festival returns to the city for a second year

After a hugely successful debut in 2017, the City of Wolverhampton Food & Drink Festival is this month returning for a second year. The free event, taking place on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 July, is expected to attract more than 30,000 visitors. It will feature an increased number of traders, artisan stalls and exhibitors, a more substantial entertainment programmme, a family area, open-air cinema and traditional fairground stalls.





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.

MUSIC/iye

AFTER RACING AT WOLVERHAMPTON RACECOURSE

A VMS LIVE & ARC PRESENTATION



FRIDAY 31 ST AUGUST 2018

FROM £35 VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS



KAISER CHIEFS

SATURDAY IST SEPTEMBER

Ladies Day
BIGGER AND BETTER!

SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER

THIS YEAR IT WILL BE COMBINED WITH OUR MUSIC LIVE EVENT WHICH WILL SEE THE KAISER CHIEFS ROCKING THE STAGE AFTER RACING!

ONLINE BOOKINGS FOR THE GRANDSTAND CLOSE 4B HOURS BEFORE THE GATES OPEN TICKETS WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE GATE BUT THE PRICE WILL DIFFER





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.



Kris Drever

Lichfield Cathedral, Sat 14 July

Kris Drever is a Scottish contemporary folk musician and songwriter who came to prominence in 2006 with the release of debut solo album Black Water.

Following a decade of critical and commercial success, he last year scored a double hit at the BBC Radio Two Folk Awards, not only being named folk singer of the year but also picking up the gong for best original track, for the song If Wishes Were Horses. Kris is joined for this cathedral gig by fellow Scot Julie Fowlis.





George Ezra

Cannock Chase Forest, Staffs, Sun 1 July George Ezra enjoyed a certified 4x platinum success with debut album Wanted On Voyage. The 2014 release amassed an impressive 122 weeks in the charts, four of which were spent in the top slot. One of the biggest-selling male artists of the decade and often described as having a voice beyond his years, George recently released second album Staying At Tamara's - another chart topper.

He plays Cannock Chase this month as part of the annual Forest Live series.

Vega

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Fri 6 July Vega are a six-piece melodic rock/AOR band formed in 2009. They've released five albums to date, and have supported the likes of Magnum and Dan Reed Network.

Most recent album Only Human features a collection of songs that focuses on their core strengths: strong harmonies, big choruses and compelling lyrical content.

Leo Sayer

The Robin, Bilston, Fri 27 July

With 16 albums and 26 hit singles under his belt, Leo Sayer is returning to UK venues on the back of sold-out tours in 2015 and '17. Expect to hear such classics as Thunder In My Heart, You Make Me Feel Like Dancing, I Can't Stop Loving You and When I Need You.



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).









For more information call us on 01538 750755 or email us at enquiries@churnetvalleyrailway.co.uk

CHURNETVALLEYRAILWAY.CO.UK









DRIVE A TRAIN AT CHURNET VALLEY RAILWAY

The Footplate Experience Course is just the ticket for you or the perfect gift for someone special

GIN & TRAINS

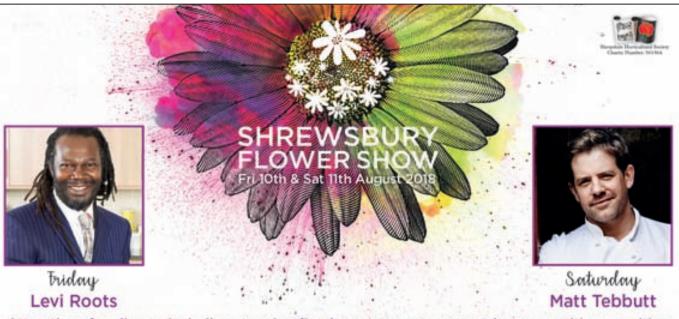
The ultimate G&T 24th - 28th August 2018

CREAM TEA

Indulge in a "Traditional Clotted Cream Tea" whilst riding in our dedicated First Class dining carriage "DIANA"

THE MOORLANDER DINING EXPERIENCE

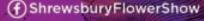
A variety of brunch, lunch, evening, and themed supper trains available



Attractions for all ages including stunning floral arrangements, equestrian competitions, exciting arena entertainment for all the family, food, crafts & trade stands, advice from celebrity gardeners and cookery demonstrations by TV chefs; all topped off with world class fireworks

Tickets: Adult Advance £25 Over 60's Advance £23 Children aged 15 and under Free Admission (when accompanied by an adult) Membership: Adult from £46 Children £5

Call us on: 01743 234058 or visit www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk





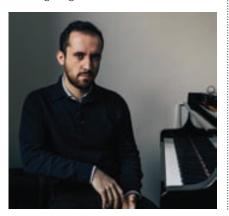


The Cardinall's Musick Lichfield Cathedral, Mon 9 July

Innovative ensemble The Cardinall'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 Guttierez de Padilla, Byrd, Hieronymus Praetorius, Guerrero and Palestrina. A selection of work first written for The Cardinall'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.



City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Lichfield Cathedral, Fri 6 July



The CBSO and their former Principal Guest Conductor, Edward Gardner (pictured), return to Lichfield to continue with their current project of recording the complete Schubert Symphonies. This time out, the orchestra perform both his Symphony No5 and his unfinished Symphony No8. The programme also features Mendelssohn's Athalie overture and Strauss's tone poem, Death And Transfiguration.

BBC National Orchestra Of Wales

Lichfield Cathedral, Fri 13 July

To kickstart its three-year Lichfield Festival residency, BBC National Orchestra of Wales presents two famous Russian works - Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No2 and Shostakovich's Symphony No9. The programme also features the world premiere of Thomas Hyde's Les At Leisure, a comic overture paying tribute to comedian Les Dawson, who died 25 years ago. Dalia Stasevska (pictured) conducts while Danny Driver features on piano.



Halesowen Orchestra

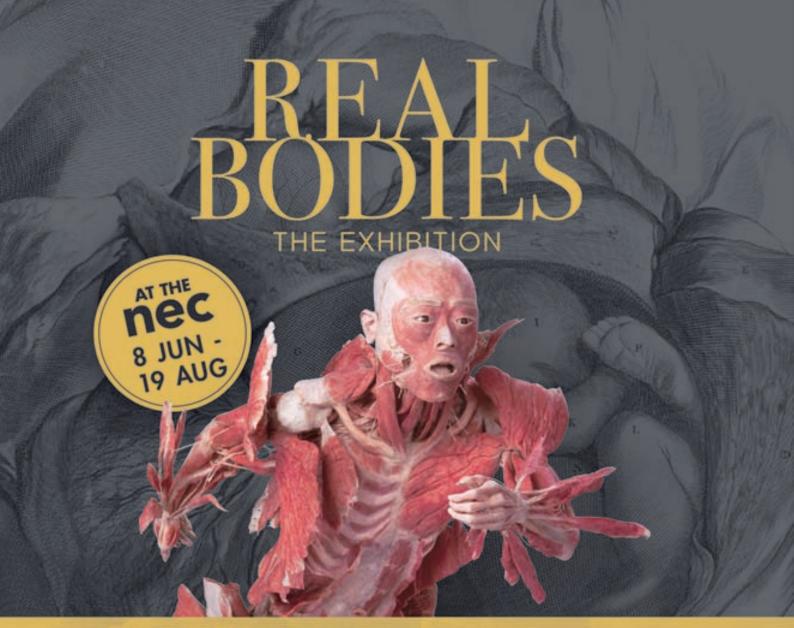
Cornbow Hall, Stourbridge, Sat 7 July
The Halesowen Orchestra was once described by James Morris MP as "one of the town's hidden jewels", a description with which the 40-strong ensemble's many supporters would no doubt wholeheartedly agree. Founded in 1986, the amateur group of musicians meet once a week to practise a wide and varied repertoire of works by some of the world's greatest classical composers.

This month's concert features Dvorak's violin concerto, Bizet's Carmen Suite and Franck's Symphony in D minor.

Ludlow Choral Society

St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire, Sat 7 July

'Wonderful music in a sublime setting' is how Ludlow Choral Society describe their concerts, the latest of which features a programme including works by Ralph Vaughan Williams and Edward Elgar. The 'sublime setting' to which the society refer, the town's St Laurence's Church, is often described as the Cathedral of the Marches, and received a five-star rating in Simon Jenkins' well-regarded book, England's Thousand Best Churches.



DID YOU?

GET TO KNOW YOUR BODY—INSIDE AND OUT!



If all the muscles in the human body worked together, they could lift 10 tons.

8 JUN - 19 AUG 18 | I

THE NEC, HALL 4

www.thenec.co.uk

0844 581 4906

nec thenec.co.uk imagne





Lunar Festival

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

Set in the grounds of the stunning Umber-slade Estate in Tanworth-in-Arden, the birth-place 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 Azooga 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.Hawkline, 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), Jeramiah 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.



whatsonlive.co.uk 19

Shiiine On Birmingham

A one day gathering celebrating Alternative & Dance culture





Cast Black Grape Julian Cope Glasvegas Reverend and The Makers

The Wedding Present //
Gang of Four / Dreadzone
Bentley Rhythm Ace //
Jim Bob / Abdoujaparov
A Certain Ratio / and much more

FAC51
THE HACIENDA
Official Hackershow
11pm-3am

Todd Terry Marshall Jefferson Jon Dasilva

WORLD FAMOUS DJ'S // CONVERSATIONS // EXHIBITION // CRAFT ALES // FOOD VILLAGE
3 INDOOR STAGES // 2 OUTDOOR STAGES // 1 UKE2



8th September 2018
Genting Arena
The NEC Birmingham 1pm-3am

prices from £59
VIP AVAILABLE buy tickets at shiiineon.com



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 citydwellers.

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 Lacev.

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 Coyle Ex 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), Cosmotheka, 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 influence 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 thor-

oughly enjoyable comedy.

Shrewsbury International Comedy Festival

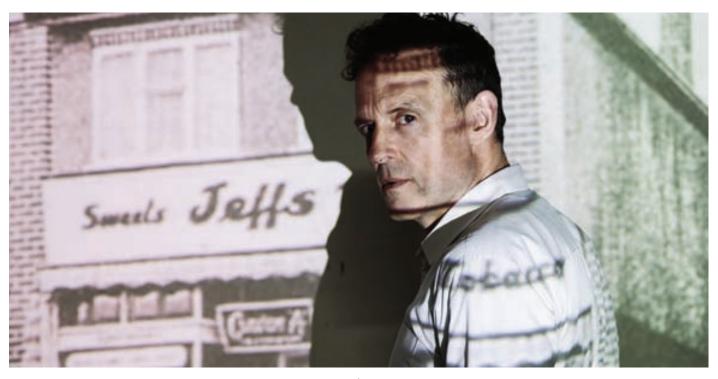
Various locations, Shrewsbury Town Centre, Thurs 19 - Sun 22 July

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 Abandoman. 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."





Fred Jeffs: The Sweetshop Murder

The REP, Birmingham, Wed 11 July

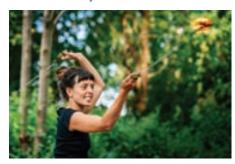
The Good Friday murder of Birmingham sweetshop owner Fred Jeffs in 1957 remains unsolved; which is why writer, performer and Jeffs' great nephew, Graeme Rose, has decided to reexamine the case - live

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.





Unforgettable performance, powered by you

0844 338 5000* birminghamhippodrome.com

*Calls cost 4.5p per min plus access charge. Where applicable, a 5% transaction charge (6% from 2 Jul 2018 may apply excluding cash sales in person.

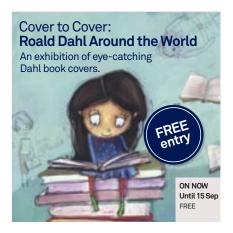


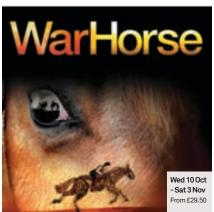






















lolanthe

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

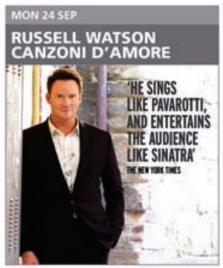
As advances in technology continue to provide greater flexibility in all walks of life, this brand new musical play takes a look at the concept of social egg freezing as an 'office perk', with large corporations clearing the way for their female employees to 'have it all', freezing their eggs in order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

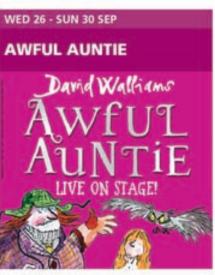
But as a young woman named Iva discovers when her company gives her an out-of-thisworld promotion, fitting all of her eggs into one basket is a far tougher task than it initially seems...

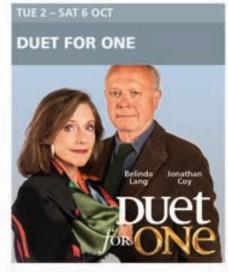




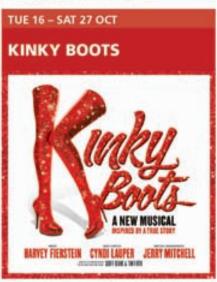
GREAT SHOWS COMING UP AT WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE

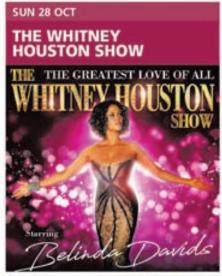


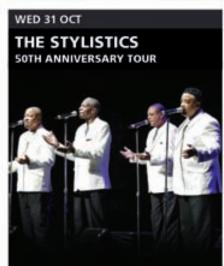


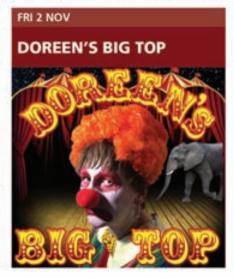


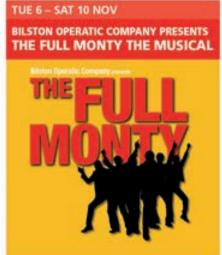


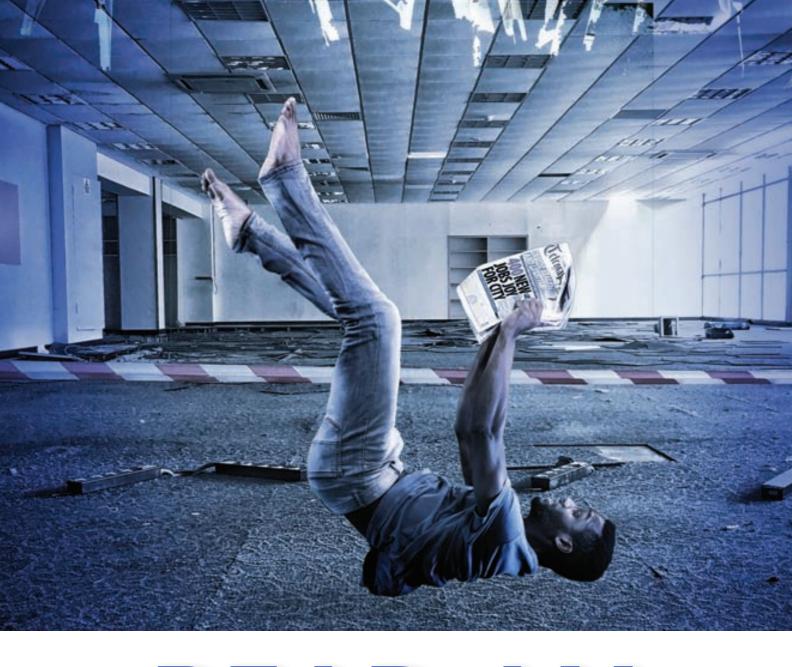












READ ALL ABOUT IT!

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.

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 Heart-break 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.



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...



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. There's 'enchanting' 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?



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.

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 Leedsbased 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...

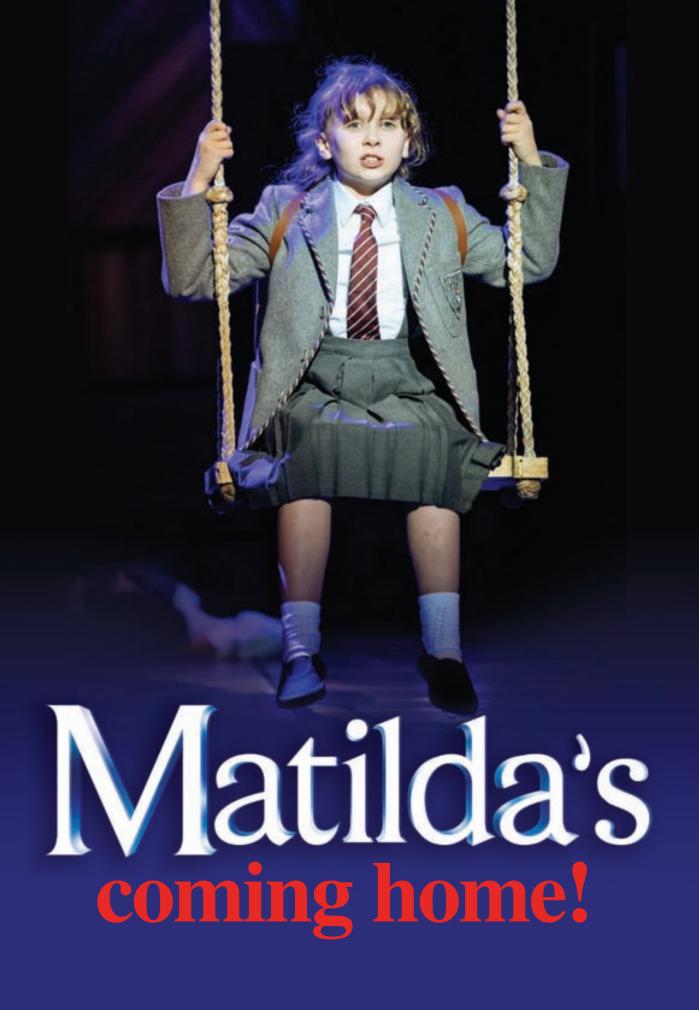
Horrible Histories: Barmy Britain Part Four

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-factor 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!





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-thanlife 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 Craige Els who's charged with bringing this eccentric and bloodthirsty character to life on the Hippodrome stage. What's On recently caught up with Craige 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 costars, 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 sixmonth 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

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 my-self, 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.







Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again! CERT the

Starring Pierce Brosnan, Dominic Cooper, Colin Firth, Andy García, Lily James, Amanda Seyfried, Stellan Skarsgård, Julie Walters, Cher, Meryl Streep Directed by OI 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 ontrack 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 nonfiction 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 Emms, 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





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.

PERFORMANCES, VISUAL ARTS, TALKS, WORKSHOPS, LIVE MUSIC

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS...



P-PROJECT Tues 3 July

A co-presentation with Fierce Festival, P-Project is an interactive audienceparticipation-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.

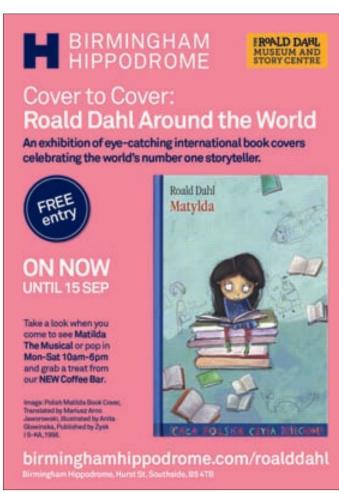
Inspired by the ancient Greek myth, Sisyphus explores all the senses, using the body, paint and brutal objects to depict endless cycles of hope and failure.



Vladimír Kokolia: Epiphany

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

"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'.







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, heath, 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.





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**

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 highquality 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





Birthday celebrations at British Motor Museum

Banbury Rd, Gaydon, Warwickshire, CV35 OBJ

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**



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**



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

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**



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,













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**

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



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



Marvellous Mechanicals at Compton Verney

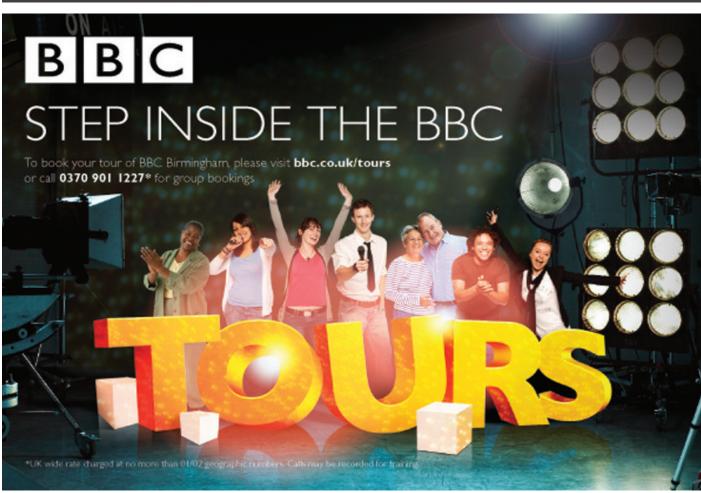
Compton Verney, Warwickshire, CV35 9HZ



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.







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 Inkling'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

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 Oueen 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 ${\bf ironbridge.org.uk}$



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**



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.







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



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



Something for everyone at **Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3TR

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







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, popperformances, 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

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.

Dragon Boat Festival

Pengwern Boat Club, Shrewsbury, Sat 7 - Sun 8 July

This annual fundraiser for Severn Hospice sees 30 teams competing against one another in 40ftlong dragon boats, racing along the stretch of river between the Shrewsbury School and Pengwern boat clubs.

Spectators can enjoy the event for free from the picturesque grounds of Shrewsbury Quarry.





Festival At The Edge

Alderford Lake, Shropshire, Fri 20 - Sun 22 July

Combining performance, music, comedy and related arts, England's oldest storytelling festival is very much a family-friendly event.

This year's get-together includes a weekend-long children's festival, circus skills workshops, numerous craft stalls and a wide selection of food & drink to enjoy. Award-winning storyteller Len Cabral (pictured) features amongst the weekend's line-up.

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

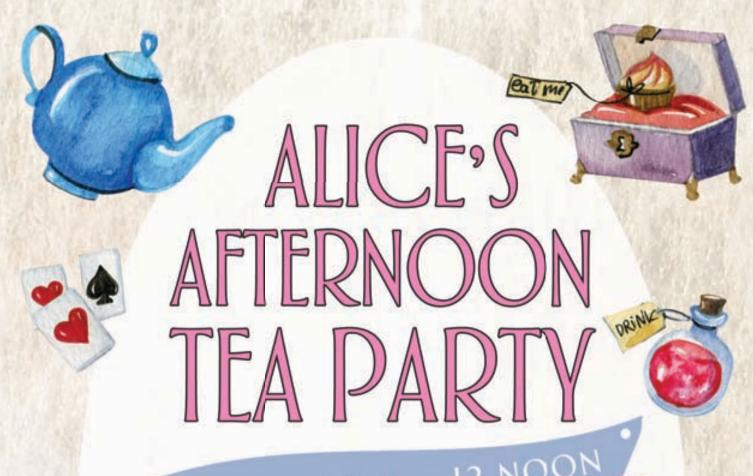
All aboard for a Severn Valley Railway train journey back in time to the 1940s!

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.



whatsonlive.co.uk 51



SAT 21ST JUL

12 NOON - 3PM

£12

Booking Essential

AFTERNOON TEA SERVED BY ALICE
HOSTED BY THE MAD HATTER
PRIZE FOR BEST COSTUME
FACE PAINTING
PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES
FAMILY DEALS AVAILABLE*

* Bookings of 4 plus — £10pp

The Peach Tree

To Book please call: 01743 355055 or email steve@thepeachtree.co.uk



What's On

Sun 1 to Sun 8 July



George Ezra in Cannock Chase Forest, Rugeley

Sun 1 July

Mon 9 to Sun 15 July



Rhythm Of The Dance at Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Sun 15 July

Mon 16 to Sun 22 July



Trembling Bells at Newhampton Arts Centre

Tues 17 July

Mon 23 to Tues 31 July



Saxon Living History at Tamworth Castle

Tues 24 - Thurs 26 July

thelist

THROUGHOUT JULY

Visual Arts

Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

NEW THE DUDLEY SOCIETY OF ARTISTS Exhibition of work by society members, Sat 28 July - Sat 22 Sept

New Art Gallery - Walsall

HETAIN PATEL - DON'T LOOK AT THE FINGER Film following a ceremonial encounter between a man and woman within a grand architectural setting, until Sun 29 July

ANDREW TIFT: IMMORTALISE Andrew presents a range of paintings, drawings, photographs and sketchbooks which combine his love of portraiture with experimental works, until Sun 2 Sept

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

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

Newcastle Borough Museum & Art Gallery

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

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

FAMILY MATTERS Sculptures by Simon Manby celebrating the values and virtues of family life, until Sun 15 July

Potteries Museum & Art Gallery - Stoke-On-Trent

NEW MADE BY THE GIRLS OF STAFFORD-SHIRE...: CERAMICS FROM WORLD WAR I Display from the museum's collection of World War I ceramics focusing on the wares 'made by the girls of Staffordshire during the winter of 1917 when the boys were in the trenches fighting for liberty and civilisation', Fri 27 July- Sat 22 Sept

Qube Gallery, Oswestry

NEW MADE Exhibition featuring the work of four paper artist tutors, Tues 3 July - Wed 1 Aug

Weston Park, Shifnal

DIETER BLUM'S COWBOYS FROM THE

DAIMLER ART COLLECTION The work of German photographer Dieter Blum is presented for the first time in the UK, until Mon 27 Aug

The Willow Art Gallery, Oswestry

NEW SHROPSHIRE GUILD OF CONTEMPO-RARY CRAFT 2018 Members exhibition including stained glass, ceramics, furniture, jewellery, weaving and textiles, Sat 21 July- Sat 8 Sept

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

WINDRUSH 70 Exhibition featuring a projected slideshow of photographs by acclaimed photographer Nick Hedges, showing Caribbean workers in Black Country industries in the 1970s, and previously unseen photographs capturing the community spirit in Wolverhampton's Caribbean churches during the same period of time, until Sun 29 July

Other VISUAL ARTS

INTERNATIONAL GARDEN PHOTOGRA-PHER Featuring the winners of Competition 11, which attracted some 19,000 individual entries from over 50 countries, until Mon 17 Sept, Jackfield Tile Museum, Telford

NEW TITANIC: HONOUR AND GLORY Exhibition about the doomed ocean liner, Mon 2 July- Sun 30 Sept, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

NEW HAITI CHERIE: JOURNEY TO A FOR-GOTTEN COUNTRY Exhibition of images of Haiti, taken over the last five years by photographer Carolin Windel, Tues 3 - Sun 29 July, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton

NEW WELLINGTON METHODIST CHURCH EXHIBITION Fri 6 - Sat 7 July, Wellington Methodist Church

NEW BEST OF BRITISH EXHIBITION New exhibition of work by a selection of the finest British artists working today, Sat 7 - Sun 8 July, Whitewall Galleries, Lichfield

NEW S M LAW SUMMER EXHIBITION Showcase of work in acrylic and oil, Sun 8 - Sat 21 July, The Bear Steps Gallery, Shrewsbury

NEW THREE COUNTIES OPEN ART 2018 EXHIBITION Featuring artwork by artists from Staffordshire, Cheshire and Shropshire, Sat 28 July - Thurs 30 Aug, Burslem School of Art, Stoke-on-Trent

NEW CHURCH STRETTON ARTS FESTIVAL 2018 Non-competitive showcase for amateur and professional artists, craft workers and photographers living within 30 miles of Church Stretton, Sat 28 July - Sun 12 Aug, Various locations around Church Stretton



Totally Tina - Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

Gigs

GEORGE EZRA Sun 1 July, Cannock Chase Forest, Rugeley

JONATHAN BYRD AND PICKUP COWBOY Sun 1 July, The Wightman, Shrewsbury

ROCK BOTTOM Sun 1 July, The Robin, Bilston

BAS Mon 2 July, O2 Institute. Birmingham

DEEP VALLY+ ECCA VANDAL + VIOLET Mon 2 July, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

VOYAGER Wed 4 July, The Asylum, B'ham

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

LOOSE ENDS Thurs 5 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

KAST OFF KINKS Thurs 5 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

GO-KART MOZART Thurs 5 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ROY ORBISON & BUDDY HOLLY Thurs 5 July, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

JOHN OTWAY Thurs 5 July, The Robin, Bilston

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

ULTIMATE COLDPLAY Fri 6 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

VEGA Fri 6 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

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

TOTALLY TINA Fri 6 July, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

BAD PRACTICE & NEIL DIABLO Fri 6 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

THE DRIFTERS Fri 6 July, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

THE SMYTHS... UNITE AND TAKE OVER TOUR 2018 Fri 6 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

TRIBUTE TO BOWIE Fri 6 July, National Brewery Centre, Burton upon Trent THE DUBLIN LEGENDS-FORMERLY THE DUBLIN-ERS Fri 6 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

WHITESNAKE UK Fri 6 July, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

THE MODFATHERS Fri 6 July, The Robin, Bilston

WAVELENGTH Sat 7 July, MAC, B'ham

OFFICIAL TDV MEMORIAL SHOW Sat 7 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

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

VAN HAILEN Sat 7 July, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

MUIRHEAD/ENGLAND JONES/SANSOM/YOUNG Sat 7 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury

THE TEE TRIO Sat 7 July, Lichfield Garrick

FATLIP FUNK AND SOUL PARTY Sat 7 July, The Night Owl, B'ham

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

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

THE JAR FAMILY Sat 7 July, Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley

MAETLOAF & THE NEVER NEVERLAND EXPRESS Sat 7 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

ULTIMATE GENESIS Sat 7 July, The Robin, Bilston

KUMAR SANU & ANU-RADHA PAUDWAL Sun 8 July, Arena B'ham

GAMBOLERS Sun 8 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LIZA SINGS STREISAND Sun 8 July, Lichfield Garrick

BLACKMORE'S BLOOD Sun 8 July, The Robin, Bilston

UNDERGROUND STORM + G00DALL + FLIGHT 15 Sun 8 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Sunday 1 to Sunday 8 July

Classical Music

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 Ehrenfellner & Bartók, Mon 2 July, Birmingham Town Hall

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

TOBY HUGHES - DOUBLE BASS Programme includes works by Montag, Desenclos & Franck, Fri 6 July, St Michael's Greenhill Church, Lichfield

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY OR-CHESTRA 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

ELGAR PIANO QUINTET Sat 7 July, Lichfield Garrick

CHETHAM'S SCHOOL SYMPHONY OR-CHESTRA & LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL SCHOOL ORCHESTRA Programme comprises Gustav Holst's The Planets & Benjamin Britten's Noye's Fludde, Sat 7 July, Lichfield Cathedral

THE TEE TRIO Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Bridge & Tailleferre, Sat 7 July, St Michael's Greenhill Church, Lichfield

JOO YEON SIR VIOLIN CONCERT Programme comprises Paganini's Caprices (nos. 1 - 11), Sun 8 July, Lichfield Guildhall

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

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY OR-CHESTRA 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 ORCHES-TRA 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

JETHR0 Thurs 5 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

ANDREW RYAN, SCOTT GIBSON & COM-EDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 5 July, The Glee Club, B'ham

GRIFF RHYS JONES Thurs 5 July, MAC, Birmingham

STEVE HALL, NICK PAGE, PAUL SAVAGE & KATE SMURTHWAITE Thurs 5 July, The George Hotel, Lichfield

ADAM ROWE, NICK PAGE, DEMITRIS DEECH, CALLUM OAKLEY & BARRY DODDS Thurs 5 July, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Staffordshire

KUM-N-AVALOFF COMEDY NIGHT Thurs 5 July, Stourbridge Town Hall

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

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

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

ROFL! COMEDY CLUB Sat 7 July, The Old Post Office, Stoke-On-Trent

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

MACBETH Outdoor staging of the



Dylan Thomas: Clown In The Moon - Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

Bard's bloodiest play, until Sat 14 July, Stafford Castle

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

MISS LITTLEW00D New musical based on the life story of anarchic theatre legend Joan Littlewood, until Sat 4 Aug, The Swan Theatre, Stratfordupon-Avon

MACBETH Starring Christopher Eccleston and Niamh Cusack, until Tues
18 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre,
Stratford-upon-Avon

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

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

CARMEN Heritage Opera fuse love, lust and murder in an outdoor staging of Bizet's classic opera, Sun 1 July, Stafford Castle

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

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

SWEET SHOP ON THE SHORE Kate Corkery brings to life her autobiographical tale, inspired by childhood in a colourful Irish fishing community, Wed 4 July, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

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

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

ODDSOCKS' THE TEMPEST Madcap funsters Oddsocks give a sci-fi slant to Shakespeare's last play, Thurs 5 July, Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford, Shropshire

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

DYLAN THOMAS: CLOWN IN THE MOON
Dramatic portrait of the poet's
chaotic, frequently hilarious and alltoo-brief life, Fri 6 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

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

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS Bold As Brass Productions present an adaptation of Carlo Goldoni's Servant Of Two Masters, a 1743 Commedia dell'arte style comedy, Fri 6 - Sat 7 July, Mitchell Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

CIRQUE BERSERK! Fusion of cirque skills and stunt action, Fri 6 - Sun 8 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

LOVE, LAUGHTER AND LOSS Musical theatre review from the students of Top Hat Stage School Midlands, Sat 7 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

AN EVENING OF CLAIRVOYANCE WITH PHILIP SOLOMON Sat 7 July, Stour-bridge Town Hall

thelist



Somnium: A Dancer's Dream - Lichfield Cathedral

THE MINISTRY OF BISCUITS Musical comedy satire, Sat 7 July, Lichfield Garrick

RAZZAMATAZ ANNUAL SHOWCASE Razzamataz Theatre Schools Sutton Coldfield presents its annual showcase, Sat 7 - Sun 8 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

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

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY Amateur production based on the popular BBC comedy series, Sat 7 - Sat 14 July, Oldbury Rep

ASTLEY'S ASTOUNDING ADVENTURES

The story of the Staffordshire hero who invented circus... and conquered the world, Sat 7 - Sat 28 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

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

JUKEBOX VOL. 6 A celebration of musical hits as members of Get Your Wigle On perform the sixth instalment of their Jukebox series, Sun 8 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

ENOUGH Solo piece exposing a life of white, thin privilege through a traumatised body, Sun 8 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury

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

Kids Show

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR Celebrating the company's 30-year anniversary, students from Stagecoach Shrewsbury present their version of the Disney classic, Sun 1 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

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

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

MILKSHAKE! LIVE Interactive show for younger audiences featuring TV favourites Bob the Builder, Little Princess, Noddy, Fireman Sam and the Milkshake! Monkey, Sat 7 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Dance

ADJUDICATION Flexus Dance Collective present an evening of dance inspired by the commitment and beliefs of a faith system, Sun 1 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

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

Talks

DAN SNOW: AN EVENING WITH THE HISTORY GUY Wed 4 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

LICHFIELD PEACE LECTURE Rev Lucy Winkett explores themes of peace making, power brokering, surrender and settlement in contemporary society, Sat 7 July, Lichfield Garrick

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

HEARTS & MINDS Jane Robinson talks about the untold story of the Great Pilgrimage and how women won the vote, Sun 8 July, Lichfield Guildhall

BAD GIRLS - A HISTORY OF REBELS AND RENEGADES Caitlin Davies takes a look at how 'disobedient and defiant women' changed not only the prison service but also the course of history, Sun 8 July, Lichfield Guildhall

ALAN BENNETT BY DR KARA MCKECHNIE Lecturer in Dramaturgy at the University of Leeds, Kara McKechnie explores the work of Alan Bennett in conjunction with the Festival's new production of Talking Heads, Sun 8 July, Lichfield Guildhall

Film INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

HOW TO TALK TO GIRLS AT PARTIES (15) Comedy/Music. Starring Elle Fanning, Nicole Kidman. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Tues 3 July

A QUIET PLACE (15) Horror/Thriller. Starring Emily Blunt, John Krasinski. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Thurs 5 July

LEAN ON PETE (15) Adventure/Drama. Starring Steve Buscemi, Charlie Plummer. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, until Thurs 5 July

THE HAPPY PRINCE (15) Drama/History. Starring Rupert Everett, Colin Firth. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Thurs 5 July

FINDING YOUR FEET (12a)

Comedy/Drama. Starring Joanna Lumley, Celia Imrie. Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 2 July



GREASE (PG) Musical/Romance. Starring John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Mon 2 July

THAT GOOD NIGHT (12a) Drama. Starring John Hurt, Sofia Helin. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 2, Wed 4 - Thurs 5 July

SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY (12a) Scifi/Drama. Starring Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harrelson. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 3 July

TULLY (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Charlize Theron, Mackenzie Davis. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 6 -Thurs 12 July

I, TONYA (15) Biography/Comedy. Starring Margot Robbie, Sebastian Stan. Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Tues 3 July

EDIE (12a) Drama. Starring Sheila Hancock, Kevin Guthrie. Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 3 July; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 3 & Sat 5 July

OCEAN'S 8 (12a) Action/Comedy. Starring Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 6 - Thurs 12 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)

Sunday 1 to Sunday 8 July

Events

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

FOLLIES FEST Family-friendly weekend of music and entertainment, until Sun 1 July, Hawkstone Park & Follies, Weston-under-Redcastle, North Shropshire

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

CRAVEN ARMS ART CAFÉ ARTISTS A wide variety of artwork will be on display for visitors to enjoy and purchase, until Tues 17 July, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

RACE FOR LIFE Sun 1 July, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

THE HIVE OPEN DAY Free creative workshops, Sun 1 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury

ARMED FORCES DAY Free event featuring an archery range, paint ball gallery, ex-military vehicle display and vintage children's rides, Sun 1 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

VIKINGS AT OAK HOUSE Featuring displays of eastern bridge fighting and combat demonstrations, Sun 1 July, The Oak House Museum, West Bromwich

MIDSUMMER GARDEN PARTY Sixtieth anniversary celebrations of the Dorothy Clive Garden, Sun 1 July, The Dorothy Clive Garden, Nr Market Drayton, North Shropshire

OSWESTRY COLOUR RUN Run, walk or jog the 3K around the Ironworks sculptures, Sun 1 July, The British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

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

AFTERNOON TEA - BEHIND THE SCENES Combine a behind-the-scenes tour with afternoon tea in the Victorian Orangery, Sun 1 July - Sat 1 Sept, Weston Park. Nr Shifnal

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

EXPLORASAURUS EVENING Get stuck in to all things dino-tastic! Wed 4 July, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

CASTLE TOURS Fri 6 July, Dudley Cas-

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

RAIL ALE TRAIL Fri 6 - Sun 8 July,

Churnet Valley Railway, Froghall, Staffs

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

ANIMAL PUPPETRY PARADE Procession of giant puppets, Sat 7 July, Market Square, Lichfield (part of Lichfield Festival)

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

4X4 IN THE FOREST Explore Cannock Chase Forest from behind the wheel, Sat 7 July, Cannock Chase Forest, Rugeley

BIG BAND SHOW Featuring a jazz orchestra and special guests playing tunes from the 1940s, Sat 7 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

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



DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL Featuring teams racing each other in 40ft-long Dragon Boats, Sat 7 - Sun 8 July, Pengwern Boat Club, Shrewsbury

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

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

RACE FOR LIFE Sun 8 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

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

WOLVERHAMPTON FOOD & DRINK FESTI-VAL Featuring live music, DJ's, guest appearances, open air cinema, family area, traditional fairground stalls, street food & artisan stalls, Sat 7 -Sun 8 July, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton



Cadbury Character Breakfast - Cadbury World, Birmingham

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 headling 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, Hennesea, Answer Back, Temple Lake, Trever Steger, Bourbon Alley and much more... Sat 7 July, West Malvern Playing Field, Worcestershire



Calan - Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod







Monday 9 - Sunday 15 July



Skipinnish - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Gigs

THE CONTORTIONIST Mon 9 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

SKIPINNISH Wed 11 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE BREEDERS Wed 11 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

A CELEBRATION OF BERNSTEIN & GERSH-WIN Thurs 12 July,

Lichfield Cathedral **HELLIONS** Thurs 12

July The Sunflower

July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

VIVA NEIL DIAMOND Thurs 12 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

GUNS 2 ROSES Thurs 12 July, The Robin, Bilston

CLAIRE ATHERTON Fri 13 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

DRESSED TO KILL Fri 13 July, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton JAY RAYNER JAZZ QUAR-TET Fri 13 July, Lichfield Garrick

ARIANA KASHEFI Fri 13 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

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

RONI SIZE Fri 13 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE BON JOVI EXPERI-ENCE Fri 13 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

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

DIARY OF A MADMAN & GLITORIS Fri 13 July, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

HARDLINE Fri 13 July, The Robin, Bilston

BLACKWATERS Sat 14 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

KRIS DREVER & JULIE FOWLIS Sat 14 July,

Lichfield Cathedral
HERITAGE: TOMISLAV, SI

STORER & NIK GILLET Sat 14 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE PAULUS SCHAFER TRIO Sat 14 July, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth

THE AGNES COLLECTIVE: MOTHER NATURE Sat 14 July, Lichfield Garrick

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

IAN MCNABB Sat 14 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

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

WHO'S WHO & SMALL FAKERS Sat 14 July, The Robin, Bilston

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

ESP 2.0 Sun 15 July, The Robin, Bilston



The Hunna - O2 Academy, Birmingham

Classical Music

ORGAN RECITAL WITH TIMOTHY WAK-ERELL Programme includes works by J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Cook

J.S Bach, Mendelssohn, Cook, Bovet, Jongen & Master of the Queen's Music, Judith Weir, Mon 9 July, Lichfield Cathedral

THE CARDINALL'S MUSICK Mon 9 July, Lichfield Cathedral

BEN GOLDSCHEIDER FRENCH HORN CONCERT Programme includes works by von Krufft, Wildmann, Schubert, Cruttwell-Reade & York Bowen, Tues 10 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

LUCY CROWE/LA NUOVA MUSICA Also featuring David Bates (conductor). Programme includes works by Vivaldi, Corelli, Handel & Nico Muhly, Tues 10 July, Lichfield Cathedral

THE CARDUCCIS & MATTHEW HUNT Programme includes works by Howells, Bartok & Mozart, Wed 11 July, Swinfen Hall Hotel, Lichfield

J00 YEON SIR: CAPRICES II Programme comprises Paganini's Caprices (nos. 13 - 24) & Cruttwell-Reade's Devil's Minion, Wed 11 July, Lichfield Guildhall

TIMOTHY EDLIN: BASS BARITONE Programme of English & German song featuring works by Schubert, Schumann, Brahms & Vaughan Williams. Jo Ramadan accompanies on piano, Thurs 12 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

A CELEBRATION OF BERNSTEIN & GERSHWIN Featuring Danny Driver (piano), Joo Yeon Sir (violin), Matthew Hunt (clarinet), Jessica Walker (voice), Joseph Atkins (piano/arranger) & Clare Hammond (piano), Thurs 12 July, Lichfield Cathedral

BBC NATIONAL ORCHESTRA OF WALES Featuring Danny Driver (piano). Programme includes works by Hyde, Shostakovich & Rachmaninov, Fri 13 July, Lichfield Cathedral

ARIANA KASHEFI IN RECITAL Programme includes works by Brahms & Schumann, Fri 13 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

BOGLARKA GYORGY Programme comprises Brahms' Violin Sonata No.3 D-minor & Enescu's Violin Sonata No.3 A-minor, Sat 14 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

THE AGNES COLLECTIVE: MOTHER NATURE Featuring Susan Gilmour Bailey (soprano), Alexandra Gibson (mezzo-soprano), Mark Dobell (tenor) & Jonathan Gunthorpe (baritone), Sat 14 July, St Michael's Greenhill Church, Lichfield

THE CARDUCCIS Programme includes works by Haydn, Piazzolla & De-

bussy, Sat 14 July, St Michael's Greenhill Church, Lichfield

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

Comedy

ALBERT LOVES LAUGHS Mon 9 July, Albert's Shed Bar, Shrewsbury

GEORGE EGG Wed 11 July, Lichfield Garrick

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 FEA-TURING CLINTON BAPTISTE Fri 13 July, MAC, Birmingham

MARK STEEL Sat 14 July, Lichfield Garrick

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

COMEDY IN THE MET Sat 14 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

ROFL! COMEDY CLUB Sat 14 July, The Old Post Office, Stoke-On-Trent

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

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW The Malachites present a contemporary reworking of Shakespeare's comedy, Tues 10 July, Lichfield Garrick

THE SPIRIT OF THE CIRCUS Presented by The Inge Domeyer School of Dance & Drama, Tues 10 - Wed 11 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

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

SEPTEMBER TIDE Intimate Theatre presents a staging of Daphne Du Maurier's Cornish drama, Wed 11 - Thurs 12 July, The George Hotel, Lichfield

What's





Saturday 4 August, 7.30pm

RUSSELL WATSON THE PLACE IN THE PARK BIG TOP



Sunday 5 August, 7.30pm **SCHEHERAZADE AND** 1001 NIGHTS THE PLACE IN THE PARK BIG TOP



Monday 6 August, 7.30pm

SOUNDS OF THE 60S THE PLACE IN THE PARK BIG TOP



Tuesday 7 August, 7.30pm THE SUPERSONIC 70S SHOW THE PLACE IN THE PARK BIG TOP



Tues 7 & Wed 8 August, 12pm & 3pm

DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE



Thursday 9 August, 7.30pm

80S MANIA THE PLACE IN THE PARK BIG TOP



Friday 10 August, 7.30pm **BOYZLIFE** THE PLACE IN THE PARK BIG TOP



Thursday 16 August, 7.30pm **COLLABRO** THE PLACE IN THE PARK BIG TOP



Friday 17 August, 7.30pm **DOREEN'S NAUGHTY BITS** THE PLACE IN THE PARK BIG TOP

01952 382382 www.theplacetelford.com





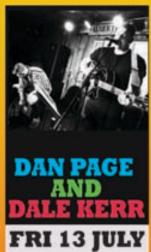






LIVE MUSIC







SHREWSBURY

thelist

Monday 9 - Sunday 15 July

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

THE TIME MACHINE Dyad Productions present a radical interpretation of the HG Wells classic, Thurs 12 July, Lichfield Garrick

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Get Your Wigle On present the Andrew Lloyd Webber/Jim Steinman musical, Thurs 12 - Sat 14 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

FRANKENSTEIN 1899 Jonathan Goodwin & Sarah Gordon star in a new staging of Mary Shelley's timeless classic, Fri 13 July, Lichfield Garrick

TRES TRES CABARET An evening of 'cheeky decadence and tantalising fun', Fri 13 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

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

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

PAT KIRKWOOD IS ANGRY Jessica Walker brings to life one of Britain's greatest wartime variety artists, Sat 14 July, Lichfield Garrick

SONDHEIM'S WOMEN: SEND IN THE CLOWNS A cast of West End soloists bring to life Sondheim's famous female characters, Sat 14 July, Lichfield Garrick

Kids Shows

THE OWL WHO WAS AFRAID OF THE DARK Puppetry, dance & laughter collide in Jill Tomlinson's touching tale for younger audiences, Wed 11 July, Lichfield Garrick

SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL Amateur staging presented by DE Caversmill Theatre Company, Wed 11 - Sat 14 July, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stokeon-Trent

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL MYTS present an amateur staging of the much-acclaimed Disney musical, Wed 11 - Sat 14 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

ANNIE JR Amateur staging presented by The Performing Stars Academy Burton, Fri 13 - Sat 14 July, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

HANSEL AND GRETEL The words of Simon Armitage retell the famous Brothers Grimm story in an extended lyrical poem, entwined with chamber music by composer Matthew Kaner, Fri 13 - Sat 14 July, Lichfield Guildhall

Dance

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

ADJUDICATION Flexus Dance Collective present an evening of dance inspired by the commitment and beliefs of a faith system, Sun 14 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

AACE DANCE FESTIVAL Showcase of dance by a selection of local dance schools and academies, Sat 14 July, Netherton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

RHYTHM OF THE DANCE A fully live show celebrating Irish culture through music and dance, Sun 15 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

IN THE FADE (18) Crime/Drama. Starring Diane Kruger, Denis Moschitto. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Mon 9 - Tues 12 July

EDIE (12a) Drama. Starring Sheila Hancock, Kevin Guthrie. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Mon 9 July; Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 10 & Thurs 12 July

SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY (12a) Scifi/Drama. Starring Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harrelson. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Fri 13 July

BOOK CLUB (12a) Comedy. Starring Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 13 - Thurs 19 July

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY & POTATO
PEEL PIE SOCIETY (12a) Drama/History.
Starring Lily James, Michael Huisman. Light House Media Centre,
W'hampton, Fri 13 - Thurs 19 July

THE BOOKSHOP (12A) Drama. Starring Emily Mortimer, Bill Nighy. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 13 - Thurs 19 July

MY FRIEND DAHMER (15)

Biography/Drama. Starring Ross Lynch, Alex Wolff. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 13 -Thurs 19 July



Carnival Of Giants - Telford Town Park

Events

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

POP-UP @LICHFIELDFEST Discover performances in unusual spaces across the city, Sat 14 July, Lichfield City Centre

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, Dudlev

THE LUNA CINEMA AT THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM Cinematic weekend, Sat 14 - Sun 15 July, National Memorial Arboretum, Stafford

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

MAIZE MAZE Prove yourself a top spy by graduating Agent Academy! Sat 14 July - Mon 3 Sep, National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton Upon Trent

MARY STEVENS HOSPICE SUMMER FEST Full-day family festival featuring live music, food and classic cars, Sun 15 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

CARNIVAL OF GIANTS 2018 Celebration of the town's 50th birthday, Sun 15 July, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

Talks

MASTER OF THE QUEEN'S MUSIC Hosted by Judith Weir, the first woman to be appointed to the post, Mon 9 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

FORGOTTEN WOMEN: THE SCIENTISTS Hosted by spokesperson for millennial women Zing Tsjeng, Mon 9 July, Cathedral Hotel, Lichfield

HER VOICE IN HISTORY Cath Baxter explores iconic women with iconic voices, and questions why how they spoke was just as important as what they had to say, Wed 11 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

JULIA MILES: THE AMBASSADOR'S WIFE'S TALE Join Julia as she reveals the realities of living life as an Ambassador's wife, Thurs 12 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

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

JAY RAYNER - MY DINING HELL An evening in the company of the man recently voted the best food & drink journalist in Britain, Fri 13 July, Lichfield Garrick

thelist



Trembling Bells - Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

Gigs

SWINGING AT THE COT-TON CLUB Mon 16 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

PREOCCUPATIONS Mon 16 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



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

THE WEEKS Tues 17 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

TREMBLING BELLS Tues 17 July, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

CASEY LOWRY Wed 18 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

HAYSEED DIXIE Wed 18 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS

Thurs 19 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

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

THE CHRIS BEVINGTON ORGANISATION Fri 20 July, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

WAX ON Fri 20 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

UPROAR THE REUNION Fri 20 July, O2 Insti-

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

DEFINITELY MIGHTBE & ADORED Fri 20 July,
The River Rooms,
Stourbridge

A NEW FLAME - SIMPLY RED TRIBUTE Fri 20 July, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

DYLAN CARTLIDGE Fri 20 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

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

THE BLOCKHEADS Fri 20 July, MAC, B'ham

THE SUPERSKAS Fri 20 July, The Robin, Bilston

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

DEP LEPPARD Sat 21

July, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

BETRAYAL Sat 21 July, The Sugarmill, Stokeon-Trent

BIG LUCKY Sat 21 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MECHANICAL HEARTS Sat 21 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

INTO THE SHADOWS Sat 21 July, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

ULTRA 90S Sat 21 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

CYMBELINE Sat 21 July, The O2 Academy, Birmingham

FAITH EVANS Sat 21 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

HERESY - RESURREC-TION 2018 Sat 21 July, The Slade rooms, Wolverhampton

ROAD TRIP - THE SUM-MERTIME TOUR Sun 22 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE SKATALITES Sun 22 July, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

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

Classical Music

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

TAKE 6 'the most awarded a cappella group in history', Fri 20 July, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA Featuring Michael Seal (conductor) & Daniel Lebhardt (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 RAY-MOND & MR TIMPKINS REVUE AND COMIC TBC Thurs 19 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LARRY DEAN & MAT EWINS Thurs 19 July, MAC, Birmingham

GARY DELANEY Thurs 19 July, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Staffordshire

THE ELVIS DEAD Thurs 19 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DAN NIGHTINGALE Fri 20 July, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

GLENN WOOL Fri 20 July, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

JOHN LYNN Fri 20 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

PHIL ELLIS, MARK NELSON, THE RAY-MOND & 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

EDDIE BRIMSON, PHIL CHAPMAN, KEITH CARTER & DAMION LARKIN Sat 21 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

ROFL! COMEDY CLUB Sat 21 July, The Old Post Office, Stoke-On-Trent

ANIL DESAI Sat 21 July, Old Market Hall. Shrewsbury

CHRIS WASHINGTON Sat 21 July, Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury

SCOTT BENNETT Sat 21 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

ROB ROUSE Sat 21 July, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

RIK CARRANZA Sat 21 July, Havana Republic Bar and Restaurant, Shrewsbury

TONY LAW Sat 21 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

MILO MCCABE Sat 21 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

NICK DOODY Sun 22 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

ABANDOMAN Sun 22 July, Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury

STEVE DAY Sun 22 July, Havana Republic Bar and Restaurant, Shrewsbury

CARL DONNELLY Sun 22 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

Theatre

CURTAIN UP! Peter Quilter's fastpaced comedy about five women who inherit equal shares in a dilapidated theatre... Tues 17 - Sat 21 July, Lichfield Garrick

THEORY OF RELATIVITY New musical taking a look at the subject of 'human connection', Tues 17 - Sat 21 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

CABINET OF CURIOSITIES Playful circus adventure for young children and their families, Wed 18 - Fri 27 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

IOLANTHE Sasha Regan's all-male, company return with Gilbert & Sullivan's topsy-turvy love story, Thurs 19 - Sat 21 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SIDE SHOW Inspired by the true story of conjoined twins Daisy and Violet Hilton, Thurs 19 - Sun 22 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

READY STEADY SHOW Summer showcase from the students of Musical Theatre Academy, Fri 20 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury

A SELF HELP GUIDE TO BEING IN LOVE WITH JEREMY CORBYN Jess Green and the Mischief Thieves take a 'lyrical, powerful and humorous' look at modern politics, Sat 21 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

GRAND INDIAN CIRCUS All-action display of skills from a super-group of Rajasthan's elite circus and street performers, Sun 22 July, MAC, Birmincham



Kids Shows

HORRIBLE HISTORIES - BARMY BRITAIN: PART FOUR Wed 18 - Sat 21 July, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

Monday 16 - Sunday 22 July

Dance

ADJUDICATION Flexus Dance Collective present an evening of dance inspired by the commitment and beliefs of a faith system, Fri 20 July, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

Film INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

BOOK CLUB (12a) Comedy. Starring Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Mon 16 July

THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI (15) Mystery/Thriller. Starring Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 16 July

Z00 (PG) History/War. Starring Toby Jones and Penelope Wilton. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 20 - Thurs 26 July

THE BOOKSHOP (12A) Drama. Starring Emily Mortimer, Bill Nighy. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 20 - Thurs 26

MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN (12a) Comedy/Musical. Starring Meryl Streep, Lily James. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 20 - Tues 31 July; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 20 -Tues 31 July

PETER RABBIT (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of James Corden, Fayssal Bazzi. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Sat 21 - Thurs 26 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

A FLAVOUR OF THE FORTIES Special 1940s weekend, Mon 16 - Fri 20 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE A summer festival of 'fabulous antiques and statement pieces', Thurs 19 - Sun 22 July, NEC, Birmingham

CASTLE TOURS 2018 Fri 20 July, Dudley Castle

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

STARS IN YOUR SKIES Pete Williamson FRAS talks about the mission to the moon and what it achieved, Sat 21 July, Carding Mill Valley & The Shropshire Hills, Church Stretton, Shropshire

WHISKY AND TWILIGHT The popular Twilight guided tours return for the JQ Festival, in collaboration with the Whisky Club, Sat 21 July, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

FORGE EXPERIENCE DAY Hands-on experience of blacksmithing, Sat 21 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

FOXFIELD SUMMER GALA Featuring the regular demonstration coal trains, Sat 21 - Sun 22 July, Foxfield Railway, Staffs

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

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

SUMMER CLAY CRAFTS Find your inner artist and decorate ceramics every day over the summer holidays, Sat



Design And Make- Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire



Greek Myths And Legends

The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 21 July

Kickstart the summer holidays by taking a giant step back in time to Ancient Greece, courtesy of this comic interactive theatre performance. Beset by monsters and befuddled by gods, Odysseus and his men find that journeying across the high seas is certainly no walk in the park... As well as enjoying a morning's-worth of Greek myths and legends, audience members can also make a comedy or tragedy mask out of clay to take home with them.

21 July - Sun 2 Sept, Coalport China Museum, Telford, Shropshire

HANDS-ON FUN AT BLISTS HILL Celebrate Ironbridge's industrial past with hands on activities, trails and demonstrations, Sat 21 July - Sun 2 Sept, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

LUDLOW DOG DAY Opportunity for dogs, their owners and families to enjoy a day out in beautiful surroundings, Sun 22 July, Stokesay Court, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

EDWARDIAN GARDEN PARTY Take along a picnic and partake in traditional Edwardian games and an Edwardian lantern show, Sun 22 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

DIG IT! Hands-on activities including sandpit exploration and microscope identification, Sun 22 July, Hartlebury Castle. Kidderminster

AFRICA DAY AT MONKEY FOREST Enjoy the sounds of the Chars choir and get your face painted like your favourite African animal, Sun 22 July, Trentham Monkey Forest, Stoke-on-Trent

AFTERNOON TEA - BEHIND THE SCENES Combine a behind-the-scenes tour with afternoon tea in the Victorian Orangery, Sun 22 July - Sat 22 Sept, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal

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



whatsonlive.co.uk 63

thelist

Gigs

DEL AMITRI Mon 23 July, Symphony Hall, B'ham

MIKE & SOLVEIG Tues 24 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

EMPLOYED TO SERVE Tues 24 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhamp-

DROUGHT ON MARS Wed 25 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

KING PLEASURE AND THE **BISCUIT BOYS** Thurs 26 July, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

BON ACCORD Thurs 26 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

HÜDS Thurs 26 July, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE ED SHEERAN EXPERI-ENCE Fri 27 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

OASISH Fri 27 July. Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

ECHO GECCO + THE HUB-BARDS Fri 27 July, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

CHOKING SUSAN PLUS SUPPORT FROM SPUNK **VOLCANO, THE ERUP-**TIONS AND DRAG Fri 27 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

THE RAT PACK IS BACK Fri 27 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ROCKET Fri 27 July, The Jam House, B'ham

UNCHANGED Sat 28 July. O2 Academy, Birming-

RIOT GRRRUNGE NIGHT Sat 28 July, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

ELECTRIC 80S Sat 28 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES Sat 28 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MONSTER ROCK AN-THEMS Sat 28 July,

Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent

LAUER Sat 28 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham **BROKEN MINDS - JUNGLE** EDITION Sat 28 July, Hare & Hounds. B'ham

BLACK COUNTRY PIRATES Sat 28 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

BRAIN FOOD Sat 28 July, The Night Owl, B'ham

OUT OF TIME - MOD NIGHT Sat 28 July, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

BLACK ANGUS Sat 28 July, The Slade rooms, Wolverhampton

ZAL CLEMINSON'S SIN DOGS Sun 29 July, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

EARTHLESS & RUBY THE HATCHET Sun 29 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

Comedy

TOM ALLEN Mon 23 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

TOM STADE & CHRIS STOKES Wed 25 July, The Patrick Kavanagh, B'ham

DALISO CHAPONDA. ROSCO MCCLEL-LAND. REVERNED OBADIAH STEPPEN-**WOLF III & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH** ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 26 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL SINHA & LAURA LEXX Thurs 26 July, MAC, Birmingham

SUMMER COMEDY GALA Fri 27 July, National Brewery Centre, Burtonupon-Trent

DALISO CHAPONDA. REVERNED OBA-**DIAH 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 ROFL! COMEDY CLUB Sat 28 July, The Old Post Office, Stoke-On-Trent

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

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Chapterhouse Theatre Company present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's romantic comedy, Tues 24 July, Powis Castle and Garden, Welsh-

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

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Chap-

Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

Theatre

pool, Powys

ing Estate. Stafford

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Presented by The Pantaloons, Fri 27 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

FUNNY FACES Double bill of plays based on the lives and loves of two British comedy legends, Sid James and Joan Sims, Fri 27 July, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shrop-

LITTLE WOMEN Chapterhouse Theatre present an outdoor staging of Louisa May Alcott's timeless tale, Fri 27 July, MAC, Birmingham

BEATING BERLUSCONI! Roller-coaster tale of one man's attempt to rediscover his belief in himself. Tues 31 July, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

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 HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES Brand new staging of the classic Sherlock Holmes mystery, Tues 31 July - Sat 4 Aug, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

Kids Shows

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD Moon On A Stick fuse puppetry and storytelling with elements of pantomime in an imaginative show for younger audiences, Tues 24 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

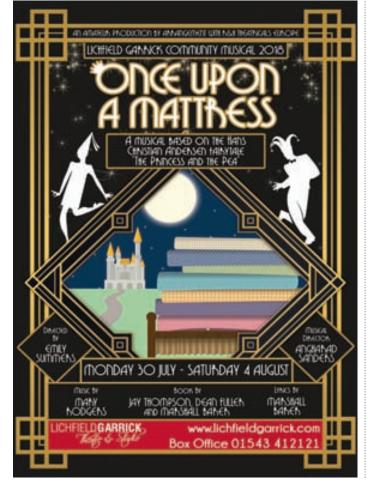


PETER PAN Presented by Immersion Theatre, Thurs 26 July, Birmingham **Botanical Gardens**

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS The Garrick's annual community musical - If you thought you knew Hans Christian Andersen's The Princess And The Pea, you might be in for a big surprise! Mon 30 July - Sat 4 Aug, Lichfield Garrick

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

DARKEST HOUR (PG) Biography/Drama. Starring Gary Old-



26 July, Shugborough Historic Work-

Monday 23 - Tuesday 31 July

man, Lily James. Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 23 July

VICTORIA & ABDUL (12)

Biography/Drama. Starring Judi Dench, Ali Fazal. Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Tues 24 July

SHERLOCK GNOMES (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Kelly Asbury, Mary J. Blige. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Tues 24 July

MARY SHELLEY (12A)

Biography/Drama. Starring Elle Fanning, Maisie Williams. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 27 - Tues 31 July

THE BOOKSHOP (12A) Drama. Starring Emily Mortimer, Bill Nighy. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, 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

CRAFT ACTIVITY - BALLOON OWLS Drop in sessions for children, Tues 24 -Thurs 26 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

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 July - Sun 2 Sept, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

DEN BUILDING Wed 25 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

GET GEOCACHING Explore Attingham as you hunt for hidden geocaches around the grounds, Wed 25 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

KEEP READING AT TRENTHAM MONKEY FOREST Encourage your little monkeys to keep reading, with help from Beanstalk reading charity, Wed 25 July, Trentham Monkey Forest, Stokeon-Trent

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

HANDS ON HISTORY: THE ROMANS Roman history is brought to life, Wed 25 July - Fri 31 Aug, Wroxeter Roman City, Nr Shrewsbury

SUMMER FUN Explore Maisy's Maize Maze or have a go on the space hoppers, Wed 25 July - Sun 30 Sept, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

OPERATION EARTH ROADSHOW Become an environmental scientist and explore the natural environment, Thurs 26 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

POTTERY FOR ADULTS Thurs 26 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury

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



Saxon Living History - Tamworth Castle, Staffs



Once Upon A Mattress

Lichfield Garrick, Mon 30 July - Sat 4 August

Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairytale of The Princess And The Pea is here given a 1920s twist, with the show's producers promising a production 'sparkling with glitz and glamour and backed by a wonderful musical score'. The show is the Garrick's third 'community musical', following on from The Hired Man and The Dreaming, both of which garnered good reviews.

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

FAMILY POTTERY Fun and creative workshop for family members of all ages and generations, Fri 27 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

AN AUDIENCE WITH HENRY VIII Meet Henry and find out all about his life, Fri 27 July, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

COLOUR OBSTACLE RUSH The only 5k with 20 obstacles, eight colour stations and 20 music zones, Sat 28 July, Wolverhampton Racecourse

1940S DAY AT THE LOCKSMITH'S HOUSESat 28 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

CERAMIC TITANIC Learn how to sculpt and glaze your own mini Titanic complete with icebergs! Sat 28 July Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

MONSTER ROCK ANTHEMS Sat 28 July, Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent

DIRTY VEGAN - A MAC POP-UP Two-day fusion of healthy and naughty, Fri 28 - Sat 29 July, MAC, Birmingham

LIVING HISTORY - MID VICTORIAN MILI-TIA Living history displays 'with lots of interaction, education and, of course. entertainment!' Sat 28 - Sun 29 July,

Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

SUPERHERO & PRINCESS Featuring 'all manner of characters, from Disney and Star Wars to your favourite comics', Sat 28 - Mon 30 July, Chunnet Valley Railway, Froghall, Staffs

SUMMER NIGHTS AT WEST MIDLAND SA-FARI PARK Sat 28 July - Sun 2 Sept, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley

DRAGON BOAT RACE 2018 Sun 29 July, Chillington Hall, Wolverhampton

OPERATION EARTH ROADSHOW Become an environmental scientist and explore the natural environment, Sun 29 July, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

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, Nr Kidderminster

thelist

Monday 23 - Tuesday 31 July

AFTERNOON TEA - BEHIND THE SCENES Combine a behind-the-scenes tour with afternoon tea in the Victorian Orangery, Sun 29 July - Sat 29 Sept, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal

MEDIEVAL LIVING HISTORY Meet medieval characters and learn about their lives, Tues 31 July - Thurs 2 Aug, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

SUMMER TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPSTues 31 July - Fri 31 Aug, Jackfield
Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

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

CIDER & SAUSAGE FESTIVAL The promise of a sausage tasting event like no other. Choose from six sausage taster dishes inspired by recipes from around the world, paired with local cider producers offering tasters and drinks, Sat 28 July, The

Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

GIN & DISCO FESTIVAL Gin and Disco all day long with splashes of soulful house for you to dance into the night, Sat 28 July, Hanley Park, Stoke-On-Trent

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

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

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



Summer Tile Decorating Workshops - Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge

Centre

MIDDLE OF NOWHERE FESTIVAL Features original artists and tribute bands spanning the genres of blues, rock & country, Fri 27 - Sun 29 July, Lower Drayton Farm, Staffordshire

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, Kurupt 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, Birmincham



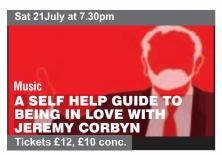














THE LITTLE VENUE WITH BIG IDEAS Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE





SATURDAY 28 JULY

11AM - 10PM · CIDER, SAUSAGE, LIVE MUSIC & MORE

£5 TICKETS: THEBUTTERMARKET.CO.UK

THE BUTTERMARKET

SHREWSBURY



WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:

LEMAR MATT TERRY REGGIE N BOLLIE

SUNDAY 15TH JULY | 10-5
FOOD FESTIVAL | LIVE MUSIC | CAR SHOW
BEER TENT | COCKTAIL BAR | FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES | RIDES

CHILDREN AGED 13 & UNDER COME IN FOR FREE!

AGE 14+: £17.50 ONLINE OR £20 ON THE DAY

MARYSTEVENSHOSPICE.CO.UK/EVENT/SUMMERFEST-2018