Your FREE essential entertainment guide for the Midlands

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Worcestershire

What's On

ISSUE 392 AUGUST 2018

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joins the line-up at Sunshine Festival

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a 'big, sexy and unpredictable' sound at Bromsgrove's Artrix

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What's On MEDIA GROUP

Managing Director: **Davina Evans** davina@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281708
Sales & Marketing: **Lei Woodhouse** lei@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281703 **Chris Horton** chris@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281704
Editorial: **Lauren Foster** lauren@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281707 **Brian O'Faolain** brian@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281701
Sue Jones sue@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281705 **Abi Whitehouse** abi@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281716
Lauren Cole lauren.cole@whatsonlive.co.uk **Ellie Hutchings** ellie@whatsonlive.co.uk
Adrian Parker adrian.parker@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281714
Contributors: Graham Bostock, James Cameron-Wilson, Heather Kincaid, Katherine Ewing, Jenny Ell, Jack Rolfe, Elly Yates-Roberts
Publisher and CEO: **Martin Monahan** Accounts Administrator: **Julia Perry** julia@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281717

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Worcester Festival returns for a 16th year

The Worcester Festival is this month back for its 16th year, kicking off on Saturday 11 August and running right through to the August bank holiday (Monday the 27th), with events and activities happening across the city every single day.

Commenting on the 2018 edition of the festival, director Chris Jaeger said: "The Worcester Festival is a people's festival. It offers a wide range of eclectic events for all the family, and many of the events are free. What could be better at holiday time? It's a great opportunity to try an event at a venue you've never been to, or perhaps to try something you've never done before. We really hope as many people as possible come along and get involved. Let's get celebrating!"

30k grant awarded to Midlands motor museum

The Archive of the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust, housed at the British Motor Museum in Gaydon, has been awarded a £30,000 cataloguing grant.

The cash will fund The Art Of Selling, a project focusing on creating an electronic catalogue of a unique collection of sales and press material originating from British Leyland. The funding has been provided by the Archives Revealed cataloguing programme, which is supported by, among other organisations, the National Archives.

Go Ape in Warwickshire

Coombe Country Park could soon become home to Warwickshire's first Go Ape outdoor adventure visitor attraction.

Talks are currently taking place between Go Ape and Coventry City Council about opening a site in spring 2019. The company currently has 33 visitor attractions in the UK, the nearest to Warwickshire being the site located at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire.

Canadian comic Stewart heads Into The Punset

Canadian comedian Stewart Francis is visiting the Midlands during what he says will be his last ever standup tour.

Punchline wizard Francis will be bringing his new show, Into The Punset, to venues in Coventry, Malvern, Bromsgrove, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Birmingham, Telford and Shrewsbury. For more information, visit stewartfrancis.com

New fund helps Coventry gear up for City of Culture

A new fund has been launched to help individuals, social enterprises, community groups and artistic & cultural organisations prepare for Coventry's year as UK City of Culture in 2021.

The Coventry UK City of Culture Fund has been launched by the Coventry City of Culture Trust in partnership with the Heart of England Community Foundation, which will administer the fund.

Those applying for grant funding are being encouraged to consider the four themes of Coventry's UK City of Culture programme - Being Human, Moving, Underground and Reinvention - and to think about how their proposed activity will help to achieve step changes across the city. For more information about how to apply for the fund, visit heartofenglandcf.co.uk/coventry-2021

Evesham set to do battle, 13th century-style!

Midlanders are this month being invited to step back in time to the 13th century and watch a reenactment of the Battle of Evesham.

The free-to-attend event, taking place in the Heart of Evesham on 4 & 5 August, features a medieval festival & camp plus numerous demonstrations.

For more information, visit battleofevesham.co.uk

The NEC Group 'makes it social'

NEC Group Arenas and their official box office, The Ticket Factory, have teamed up with Edinburgh-based start-up 'make it social' to offer customers a simple way to purchase tickets with friends.

Initially available on selected events, the new initiative allows a group leader to reserve a number of arena seats together, and then to issue invitations to friends, who can individually pay for their seats. All the group leader needs to do to start the process is click on the 'book with friends' button featured on The Ticket Factory event pages.

Emma Rice brings her Wise Children to the Belgrade

The Coventry Belgrade is set to co-produce acclaimed theatre-maker Emma Rice's latest stage-work.

Presented in partnership with the Old Vic Theatre, Oxford Playhouse and York Theatre Royal, Wise Children is the debut offering from Emma's newly formed company.

The production has been adapted from the classic novel by Angela Carter.

Tickets for the show can be booked by calling the Belgrade's box office on 024 7655 3055, or by visiting belgrade.co.uk

Play and connectivity at the centre of Coventry festival

The fifth edition of Coventry's Festival of Imagineers will take place in and around the city centre from 17 to 22 September.

Celebrating work created at the intersection of art, design and engineering, the festival is this year focusing on themes of play and connectivity.

Visitors to the event will be able to walk alongside a large-scale balloon and sound installation, view 1,000 hoops suspended in the cathedral, contribute their ideas to a large-scale project, board a custom-converted double decker bus which turns the whole city into a stage, and play the streets in a 'festival finale'. For more information, visit festivalofimagineers.co.uk

Bromsgrove venue looking a bit Peaky

A Worcestershire arts centre is this month hosting a Peaky Blinders-themed night of boxing and music in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Bromsgrove's Artrix venue is inviting visitors to get dressed up in their flapper dresses and baker boy caps to 'experience the dark 1920s underbelly of Birmingham' (Saturday 18 August).

The evening features a full bar, live 1920s-themed boxing, a live Peaky Blinders-themed band and a 'best dressed' competition. To find out more, visit artrix.co.uk

Give It A Swirl this holiday at the RSC...

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) is offering families a whole host of summer holiday activities to enjoy this month, both inside and outside the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

Highlights include Give It A Swirl - the RSC's new outdoor pop-up theatre initiative, which is hosting a range of free-to-attend puppet shows and production-themed mini performances.

For more information about the school summer holidays at the RSC and a complete schedule, visit rsc.org.uk

Ghostly goings-on in Stratford-upon-Avon!

Families fancying a spinetingling 'fright night' experience this school summer holiday should check out Tudor World Museum's ghost tours.
The Stratford-upon-Avon venue has been described by Horrible Histories author Terry Deary as the most haunted building in England. Indeed, it's apparently so scary that celebrity medium Derek Acorah and the Most Haunted television crew are "too frightened" ever to return to the property!
For more information, ring 01789 298070 or visit tudorworld.com

Virtuoso violinist makes a return to the Midlands

Nigel Kennedy is heading for Birmingham.
The multi-million-selling virtuoso violinist will play Symphony Hall on 18 October, performing works by Bach and Gershwin as well as his own self-penned pieces, including the recently composed Magician Of Lublin.
For more information, visit thsh.co.uk.

New Coventry indoor karting course on track...

An indoor karting track is on course to open in Coventry this month.
The £1million track on the Charter Avenue Industrial Estate will feature a 580-metre multi-level circuit for up to 16 karters at one time. It will also offer meeting facilities for corporate clients and a kids' party room.
For more information, go to team-sport.co.uk/go-karting-coventry

Script to stage for Benidorm's writer!

The writer of hit TV series Benidorm is to star in the stage version of the show when it visits Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre over the Christmas period.
Derren Litten will play the role of Derek during Benidorm Live's second-city stop-off (3 - 29 December). Commenting on the news, Derren said: " I won't lie, I'm pretty scared at the prospect of acting and singing in such an amazing theatre, but if I get nervous and forget my lines, I'll just say it was a last-minute rewrite!"

Embark on a creative adventure with the return of Worcestershire Open Studios

Worcestershire artists, craftspeople and arts organisations will be opening their studios, homes and shared spaces this August bank holiday weekend, as part of the fourth Worcestershire Open Studios event.
A diverse collection of original arts & crafts by over 170 of the county's most talented creatives will be on display and available to buy, from drawings, paintings, prints and photographs to ceramics, jewellery, textiles and works in mixed media.
To find out more and plan your trip, visit worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk

Lucy O'Byrne to star in Evita

A touring production of the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice musical masterpiece Evita is stopping off at the Coventry Belgrade next month (Tuesday 25 - Saturday 29 September).
The hit show, which is this year celebrating its 40th anniversary, stars Lucy O'Byrne, who rose to fame after reaching the finals of The Voice UK in 2015.
Lucy last year appeared at the Belgrade in a production of The Sound Of Music.
Tickets for Evita are available by calling the box office on 024 7655 3055, or by visiting belgrade.co.uk

Worcestershire comedian gets classical

Worcestershire-born comedian and impressionist Alistair McGowan will be showcasing another of his talents when he appears at Birmingham University's Bramall Hall this month (4 August).
Alistair will be playing a number of tracks from his recently released piano album, as well as some other short classic piano pieces. In the process he'll be paying homage to composers including Gershwin, Grieg, Mompou, Mendelssohn, Satie and Schubert.
Prospective audience members are warned to expect 'a lot of beautiful music with the odd mistake'!

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TOWN HALL

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THU 6 SEPTEMBER 7PM
TOWN HALL

DIONNE WARWICK DON'T MAKE ME OVER
THU 20 SEPTEMBER 8PM
SYMPHONY HALL

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

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

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

talks about language, religion and politics in theatre...

The Royal Shakespeare Company is this month presenting a new production of Tamburlaine - a tumultuous tale of triumph, cruelty and deceit... What's On caught up with its director, Sir Michael Boyd, to find out more about the play and his stellar career...

Christopher Marlowe's Tamburlaine follows a man who starts out as a shepherd but manages to overthrow the Persian emperor and ascend to the throne. He marches on to conquer other nations, and even continents, in his quest for an empire.

Tamburlaine was a bold, innovative piece of Elizabethan drama when it was written. The RSC production's director, Sir Michael Boyd, explains why: "I think the reason it was such a turning point was the concept of freedom of speech. The language in the character's speech was much more vivid and human. He shook up what used to be quite a stiff way of talking on stage that was designed for courtly or academic audiences. Previously, dialogue didn't quite speak to the thoughts of the everyday common people, or represent the ordinary voice on stage. Marlowe was also incredibly daring with subject matter. He's talking about power and religion in Tamburlaine in a way that really would have landed him in hot water. Shakespeare was very clever in not getting involved in this, while all his contemporaries were being arrested, having their books burned or being tortured. It was this daring in Marlowe that ended up getting him killed, probably by the government."

Sir Michael believes there's a common misconception that Elizabethan dramas such as those by Marlowe and Shakespeare are too difficult to understand.
"This really complex, dense, fast-flowing rhythmic language is quite common, and I think very understood, among young people because of the music they're listening to: J Cole, Kendrick Lemar and others. Those rappers talk in a very complex, dense way, with elusive, coded, symbolic, metrical speech. I

by Lauren Cole

think younger people would have no problems with Marlowe at all - perhaps there may be one or two vocabulary points, but very rarely. If anything, Marlowe is cleaner and simpler than Shakespeare."

Sir Michael's first stint directing this play was back in 2014. He believes there is much in the themes and the plot of Tamburlaine that speaks to contemporary concerns.

"The biggest contemporary ghost on stage in 2014 was probably the Islamic State. This fundamentalist, charismatic vision was a big shadow on Tamburlaine that we had to listen to and respond to, but also control and not let it take over the play. Tamburlaine contains instances of utter disregard for religion. In some ways it's a carrier for the idea of fundamentalist protestantism being the scourge of God and cleaning out all the corrupt Catholic courts of Europe. There's very much a vision of that underneath the play.

"But of course, in the intervening years, individualist, charismatic male leaders - just like the character of Tamburlaine himself is - have sprung up all over the place like dragon's teeth - whether in America, whether in Eastern Europe, or whether it be someone like Nigel Farage in this country. If Time Magazine was honest, the man of the year would definitely be Putin. The idea of this kind of autocratic male leadership is the shadow over our show at the moment."

Sir Michael is no stranger to theatre that's heavily steeped in politics. He started his career training to be a director at the Malaya Bronnaya Theatre in Moscow, where the KGB were still very much in control.

"I'd say there are three ways in which that experience inspired me. One would be that, being in a country where a film, a poem, a novel could very easily be censored, live theatre became the most important place to make art under a totalitarian regime. So to see theatre as the most important art form - and the responsibility that it carried as a result of this - was massively inspiring. That sense of moral responsibility is something I brought back with me.

"Secondly, the Russian theatrical tradition is one of intense stagecraft and training. This has survived post-Soviet Union due to generous state funding. Their training is longer and more rigorous than anywhere else. The art of the director is taken more seriously there.

"That brings me onto the third way the experience affected me. Living in a country where you have to question everything the government tells you teaches you to be critical of what you're told. It teaches you to look extra hard at the work you are making artistically. Working under that kind of censorship awoke me to the extent to which Shakespeare was probably working under censorship in his own time, and how rebellious Marlowe really was."

Tamburlaine for the RSC needed very little reimagining from its original staging, as Sir Michael thinks the Swan Theatre offers the ideal space for the play to be at its very best.

"There is a very direct and a very intimate relationship between the play and the audience. There are lots of gags with the audience, or they're recruited at various points as soldiers or as citizens, and there's very direct address to them - scaring, cajoling or teasing. So I didn't really have to adapt it at all, as it really lends itself to the simple, very open space that the Swan is.

"We won't have done our job properly if people don't leave the theatre at the end of the show feeling differently about power and cruelty. Probably also about men's power over women - I think Marlowe was quite ahead of his time on that. The play is a revolution that goes horribly wrong, so it's a little case study on how not to change the world."

Sir Michael was the artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company from 2002 until 2012. When he arrived, the company was in financial trouble. He believes that trust was the key to kickstarting the RSC's recovery.

"It seemed obvious to me there was an enormous amount of talent there, and it wasn't being trusted. Each area wasn't being trusted with its own money. There was this weird centralised way of keeping the information about money contained, so people were working completely in the dark about budgets. That seemed crazy to me. So one of the very first things I did was devolve responsibility for keeping budget much deeper down into the organisation. So for example, people who actually knew about the carpentry workshop had control over their budget. Obviously, they ran it better. There was a very simple principle of trusting people.

"The RSC has such a great history, and the burden of that history always comes with the danger of trying to replicate the past. We needed to actually be thinking forwards to establishing who we were and what we could do in that very moment. What the RSC should be doing, as a very privileged, subsidised organisation, is stuff that commercial theatre can't, and doing it in the most brave and imaginative way."

Sir Michael's passion for theatre started in the simplest of ways - children's play-acting with family and friends.

"Really the starting point was probably playing games with my sister. We found a compromise where we sort of played doll's house but with cars. Then, with my friends, we would cut out characters from Christmas and birthday cards, voice them and make up stories in little shoebox theatres."

His passion for theatre eventually evolved into a desire to direct: "I was in a play at university, and a really good director had adapted it and directed well. I knew the play was fantastic and it would go well, but I still thought every decision he made was wrong. Then I had a revelation: I was either going to be a really annoying actor not enjoying sitting inside someone else's vision, or I was going to have to stand up, be counted and create my own."

Looking ahead, what plays would Sir Michael like to direct in the future?

"I haven't done King Lear, and I'd really like to at some point. I'd like to do more Samuel Beckett, and work more with the lovely American playwright Will Eno. I'd love to do a lot more Ancient Greek work because I've done hardly any of that at all. There's just masses I want to do! I'm really enjoying challenging myself with different forms, like I started doing a bit of opera recently, and I'm working on a couple of musicals at the moment. I like going into new areas, to keep my brain cells working."

Tamburlaine runs at the Swan Theatre, Stratford-Upon-Avon, from Thursday 16 August to Saturday 1 December.

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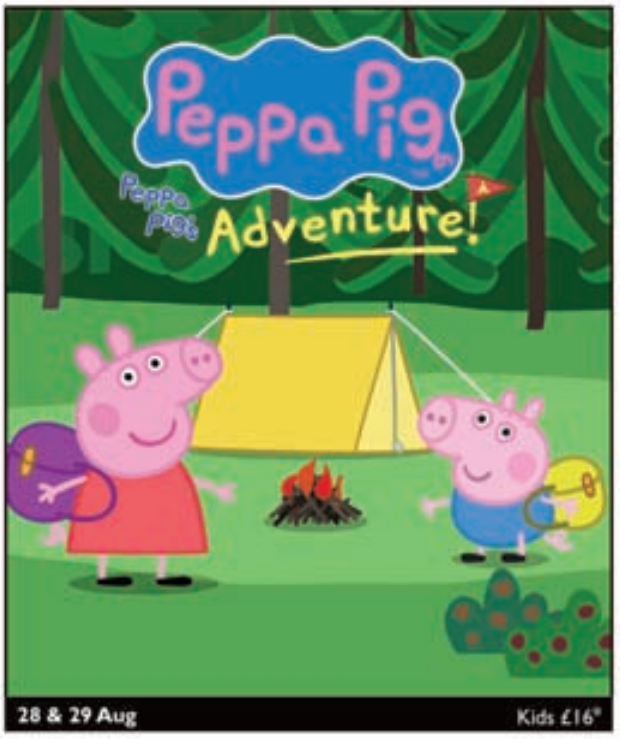

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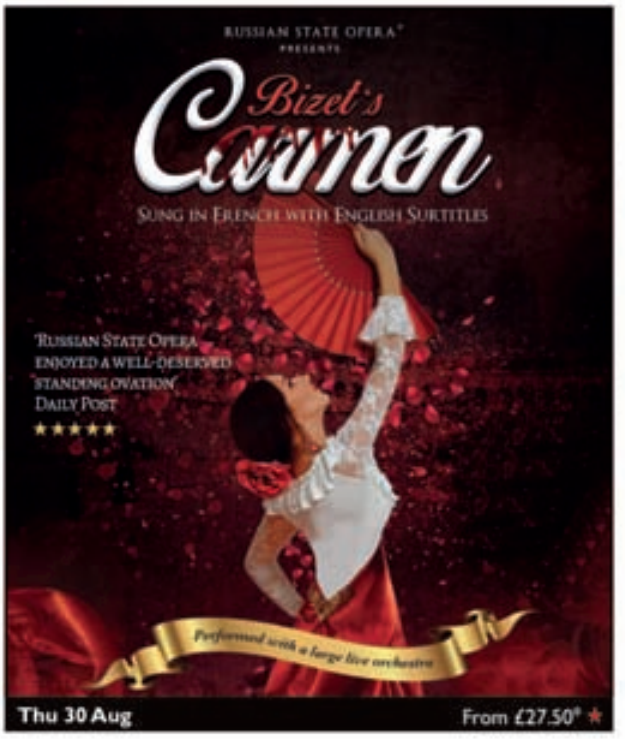

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REVIEW: House Leamington
Inauspicious exterior conceals an Aladdin's Cave of treasures

Undoubtedly one of the coolest, quirkiest venues in Leamington Spa, House is also one of the most difficult to pigeonhole - is it a bar, a restaurant or a club?

As the self-proclaimed place to 'nosh, quaff and cut shapes', it wants to be all three, even declaring itself 'Leamington Spa's number one venue for drinking, dining and dancing'. The claim shows no lack of confidence but could also prove to be its downfall: there are doubtless diners who would love the place but are fearful of loud music (for the most part there isn't any) or can't tell from its main entrance on The Parade (little more than a blackboard identifying cocktail deals and resident DJs) how good it is on the inside.

And boy, is it good on the inside. Launched in late 2016 after a major refit and the merging of the Lounge (Haunch of Venison) and Bedford pubs, the expansive premises contains a range of individually designed rooms that mix opulent furnishings, quirky décor and occasionally eccentric artwork (there's even a Chopper bike hanging on the wall!) to create a fabulously unique venue.

The main dining area is in the centre of the pub, although you can eat almost anywhere, including the Secret Room, the Parlour, the Orangery or the Loft Garden. The latter has proved especially popular during the recent hot spell.

The variety of rooms is almost matched by the menus, which range from tapas-style 'finger feasting' (any eight dishes for £15) and lunch specials (including an excellent two-for-one flatbreads deal) to a full-on a la carte selection, prices for which are £4 to £10 for starters, £11 to £20 for mains, and £6.50 to £7 for desserts.

The selection isn't massive - always a good sign - but contains a number of innovative options and flavour combinations from Head Chef Andre Taylor. A case in point was my starter of braised pigs cheek and lobster bisque; a fabulous mix of rich pork that melted not in the mouth but on the fork, set in a smooth bisque with a couple of relatively subtle (at least in this company) pieces of lobster meat. Fantastic.

My colleague was similarly impressed by his Asian salad with crispy beef, the saltiness of the meat offset by the fresh, light dressing of the (equally crispy) noodle-based salad.

My main dish of grilled swordfish, mango salsa and sweet potato fries was another winner, the fruity salsa brightening up the meaty fish in more ways than one, and the lovely chunky fries tasting more baked than fried, such was the lack of any hint of greasiness.

My colleague was even more taken with his choice of Cajun salmon, Bombay potato, baby spinach and mint yogurt - a fabulous-looking plate of food that tasted even better. The hefty portion of blackened salmon was cooked to perfection and worked wonderfully with the cumin and coriander of the potatoes, with the yoghurt cutting through the spices perfectly.

After a break for a nose around the various rooms (even the urinals in the gents have a unique twist), we set about a third course. I played it safe - Madagascan vanilla crème brulee with shortbread; perfect in every regard - while my colleague opted for something that turned out to be far less predictable: the strawberry cheesecake with white chocolate sorbet - a delightfully deconstructed version of the traditional dish. All the constituent parts of a cheesecake were there, but not actually assembled - as if it had been dropped on the floor, scraped up and plopped on a plate (I'm doing the dish a very big disservice there, because it looked great and tasted delicious!).

The difference between that plopped-on-a-plate image and the finished cheesecake in some ways encapsulates the whole House conundrum - the inauspicious exterior conceals an Aladdin's Cave of treasures within, not least among which is a truly great dining experience, with food that exceeded all our expectations.

Which makes it a House that definitely requires internal viewing, as the estate agents would have it.

Steve Adams

Food:	■■■■■
Service:	■■■■■
Ambience:	■■■■■
Overall value	■■■■■
OVERALL	■■■■■

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by Lauren Foster

ALFRESCO DINING

If August proves to be anywhere near as hot and sizzling as June and July, there'll only be one place to tuck into a delicious meal and glass or two of something relaxing, and that's *the great outdoors*! Check out the venues featured below if you're looking for the kind of dining experience that also allows you to top up your tan...

Fleur De Lys

Affectionately known in our house as 'the pie pub', the Fleur De Lys is a long-time favourite - perhaps as much for its terrific location on the banks of the Stratford Canal as for its ever-so-tasty pastries.
Speaking of which, there are a dozen from which to choose, with a couple of veggie options taking their place alongside established favourites such as Deerstalker (which contains venison and bacon) and Matador (steak, chorizo and olives). All are served with chips, veg and a jug of gravy.
There's plenty more pub grub on the menu too, and the service is always friendly.
What's more, you can enjoy it all in a beer garden that extends to an acre and includes a children's play area.

Lapworth Street, Lowsonford, Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, B95 5HJ

The Royal Shakespeare Theatre

The RSC's Rooftop Restaurant, located on the third floor of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, offers visitors the opportunity to dine outside on the balconies overlooking the River Avon and Bancroft Gardens.
With delicious seasonal food being served all day, the restaurant is a perfect place in which to enjoy a light lunch, a lazy afternoon tipple or a pre-show dinner.
With vegan, gluten-free and children's menus also available, not to mention a range of delicious cocktails, there really is something for everyone.

Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6BB

The Folly Inn

The Folly Inn is another fantastic example of a well-run canalside pub, located just outside the village of Napton On The Hill. The cosy, wood-beamed hostelry is a treasure trove of quirky vintage bric-a-brac, included amongst which is a range of moustache memorabilia and pictures.
The traditional pub grub-style menu's not extensive, but quality definitely beats quantity here, with many ingredients sourced locally (alongside many of the beers and ciders) and a regularly changing specials board that should definitely be your first port of call... after you've bagged yourself a table in the large garden, of course.

Folly Lane, Napton On The Hill, Warwickshire, CV47 8NZ

Friar Street Kitchen

Claiming to have the best steak in Worcester, Friar Street Kitchen is a British restaurant which serves seasonal dishes made with locally sourced produce. Although this stunning eatery, which opened 16 months ago, mainly focuses on local steaks and meat, it nonetheless offers vegetarian and vegan options, too.
The evening menu features an array of starters, such as Matthew's Cornish crab cakes with tomato salsa, a burger menu and an extensive steak menu including rump, t-bone, ribeye, fillet and more.

12 Friar Street, Worcester, WR1 2LZ

The Encore

The Encore's expansive outdoor space is the perfect place in which to enjoy an alfresco meal. Whether it's a celebration with friends, a family meal or a romantic evening for two, this beautifully furbished eatery offers everything you need to dine, drink and celebrate in style.
Light lunches, traditional three-course meals and classic Sunday roasts are all available, with a 'bottomless bubbles and tasty treats' offer on Fridays and Saturdays.

1 Bridge St, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6AB

The Old Rectifying House

Established in 1897, The Old Rectifying House's name comes from the fact that the rear of the building was part of the Williams distillery. Now a stylish venue with a modern menu, easygoing bar and terrace garden, the eatery boasts lunch, dinner, children's, Sunday and vegan menus, and is open from Tuesday to Sunday.
Highlights of the extensive menu include Moules Marinier, roast woodpigeon breast, paneer butter masala, grilled hanger steak, Caribbean tofu and vegan toad-in-the-hole.

North Parade, Worcester, WR1 3NN

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Tudor World

40 Sheep Street, Stratford CV37 6EE
01789 298070 www.tudorworld.com

Steve Harley & Cockney Rebel

The Assembly, Leamington Spa, Fri 3 August; Shrewsbury Folk Festival, Fri 24 August; Moseley Folk Festival, Sun 2 September

Having formed Cockney Rebel in 1972, legendary rock icon Steve Harley has a back-catalogue that includes Judy Teen, Mr Raffles, Here Comes The Sun, Mr Soft and Sebastian. He's best known for worldwide hit and UK number one Make Me Smile (Come Up And See Me) - which, to the best of Steve's knowledge, has been covered at least 130 times. Read our online interview with him at whatsonlive.co.uk.

Iron Maiden

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Tues 7 August

Pioneers of the new wave of British heavy metal, Iron Maiden achieved initial success during the early 1980s.
Thirty-eight albums later - that's 16 studio albums, 11 live albums, four EPs and seven compilations - the band continue to impress both as recording artists and live performers, selling out venues wherever they play.
Following their massively successful Book Of Souls tour, the boys take to the road again with their Legacy Of The Beast show, presenting a set list covering a large selection of '80s material but also including a handful of 'surprises' from later albums.

Kuunatic

The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry, Wed 29 August

Formed in Tokyo in 2016 by three women from completely different musical and cultural backgrounds, Kuunatic play ritual, primitive and unconventional psychedelic music.
Their first EP, Kuuranda, integrates traditional Japanese music with Latin music, progressive rock, psychedelic rock, dub and horror film soundtracks.

The Wild Tonics

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 17 August

"Our sound is big, sexy and unpredictable," say Wild Tonics Harriet, Katie and Annabel. "We take current and classic hits back in time to the big brassy sound of the 1920s - think Beyoncé, Bette Midler and The Boswell Sisters all meet The Great Gatsby for the first time and, wow!, they get along like a house on fire!"
Hailing from Doncaster, where they became firm friends some 13 years ago, the Tonics have been peddling their Roaring '20s wares since 2014, along the way playing "some rather dashing haunts", including Windsor Castle and the Tower of London.

Brian Wilson

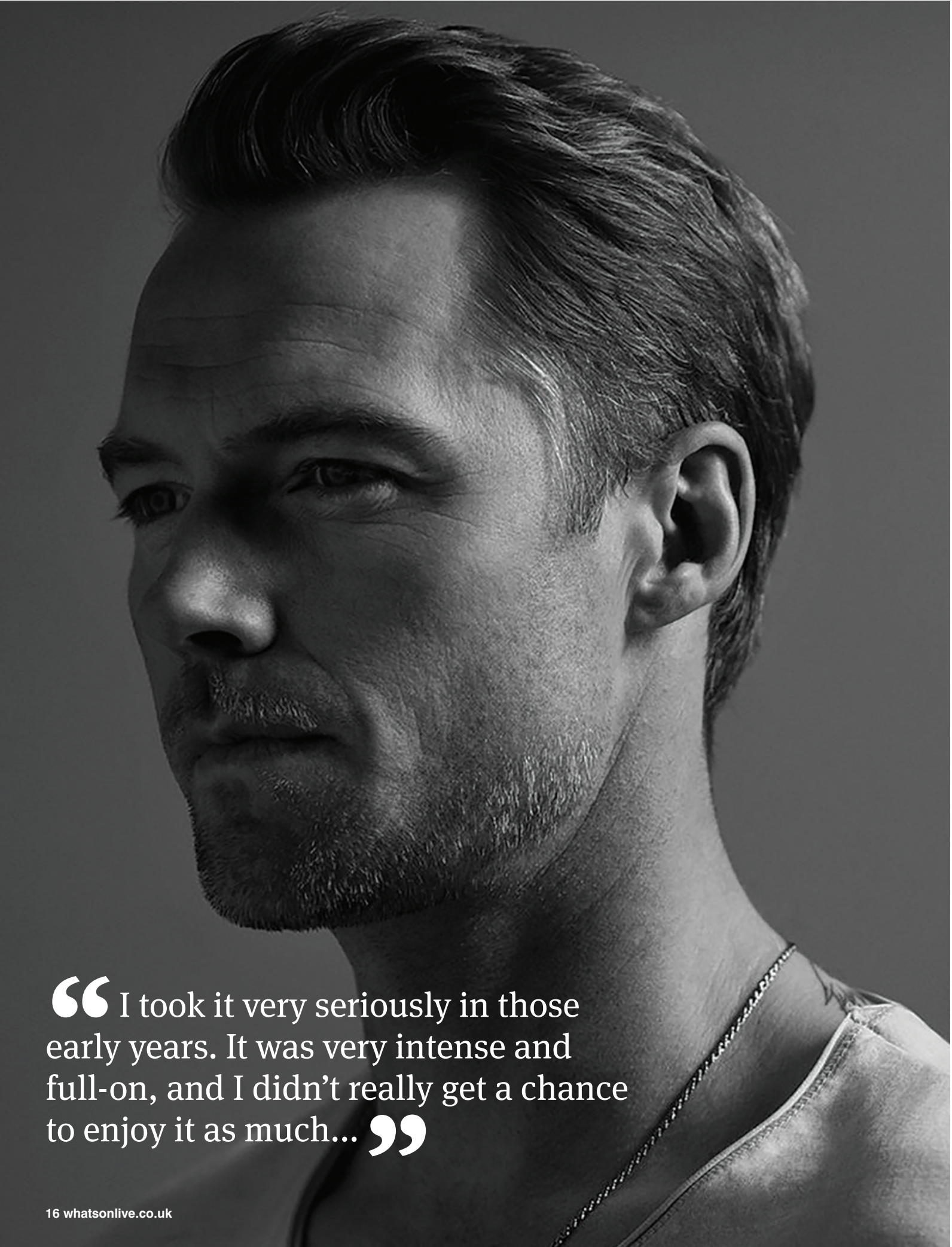
Digbeth Arena, Birmingham, Fri 24 August

One of the greatest names in late-20th century music, Brian Wilson is best known as vocalist, producer and co-founder of the legendary Beach Boys.
An inspirational songwriter, the man who's been dubbed the Mozart of Rock is appearing in Birmingham this month to perform the group's 1966 release, Pet Sounds. The seminal album is listed by Acclaimed Music as statistically the most revered of all time.

Justin Timberlake

Arena Birmingham, Mon 27 August

Justin Timberlake has sold more than 32 million albums and 56 million singles, making him one of the world's best-selling artists.
Following his last tour - the critically acclaimed 20/20 Experience, which sold out arenas and stadiums around the world in 2013 and '14 - the global superstar here makes a welcome return to Birmingham with The Man Of The Woods tour.



“I took it very seriously in those early years. It was very intense and full-on, and I didn’t really get a chance to enjoy it as much...”

by Lauren Foster

RONAN KEATING

Boyzone's Ronan Keating is headlining the Sunday evening of Coventry's Godiva Festival. What's On recently caught up with him to find out more...

Proudly reaffirming its status as the UK's biggest and best free music festival, Godiva presents another bumper crop of top-notch talent as it returns to Coventry for its 20th anniversary edition. Veteran performers will join emerging talent to present a dazzling array of genres across the weekend.

Pop star Ronan Keating will headline the final evening, with Jake Bugg top-billing on the Friday and Editors on the Saturday. Other acts across the weekend include Jonas Blue, Gabrielle, Professor Green, Little Comets, Blood Red Shoes.

"It's always nice to get out and perform live," says Ronan. "I spend so much time writing songs, I'm on radio in the mornings midweek and doing stuff in other countries and travelling, so it's always nice to come back to the UK as much as possible to do shows."

Having originally risen to prominence as a member of '90s pop band Boyzone, Ronan has recorded nine albums since embarking on his solo career in 1999, selling over 20 million records independently in addition to the 25 million sold together with his bandmates.

To this day, he remains best known for his international number one single, When You Say Nothing At All, which won him worldwide fame after featuring in the movie Notting Hill. Since then, he's further raised his profile by serving as a judge on the Australian X-Factor and coaching aspiring singers on The Voice.

Ronan is certainly looking forward to his Coventry stop-off: "I haven't spent that much time there, so I'm not an expert in any way, but it's a cool town with cool people and they love their music, which is very important to me. I'm looking forward to playing there, looking forward to seeing everybody and singing a few tunes.

"When I do my solo gigs, I separate them from Boyzone as much as possible. I've had 18 years of solo records and six years of Boyzone records, so it's dramatically different. People who come to my solo shows, I try and give them as much of that as possible. I mean, there might be one or two Boyzone songs - that's always nice - but it's mainly solo stuff."

After six UK number one singles, five UK chart-topping albums and 25 years together, Boyzone have recently announced their 25th anniversary and farewell UK & Ireland arena tour, which stops off at Birmingham's Genting Arena next year, on Friday 8 February.

The tour will follow the release of their final album, Thank You & Goodnight, which is due out this winter. The album will include collaborations with special guest songwriters Ed Sheeran (Because) and Gary Barlow (Love), plus a special tribute to Boyzone favourite Stephen Gateley, who died in 2009.

Having chalked up so many years in the music industry, what piece of advice would Ronan have given to his younger self had he had the chance? "I think, enjoy yourself more. I took it very seriously in those early years. It was very intense and full-on, and I didn't really get a chance to enjoy it as much. I was all about being professional and trying to be the best I could be, but not really thinking how quickly this could be gone. It went by very fast. I was thrown in at 16 years of age - it was full-on!"

What does the future hold? "Living. I just want to have a good time. I want to raise my children and be a good husband and enjoy my music and travel and tour and do all the things that I'm doing now. We take everything so intense, we live so fast, it's gone by and we haven't had chance to enjoy it. The older you get, the more you realise that."

Ronan Keating headlines Godiva Festival on Sunday 2 September.
The festival takes place at War Memorial Park, Coventry, from Friday 31 August to Sunday 2 September.
For more information about the event, visit godivafestival.com

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Shrewsbury Folk Festival

Greenhous West Midland Showground, Fri 24 - Mon 27 August

A highlight of any folk fan's calendar, this four-day fest brings together centuries of musical tradition in one picturesque setting. Steeped in history, the border town of Shrewsbury makes an ideal backdrop for the festival's mash-up of modern, medieval and everything in between, where grassroots cultures collide in dynamic fusion styles.
Bring along the whole family for dance and workshops as well as live music.
What's On is pleased to sponsor the festival's Launchpad, an element of the event which is designed to showcase local and up-and-coming talent.

Line-up includes: Richard Thompson Electric Trio, Steeleye Span, Jon Boden And The Remnant Kings, Turin Brakes, Steve Harley And Cockney Rebel (pictured), Show Of Hands, Budiño, Usher's Island, Gretchen Peters, Daoirí Farrell Trio, Peter Knight's Gigspanner Big Band and The Fitzgeralds.

Creamfields

Daresbury Estate, Halton, Cheshire, Thurs 23 - Sun 26 August

Having celebrated its 20th edition in 2017, Creamfields unleashes the energy of Cream's Liverpool club nights in the open space of Halton's Daresbury Estate.
Cutting-edge live acts unite with world-class DJs for a hedonistic four-day dance party.
Since launching in Winchester, the brand has evolved into an international phenomenon beloved of ravers, trailblazers and experimenters the world over.

Line-up includes: Major Lazer, Fatboy Slim (pictured), Goldie, Carl Cox, Adam Beyer, Alesso, Martin Garrix, Hardwell, Eric Prydz, Paul Van Dyk, Tiesto, Sven Vath, Idris Elba, Armin Van Buuren, Faithless (DJ Set), Duke Dumont, Kolsch and Joseph Capriati.

Farmer Phil's Festival

Gatten Farm, Ratlinghope, Shropshire, Fri 10 - Sun 12 August

Launched in a corner of one of Farmer Phil's fields near Shrewsbury, this boutique gathering aims to offer something for everyone, featuring rock, dance, acoustic folk and everything in between. Camping for the full week is included in the ticket price.
A brilliant opportunity to enjoy a summer getaway with the family.

Line-up includes: Jilted Generation, Shoot The Moon, The Wayne Martin Band, Fight The Bear (pictured), Legend, Celtica Pipes Rock, Dr & The Medics, Aswad, Jake Elwood's Blues Brothers Show, Reuben Archer's Personal Sin, Dan Owen, Quill, Red Rum Club, As December Falls and The Endings.

Brecon Jazz Festival

Various locations, Brecon, Wales, Fri 10 - Sun 12 August

Now in its 35th year and successfully reinvented in 2016, Brecon Jazz continues with the smaller-scale, more collaborative and community-led approach that transformed past difficulties into an opportunity for positive change.
Expect headline performers, emerging talent, workshops and social and folk activities, all curated by Brecon Jazz Club.

Line-up includes: Tom Smith Septet, Josephine Davies Trio (pictured), Ian Shaw, Manchester Jazz Connection, Pavel PQ Quartet, South African Jazz Sextet, Elaine Delmar Quintet, Harmonica Jazz, Czech Connection Sun and Jim Hart Vibes.

ALL THE BEST FOLK...

so much to see and do at Shrewsbury Folk Festival

Shrewsbury Folk Festival co-founder Sandra Surtees talks to What's On about the 2018 edition of the event, taking place this month over the bank holiday weekend...

Starting life as a small get-together in Bridgnorth in 1997, Shrewsbury Folk Festival now ranks as one of the country's top three folk events, alongside Cambridge and Cropredy in Oxfordshire.

That original event in the small Shropshire town sold 700 tickets. Twenty-one years later - and now taking place at Shrewsbury's West Mid Showground - the festival attracts in excess of 7,000 visitors, many of whom return time and again to enjoy the event's happy atmosphere.

That 'happy atmosphere' is one of the festival's many assets, and something of which co-founder Sandra Surtees is particularly proud: "It's such an achievement to see that you've brought all of these people together," she says. "Most of them don't know each other, friendships form, there's music everywhere, and people are just so happy. That has to be the best thing."

When Sandra's husband and fellow festival founder, Alan, passed away following a brave battle with cancer in 2017, there were fears among avid Shrewsbury Folk attendees that the event might be in jeopardy. They needn't have worried - this well-rooted festival intends to be around for a long time to come. "I always knew I was going to carry on," says Sandra, "and I promised Alan that I would."

The work of the festival extends beyond the Showground site, with outreach projects adding to the event's unique feel.

Putting something back into the community has always been important to Sandra, as has been the business of reaching out to new and younger audiences and performers. So as well as featuring a diverse line-up of established names performing across the site's numerous stages, the festival also champions young up-and-coming artists, providing a platform on which they can become better recognised.

And that's where The Launchpad comes in... Evolving organically from the buskers who used to perform around the festival site, The Launchpad invites artists aged between 16 and 26 from across the West Midlands and Mid Wales to submit samples of their work to the festival team. If the 'judging panel' like what they hear, the artist in question is then given the opportunity to perform on The Launchpad stage during the festival weekend.

"Alan was always so passionate about young musicians, and hundreds and hundreds of letters requesting to perform at the festival would land every year. In fact, this year the number has risen to in excess of 1,000.

"This year The Launchpad will move to a slightly quieter area, so that we can look after the artists a little bit better and give them a better crack at it, so to speak."

Last year saw the launch of the Alan Surtees Trust, which recently awarded £3,000 to young and emerging musicians, dancers and singers. Spearheaded by musician Hannah James, the trust has been raising funds from the sale of an album entitled Resound. Comprising tracks known to be favourites of Alan's, it was recorded by artists who have a close association with the festival.

Early days, but how would Sandra like to see the trust grow in the future?

"I would rather like it to continue as it is, but it depends on what funds we can raise. As long as we keep on working within local schools, promoting local folk dance and song, I think it's just a brilliant thing to do. I'd like to do more of the same. Of course, we can only continue to do so if we're lucky enough to get the supporting grants."

Aside from its eclectic musical offering, Shrewsbury Folk also provides a plethora of activities for visitors of all ages to enjoy. It even has its own children and youth festivals. While Pandemonium promises a weekend of music, dance, drama and craft-centred fun for 'wee folkies' up to the age of 10, Refolkus encourages young people aged between 11 and 20 to 'make music and unleash their inner artist' via a series of traditional music and dance workshops.

The responsibility for programming and booking for the festival falls squarely on Sandra's shoulders - so how tricky is it to develop a mouthwatering line-up of talent?

"It's not difficult, you just have to balance it up. Even if an act that I'm looking at isn't a particular favourite of mine, as long as they're good and I think the audience are going to enjoy them, I'll consider booking them. I like a nice variety, so it's all about getting the balance right."

Has it ever gone wrong? "Yes, but we won't elaborate on that! There are always disappointments when you can't get the artists you want. You then have to try and find someone else who fits the bill. You can't always get it straight away - it takes a bit of work."

So who's on Sandra's hotlist from this year's line-up?

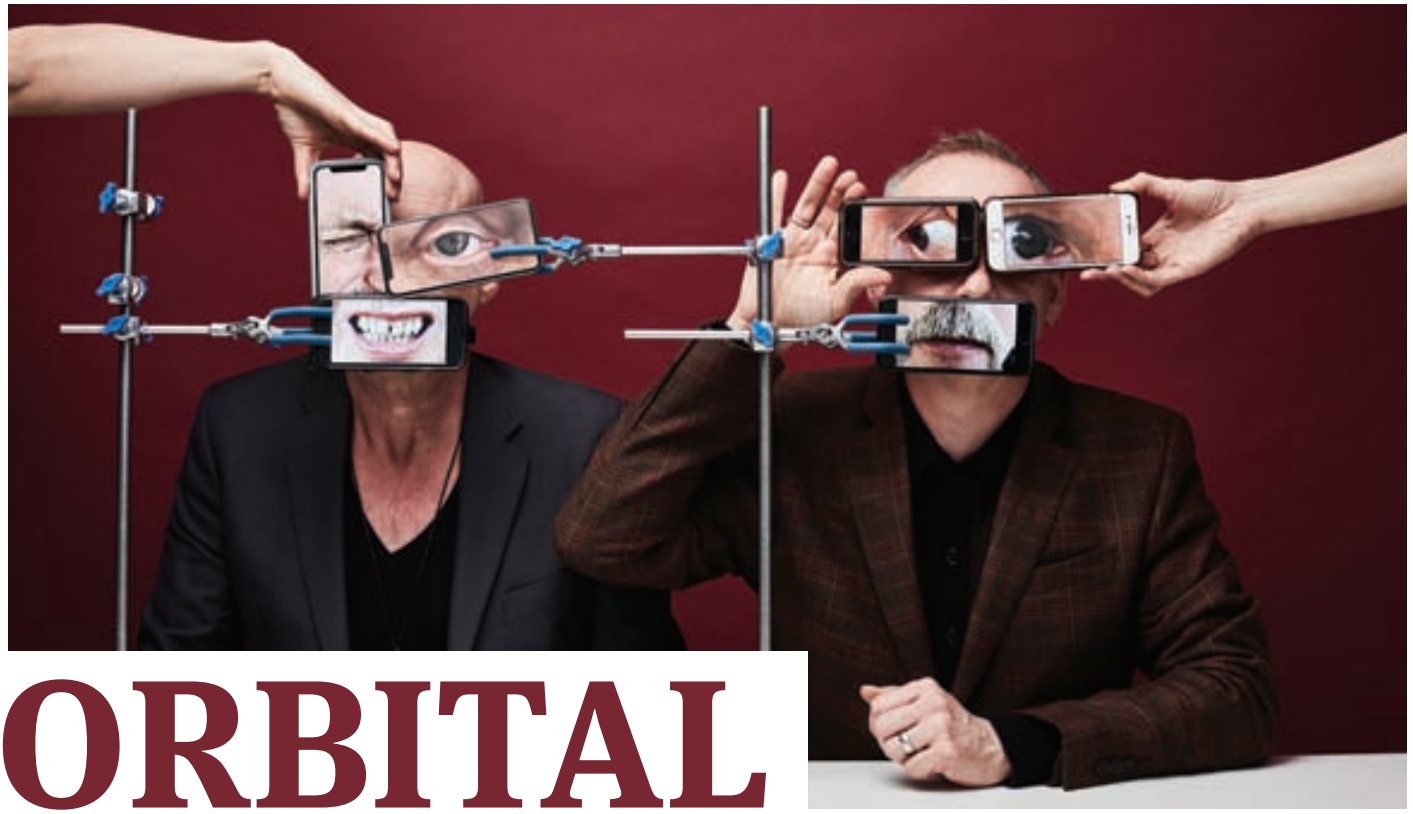
"I'm really looking forward to seeing Steve Harley And Cockney Rebel, Peter Knight's Gigspanner Big Band and Budiño, a Galithian piper who's coming over from Spain. I've not seen him perform before, so I'm looking forward to seeing him close the Bellstone stage on the Monday afternoon."

Other highlights for 2018 include Richard Thompson Electric Trio, Shooglenifty with Dhun Dhora, Blowzabella, Show Of Hands, Jon Boden And The Remnant Kings, Gretchen Peters and Megson, to name but a few...

Last year's big hitters, The Fitzgeralds, will also be making a welcome return, delighting audiences with their virtuosic fiddling and step dancing.

See you there!

Shrewsbury Folk Festival takes place at Greenhous West Mid Showground from Friday 24 to Monday 27 August.
For more details and to purchase tickets, visit shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk



ORBITAL

Brand new festival Shiiine On Birmingham launches in the city next month, with electronic dance music duo Orbital headlining. What's On caught up with brothers Paul and Phil Hartnoll to find out more...

Festival brand Shiiine On is launching a new one-day event at Birmingham's Genting Arena next month. Shiiine On Birmingham's impressive line-up includes more than 20 iconic bands as well as a Hacienda afterparty.

The all-day event is headlined by dance pioneers Orbital. The festival coincides with the release of the duo's ninth album, Monsters Exist, which is out the following week.

"Where can I start? It's a wonderful little album," explains Phil Hartnoll, one half of Orbital. "We've been away from each other for five years, and this album has been quite refreshing - it's a bit like when we first started. With some of the tracks, you can tell we've got something on our mind. If you know Orbital, you'll know what I mean."

"The state of the nation and the world at the minute makes me feel like putting together an anarcho-punk album and shouting at the system," says the younger of the two brothers, Paul. "But I know that's kind of infantile a lot of the time, especially artistically, so you're better off doing what the rave culture did originally and live by example. We don't agree with the government, we don't agree with what's going on, we're not going to fight you, we're just going to go and do our own thing over here, so bye! That terrified the government. The inspiration behind this album is just that. Okay, let's make a nice album that you can listen to and enjoy, and let's just all go off and enjoy our own thing and leave these monsters to exist on their own."

Orbital are certainly no strangers to incorporating political and environmental commentary into their music, be it sampling John Major's attack on travellers at their 1995 Glastonbury show, protesting against the poll tax bill or recording their track, The Girl With The Sun In Her Head, in a studio powered only by Greenpeace's mobile solar power generator.

"There's a track on Monsters Exist called The Raid which discusses, through the medium of voiceover, things like over-population and people's frustration with the world," says Paul. "We also have a nice grand finale, with Brian Cox delivering a gothic, doom-laden but hopeful speech that he wrote especially for the album. Every time I watch a Brian Cox documentary, I think, 'Oh my god, there are so many samples in this!'. But because there's so much music in the background, I've never been able to sample the bits that I want, so I thought I'd just ask him whether he wanted to do something. Being as he's an old raver anyway and he used to be in rock bands, he was straight in with it. He was brilliant!

"Our next single, Please Help UK, is just a dance track. There's no sort of chant or anything like that, but we're having fun with the

by Lauren Foster

imagery. It's a bit rave-generation. There are some voiceovers and samples in there which are pretty direct. It's a warning - mind your back, mind your back, they look like us!"

Orbital will perform a full festival show, complete with upgraded production, when they appear at Shiiine On Birmingham next month.

"We don't tend to self-indulge and just play a whole new album at people," says Paul. "If I went to see Status Quo, I'd be really pissed off if they didn't play Caroline or Rocking All Over The World. You've got to play the party favourites. I've seen bands play old tracks and they look really grumpy. For me, every time I play one of those tracks, I think, 'Without you, I wouldn't be here'. Don't bite the hand that feeds you. We've got about three new tracks in the set at the moment, so we'll probably play those, but we'll keep them away from each other and make sure people get a proper ride of what they want.

"With regard to the production, we've come a long way from hanging a white sheet and using a slide projector behind us. We've got a whole stage of video wall, but in different shapes and sizes, with us sat in the middle of it all. We're constantly up doing the video content, which is obviously more important than just the screens. We've worked on it since December, and by the time we hit Shiiine On, it'll be spot on."

Shiiine's line-up features Shed Seven, Happy Mondays, Embrace, Cast, Julian Cope and many more - so who is Phil most looking forward to seeing? "A Certain Ratio, definitely! I used to follow them around. Shack Up is one of my all-time favourite tracks, so I'll definitely be seeing them. Dreadzone, too - they're old stable mates. There are a lot of bands like that. It's going to be really fun for us; like a work's party type of thing."

Created in 1989 and well known for wearing trademark torches on their heads during their performances, Orbital played a huge part in the early rave scene. They've since enjoyed multiple Glastonbury headline performances and opened the 2012 Paralympics alongside the late Stephen Hawking.

"Our 1994 Glastonbury headline gig was a total blag," explains Phil. "Glastonbury at the time was very rock and roll, and everybody was just gagging for that electronic sound. There were no dance fields or anything like that. It was great for the cause because Michael Eavis and everyone were like, 'Oh Jesus, that went down well - two guys twiddling knobs! That was alright, wasn't it!' It was great. We opened their eyes to electronic music.

"Playing alongside Stephen Hawking at the Paralympics - what a dude! It was some great idea of somebody, somewhere. He was doing a speech there, so he sent us his speech and we decoded it. We were performing it, and he was just so great. He wore the torch glasses, but to wear them he had to take his own glasses off and was as blind as a bat without them. But he was so up for it - he was such a star. I sent him a little edit of it, the actual performance. We had to cut it with a punk band and stuff like that, so I edited the track and he wrote back asking when we were going to release it. He was fucking great!"

Despite all these career-defining achievements, in October 2014 the duo announced on their official website that they were 'hanging up their iconic torch glasses and parting ways for the final time'.

Commenting on the split, Paul says: "It's funny, that self-employed lifestyle with your brother does have its pressures. I was really cross and angry with Phil, but at the same time, even if he annoys me now, it's not the same. When you're not talking to a family member, even if you're really angry, you spend half your time arguing with them in your head and half the time with a black hole in your stomach because something's wrong - there's something unconcluded and nasty in your life. I don't know how people live with it. I had a brief chat with Noel Gallagher about it during that period, and it was interesting talking to him. The look on his face said it all. I knew that feeling. There was anger there, but life's too short to live with that."

Although a negative at the time, the pair agree that the split has had a positive impact on both their relationship and Orbital.

"I thought he meant it when he said he wasn't talking to me again," says Phil. "That's shit, isn't it? What have I done? What did I do? Can you just remind me? When we're playing and we look at each other, it's not a scowl anymore, it's a laugh and a joke - it's brilliant. I couldn't do it any other way. Rock and roll, let's get on with it and enjoy it! That's what was missing - enjoying doing it together. We were bogged down with our relationship, bogged down with the job. I'm not moaning or anything, but now all our children are growing up, there are fewer responsibilities, and I've got my brother back. Everything's a win-win situation for me.

"We didn't talk for five years, but I think it's been a good thing" says Paul. "I went back to my roots, I went back to playing very small clubs and things like that, with no production, no front-of-house person, me setting up my own gear. That was really good and gave me more confidence going forward. It reminded me of when we started off in the early '90s, doing raves and clubs. It really did prove to me that it's really about the music. I feel like I'm in a different place now. It's nice to stop and start again; it feels different. I think next time we need to do something like that, we'll just have a year off, rather than fall apart"

Next year is Orbital's 30th anniversary. "We'll probably need to sum up our career somehow," says Paul. "I started writing a book when I wasn't talking to my brother. I wasn't having a go at him - it was more the other way round actually - and I think that was part of the process that got me back talking to him. I wrote 120 pages of my life, up to the age of 22, when I used to idolise him as a kid, and I kind of thought, 'Ah, where did it all go wrong?' So yes, we're working on a book. Phil doesn't want to write it, but he'll do a series of interviews. He'll do his half and I'll do mine, and we won't read or know what each other has written. Someone will put it together almost as a 'witness and prosecution' kind of thing. We're possibly going to get a documentary off the ground to celebrate that, and I've got another album that I want to do, to go along with the book - a biographical album which is mostly based on sampling sound and travelling around."

Phil adds: "We've got a mini Christmas tour in December, too. We're just really enjoying it, and that was what was missing before. You get into such a state and a pickle with relationships, and everything is all a big black cloud. Enjoying it was what was lost, but now it's found."

Orbital headline Shiiine On Birmingham at the city's Genting Arena on Saturday 8 September

Shiiine On Birmingham

A one day gathering celebrating
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Orbital // Shed Seven // Happy Mondays // Embrace //

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Simmer Down

Handsworth Park, Birmingham, Sun 12 August

Free-to-attend Simmer Down has become one of Birmingham's most popular and diverse festivals.
Featuring music, dance, spoken word, visual arts, commissioned work, workshops and participation activities and outreach & young people's programmes, the family-friendly festival celebrates the city's rich cultural diversity with a line-up of internationally acclaimed artists and homegrown talent.
Rooted in North Birmingham, Simmer Down pays tribute to the centrality of reggae and other musical genres that have contributed to Birmingham's growing reputation as an international city of culture.

Line-up includes: Inner Circle (pictured), Iqulah Rastafari, Misty In Roots, JB Capital Letters, Pulse Beat, Rhythms Del Toro, Hunterz, Lekon Babalola's Sacred Funk Project featuring Rtkal and Handsworth Community Choir.

Sunshine Festival

Fish Meadow, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire, Fri 24 - Sun 26 August

Back with a fantastic mix of big-name pop acts and retro stars, the heart of England's 'favourite family festival' returns to Upton-upon-Severn for its ninth year.
As well as featuring a line-up assembled to appeal to every generation, the event also includes a disco, a karaoke and a range of fun activities for kids to enjoy. Fancy dress is encouraged.

Line-up includes: Status Quo, Heather Small (pictured), Go West, George McCrae, Katrina, Five Star, The Wurzels, Aswad, Secret Affair, Glen Matlock, The Korgis, The History Of Queen and Bootleg Abba.

Camper Calling

Ragley Hall, Warwickshire, Fri 24 - Sun 26 August

Following warmly received events in 2016 and '17, Camper Calling returns to the stunning grounds of Warwickshire's Ragley Hall for its third family-friendly outing.
This year's event boasts a superb musical line-up, craft workshops, lake activities and some seriously tasty food and drink.

Line-up includes: The Coral (pictured), Feeder, Melanie C, Scouting For Girls, From The Jam, The South, Craig Charles, Neville Staple Band, Showhawk, Artful Dodger, Uncle Funk and The Boogie Wonderland and Phats & Small, Lottery Winners, Holy Moly And The Crackers and Noble Jacks.

Green Man Festival

Brecon Beacons, Wales, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 August

Known for its ethical business model and quality line-ups, Green Man has scooped numerous awards and accolades during its 16 years in operation. Alongside an amazing array of folk, world, indie, electronic and psychedelic music, it also boasts literature, film, comedy, theatre, ceilidhs, all-night bonfires and secret gigs, all surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of the Brecon Beacons.

Music line-up includes: The War On Drugs, Fleet Foxes (pictured), King Gizzard And The Lizard Wizard, John Grant, Grizzly Bear, Dirty Projectors, The Brian Jonestown Massacre, Teenage Fanclub, Black Angels, Public Service Broadcasting, Anna Calvi and Cate Le Bon.

Paul Morrell

Twenty-three years after kickstarting his career, Paul Morrell is now one of the Midlands' most renowned DJs. Here, he talks about his career, DJing, his remixes and more...

When did you first begin DJing, Paul?

I started in 1995 as a mobile DJ, working mainly at parties for friends. However, my interest in dance music and DJing started way before that. I've always had a keen interest in house music - it was the cool alternative to the Brit Pop/Spice Girls stuff that was in the charts at the time - and from a very young age, I'd collected house music records. The first records I bought were Pump Up The Jam by Technotronic and Ride On Time by Black Box in 1989. They really set out the style of music that I'd end up playing, as they're two of the first major house records to cross over into the mainstream top-40. Initially, I didn't earn very much money at all as a DJ. I was simply playing at house parties for the love of DJing and to gain experience. The very early parties I did, I may have been paid £50, which was much better than the salary I was earning at my Saturday job, as I was still at school. This led me to believe that DJing was a viable career path, so I started pursuing it seriously after leaving school. I do think those early gigs were invaluable, however, as they gave me the opportunity to learn how to work a crowd, mix under pressure and test out new tracks. Looking back, some of my first gigs were a huge learning curve, with lots of things going wrong, or not perfectly. I think every good DJ needs to have experienced this, in order to improve and hone their craft.

What are your earliest memories of being a DJ?

When I first started, it was totally different to today, predominantly due to the fact that I had to lug around three huge boxes of weighty vinyl, which also cost an absolute fortune. DJs in 2018 simply hear a new tune on the radio or in a club that they like, Shazam it, download it and turn up with a USB full of new music and a pair of headphones. In 1995, it was very different, and DJs would often spend hours on a Saturday in a record shop compiling sets from the latest vinyl releases for a set that evening. Ten vinyl would cost anything up to £100, whereas 10mp3s cost £7. Music has become far more accessible to DJs in that sense. Also, you would often have to wait for weeks for a track to be pressed on vinyl before you could play it out, unless you were lucky enough to have been mailed it by the record company. A great example of this was Music Sounds Better With You by Stardust, which Pete Tong had been championing on Radio One for weeks - but nobody could get a copy. This would never happen now, as people would just illegally rip the record from the internet and incorporate it within their sets.

What type of music do you predominantly play?

I play a variety of different genres of electronic music, and don't particularly pigeonhole myself into one specific style. That said, I've always leaned more towards tougher-sounding music, as I feel it has a great energy in clubs, and my personal preference is EDM. When I initially began DJing, my sets consisted of a variety of genres, and most DJs played all types of music. A great example of this is Jeremy Healy, who is one of the DJs I truly admire. Jeremy often drops random tracks into his sets, which makes a crowd stop and go, 'What the hell?!' I've heard him play Twist & Shout by The Beatles in the middle of an electro house set. It's only in more recent years that DJs have been under pressure to pledge their allegiance to one specific genre - which is kinda sad, really, as it limits creativity. I have a love for all music, so if I have a trance record that I love from the 1990s or a disco record from the 1970s and it's appropriate to the crowd I'm playing to, I'll find a way of including it.

What was your first 'big' gig?

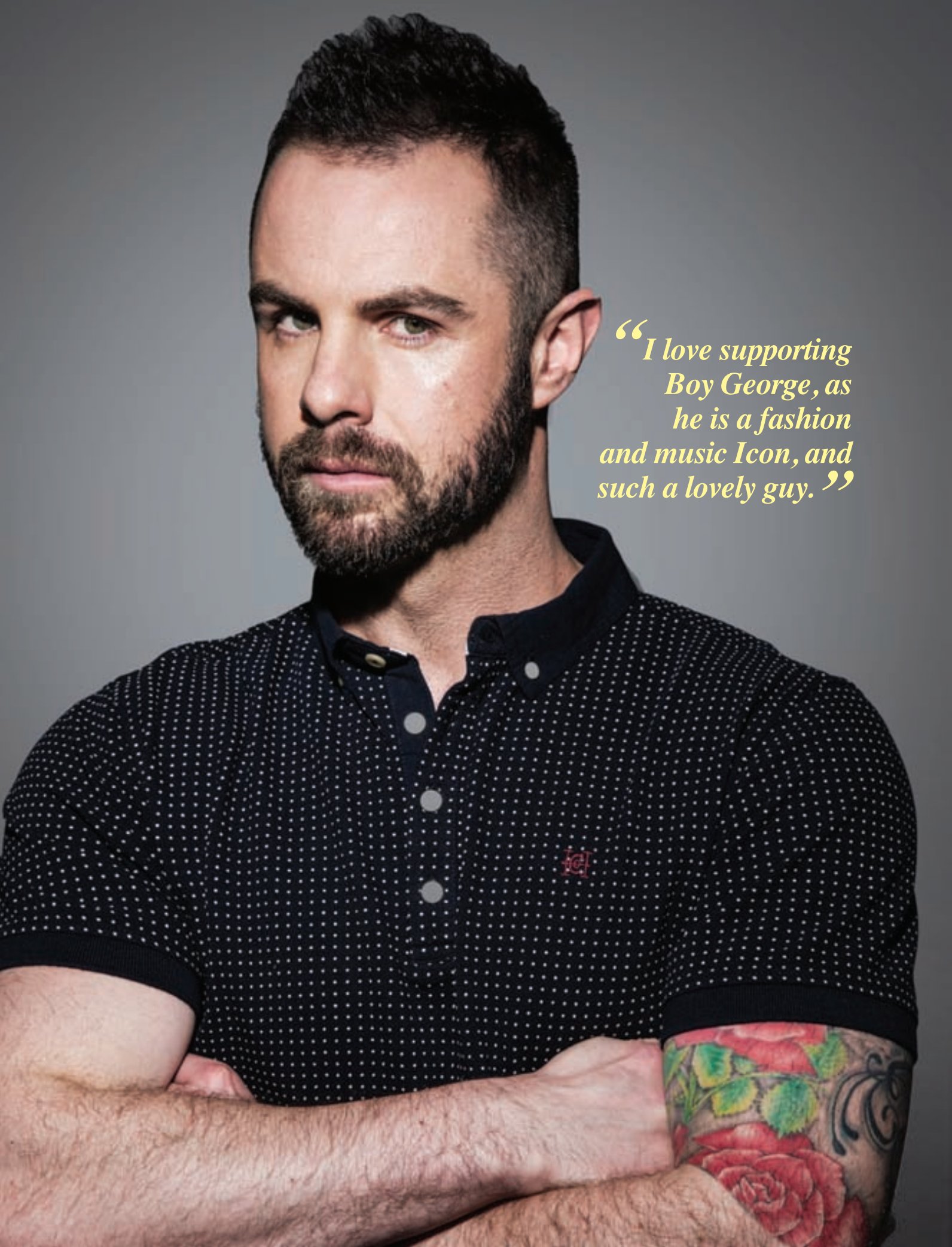
My first major gig outside of my home town was supporting Paul Oakenfold at London's Ministry of Sound in 2008. This was also the very first time I'd played at Ministry of Sound. It was an extremely special experience - at the time, Oakenfold was one of the biggest DJs in the world. I've since gone on to support him several times, and have also released music on his Perfecto label. I just remember thinking that I'd really achieved something, as Oakenfold and Ministry are two major players in international house music culture. It was the DJing equivalent of playing at Wembley as a footballer.

Who's the biggest DJ you've been on a line-up with?

It's really subjective, as a DJ who's 'big' at the moment can be completely forgotten a year or so later. A DJ that I always love supporting is Boy George. He's an international fashion & music icon and such a lovely guy to work with. He also provided the vocals on my track, Tall & Handsome, last year, which was a huge honour for me. I would say he's probably the most internationally famous celebrity I've worked with frequently. I've also worked with huge trance and EDM artists such as Martin Garrix, Tiesto, Paul Van Dyk, Armin Van Buuren, Hardwell etc. I suppose to the average 18-year-old reader of this magazine, Martin Garrix is far more famous than Boy George. However, I wasn't really star-struck by any of those guys when I first met them; not in the same way I was with George.

Do any other DJs give you inspiration for your sets?

As I already mentioned, I was hugely inspired by some of the legendary British house music DJs of the 1990s, such as Danny Rampling and Jeremy Healy, but I constantly gain inspiration from new people. A more contemporary artist I really admire is Kryder. I absolutely love his recent production with Erick Morillo entitled Waves. It's been a firm favourite in my sets for


“I love supporting Boy George, as he is a fashion and music Icon, and such a lovely guy.”

several months now. I also love Martin Solveig as a producer and a DJ, as his sets are always fun and quirky. He's had a great career, and his productions are always really amazing floor-fillers. There's also a new breed of young DJs, such as Craig Knight, James Bluck and Nathan C, who're producing some great music, too. Avicii was also a more recent inspiration, and it was a huge loss to the EDM community when he passed away earlier this year.

Who would you like to DJ alongside?

To be perfectly honest, I've worked with almost every DJ that I've ever wanted to, so there aren't that many left. I suppose the obvious one who would be most suited to my genre of music, and who I still haven't met, is Calvin Harris. He's had an astonishing career and completely revolutionised commercial dance music, opening it up to a new generation. I know that some people don't like his music, but I believe what he's done for the EDM scene and youth culture as a whole is phenomenal.

What's been your favourite gig to DJ at?

So far, one of the biggest gigs I've performed at is the Weekend Festival in Helsinki, Finland. The line-up basically consisted of a who's-who of EDM. I was on the same line-up as Swedish House Maffia, Steve Aoki, Garrix, Tiesto, Marshmallow, Don Diablo etc. The festival is attended by approximately 30,000 people, and is one of the biggest in that area of Europe. That said, I've also had an amazing time performing for Birmingham Pride over the past few years. The atmosphere is always fantastic, both whilst playing and backstage. My early gigs in Coventry at my own Classique events were also extremely memorable, and I had a great time playing in the tiny venues there back in the early 2000s.

Where would you most like to DJ?

I intend to do a lot more overseas performances over the next few years, and am very much looking forward to performing at Matinee's Circuit festival in Barcelona later this month. I'm also absolutely thrilled to have been added to Gatecrasher's line-up for their event in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral. Obviously, being my home city, this venue being hugely iconic, and with Coventry having been selected as 2021 UK City of Culture, it's fantastic to be back playing in my home town once again. Gatecrasher have pulled out all the stops with a huge line-up of UK DJ talent, including Judge Jules and Seb Fontaine, and I'll be performing alongside an orchestra and live vocalists at the event.

You've worked with a lot of artists on remixes and original tracks. Who's been your favourite?

They're all great for different reasons, and all bring something unique and special to the table. I loved working with Mutya Buena, as she's such an immense talent with a fantastic voice and great image. We've actually been in contact recently about doing another collaboration, which we've already written. It's just a case of pinning her down to a date in the studio now, as she's always so busy. That said, it's also been great working with new artists such as Indigo Marshall and Vicky Jackson, both of whom are extremely talented and have amazing vocals. As I previously mentioned, it was also a huge honour that Boy George agreed to provide a vocal for me on my track, Tall & Handsome, last year.

You've recently been working on a lot of projects and remixes. Tell us a little about them...

The main forthcoming remix is of Troye Sivan's single, Bloom, which I'm hoping will be released late summer. I also have two new singles completed, one with Laura White entitled No Ordinary Love, and one featuring Amanda Wilson called Up In Flames. These are both big vocal piano house records and will hopefully achieve some success. The Laura White track in particular is extremely exciting, and I absolutely love her vocals on it. Finally, I have a forthcoming remix for a new artist called Ava Max, which will be released at the end of the summer.

What have you got coming up in the pipeline?

I'm absolutely thrilled to be returning on Bank Holiday Sunday, August the 26th, to one of the venues where I started my career. The Yard in Coventry (formerly The Glasshouse) is an extremely intimate 200-capacity venue that I first began promoting in somewhere around 15 years ago. This will be the first club gig I've played in Coventry for a number of years. The venue is extremely important to me, as it's the place where I first worked with artists including Tall Paul, Sonique, Dave Pearce etc. It will always have a special place in my heart. Although it's far smaller than the venues I now play in, I'm hoping that it will give some of the people who used to come along when I played regularly in Coventry the opportunity to do so again.

Catch up with all of Paul's latest news, events and music releases at facebook.com/paul.morrell.5

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Moseley Folk

Moseley Park, Birmingham, Fri 31 August - Sun 2 September

Tucked away behind Birmingham's busy streets, the beautiful Moseley Park is one of the city's hidden gems, transformed each year into an enchanting escape by one of the Midlands' best-loved music festivals. Traditional folk & low-fi acoustic sets blend seamlessly with dreamy electropop, psychedelia and indie favourites against a magical backdrop of bright hippie colours, lush foliage and a beautiful lake. The perfect way to see out the summer.

Music line-up includes: Levellers, Teenage Fanclub, Nick Mulvey (pictured), Steve Harley & Cockney Rebel, Show Of Hands, Bridget St John, King Creosote, This Is The Kit, Willy Mason, Imarhan, Skinny Lister, Jools Holland and Samantha Parton, Richard Dawson, Martin Carthy, Chris Wood and Siobhan Miller.

Solihull Summer Fest

Tudor Grange Park, Solihull, Sat 25 - Sun 26 August

Now in its third year, thousands are expected to descend on Tudor Grange Park over the August Bank Holiday weekend for what's fast becoming one of the most popular music events of the summer.
The festival features more than 10 hours of live music across the two days, funfair rides, a food village full of street vendors, and a huge variety of bars serving everything from real ale to prosecco.

Line-up includes: Sister Sledge (pictured), Busted, 10cc, Razorlight, Lightning Seeds, Sugar Hill Gang, Rak-Su, Alesha Dixon, The Beat, The Dualers, Roland Gift (Fine Young Cannibals), The Ed Sheeran Experience and Robert Lamberti as George Michael.

Towersey Festival

Thame, Oxfordshire, Fri 24 - Mon 27 August

Folk spirit goes to the heart of Towersey Festival, which traces its roots back to 1965, when local villagers united to buy a field from wealthy landowners.
After raising funds to drain, plough and re-seed the area, they started an event which has gone on to become one of the UK's finest folk festivals.
In honour of its origins, profits are paid back into village facilities and local charities.

Line-up includes: The Shires (pictured), The Proclaimers, Richard Thompson Electric Trio, Beth Orton, Big Country, Fisherman's Friends, Sharon Shannon Band, Brighouse & Rastrick Band, Daphne's Flight, Martyn Joseph, Peter Knight & John Spiers and Martin Simpson.

Godiva

War Memorial Park, Coventry, Fri 31 August - Sun 2 September

Proudly reaffirming its status as the UK's biggest and best free music festival, Godiva presents another bumper crop of top-notch talent as it returns for 2018. Veteran performers join emerging artists working across a dazzling array of genres. While the traditional Godiva procession continues to this day, the weekend has certainly come a long way since its 17th century origins as a celebration of the medieval Countess of Mercia.

Music line-up includes: Editors, Ronan Keating, Jake Bugg (pictured), Jonas Blue, Gabrielle, Professor Green, Little Comets and Blood Red Shoes.

VOICE OF REASON

Dara O'Briain talks ordinary lives at Telford's Big Top...

Having made a real name for himself as a TV presenter in recent years, Dara O'Briain is about to return to his first love of stand-up comedy, embarking on a mammoth national tour with brand new show Voice Of Reason.

"Doing stand-up is a euphoric experience," says the 46-year-old Irishman. "The great thing is the anticipation. You're thinking, 'You're going to love this next bit!'

"It's wonderful to create local jokes that repay three or seven or even 12 years later. When I play Coventry, for instance, there are always packets of crisps on the stage. That comes from an audience interaction I had 12 years ago.

"Back then, I was chatting with a guy in the audience who worked for a crisp company. I did a joke about it, and when I came back on stage after the interval, there were 12 packets of crisps waiting for me! Many people in Coventry remember that. So that's the reason why the crisps are still there."

In Voice Of Reason, Dara will be discussing such topics as the ordinariness of his daily life: "If there's a theme to the show, it's that, at the age of 46, I have an incredibly normal life!"

He will also be mulling over the rise of the nerd - "Thanks to the internet, nerds can find each other now. It's very positive!" - and talking about his on-screen relationship with Professor Brian Cox on Stargazing Live. "When Brian and I work together, he's the expert and I'm the broadcaster. When he's talking, sometimes a producer says into my earpiece: 'A plane is now hovering over Scandinavia with shots of the aurora borealis. We have to cut to that'. So at those moments, I have to interrupt Brian. But furious viewers then write in saying, 'Why did you interrupt Brian Cox? I was enjoying watching him!'. They genuinely think I interrupt Brian because I'm jealous of him. They imagine I'm saying, 'Sorry to interrupt you, Brian, but it's not going to be all about you tonight. I also know things that I want to tell the audience'. Brian and I find that idea hilarious!"

Dara will also be devoting a large section of the show to a routine about how he's become the subject of a fake news website: "I go into the madness of this story about these things that are supposed to have happened to me. The producers of this fake-news website have filled in some details. For example, they mention James Street in Dublin. So some effort has been made in producing it. But it's still so ludicrous. The site pops up next to features headlined, 'She's discovered the secret that dentists don't want you to know' and 'Twenty stars whose lives have been ravaged by drugs'. In one of those, they put a picture of Chris O'Dowd beside a picture of Shane McGowan!"

The routine emphasises the extent to which the internet has turned into an uncontrollable 'wild west': "It's become a torrent of disinformation. There was a tiny moment where we thought we could use the internet to amplify scientific truths and have a great weapon for fighting lies. But no, that was completely wrong. What the internet's really useful for is more lies!"

Thanks to the millions of people in different countries watching his shows online, Dara has become an enormous draw all over the world.

"The whole thing has opened out and gone global. I recently walked past a bus stop in Stavanger that had a picture of Russell Howard on it.

"In Tromsø, in the Arctic Circle, I walked on stage and said, 'I don't know how often you have these gigs', and they called out, 'We had Bill Bailey here last night!' That punctured my balloon a bit. Bill went on to play Svalbard, which is even further north. I thought I was being a hero doing Tromsø, but he was doing a gig to polar bears in the Svalbard arts centre!"

So what does Dara hope his audiences will take away from Voice Of Reason?

"I get really enthusiastic about sciencey stuff. You can see me getting giddy about space, and that's why I recently wrote a kids' book on the subject - but on tour, I'm there to do funny.

"This show is an evening of entertainment. It's two hours of laughing. It's not meant to be pedagogic. It's not meant to say, 'You'll be laughing, but you'll also be learning'. Of course, if that happens, that's grand. But first and foremost, Voice Of Reason is just a load of funny stuff."

Dara O'Briain appears at Telford's Big Top on Wednesday 8 August. He returns to the Midlands region later in the year - from 29 November to 1 December - performing at Warwick Arts Centre in Coventry.

> **"Doing stand-up is a euphoric experience. The great thing is the anticipation. You're thinking, 'You're going to love this next bit!'"**

Matilda The Musical

Birmingham Hippodrome, until Sat 8 September

Adapted from one of Roald Dahl's best-loved books, the Royal Shakespeare Company's stage-musical version of Matilda - complete with music and lyrics by comedian Tim Minchin - has been delighting West End audiences for six years.

A staggering eight million people worldwide have so far seen productions of the critically acclaimed show, which has visited more than 50 cities and bagged an impressive 80-plus international awards. Impressive statistics indeed. If you haven't done so already, bag yourself a ticket and find out what all the fuss is about!

The Full Monty

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 8 August - Sat 1 September

When six men lose their jobs at the local steelworks, they find that dignity, hope and self-belief are suddenly in short supply. Until, that is, they take the plunge and become male strippers... This brand new production is of course based on the hit 1996 movie of the same title, with the Old Joint Stock promising audiences an 'up close and personal' experience...

Boogie Nights

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 22 - Sat 25 August

Back in the 1970s, loud suits and disco tunes were very much the order of the day, and hit musical Boogie Nights is all about celebrating those jumpsuit-wearing times.

The story isn't exactly complicated, following Roddy and Deb on the rocky road to love, but then you don't come to a show like Boogie Nights expecting anything weighty. It's the music that counts, and on that score you'll be strutting your funky stuff long before the end.

The show is the New Alex's 2018 Stage Experience production, a showcase for some of the region's most talented young performers.

Uncle Ben's Family Feud

The Old Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 30 August - Sun 2 September

Conway Productions have been presenting stories about the character of Uncle Ben (and his family) for six years now, along the way focusing on issues including infidelity, domestic violence, substance abuse and absent parents. The company's latest offering sees Uncle Ben looking forward to a night in with a special lady - but with the kids returning home early and the local constabulary paying him an unexpected visit, it's fair to say things don't quite go according to plan...

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COMEDY YOU CAN BANK ON

by Lauren Cole

Award-winning Mischief Theatre, the company behind hit West Ender The Play That Goes Wrong, bring yet another laugh-out-loud comedy to the Midlands this month... What's On spoke to Artistic Director Henry Lewis about Mischief's success and their currently touring show, The Comedy About A Bank Robbery...

It's 1958 and Minneapolis is abuzz with news that City Bank has been charged with the protection of a priceless diamond. With an escaped convict, his girlfriend and sidekick, a maintenance man and even bank security all eyeing up the gem, what could possibly go wrong?...

Henry Lewis, writer of The Comedy About A Bank Robbery and co-founder of Mischief Theatre, shared a few words about the 'side-splitting show'.

"We've taken inspiration from old Marx Brothers comedy, so in that way it's that 'screwball caper' style of show. It has little references chucked in here and there, but obviously it's completely original. I suppose it's a farce at its core, but there's a lot of physical comedy in there, combined with the verbal one-liners and the like.

"Bank Robbery is very different to our 'Goes Wrong' shows because it's got a narrative to it. There are also a lot of impressive visuals and stunts as the robbery takes place, and there's a really fun scene involving perspective. I don't want to give too much away for audiences, but it's quite film-like in its visuals."

So why does Henry think the show has played so well with British audiences?

"Crime stories are quite popular, so I think Bank Robbery has fairly universal appeal because it does follow that plot - even if it's a sillier version, rather than in a thriller style. We've tried to make it a very mainstream show, to give it that widespread appeal but with its own very unique style and quirks. It doesn't require a huge amount of thought to watch - it's just good fun and a good adventure for any audience to enjoy."

Bank Robbery has also been a success in its licensed productions abroad, as Henry explains...

"The comedy is very physical, and I think that's why it translates so well overseas. There have been various productions abroad. One is currently on in Paris, which is obviously quite different, but a lot of the physical side of the comedy is the same. It's more universal than the verbal comedy, which is more often than not aimed at a particular audience, or makes presumptions about what the audience already knows. I think everyone just gets it and can laugh along."

As artistic director at Mischief Theatre, Henry faces plenty of challenges, but as far as he's concerned, the rewards make all the hard work worthwhile.

"I think creating works that are genuinely funny is one of the hardest things to do; it's tricky, and the shows take an enormous amount of development. It's my job to ensure that that's always happening, but also to make certain that we're always trying something new, coming up with new ideas and collaborating with different people. We have so many shows on at the moment - two shows currently running in the West End and three on tour - and we're obviously always trying to develop new stuff. There's such a lot on, so it can be stressful, but the rewards are just amazing. To see different people all over the world laughing at what we produce is incredible. With all the different things going on in our country and the world at the moment, it's great that people come to our shows, forget their troubles and just sit and laugh. To be able to give people that escape at the theatre is a huge privilege."

Henry attributes the success of Mischief Theatre to three simple things: faith in their work, a real drive to achieve and the spark between himself and his colleagues.

"We've made shows that we believe in, and worked really hard to put them out there. I think because a lot of us trained together at drama school - so we'd already been doing shows together for a long time - we had this shared chemistry that really helped us."

Mischief Theatre's ensemble format sees its members collaborating over many years to create a unique body of work.

"I would fully endorse the format we have at Mischief, particularly for youngsters leaving drama school because the industry is so hard to get work in. I would absolutely recommend that people form their own theatre companies with those connections they make along the way, and write, produce, direct and perform their own productions. I think it's the greatest thing that people can be doing, whether that's in-between jobs or as more of a full-time life choice, as it has been for us. Ensemble is very important and, I think, much more interesting. It's given us far greater creative scope - we really have control over what we want to do. It's such a treat to be able to write and produce your own stuff and see it through to the end. The creative freedom is definitely the most fulfilling aspect. I really can't recommend it enough."

And there are more exciting projects to come from Mischief in the near future...

"We're currently writing for a TV show and a stage project, but I can't tell you much more than that because it's still very much a secret. But there will be news of those soon, I'm sure."

The Comedy About A Bank Robbery shows at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Thursday 23 August to Saturday 8 September.

Jersey Boys

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 28 August - Sat 8 September

Rockin' and rollin' New Jersey boys Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons scored some truly massive hits during the mid-1960s, with best-known numbers including Walk Like A Man, Bye Bye Baby, Big Girls Don't Cry, Sherry and December 1963 (Oh, What A Night). This massive jukebox musical tells their story. Taking a documentary-style format, the show is structured as four 'seasons', each being narrated by a different member of the band.

The Tony, Olivier and Grammy award-winning production is here making a welcome return to the Midlands region.

Bottom's Dream: The Musical

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Fri 3 & Sat 4 August

Accessible language, likeable characters and a series of comic capers with an ass combine to make Dream one of Shakespeare's most popular works. Lysander and Demetrius both fancy Hermia, Helena's sitting on the shelf, Titania and Oberon are up to no good, and Puck's got his finger in more pies than Mr Kipling. Add in a group of rude mechanicals and the recipe for success is guaranteed... Presented by the University of Wolverhampton's musical theatre students.

The Merry Wives Of Windsor

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 4 August - Sat 22 September

Mistresses Page and Ford believe it's high time the fat knight Sir John Falstaff was taught a lesson. After all, the big fella's been courting them both, claiming that each is his one-and-only true love and caring not a jot that they're both married!

A tale of buck-baskets, frolicsome fairies and men dressed as women, this is Shakespeare at his comic best. Expect your sides to be as near to splitting as they're ever likely to be when engaging with the works of Stratford's most famous son.

The Lynching Of Jackie Walker

MAC, Birmingham, Sat 11 August

Having criticised Israel and expressed doubts about the relevance of Holocaust Memorial Day in its current form, it's fair to say that Black and Jewish veteran socialist and anti-racist campaigner Jackie Walker is a controversial figure. In this well-reviewed autobiographical show, Jackie seeks not only to explain herself but also to reflect on her treatment at the hands of a sensationalist media. The production is followed by a Q&A with Jackie.

Diamonds Are For Eric

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Mon 20 August - Sat 1 September

New Vic favourite Eric Smith here makes a welcome return to the stage. This time he finds himself caught up in a James Bond-style escapade when he takes his new girlfriend on a cheap holiday to Russia...

Actor David Graham's delightfully dysfunctional character has certainly earned his place in the hearts of New Vic audiences down the years, having made his first appearance at the venue way back in 1999.

A selection of memorable Swinging '60s numbers should ensure the evening provides plenty of toe-tapping fun.

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Madagascar The Musical

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, until 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 producers promise will send your kids home positively wild (which may or may not be a good thing!). X-Factor 2016 winner Matt Terry stars.

Tiddler And Other Terrific Tales

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 27 - Wed 29 August; New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 30 August - Sat 1 September

This ever-popular show brings together a host of colourful characters from some of Gruffalo creators Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's best-loved titles, including Tiddler, The Smartest Giant In Town and A Squash And A Squeeze. Live music and puppetry combine in a production that promises to take its audience under the sea, out on the farm and into the jungle.

Peter Pan The Musical

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 16 - Sat 18 August

Fly away to Neverland with the boy who wouldn't grow up, meet a real fairy, marvellous mermaids, wonderful Wendy and the down-on-their-luck lost boys. Oh, and beware the ever-so-wicked Captain Hook and a very hungry crocodile who goes tick-tock (he swallowed a clock!).

The Acorn Emporium

MAC, Birmingham, Thurs 23 - Sun 26 August

Birmingham-based theatricals Untied Artists make a welcome return following the success of previous endeavour Library Lion. And this time they'll be performing in the open air.
Described by the company as 'a bushy tale of living in a land that doesn't quite feel like home', their new show tells the story of Raudona Grimausk, a red squirrel who's set up shop in a tent, determined to make the best of whatever life throws at her...
The production is suitable for children aged five and older.

Bing Live!

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 24 - Sat 25 August

CBeebies favourites Bing, Sula, Coco and Pando step out of the telly and onto the stage in a lively touring show that comes complete with storytelling, dressing-up, music and puppetry. If you've got a pre-schooler or several, take them along - the show offers very young children a great introduction to the wonderful world of theatre.

Mischief And Mystery In Moomin Valley

MAC, Birmingham, Fri 10 - Sat 11 August

This 'unique participatory storytelling experience' is based on the hugely popular characters created by Finnish illustrator Tove Jansson in the 1940s.
Created for children aged between four and seven, the 50-minute show features puppetry, original music, interactive play and an 'ingenious' pop-up book set.

Dinosaur World Live

Oakengates Theatre, The Place, Telford, Shropshire, Tues 7 - Wed 8 August

Dinosaurs are once again roaming the earth this summer, thanks to this new interactive show for all the family to enjoy.
Youngsters get to meet a host of impressive prehistoric creatures - including, of course, every child's favourite flesh-eating giant, the Tyrannosaurus Rex.
In short, the show promises to be an absolute monster of an experience, leaving a T-Rex-size imprint on your child's memory for many a year to come.

BLOCK PARTY

Master Model Builder Michelle Thompson talks about Birmingham's newest visitor attraction and what it brings to the city...

by Ellie Hutchings

The nation's favourite construction toy has found a home in Birmingham at the brand new Legoland Discovery Centre - and the venue promises to deliver plenty of fun for children and parents alike, thanks to a whole host of attractions.

Located at Arena Birmingham, near Brindleyplace, the Centre houses a city builder area, a duplo farm, a soft play area, two different rides and a 4D cinema. And the list goes on! But perhaps the most impressive attraction at the venue is the Lego Miniland. Built from over five million Lego bricks, Miniland is a replica of Birmingham and includes Lego constructions of iconic buildings such as the Bullring, the Mailbox, the Library of Birmingham and the BT Tower. There are interactive elements to Miniland, too - children can entertain themselves by racing boats along the canal or getting stuck into a game of football at the 'mish-mash' of Aston Villa and Birmingham City's grounds.

"I want to make sure the children are the key factor," explains Master Model Builder Michelle Thompson. "I want to make sure that they come in, see something and think, 'I want to go home and build that'."

For Michelle, an avid lover of Lego for as long as she can remember, fighting off more than 7,000 other applicants for her new post has landed her what many people are calling 'Birmingham's dream job'.

Having worked in HR in her previous employment, Michelle has had quite the career change. So what exactly does the role of Master Model Builder entail? "I'm going to be helping decorate the Discovery Centre with lots of Lego builds, and lots of exciting things that will interest children. I'm also going to be responsible for maintaining Miniland and all the other builds around the site, but hopefully there's going to be a lot of building things too - maybe building things which have never even been built by Lego before, who knows?"

Michelle might not have been in the job long, but there's no denying her passion for what she does. "I want to provide new ways for children to interact with Lego, encouraging them not necessarily just to stick to the manual - our test & build area is particularly fantastic for that."

Michelle was among just two percent of applicants for the role of Master Model Builder who were women. Is Lego suffering a diversity problem? "I think more girls are playing with Lego as children now, and I think it's being encouraged more. There's now less difference between girls and boys and what they're encouraged to play with, so I think eventually it will be more 50-50."

And this is clearly the case in Birmingham's new Discovery Centre. Both boys and girls can be seen building and playing - including in the Lego Friends' Heartlake City, a play area intended to appeal primarily to girls.

Legoland Birmingham is aimed at children between the ages of three and 10, and maintains that adults are not permitted entry without a child. That being said, the attraction is just as enjoyable for parents as it is for their children. Mums and dads are encouraged to leave their phones in the lockers and get involved in play too, as creating quality family time is a priority for the Centre. But older Lego enthusiasts without any little ones in their life don't need to worry about missing out on the fun - the venue's 'adult nights' event is an opportunity for those who're 18 and over to meet Michelle and create some of their own builds.

It's no surprise that excitement is almost tangible in Birmingham following Legoland's opening. Michelle promises that the venue will inject 'extra fun' into the city - and the 10ft-tall, 30,000-brick giraffe which has been installed outside is just a preview of what's to come. There's no end to the impressive designs and creations dotted around the site - perhaps most notably the fully functioning clock tower, which takes centre stage. "It's got all sorts of mechanisms that have had to be factored in and then connected to the Lego," Michelle explains. "I've met some of the people from Windsor who actually made the Lego build, and they're such an amazing team."

The installation of Legoland Birmingham was no mean feat. Miniland alone took nine people nine months to build - which is hardly surprising given the attention to detail. Tiny Lego figures can be seen eating inside some of the buildings, cars travel along the roads and even the boats on the canal are attached to tethers, allowing them to float along the Canal Old Line.

It's clear that Lego is an ever-popular toy, and as Michelle points out: "It's universal - no matter where you buy Lego, no matter what bricks you've got, you can connect them with any other bricks. The bricks I had as a child work with the bricks I'm buying now - it's timeless."

And Birmingham's new Lego shop is the perfect place for lovers of the legendary toy to expand their collection. Located next door to the Legoland Discovery Centre, the shop boasts a number of exclusive lines. Visitors from as far afield as London now travel up to the Midlands to get their hands on the merchandise. The 'pick a brick' wall is particularly innovative, allowing Lego fanatics to stock up on bricks of all sizes and colours in order to complete their creations.

With so much to recommend it, it's hardly surprising that Michelle's enthusiasm for her new job knows no bounds... "At the moment, I just want to get in, get started and get building stuff. Imagination is going to be a key feature because in order to create anything you've got to have imagination. That's the most important thing."

Purchase tickets for Legoland at birmingham.legolanddiscoverycentre.co.uk

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Ant-Man And The Wasp CERT 12a (117 mins)

Starring **Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly, Michael Peña, Walton Goggins, Bobby Cannavale, Judy Greer, Michelle Pfeiffer, Laurence Fishburne, Michael Douglas** Directed by **Peyton Reed (USA)**

In this instance we are not talking about a pesky yellowjacket, but the superheroine Janet van Dyne, played by Michelle Pfeiffer. She is the mother of Hope (Evangeline Lilley), the latter being the romantic partner of Ant Man/Scott Lang (Paul Rudd), who together have assumed the mantle of the crime-fighting partnership of Ant-Man and a new Wasp. It transpires that Hope, like her mother, can enter the quantum realm, and so Hope sets about looking for Janet van Dyne who, decades ago, was lost amongst the atoms of a Soviet nuclear missile. Disciples of quantum physics should get a particular buzz from all this (pun intended), while others will swarm to the multiplex just for more Marvel Comics high jinks. The first Ant-Man (2015) proved to be an especially taut, shrewd, exciting, funny and even moving superhero caper.

Released Thurs 2 Aug

Film highlights released in August...

The Escape CERT 15 (101 mins)

Starring **Gemma Arterton, Dominic Cooper, Frances Barber, Marthe Keller, Jalil Lespert** Directed by **Dominic Savage (UK)**

A suburban London housewife walks out on her family to start a new life in Paris. Obviously, Shirley Valentine still has a lot to answer for.

Released Fri 3 Aug

Teen Titans Go! To The Cinema CERT PG

With the voices of **Greg Cipes, Scott Menville, Khary Payton, Tara Strong, Will Arnett, Kristen Bell, Nicolas Cage, James Corden** Directed by **Peter Rida Michail** and **Aaron Horvath (USA)**

A big-screen spin on the titular animated television series, this sees our teenage superheroes heading to Hollywood to seek Avengers-like fame. But their plans for celebrity are thrown for a loop when a really nasty piece of work aims for global domination.

Released Fri 3 Aug

Dog Days CERT PG

Starring **Nina Dobrev, Vanessa Hudgens, Adam Pally, Eva Longoria, Rob Corddry** Directed by **Ken Marino (USA)**

It's been quite a year for dogs, from Isle Of Dogs to Show Dogs via Patrick, the comedy about a pug. Here, various LA dog walkers find themselves overlapping thanks to their canine companions.

Released Fri 10 Aug

Film highlights released in August...

The Darkest Minds CERT tbc

Starring **Amandla Stenberg, Mandy Moore, Gwendoline Christie, Harris Dickinson**
Directed by **Jennifer Yuh Nelson (USA)**

Children have always been different. In the future, the government incarcerates the few youngsters to survive a horrific plague, who then develop rather special powers...
Based on the young adult novel by Alexandra Bracken

Released Fri 10 Aug

The Meg CERT 12a (113 mins)

Starring **Jason Statham, Li Bingbing, Rainn Wilson, Ruby Rose**
Directed by **Jon Turteltaub (USA/China)**

That's meg as in megalodon, not Meg Ryan. And a megalodon is a 95-foot-long shark, long thought to be extinct. However, when a submersible off the coast of China is attacked by one such, Jason Statham must jump into action to rescue the stranded crew. Go Jason.

Released Fri 10 Aug

Unfriended: Dark Web

Starring **Colin Woodell, Rebecca Rittenhouse, Betty Gabriel, Andrew Lees**
Directed by **Stephen Susco (USA)**

Beware somebody else's laptop. Matias (Woodell) picks up a laptop he finds in a lost-and-found bin, only to discover something deeply disturbing on it. He also realises that the computer's owner is surveying him through the device... Not surprisingly, the horror film is a sequel to 2014's Unfriended.

Released Fri 10 Aug

Christopher Robin CERT tbc

Starring **Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell, Bronte Carmichael, Mark Gatiss;** with the voices of **Jim Cummings, Brad Garrett, Toby Jones, Peter Capaldi, Sophie Okonedoi**
Directed by **Marc Forster (USA)**

For fans of Disney's Winnie-the-Pooh cartoons, this should prove a tonic. Jim Cummings, who voiced the English bear in countless animated features, videos and shorts, now articulates a CGI version of the ursine icon in this live-action comic adventure. Tapping into a Mary Poppins vision of London, the film stars Ewan McGregor as a city slicker who has lost his inner child. And so his old stuffed animals lure him back to the Hundred Acre Wood in Sussex.

Released Fri 17 Aug

The Equalizer 2 CERT tbc

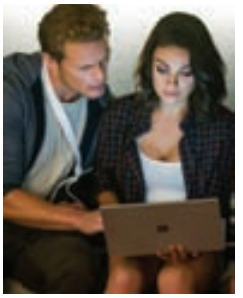
Starring **Denzel Washington, Pedro Pascal, Ashton Sanders, Melissa Leo, Bill Pullman, Sakina Jaffrey**
Directed by **Antoine Fuqua (USA)**

Robert McCall (Denzel) had thought about retiring from his vocation as avenger. Then somebody kills a close female friend, so the ex-CIA black ops operative returns to business as normal. This is the fourth film that Antoine Fuqua has directed Denzel in – and is the latter's very first sequel.

Released Fri 17 Aug

The Spy Who Dumped Me

CERT **15 (117 mins)**
Starring **Mila Kunis, Kate McKinnon, Justin Theroux, Sam Heughan, Gillian Anderson**
Directed by **Susanna Fogel (USA)**

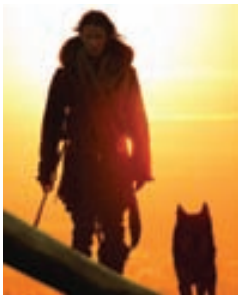


Audrey and Drew are no longer an item. Then the latter re-enters Audrey's life with a team of assassins on his tail because, apparently, he works for the CIA...The action-comedy co-stars the Scottish actor Sam Heughan who, incidentally, once played Roger Moore's son. You get the connection....

Released Wed 22 Aug

Alpha CERT tbc

Starring **Kodi Smit-McPhee, Jóhannes Haukur Jóhanness, Leonor Varela, Jens Hultén**
Directed by **Albert Hughes (USA)**



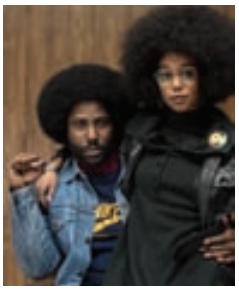
Set 20,000 years ago during the last Ice Age, this drama of survival features a young man who becomes lost after a hunting expedition. On the arduous trek home, he rescues an injured wolf and a tenuous relationship develops between the man and the animal. Filmed in Iceland and in the badlands of Alberta.

Released Fri 24 Aug

BlacKkKlansman

CERT **15 (135 mins)**

Starring **John David Washington, Adam Driver, Laura Harrier, Topher Grace, Alec Baldwin**
Directed by **Spike Lee (USA)**



You couldn't make it up. Nonetheless, this is the true story of a black man, Ron Stallworth (Washington), who attempted to infiltrate the Ku Klux Klan, and ended up leading the local branch of the organisation. Based on Washington's autobiography.

Released Fri 24 Aug

The Happytime Murders

Starring **Melissa McCarthy, Maya Rudolph, Joel McHale, Elizabeth Banks**
Directed by **Brian Henson (USA)**

Puppets have feelings, too. And when the cast members of a 1980s' TV show are killed off one by one, it takes a puppet to tackle the case, along with his ex-partner, Detective Connie Edwards (McCarthy), who is only too human... Brian Henson, not surprisingly, is the son of the late, great puppeteer Jim Henson.

Released Mon 27 Aug

Searching CERT 12a (102 mins)

Starring **John Cho, Debra Messing, Michelle La**
Directed by **Aneesh Chaganty (USA)**

Played out entirely on a laptop screen, this topical film follows the desperate attempts of a father to locate his missing daughter with the help of her computer history. Both social satire and digital thriller, Searching zips along fluently, while reminding parents that they know less about their children than they think. Not one for technophobes.

Released Fri 31 Aug

CRITIC'S CHOICE

The Children Act CERT 12a (105 mins)

Starring **Emma Thompson, Stanley Tucci, Fionn Whitehead, Ben Chaplin, Eileen Walsh, Anthony Calf, Jason Watkins**
Directed by **Richard Eyre (UK)**

On Chesil Beach, Ian McEwan's last adaptation to the screen, was ill-met by the critics, and unfairly so. The Children Act is the novelist's second attempt to adapt one of his own works to the screen and stars Dame Emma Thompson as Fiona Maye, a High Court judge. While her marriage begins to fall apart, she battles with the ethics of a case involving Jack, a Jehovah's Witness teenager (Fionn Whitehead, from Dunkirk). A blood transfusion would save his life, but Jack refuses the operation on religious grounds. So, in an unconventional move, Fiona visits Jack in hospital... Sir Richard Eyre previously directed such high-profile British films as Iris (2001) and Notes On A Scandal (2006).

Released Fri 24 Aug

Upgrade CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring **Logan Marshall-Green, Betty Gabriel, Harrison Gilbertson**
Directed by **Leigh Whannell (Australia/USA)**

In a world of technology, Greg Trace is afraid of losing his humanity. Then, in an unexpected turn of events, his only hope for redemption and retribution is to have an experimental computer chip inserted in his body... Expect extreme violence and other nastiness.

Released Fri 31 Aug

Yardie CERT 15 (102 mins)

Starring **Aml Ameen, Stephen Graham, Akin Gazi** Directed by **Idris Elba (UK)**

Based on the 1992 novel by the Jamaican-born writer Victor Headley, Yardie marks the directorial debut of the actor Idris Elba. Partly set in 1980s' Hackney - where Idris grew up - the film tells the story of a Jamaican who tries to get his life on track in London.

Released Fri 31 Aug

Cornelia Parker: One Day This Glass Will Break

MAC, Birmingham, until Sun 2 September

Twenty large-scale photogravures drawn from three experimental series make up this exhibition by Cornelia Parker.

The Turner-nominated Royal Academy member is one of the UK's most admired creatives. She last year came to wider public attention when she was named the official artist for the general election, the first woman ever to take on the role.

Explaining her approach to art in a recent White Review interview, Cornelia said: "I think art is about freedom, and hopefully my work will have a very different meaning to each person who sees it. I don't want it to have a fixed meaning, and I think that is the reason, formally, that I make the work I make. I like work that has an ambiguity to it. You are not sure what side you're on, you are either with it or without it, and you are kind of confused by it. I think I like things to be free."

Cover To Cover: Roald Dahl Around The World

Birmingham Hippodrome, until Sat 15 September

If you're heading for Birmingham Hippodrome this month to enjoy the RSC's Matilda The Musical, be sure to check out this special exhibition accompanying the hit show.
Cover To Cover is a celebration of Roald Dahl, the man who invented Matilda. Dahl's much-loved stories have been published more than 200 million times in 59 different languages, with numerous artists contributing front covers for the various editions of his books. The exhibition, spread across three floors of the Hippodrome, displays a selection of these covers, including a number by the artist with whom Dahl is most closely associated, Quentin Blake.

Ikon Artists From The 1960s

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, until Sun 19 August

Ikon's origins are here revisited in an exhibition featuring works by the young Birmingham artists who founded the gallery way back in the mid-1960s.
Prior to Ikon's opening, its founder members would often display their work at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists' premises on New Street, a building which has recently become the home of the Medicine Bakery & Gallery.
Ikon's exhibition is being presented to coincide with the launch of the new venue, which combines an artisan bakery and kitchen with a cafe and art exhibition space.

Creative Rage

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

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

Mad King/Fat Knight

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sun 23 September

Widely regarded as one of the finest stage actors of his generation, RSC Honorary Associate Artist Antony Sher has also made a considerable impact as an artist. And now, for the first time ever, the RSC is hosting an exhibition of his work.
Sher has taken inspiration from the rehearsal room and on-stage performances to create a visual account of his experiences as an actor. Featuring more than 40 pieces and bringing together large-scale oil paintings with drawings and doodles, the exhibition offers an insight into Sher's preparation for two of his most memorable roles - King Lear and Sir John Falstaff.

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Shrewsbury Flower Show

fantastic flora, fauna, fireworks and family fun!

The Shrewsbury Flower Show is one of the country's premier horticultural festivals, delivering a diverse programme of entertainment for the whole family to enjoy.

Highlights of the two-day event include guest appearances by celebrity chefs and gardeners, arena acts, competitions, numerous workshops, a children's area and impressive floral displays, with both days brought to a close by a magnificent fireworks display.

Special guests for the 2018 show include chefs Levi Roots (pictured) and Matt Tebbutt. Musical contributions come from Friday night headliners The ABBA Reunion Tribute and, on the Saturday, the Red Hot Chilli Pipers (both pictured).
The main arena, meanwhile, plays host to all manner of attractions across the weekend. As well as falconry displays, showjumping and jousting, there's also The Cavalry of Heroes to enjoy. Marking the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, this special show will see its performers displaying their horsemanship skills by combining tricks and stunts on horseback with a music score and a final cavalry charge.

Taking over the bandstand for the weekend are Band of the Yorkshire Volunteers, Biddulph Male Voice Choir, Band of the Yorkshire Regiment, Band of the Prince of Wales' Division and Of One Accord Choir.

Green-fingered visitors can check out the lecture marquee and enjoy a number of specialist talks. Subjects include 'flower arranging purely for pleasure', '100 plants that almost changed the world' and 'managing pests and diseases the organic way'. Celebrity gardeners Penny Meadmore and Chris Beardshaw will be in attendance at the show too, as members of the Gardeners' Question Time panel.

And there's plenty for little ones to enjoy as well, including children's planting sessions, a giant inflatable obstacle course, a craft tent, face painting, circus skills and balloon modelling.

With such a diverse line-up of entertainment across the two days, the 131st edition of the Shrewsbury Flower Show promises to deliver something for all the family to enjoy. In fact, we don't think it would be going too far to call it 'a *blooming* good show'!

Shrewsbury Flower Show takes place at the town's Quarry Park on Friday 10 & Sat 11 August. For further information, visit shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk

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Tues 14th – Thurs 16th August &
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Real Bodies The Exhibition

NEC, Birmingham, until Sun 19 August

A globetrotting 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 more than 200 anatomical specimens.
Commenting on the blockbuster show, Tom Zaller, President and CEO of Imagine Exhibitions - the company behind Real Bodies - said: "While the exhibition moves through the anatomical systems of the human body, it also looks far beyond the physical aspects."

The Festival Of Quilts

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 9 - Sun 12 August

Bringing together exhibitors, galleries, practical workshops and in-depth lectures, the Festival Of Quilts is Europe's largest celebration of patchwork and quilting, providing an ideal environment in which to share ideas and learn new skills.
Highlights of this year's event include a fashion show exhibiting work from Russia, an evening with 'quilting superstar' Ricky Tims, and an awards ceremony to announce the winner of the 2018 quilting competition.

Insomnia63

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 24 - Mon 27 August

Taking place over the course of four days, the UK's biggest gaming festival combines 'all the best bits of video gaming'.
The event features LAN gaming halls, a huge exhibition hall, an esports stage, cosplay, special guests exhibiting interactive content (such as virtual reality) and a wide selection of activities tailored to gamers of all ages.
YouTube favourites including Alfie Deyes, Syndicate and Yammyxox will be in attendance.
Don't forget to head to the meet-and-greet zone to say hi to some of your favourite creators!

Tall Tales at Aston Hall

Aston Hall, Birmingham, Fri 3 - Fri 24 August

Visit Aston Hall on Fridays during August and you'll be able to join in with the interactive telling of three classic fairytales: Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella and Goldilocks And The Three Bears.
Every session is accompanied by a crafting workshop, providing visitors with the chance to make a wand, crown or headband.
The event is suitable for children aged between three and eight, with each storytelling experience lasting approximately 45 minutes.

Brick Built

Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch, Worcestershire, until 2 September

To Warren Elsmore, Lego bricks are more than just a toy. They also provide a challenging and enjoyable modelling medium.
Aiming to inspire Lego enthusiasts everywhere, Brick Built features some of Warren's best work, with models ranging from small animals to huge skyscrapers.
The event also includes a 'brick challenge' room and a 'create a figure' trail around the site.

The Big Feast

presents the tastiest outdoor arts on the streets of Stoke-on-Trent...

The Big Feast Festival is back on the streets of Stoke-on-Trent this month. Now in its fifth year, this scrumptious programme of free outdoor events is being presented as part of Appetite, a three-year initiative designed to promote the arts to people in the Potteries.

The theme of this year's two-day celebration is local and national talent, with dance, opera, visual arts, music, circus and theatre all featuring.

"The menu for Big Feast has been selected not only by me but also by locals," says Gemma Thomas, Creative Producer at Appetite. "They're called our Supper Club. They go to see work in other places and get back to us about their experiences."

The Appetite initiative is supported by Arts Council England's Creative Places & People fund, as Gemma explains: "It's a strategic funding pot for places that don't normally engage in the arts. The residents are in the bottom 20% of arts engagers. That could be for a number of different reasons. Maybe they don't believe theatre or circus is actually art, or they don't think the arts are for them, or they don't know how to get involved, or they don't know how they'll get there. There are lots of different barriers. That's why Appetite exists - to help people overcome those barriers and discover that the arts might actually be for them."

Gemma firmly believes that outdoor arts festivals are absolutely essential for boosting the success of other arts sectors.

"It's been proven that outdoor arts reach the widest possible segmentation of people and therefore act as a gateway. People taste something on the street and realise they really enjoy it, which might then give them the encouragement they need to buy a ticket for a full show or to visit a gallery. It's very important to feed the different sectors by providing little tasters of what the arts can be, and this is where events like Big Feast come in."

Highlights at this year's festival include an opportunity for visitors to jump on the swings at the Virtual Reality Playground to power their own adventure. They can also help produce a live 12-hour radio performance.

"Hunt & Darton return with their new project, Radio Local," says Gemma. "It'll be very interactive, with passers-by making the news or being grabbed to do a live dating show. We're working with 6 Towns Radio and BBC Radio Stoke on this project, so people can hear the broadcast. Hunt & Darton will also be here in advance to do some workshops with local people, giving them some radio skills and making some programmes ready for when they broadcast. There will also be a shed where audience members can make their own jingle. They're so unpredictable as performers and very good at improvising, so who knows what's going to happen? All I know is that it's going to be raucous, but in a really brilliant way!"

The Big Feast Festival's offerings are not only fun and diverse, though. Many also explore social issues.

"Bingo Lingo by Wild N Beets is a twist on what bingo can be, because it's by two disabled artists. The callers use words related to disability to break down surrounding stigma. The show also points out how sometimes people try to be overly politically correct when it comes to disability, but end up getting it totally wrong. It's a means by which to open up these topics, but in an accessible way and using a format that people love."

Gemma reckons there's something for everyone at this year's Big Feast Festival, so she's picked out a range of tasty highlights on the opposite page. "Just come along and give it a try," she urges. "We're sure you'll love it, so come and be part of it and make some memories."

By Lauren Cole

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS...

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE REIMAGINED

Fri 24 & Sat 25 Aug

The Royal Opera House returns to Stoke-on-Trent with two opera classics - La Traviata and La Bohème - both of which have been reimagined for an outdoor space.
Join the performers as they waltz you through a dazzling tale of love, betrayal and heartbreak in La Traviata, or immerse yourself in the highs and lows of Bohemian life in La Bohème.

BLOCK

Fri 24 & Sat 25 Aug

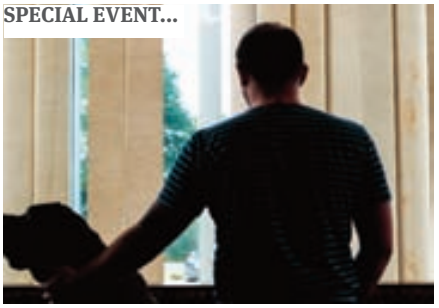
This 'jaw-dropping fusion of dance and circus, testing bodily and artistic limits' sees NoFit State Circus and Motionhouse make use of 20 huge blocks to create a giant game of concrete Jenga. The tower is torn apart and put back together in an infinite number of ways as the performers tell a wordless story about urban life.

FANTABULOSA!

Fri 24 & Sat 25 Aug

A new commission from the producer of Storytime With Drag Queens, Fantabulosa features glitter, storytelling, dressing-up and lip-sync choreography from some of the UK's leading drag artists. Although it's primarily aimed at children aged between three and eight, everyone is welcome.

SPECIAL EVENT...



MAN UP

Tues 21 - Fri 24 Aug

In this evening performance by Restoke, 20 men take to the floor for a gritty and humorous spoken-word & dance piece, sharing real-life stories about masculinity and mental health.
The groundbreaking MAN UP was created by, and stars, men from Stoke-on-Trent. Expect a 'spellbinding' show by local talent about local people. Tickets are £12.50 (£10 concessions) and can be purchased from restoke.org.uk/man-up.
Suitable for ages 16-plus only.

The Big Feast Festival takes place in various locations around Stoke-on-Trent city centre on Friday 24 & Saturday 25 August.
For more information or to book ticketed events, visit appetitestoke.co.uk.

SPECIAL EVENT...

MUSEUM OF THE MOON

Tues 21 - Wed 29 Aug

This touring installation by artist Luke James focuses on the gleaming moon and comes complete with detailed NASA imagery and surround-sound composition from BAFTA winner Dan Jones. The installation is accompanied by its own individual programme, The Big Feast Under The Moon, presenting moon-inspired events throughout August. Although the activities are free, some are ticketed, so visit appetitestoke.co.uk for more information.

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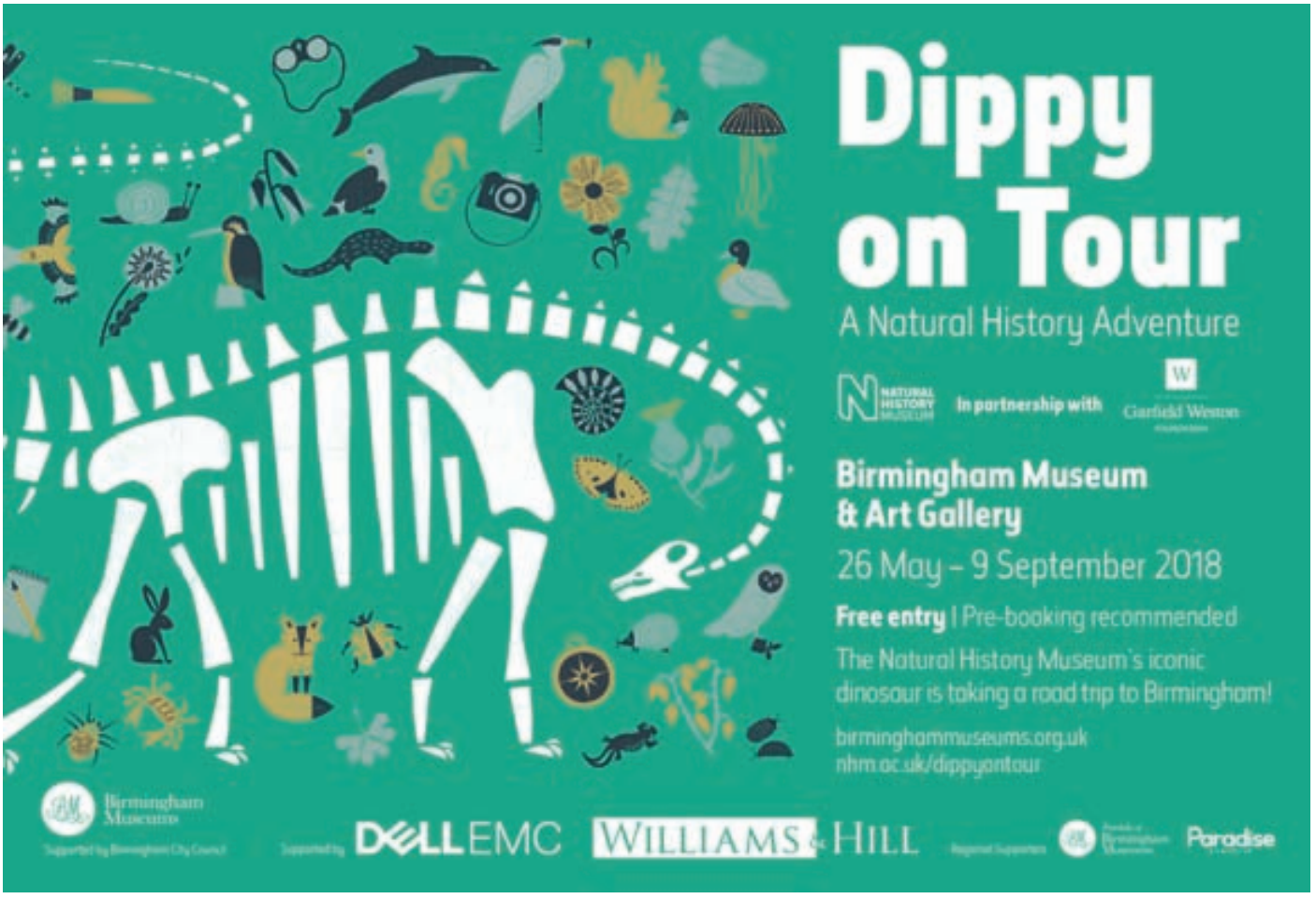
Dippy on Tour
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Natural History Museum
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Garfield Weston
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
26 May – 9 September 2018
Free entry | Pre-booking recommended
The Natural History Museum's iconic dinosaur is taking a road trip to Birmingham!
birminghammuseums.org.uk
nhm.ac.uk/dippyontour
Birmingham Museums
DELL EMC
WILLIAMS & HILL
Paradise

Art In The Park

Jephson Gardens, Royal Leamington Spa, Sat 4 & Sun 5 August

Art In The Park this year takes the theme of 'trees', in honour of Jephson Gardens' status as an arboretum. The fifth edition of this annual event features exhibitions of paintings, ceramics, textiles and sculptures, as well as a number of bands providing a feast of blues, jazz and soul music. There are plenty of workshops to enjoy too, ranging from upcycling to bespoke T-shirt designing.

Dragon Slayer

Warwick Castle, Fri 3 - Mon 27 August

Warwick Castle launches an 'explosive' new show this month, featuring fire jousting, live action stunts, a projection light show and impressive pyrotechnics.

Dragon Slayer recreates the adventures of 'humble page' Guy of Warwick, as he bids to win the heart of the castle's Princess Felice - in the process doing battle against a less-than-friendly fire-breathing dragon!

Shakes-paw's Day

Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 25 August

Take your furry friends along to Anne Hathaway's Cottage and celebrate National Dog Day this month.

The picturesque 500-year-old cottage is the perfect spot for a picnic - or why not dig into the barbecue provided... Visitors who take along their dogs will enjoy 30% off normal admission price, with the event featuring plenty of activities to entertain both animals and people alike. An 'alternative dog show' offers prizes for waggiest tail and best recall.

Off-Roading with Land Rover

Eastnor Castle, Ledbury, Tues 28 - Thurs 30 August

Spanning 5,000 acres, the challenging terrain surrounding Eastnor Castle has been used as a Land Rover proving ground for decades. This three-day event offers visitors the chance to passenger-ride around 53 miles of carefully maintained off-road track.

The National BMW Festival

British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire, Sun 12 August

The largest gathering of its kind in Europe, this ever-popular festival gives visitors the chance to view over 1,000 BMWs, presented alongside some of the latest models from Alpina, AC Schnitzer and MINI. Other attractions include a large motorsport display area, family entertainment, concours winners and trade stands featuring a range of products.

Hawkstone Park
ENCHANTED TRAIL
Ignite your child's imagination this summer with a magical journey around the park
For more details go to www.hawkstoneparkfollies.co.uk

JCA
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FAMILY ADVENTURES
Join us at Condover Hall, Shropshire and enjoy activities as a family during the school holidays. We offer full board accommodation, all activities and use of the facilities from £98 per person with no hidden extras!
01273 647200 enquiries@jca-adventure.co.uk jca-adventure.co.uk/family-adventure

BCLM Summer Evenings

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,
Fri 3 - Fri 31 August

Visitors to BCLM on any Friday in August will have longer than usual to immerse themselves in 300 years of Black Country history, with the venue staying open until 8pm.

With a different theme each week, the evening events give museum visitors the opportunity to meet costumed characters, join in with street games and explore the selection of shops and houses. Other attractions on the 26-acre site include an underground mine, a fairground, a school and a pub, all offering the chance to step back in time to a bygone era.

Blists Hill In Steam

Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge,
Sat 18 - Sun 19 August

Visitors to this two-day event can take advantage of a rare opportunity to get up close and personal with an array of Victorian steam-powered machines, all of which will be in their full working splendour.

Highlights include the venue's replica of Trevithick's 1802 Coalbrookdale locomotive and a 1903 Wallis & Steevens road roller named Billy. Other attractions include the Merryweather fire pump and the Fielding oil engine, as well as a number of portable and ploughing engines.

Vintage & Handmade Festival

RAF Museum Cosford, Shifnal,
Sat 11 & Sun 12 August

Lovers of all things retro vintage will feel right at home at this brand new festival of handmade, handcrafted products and carefully selected vintage wares.

The event features work by local creators, live music from across the years, a children's craft tent, artisan food and drink, a photobooth and a beauty parlour.

A flypast by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Spitfire takes place on both days of the festival.

World War One at Tamworth Castle

Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire,
Tues 14 - Thurs 23 August

Commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One with fun and games at Tamworth Castle this month.

Visitors to the venue can learn about wartime communications, try their hand at decoding secret messages and play with the toys and games that kept children entertained during the four-year conflict. They can even find out if they would've been medically fit enough to join the battle on the front line!

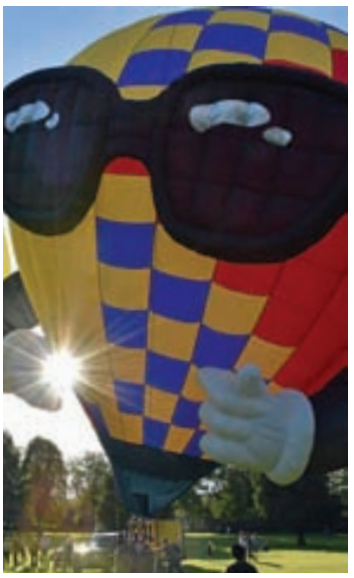
Oswestry Balloon Festival

Cae Glas Park, Oswestry,
Sat 25 & Sun 26 August

Hot-air balloons take to the skies for the Oswestry Balloon Festival, this year relocating to Cae Glas Park, a seven-acre site regarded as one of the town's major tourist attractions.

Festival highlights include flight demonstrations, exhibitions, a balloon race and firework & parachute displays.

The event also features the 'night glow', which will see tethered baskets power their burners to music, to light up the inflated balloons.

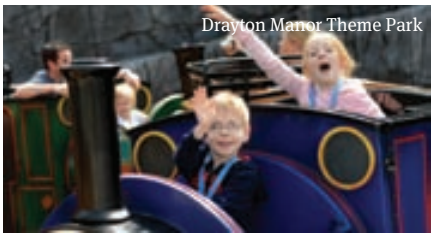


Places to visit

ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS THIS AUGUST!

Thinktank, Birmingham

Blists Hill, Ironbridge


Drayton Manor Theme Park

The Midlands is home to an abundance of enjoyable and exciting places to visit, catering for people of all ages and from all walks of life. Whatever you're looking for to keep the kids entertained this summer, you're sure to find somewhere and something that fits the bill.

Our What's On directory features just a small handful of some of the best places to visit across the region this summer. Check out whatsonlive.co.uk for more details...

Birmingham

ASTON HALL This 17th century red-brick mansion hosts many family activities throughout the season, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

BBC BIRMINGHAM Go behind the scenes of some of your favourite TV shows with informative and entertaining tours, The Mailbox, Birmingham, B1 1RF

BECKETT'S FARM Hosts a number of family events throughout the year, including cookery classes for young and old, with a farm shop and restaurant on site, Wythall, Birmingham B47 6AJ

BIRMINGHAM BACK TO BACKS Restored 19th-century courtyard of working people's houses, Hurst Street, Birmingham, B5 4TE

BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS Spanning 15 acres, with four glasshouses hosting a variety of climates, from tropical rainforest to arid desert, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3TR

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Explore over 40 galleries displaying various eras of art, with a diverse exhibition programme on offer, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

BLAKESLEY HALL Discover a fine Tudor house and beautiful gardens just a few miles from the heart of the city, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

LEGOLAND DISCOVERY CENTRE Discover the ultimate indoor LEGO playground with 3 rides, 10 LEGO build & play zones, a 4D cinema and much more! King Edwards Rd, Birmingham, B1 2AA

CADBURY WORLD Discover the origins of everyone's favourite sweet treat, from the cocoa beans in the Aztec jungle to the making of Cadbury confectionery today, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1JT

CANNON HILL PARK Opened in 1873, the park is made up of 80 acres of formal parkland and 120 acres of conservation and woodland plantation, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8RD

EASTSIDE PARK Birmingham's first central city park in over 130 years, situated only a stone's throw from the Bullring Shopping Centre and New Street Station, Birmingham City Centre, B4 7AP

LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM A major cultural destination, providing a dynamic mix of events, activities and performances, resources and access to expert help for learning, information and culture, Centenary Square, Birmingham, B1 2EP

LICKEY HILLS COUNTRY PARK Covering 524 acres, the park is a place for family fun, whether that be walking the dog, cycling, horse riding, or maybe just for the views and a cup of tea, Rednal, Birmingham, B45 8ER

MAC A huge range of theatre, music, comedy, plays for children, dance, creative and craft courses, family shows, film and free exhibitions on offer, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH

MUSEUM OF THE JEWELLERY QUARTER The museum tells the story of Birmingham's renowned jewellery and metalworking heritage, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA

NATIONAL SEA LIFE CENTRE Featuring over 2,000 creatures and 60-plus displays, including a million-litre underwater tropical tank, Nemo's Kingdom, turtle breeding and much more, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HL

RESORTS WORLD Boasting the largest casino in the UK, a shopping mall, restaurants and cinemas, Birmingham, B40 1PU

SAREHOLE MILL A 250-year-old working watermill famous for its association with Lord Of The Rings author JRR Tolkien, Hall Green, Birmingham, B13 0BD

THINKTANK SCIENCE MUSEUM Over 200 interactive exhibits on science and discovery, including a programme of workshops, shows and demonstrations, and a digital Planetarium, Millennium Point, Birmingham, B4 7XG

Shropshire

ATTINGHAM PARK An elegant 18th century mansion house with Regency interiors. Set within an expansive deer park, there are riverside walks, a woodland sculpture trail and family events to enjoy. Shrewsbury, SY4 4TP

CARDING MILL VALLEY Covering almost 5,000 acres, with stunning views of the Shropshire and Welsh hills. An important place for wildlife, geology and archaeology. Church Stretton, SY6 6JG

CHOLMONDELEY CASTLE A Gothic castle - a product of the early 19th century - that stands on a high rise above a lake. The castle is surrounded by lawns, a variety of mature trees and gardens. Whitchurch, SY14 8AH

IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUMS The Shropshire site of the birth of the Industrial Revolution has been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, with 10 award-winning museums. Ironbridge, TF8 7DQ

RAF COSFORD The museum houses one of the largest aviation collections in the UK. Over 70 historic aircraft are displayed in three wartime hangars on an active airfield. Shifnal, TF11 8UP

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK An oasis of calm and beauty on the banks of the River Severn, this award-winning, 51-hectare country park is a place for quiet enjoyment of the countryside. Bridgnorth, WV15 6NG

SHREWSBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Housed within the town's grade II Victorian Music Hall and one of the country's rare 13th century mansions, featuring a broad range of artefacts alongside a rolling programme of contemporary art. Shrewsbury, SY1 1LH

TELFORD STEAM RAILWAY A heritage railway located at Horsehay and formed in 1976. The railway is operated by volunteers on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Telford, TF4 2NF

THE BRITISH IRONWORK CENTRE Boasting a varied collection of beautifully decorative metal items, some of which are faithful reproductions of ironwork no longer seen today. There's also a collection of animal sculptures to admire. Oswestry, SY11 4JH

THE QUARRY PARK Shrewsbury's 29-acre parkland hosts numerous events throughout the year, including the Shrewsbury Flower Show 10-11 August, SY1 1JA

Staffordshire

AERIAL EXTREME Ever fancied swinging about, high up in the trees? Now's your chance with Aerial Extreme's tree-mendous course at the Trentham Estate. All ages are guaranteed a bucketload of fun. How much can you handle? Trentham, ST12 9HR

ALTON TOWERS Enjoy a mind-blowing mix of fantastic rides and attractions, offering unlimited fun for kids of all ages, families and thrill-seekers. Alton, ST10 4DB

BIDDULPH GRANGE COUNTRY PARK Originally part of a larger Biddulph Grange Estate, this is a 73-acre wooded hillside site with a large lake, ponds and meadows, Stoke-on-Trent, ST8 7TZ

Coventry Transport Museum

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

Witley Court, Worcestershire

CENTRAL FOREST PARK Located in the heart of Stoke, Central Forest Park is a green space providing facilities for walking, cycling, dog walking, informal sports and skateboarding. Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 6AZ

CHURNET VALLEY RAILWAY Take a journey back to the classic days of railway travel on a rural line that passes through beautiful countryside known as Staffordshire's 'Little Switzerland'. Froghall, ST10 2HA

DRAYTON MANOR THEME PARK A definite stop-off venue for thrill-seekers, featuring, as it does, all manner of white-knuckle rides. Also offers a range of rides that are somewhat less challenging. And with a zoo on site, it's a venue that's got plenty for kids and adults of all ages to enjoy. Tamworth, B78 3TW

HANLEY PARK Hanley Park and the adjacent Cauldon Grounds are open to the public. Features include three play areas: toddler, sensory and adventure (including aerial slide). Shelton, ST1 4DX

PEAK WILDLIFE PARK Large walk-throughs allow you to come face to face with exotic and endangered animals from across three continents. Leek, ST13 7QR

THE POTTERIES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Exhibits include the world's greatest collection of Staffordshire ceramics, a World War Two Spitfire, decorative arts and natural history, along with items from the Staffordshire Hoard. Hanley, ST1 3DW

THE WEDGWOOD MUSEUM The home of one of the most interesting ceramic collections in the world. The galleries tell the story of Josiah Wedgwood, his family, and the company he founded over two centuries ago. Stoke-on-Trent, ST12 9ER

Warwickshire

BADDESLEY CLINTON A secluded estate set in the heart of the Forest of Arden. With guided talks, walks through the gardens and activities for children such as pond dipping and garden trails. Warwick, B93 0DQ

BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM The museum features the world's greatest collection of classic, vintage and veteran British cars. Gaydon, CV35 0BJ

CHARLECOTE PARK This grand 16th century country house comes complete with deer park and is a property of the National Trust. Warwick, CV35 9ER

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK Set in 160 acres of parkland and gardens, Cotswold Wildlife Park now has one of the UK's largest zoological collections. Burford, OX18 4JP

COVENTRY MUSIC MUSEUM Activities to interest and delight youngsters, and a studio in which visitors can try their hand at composing and music-making. CV2 4ED

COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM The museum houses the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles in the world. Now fully open after a £9.5million redevelopment programme. CV1 1JD

HATTON ADVENTURE WORLD An attraction for families with children up to the age of 12. Hatton, CV35 8XA

HERBERT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM A family-friendly museum, with activities that run throughout the school holidays. Coventry, CV1 5QP

KENILWORTH CASTLE A vast complex of ruined fortifications and palatial apartments spanning over five centuries, CV8 1NG

RAGLEY HALL Family entertainment, with an adventure playground, 3D maze, boating and a woodland walk. Alcester, B49 5NJ

SHAKESPEARE BIRTHPLACE TRUST Six unique properties - Shakespeare's Birthplace, Harvard House, Hall's Croft, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Mary Arden's Farm & Shakespeare's New Place.

STONELEIGH ABBEY Visitors to the Abbey can learn about the house's history through a guided tour of the West Wing, CV8 2LF

STRATFORD BUTTERFLY FARM A unique opportunity to watch hundreds of the world's most spectacular butterflies flying around. Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7LS

WARWICK CASTLE Experience over 1,000 years of history at Warwick Castle. Aside from visiting the castle itself and looking at the battlements, towers, turrets and interiors, there are also jousting shows, the Horrible History show and Time Tower to keep you entertained. CV34 4QU

Wolverhampton & Black Country

BANTOCK HOUSE MUSEUM Restored to its Edwardian glory, Bantock House sits within 43 acres of parkland, with activities for all ages. Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ

BILSTON CRAFT GALLERY A lively programme of changing exhibitions featuring the best of contemporary ceramics, glass, jewellery, textiles, metal, woodwork and more. Wolverhampton, WV14 7LU

BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM A tribute to the traditional skills and enterprise of the people that once lived in the heart of industrial Britain. Dudley, DY1 4SQ

DUDLEY CANAL TUNNEL TRUST Guided boat trips through the tunnels, accompanied by videos, life-like reconstructions and stunning music and light shows. Dudley, DY1 4SB

DUDLEY CASTLE AND ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS Home to more than 1,300 animals, with up to 200 species. At the heart of the site sits the ruins of an 11th century castle. Dudley, DY1 4QF

HIMLEY HALL & PARK An 18th century building set in 180 acres of Capability Brown-landscaped parkland. Dudley, DY3 4DF

RED HOUSE GLASS CONE A heritage site with 225 years of glass, industrial and social history within its walls. Stourbridge, DY8 4AZ

SANDWELL PARK FARM A fully restored working Victorian farm with grazing meadows, a traditional farmyard, walled kitchen gardens, Grade II listed buildings, a small museum and award-winning tea rooms. West Bromwich, B71 4BG

WIGHTWICK MANOR & GARDENS A manor house filled with an important collection of Pre-Raphaelite and Arts & Crafts pictures and furnishings. Wolverhampton, WV6 8EE

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY Explore more than 300 years of art, including regular world class touring exhibitions. Wolverhampton, WV1 1DU

Worcestershire

AVONCROFT MUSEUM A fascinating museum of historic buildings spanning seven centuries, rescued from imminent destruction and carefully rebuilt, timber by timber or brick by brick, on a beautiful open-air site in the north of Worcestershire. Bromsgrove, B60 4JR

BERRINGTON HALL Created by architect Henry Holland, the hall is one of a small number of his buildings to survive intact. As well as being able to explore the family rooms and servant quarters, guests can take part in activities or relax by the lake. Nr Leominster, HR6 0DW

BROCKHAMPTON ESTATE Set in 1,700 acres of estate, the romantic Manor House dates back to the late 14th century and is accessible via a small gatehouse and over a moat. Nr Bromyard, WR6 5TB

CROFT CASTLE Located deep in the heart of the Herefordshire countryside, surrounded by 1,500 acres of historic woodland, farm and parkland. Home to the Croft family for nearly 1,000 years, this castle has many intriguing stories to uncover. Yarpole. Nr Leominster, HR6 9PW

CROOME PARK Explore what remains of a secret wartime air base and discover how thousands of people lived and worked there during the 1940s. Worcester, WR8 9DW

EASTNOR CASTLE DEER PARK Set within the dramatic beauty of the Malvern Hills and surrounded by a beautiful deer park, arboretum and lake. Ledbury, HR8 1RL

HARTLEBURY CASTLE A Grade I listed building which was built in the mid-13th century as a fortified manor house. Kidderminster, DY11 7XZ

SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY A full-size standard-gauge railway line which runs regular steam-hauled passenger trains, for tourists and enthusiasts alike, between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth, a distance of 16 miles. Bewdley, DY12 1BG

THE MALVERN HILLS A wide variety of walks, from short and gently graded slopes to more strenuous options. WR14 3EY

WITLEY COURT One hundred years ago, Witley Court was one of England's great country houses, hosting many extravagant parties. Today, it's a spectacular ruin, the result of a disastrous fire in 1937. Great Witley, WR6 6JT

REAL BODIES

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the list

Your week-by-week listings guide
August 2018

Jonas Blue plays Coventry's Godiva Festival - Fri 31 Aug - Sun 2 Sept

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

What's On

Wed 1 to Sun 12 August

Travel back in time and re-live the Battle of Evesham

Sat 4 - Sun 5 August

Mon 13 to Sun 19 August

Birthday celebrations at New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

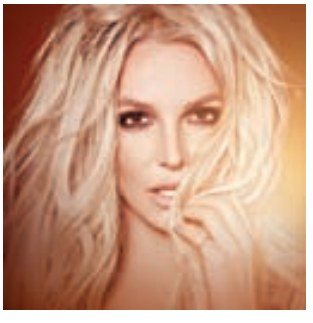
Sun 19 August

Mon 20 to Sun 26 August

Electric Six play The Assembly, Leamington Spa

Sun 26 August

Mon 27 to Fri 31 August



Britney Spears at Genting Arena, Birmingham

Fri 31 August

THROUGHOUT AUGUST

Visual Arts

Artrix, Bromsgrove

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

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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

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

COLLECTING BIRMINGHAM: WHO IS BIRMINGHAM? Discover new collections that reflect the experiences of diverse Birmingham people - from working lives to community activists and protest movements, until Sun 27 Oct

WITHIN AND WITHOUT: BODY IMAGE AND THE SELF Exhibition examining how social, historical and cultural factors affect body image, and how this is expressed through objects and artworks, until Fri 1 Feb 2019

FAITH IN BIRMINGHAM, Exploring how different faiths have influenced and shaped the city, until Sun 3 Feb 2019

Compton Verney Gallery, Warwick

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

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

Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

BRICK BUILT Celebration of 'the world's favourite toy', with models ranging from small animals to huge skyscrapers, until Sun 2 Sept

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

ARE YOU IN THIS? LEAMINGTON SPA IN THE GREAT WAR Exhibition marking the centenary of the end of the First World War, and telling the story of Leamington Spa and its people during the conflict, until Sun 11 Nov

Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

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

JOURNEYS TO HOME Contemporary print exhibition, until Sat 1 Sept

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

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

The Hive, Worcester

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

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

Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

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

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

Other VISUAL ARTS

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

TRUTH HATH A QUIET BREAST Exhibition by Eve Parnell of exquisite pencil-on-tissue-paper drawings inspired by the surroundings of Hall's Croft, until Sun 4 Nov, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon

NEVILLE STAPLE - THE ORIGINAL RUDE BOY The exhibition hopes to show many aspects of a man who has done so much for Coventry music, but also so much for other artists, until Sun 2 Dec, Coventry Music Museum

NEW LS LOWRY EXHIBITION A rare selection of paintings, drawings and master graphics by the legendary LS Lowry, Fri 17 - Sun 19 Aug, Whitewall Galleries, Stratford-Upon-Avon

Gigs

HANNAH JOHNSON AND THE BROKEN HEARTS Wed 1 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

GEORGE PANNELL Wed 1 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

MAD CADDIES Wed 1 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

PEARL JAMM Thurs 2 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

SAM OUTLAW BAND Thurs 2 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

MONO CLUB Thurs 2 Aug, The Tin Music And Arts, Canal Basin, Coventry

THE MAJOR TOMS Fri 3 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

SUPREME QUEEN Fri 3 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THEIA, ALMOST EASY & BLACK TREE VULTURES Fri 3 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

THE SUNSET BEACH HUT Fri 3 Aug, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

NYO TEEN HANG OUT Fri 3 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JOHN PRINE Fri 3 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

BLACK COUNTRY BEATLES Fri 3 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

MEHMET ASLAN Fri 3 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ELECTRIC SWING CIRCUS Fri 3 Aug, MAC, B'ham

Coat Of Many - O2 Institute, Birmingham

STEVE HARLEY & COCKNEY REBEL Fri 3 Aug, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

EVERYTHING ASIDE, CANDID, MARA FALLS, FREE GALAXY Fri 3 Aug, The Tin Music And Arts, Canal Basin, Coventry

SENSATIONAL 70S VS INTO THE 80S Sat 4 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE DESERT YETIS, AUTOPILOT, THE ELLIPSIS, MARA FALLS Sat 4 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE DEEP PURPLE FAMILY TREE Sat 4 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE CURV3 Sat 4 Aug, The Night Owl, B'ham

COAT OF MANY Sat 4 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

EDINA LIVE + SPECIAL GUESTS Sat 4 Aug, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

VIVA LA COLDPLAY Sat 4 Aug, The Civic, Stourport-on-Severn

FLIGHT 15 / FLYNT / WITH ROGUES & THIEVES Sat 4 Aug, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

THE MUFFIN MEN Sun 5 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

HOBO JOHNSON & THE LOVEMAKERS Sun 5 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

Electric Swing Circus - MAC, Birmingham

Classical Music

NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN Featuring Sir George Benjamin (conductor) & Tamara Stefanovich (piano). Programme comprises Mussorgsky's Night of the Bare Mountain; George Benjamin's Dance Figures, Ravel's Piano Concerto in D major (Left Hand), Ligeti's - Lontano & Debussy's La Mer, Fri 3 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

RUSSELL WATSON Sat 4 Aug, Place In The Park Big Top, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

Comedy

ANTHONY J BROWN, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 2 Aug, The Glee Club, B'ham

RICHARD MORTON, DANNY POSTHILL, TONY COWARDS & COMIC TBC Thurs 2 Aug, The George Hotel, Lichfield

SOL BERNSTEIN, AURIE STYLA, CERYS NELMES & ANTHONY J BROWN Fri 3 - Sat 4 Aug, The Glee Club, B'ham

KANE BROWN, ARIELLE SOUMA & LOVDEV BARPAGA Sat 4 Aug, MAC, Birmingham

GEOFF BOYZ, MERYL O'ROURKE, EMMANUEL SONUBI & BARRY DODDS Sat 4 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Theatre

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI Maria Aberg directs John Webster's tale of revenge, which asks how anyone can survive in a world where masculinity has become toxic, until Fri 3 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

MISS LITTLEWOOD New musical based on the life story of theatre legend Joan Littlewood, told with uncompromising candour and with a love story at its heart, until Sat 4 Aug, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS Amateur staging presented by Worcester Operatic & Dramatic Society Youth Section, Tues 31 July - Sat 4 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

MACBETH Shakespeare's psychological thriller stars Christopher Eccleston's 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

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

ST*PID F*CKING K*DS Two young people from the award-nominated People You May Know ask what irritates society so much about adolescents, Wed 1 Aug, The REP, Birmingham

HOW DOES THIS POLITICS THING WORK THEN? Tatton Spiller & Tiernan Douieb try to make sense of the world of politics in a new show for children, Wed 1 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Rock & roll variety show featuring hits from the '50s, '60s & '70s, Thurs 2 Aug, Malvern Theatres

THE PLACE FOR ME Young REP Lightpost explore the impact of the Windrush - the ship that carried the first Caribbean migrants to the UK in 1948 - the start of modern British multiculturalism, Fri 3 Aug, The REP, B'ham

ANTIGONE Young REP Seniors presents its version of Sophocles' Theban play, Fri 3 Aug, The REP, Birmingham

THE ACT OF OBLIVION: PART 1 Two plays, two different stories, starting out at the same time on stage and 'fighting to be the story that we hear and see', Fri 3 Aug, The REP, B'ham

ZOETROPE Rebecca Manley's exploration of the mental health of our young people and the resources afforded to them, Fri 3 Aug, The REP, Birmingham

EMMA Jenny Wren Productions present a 'playful adaptations' of Jane Austen's classic novel, Sat 4 Aug, Priory Park, Malvern

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR David Troughton stars as John Falstaff in Shakespeare's popular comedy, Sat 4 Aug - Sat 22 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

Kids Show

MATILDA THE MUSICAL The Royal Shakespeare Company's award-winning musical, currently on tour in the UK for the first ever time, until Sat 8 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

MADAGASCAR: A MUSICAL X Factor winner Matt Terry stars in a musical adventure based on Dreamworks' animated motion picture, Tues 31July - Sat 4 Aug, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN Heartbreak Productions' outdoor staging of Edith Nesbit's classic children's tale, Thurs 2 Aug, Warley Woods, Smethwick

LITTLE MERMAID JNR Journey to the underwater world of Ariel and her aquatic friends in a show based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's best-loved stories, Thurs 2 - Sat 4 Aug, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

DOCTOR DOLITTLE Katch 22 Productions present an interactive family show based on the much-loved tale, Fri 3 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN Heartbreak Productions' outdoor staging of Edith Nesbit's classic children's tale, Fri 3 Aug, Ryton Pools, Bubbenhall, Coventry

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN (12a) Comedy/Musical. Starring Meryl Streep, Lily James. MAC, Birmingham, until Thurs 2 Aug; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 3 - Sat 11 Aug

SICARIO 2: SOLDADO (15) Crime/Drama. Starring Benicio Del Toro, Josh Brolin. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, until Thurs 2 Aug

MAQUIA (15) Animation/Drama. With the voices of Manaka Iwami, Miyu Irino. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, until Thurs 2 Aug

THE SECRET OF MARROWBONE (15) Drama/Horror. Starring George MacKay, Anya Taylor-Joy. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 27 July - Sat 4 Aug

CAPE FEAR (15) Drama/Thriller. Starring Gregory Peck, Robert Mitchum. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 27 July - Sat 4 Aug

THE OLD DARK HOUSE (PG) Comedy/Horror. Starring Boris Karloff, Melvyn Douglas. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 29 July - Fri 3 Aug

CARRIE (18) Horror. Starring Sissy Spacek, Piper Laurie. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 1 Aug

IN THE FADE (18) Crime/Drama. Starring Diane Kruger, Denis Moschitto. Foreign language, subtitled. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 1 - Thurs 2 Aug; MAC, Birmingham, Sat 4 - Wed 8 Aug

THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS (18) Drama/Thriller. Starring Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 2 Aug

SHERLOCK GNOMES (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Kelly Asbury, Mary J. Blige. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 2 Aug

THE VANISHING (15) Mystery/Thriller. Starring Bernard-Pierre Donnadieu, Gene Bervoets. Foreign language, subtitled. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 3 Aug

A PRAYER BEFORE DAWN (18) Biography/Crime. Starring Joe Cole, Vithaya Pansringarm. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 3 - Sat 4 Aug

LEAVE NO TRACE (PG) Drama. Starring Ben Foster, Jeff Kober. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 3 - Mon 6 Aug

THE BUTTERFLY TREE (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Melissa George, Ewen Leslie. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 3 - Tues 7 Aug

INCREDIBLES 2 (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 3 - Thurs 9 Aug

LIFE OF BRIAN (15) Comedy. Starring Graham Chapman, John Cleese. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 4 Aug

UNDER THE TREE (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Steinþór Hróar Steinþórsson, Edda Björgvinsdóttir. Foreign language, subtitled. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 4 Aug

PANDORA'S BOX (PG) Crime/Drama. Starring Louise Brooks, Fritz Kortner. Silent film. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 5 Aug; MAC, Birmingham, Sun 5 Aug

MOMMIE DEAREST (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Faye Dunaway, Diana Scarwid. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 5 Aug

PSYCHO (15) Horror/Mystery. Starring Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 5 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Thurs 2 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

ANT-MAN AND THE WASP (12a)

Released from Fri 3 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

HEARTS BEAT LOUD (PG)

TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE CINEMA (PG)

THE ESCAPE (15)

Events

MEDIEVAL LIVING HISTORY Discover what life was like for medieval castle household characters, until Thurs 2 Aug, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

GLADIATOR ARM GUARDS Make your very own manica - an arm protector worn by gladiators when they fought in the arena, until Fri 3 Aug, Lunt Roman Fort, Baginton, Coventry

thelist

WILD CHILD CAMP OUT Unleash your wild-child side! Are you tough enough to brave the great outdoors at Brockhampton? Until Fri 3 Aug, Brockhampton Estate, Bringsty, Nr Bromyard

1920'S SUMMER BEACH FUN Dig out your bucket & spade to enjoy the 1920s-themed beach, until Wed 8 Aug, The Weir Garden, Hereford

CARS & COFFEE BREAKFAST CLUB 2018 A wide and varied display of beautiful cars from years gone by, until Tues 14 Aug, Coughton Court, Alcester

REAL BODIES Get to know your body - inside and out, in a 'stunning' new journey exploring the human body through physiology, culture and emotion, until Sun 19 Aug, NEC , Birmingham

THE DUCK RACE Sponsor a duck in Coughton's traditional duck race down the River Arrow, until Wed 29 Aug, Coughton Court, Alcester

SUMMER CRAFT ACTIVITIES Drop-in sessions every Tuesday & Thursday throughout the holidays, until Thurs 30 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

SAREHOLE ART CLUB Drop by every Thursday morning throughout the summer holidays to take part in an art activity related to the natural beauty of Sarehole Mill, until Thurs 30 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

THE ENGINEERING SHOW 'Fun-filled' show exploring the world of engineering, until Fri 31 Aug, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

SUMMER TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Family tile decorating workshops, taking place over the holidays, until Fri 31 Aug, Jackfield Tile Museum, Telford

HANDS ON HISTORY: ROUNDHEADS AND CAVALIERS The Hands On History crew bring the past to life every day throughout the holidays, until Fri 31 Aug, Goodrich Castle, Goodrich, Ross on Wye

FABLAB FRIDAYS Explore the digital world every Friday throughout the summer holidays, until Fri 31 Aug, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

HANDS ON HISTORY: NATURE DETECTIVES Join the Hands On History crew for family-friendly activities every day in the garden, until Fri 31 Aug, Witley Court, Great Witley, Worcestershire

TOYS, TOYS, TOY FACTORY Have a go at making a different toy each day of the week, throughout the summer holidays, until Sat 1 Sept, Coventry Transport Museum, Coventry

COUGHS & SNEEZES SPREAD TUDOR DISEASES! Take part in the gruesome 'medical facts' trail, solve the 'bizarre remedies' puzzle and make yourself a finger puppet to take home, until Sat 1 Sept, Tudor House Museum, Worcester

Summer Holiday Activities at Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust, Stratford-upon-Avon

SUMMER ACTIVITIES until Sun 2 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

OCTONAUTS SHARK MISSION Join Captain Barnacles, Peso, Dashi, Shellington, Professor Inkling, Tweak, Kwazii and Tunip in a quest to uncover the secrets of the ocean's most jawsome predators, until Sun 2 Sept, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

THE SECRET WORLD OF GASES Take a journey through the secret world of gases, until Sun 2 Sept, National Space Centre, Leicester

WARS OF THE ROSES LIVE The Wars of the Roses unfolds in an epic new live-action show featuring stunt riding, jousting and state-of-the-art special effects, until Sun 2 Sept, Warwick Castle, Warwick

SUMMER PLAY TRAILS Create your own adventures and have fun exploring the hills, until Sun 2 Sept, Clent Hills, Worcestershire

GREAT SUMMER ADVENTURE Activities and entertainment for the holidays, until Sun 2 Sept, Hatton Adventure World, Warwickshire

JUNGLE BOOK TRAIL Follow the trail around the gardens and grounds to find all the Jungle Book characters, until Sun 2 Sept, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

HISTORIC HOLIDAY FUN Discover the hobbies and pastimes that entertained Black Country folk from Victorian times to the 1930s, until Sun 2 Sept, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

HANDS-ON FUN AT BLISTS HILL Celebrate Ironbridge's world-changing past, until Sun 2 Sept, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire

DESIGN & MAKE AT ENGINUITY Print your own design onto fabric, make a buggy or send your cargo down a zip line, until Sun 2 Sept, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES Programme of activities presented by Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust at Shakespeare's New Place, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Mary Arden's Farm and Hall's Croft, until Sun 2 Sept, Stratford-upon-Avon

SUMMER ARTS PROJECT: THREADS OF THE UNSAID Experimental art installation based on Romeo And Juliet, until Sun 2 Sept, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon

BLITZ SPIRIT OUTDOOR GAMES Outdoor entertainment for all the family, inspired by games played during World War Two, until Sun 2 Sept, Brockhampton Estate, Bringsty, Nr Bromyard

MAKE-DO-AND-MEND FAMILY TRAIL Discover the different ways that people used to 'make do and mend' during the war, until Sun 2 Sept, Brockhampton Estate, Bringsty, Nr Bromyard

GASTRELL ON TRIAL Was Francis Gastrell a victim or a villain? Join in putting on trial the man behind the demolition of Shakespeare's New Place in 1759, until Sun 2 Sept, Shakespeare's New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

SUMMER CLAY CRAFTS Decorate ceramics every day during the summer holidays, until Sun 2 Sept, Coalport China Museum, Telford, Shropshire

SUMMER HOLIDAYS Trail and craft activity, available every Tuesday through to Sunday, until Sun 2 Sept, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

SUMMER NIGHTS AT WEST MIDLAND SAFARI PARK Until Sun 2 Sept, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley

SUMMER SENSATION 'Overload your senses this summer with all that Drayton Manor Park has to offer', until Mon 3 Sept, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth, Staffs

TICKET TO RIDE Discover 'all things bus' in this new exhibition, until Sun 28 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum, Coventry

PAW PATROL AT THE BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS Check out Paw Patrol's Chase & Marshall who'll be making personal appearances at intervals thoughout the day, Wed 1 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

BAFFLING BUGS See what you can find on a bug hunt with nets and pots, Wed 1 Aug, The Parkridge Centre, Warwick Road

EXOTIC ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS Get up close to some exotic animals courtesy of Trevor Hill's animal encounters, Wed 1 - Thurs 2 Aug, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

THE WIZARD EXPRESS Featuring magical characters and 'spellbinding' activities for budding wizards, Wed 1 - Wed 15 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

RHINO MONTH Cotswold's keepers give a daily talk at 2pm, Wed 1 - Fri 31 Aug, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford

SUMMER HOLIDAYS FAMILY MAGIC Daily family entertainment, Wed 1 Aug - Sun 2 Sept, Cadbury World, Birmingham

OPERATION EARTH ROADSHOW Become an environmental scientist and learn about volunteering opportunities for people wishing to explore their natural environment, Thurs 2 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

FAMILY FUN DAY Family-friendly guided tour of the Smith & Pepper jewellery factory, followed by a craft activity in the Education Space, Thurs 2 - Thurs 30 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

RUM & REGGAE Caribbean street food, speciality rum and cocktails, perfor-

mances from Phase One Steel Orchestra and DJ sets from Dave Marshall Barrett, Fri 3 Aug, FarGo Village, Coventry

NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD Open-air movie screening - part of the annual Beware The Moon event, Fri 3 Aug, Dudley Castle, Dudley

TALL TALES Interactive telling of some classic fairytales, Fri 3 - Fri 24 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

DRAGON SLAYER New-for-2018 immersive live show for the whole family, Fri 3 - Mon 27 Aug, Warwick Castle, Warwick

GAMES DAYS Fri 3 - Fri 31 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

SUMMER EVENINGS Visitors to BCLM on any Friday in August have even longer to immerse themselves in 300 years of Black Country history, with the venue staying open until 8pm, Fri 3 - Fri 31 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK- Sat 4 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

DINING CRUISE - A TASTE OF TAPAS Narrowboat dining cruise around the local area, Sat 4 Aug, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust, Dudley

COVENTRY VEGAN FESTIVAL Including 80 stalls serving a great selection of hot and cold food, ethical gifts, clothing and cosmetics, An outdoor area will feature a plethora of food trucks as well as kids bouncy castle and more... Sat 4 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

THE LOST BOYS Open-air movie screening - part of the annual Beware The Moon event, Sat 4 Aug, Dudley Castle, Dudley

SHAKESPEARE FOR ALL! Join experts from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust as they read through Shakespeare's Complete Works, Sat 4 Aug, Stratford upon Avon Library and Information Centre

GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP Expert advice on how to photograph gardens from Philip Smith, founder of the International Garden Photographer of the Year competition and exhibition, Sat 4 Aug, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

ASTLEYFEST New festival including circus performances, horse shows, military displays and hands-on activities, Sat 4 Aug, Lyme Valley Park, Newcastle-under-Lym

Battle Of Evesham - Crown Meadow, Evesham

LAST DAYS OF STEAM Commemorate the 50th anniversary of the final days of steam on British Railways, Sat 4 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

BATTLE OF EVESHAM Step back in time to the 13th century and witness a re-enactment of the Battle of Evesham, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Aug, Crown Meadow, Evesham

KNIGHTS TOURNAMENT 'Noble knights' compete in a medieval contest, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Aug, Beeston Castle, Cheshire

THE BADDESLEY BOOK FAIR Sat 4 - Sun 12 Aug, Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire

HWAR DOG SHOW Annual charity dog show, Sun 5 Aug, Brockhampton Estate, Bringsty, Nr Bromyard

DINOSAUR SHOW Travel back in time with a roaring T-Rex, Sun 5 - Thurs 9 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

ARTRIX

August & September

www.artrix.co.uk

Fri 3 – Sat 11 August
MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN
FOLLOW UP TO THE BLOCKBUSTER FILM

Tues 7 August
YOUNG HERBERT'S HORRORS
SWASHBUCKLING HALF MOON ADVENTURE

Fri 17 August
THE WILD TONICS
CURRENT HITS 1920S STYLE

Sat 8 September
CHANTEL MCGREGOR
FORMIDABLE BLUES GUITARIST

Fri 14 September
THE SCUMMY MUMMIES
ALL NEW SONGS, SKETCHES & CATSUITS!

Sat 15 September
FRIDOLIJN
COMPELLINGLY BEAUTIFUL SONGS

COMING SOON: Simple Politics, The Counterfeit Sixties, Kelly Oliver, Totally Tina, Ensonglopedia Of Animals, Mary-Ann Ochota & Jason Buck, Gary Delaney, Gary Delaney, The Real Thing, Dr Phil Hammond, The Real Thing, Super Hamlet 64, The Fortunes, Barnstormers Comedy, Pete Firman, The Christians, Scott Gibson, Andy Fairweather Low, Remi Harris, Robin Ince, Black Country Night Out, Paul Foot, Lee Hurst, Dane Baptiste, Maggie Bell & Dave Kelly…

Free parking on-site

Join our Mailing List and receive our weekly e-flyer with up-to-date information about upcoming shows or download our latest brochure

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Artrix, Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove, B60 1GN
Box Office: 01527 577330

THE CORE theatre solihull

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Morgan & West's Magic Show
(for kids .. and childish grown ups!!)
Magicians, time-travellers & all round spiffing chaps present their family show.
Thurs 30 Aug at 2pm £10

The ELO Experience
The world's foremost tribute to The Electric Light Orchestra.
Wed 5 & Thu 6 Sept at 7.30pm £23

The Barnhart & Huxley Hot Five - Jazz and Jokes III
Sublime Jazz music hosted by Malc Stent.
Wed 19 Sept at 7.30pm £17

MOTHERSHIP - Led Zeppelin Tribute
A brand new multimedia show celebrating the music of the greatest rock band in history.
Fri 21 at 7.30pm. £15, £12 conc.

Stars of Irish Country Music Show
Join four of Ireland's favourite Country music Stars in one show accompanied by Keltic Storm.
Thu 27 Sept at 7.30 £22

Andy Fairweather-Low's Big Show with The Low Riders & The Hi Riders Big Soul Revue
Fri 28 Sept at 7.30pm £25

Box Office: 0121 704 6962 www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk

Iron Maiden - Genting Arena, Birmingham

Gigs

SAMORY-I Tues 7 Aug, O2 Institute, B'ham

JAYA THE CAT Tues 7 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

IRON MAIDEN Tues 7 Aug, Genting Arena, Birmingham

THE AGUILAR BLUMENFELD PROJECT Wed 8 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

AN EVENING WITH JESSE LEACH FROM KILLSWITCH ENGAGE Wed 8 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TRAGEDY: METAL TRIBUTE TO THE BEE GEES Wed 8 Aug, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

GABRIELLE Wed 8 Aug, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE KING OF POP Wed 8 Aug, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

JOHN COGHLAN'S QUO Thurs 9 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

WEST COAST EAGLES Fri 10 Aug, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

ECLIPSE - THE PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE Fri 10 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE SKA45'S Fri 10 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

WHORE NO MORE, SUPERHOOCH & BRIXTON ALLEY Fri 10 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

BAREFOOTIN' Fri 10 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

NCCGB 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT Fri 10 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

SYNIKALL - FUSIONS OF GRANDEUR RELEASE PARTY Fri 10 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

STEPHEN JAMES AS FRANKIE VALLI Fri 10 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

AUTUMN RUIN + MINUS ALIVE + HYDE PROJECT + FOR THE GIRL Fri 10 Aug, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

WOLF SUIT EP LAUNCH, LUNA AND THE MOON HOUNDS & YOU DIRTY BLUE Fri 10 Aug, The Tin Music And Arts, Canal Basin, Coventry

WITTERQUICK Sat 11 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

REP YOUR FLAG FEAT FT. DJ NATE Sat 11 Aug, O2 Institute, B'ham

GLASS CEILINGS Sat 11 Aug, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

DARE - TRIBUTE TO THE HUMAN LEAGUE Sat 11 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

PULKIT & PRABHAT Sat 11 Aug, MAC, B'ham

THE JERSEY 4 VS TAKE THAT Sat 11 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

OCCOEUR, BREAKING ILLUSION & I, ASSASSIN Sat 11 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

WITHOUT FLIGHT Sat 11 Aug, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

THIS WINTER MACHINE Sun 12 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

SOULFLY Sun 12 Aug, O2 Institute, B'ham

Wolf Suit EP Launch - Tin Music & Arts, Coventry

Classical Music

THE REALLY BIG CHORUS - HANDEL: ISRAEL IN EGYPT Also featuring Brian Kay (conductor), Sarah Power (soprano), James Neville (conductor) & Nick Pritchard (tenor). This performance is the culmination of the week-long TRBC Choral Summer School which takes place every year at Warwick University, Sat 11 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy

JOHN FOTHERGILL, ERICH MCELROY & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 9 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOHN FOTHERGILL, ERICH MCELROY, RHYS JAMES & CHRIS BETTS Fri 10 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOHN FOTHERGILL, ERICH MCELROY, RHYS JAMES & COMIC TBC Sat 11 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

GEOFF BOYZ, DAVE LONGLEY, ADAM STAUNTON & ANDREW ROBINSON Sat 11 Aug, The Comedy Loft, B'ham

Theatre

MATILDA THE MUSICAL The Royal Shakespeare Company's award-winning musical, currently on tour in the UK for the first ever time, until Sat 8 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

MACBETH Shakespeare's psychological thriller stars Christopher Eccleston's 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

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY Chapterhouse Theatre Company present an outdoor staging of Jane Austen's classic tale, Wed 8 Aug, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

ANTIGONE Malvern Theatre Young Company presents an amateur staging of Sophocles' deeply poetic tragedy, Wed 8 - Fri 10 Aug, Malvern Theatre

THE FULL MONTY Tony Award-nominated musical adaptation of the film of the same name, Wed 8 Aug - Sat 1 Sept, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE GREATEST SHOW: LIVE IN CONCERT An evening of entertainment inspired by the hits from The Greatest Showman, featuring a cast from London's West End, a live band and a series of special effects, Thurs 9 - Sat 11 Aug, The Old Rep, B'ham

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM The Three Inch Fools present an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's magical tale, Fri 10 Aug, Charlecote Park, Warwick

THE LYNCHING OF JACKIE WALKER Autobiographical one-woman show reflecting on the treatment of a Black and Jewish activist... Sat 11 Aug, MAC, Birmingham

HAMLET The Three Inch Fools present a musical take on Shakespeare's tragic play, Sat 11 Aug, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire

THE WIZARD OF OZ Tread The Boards bring L Frank Baum's famous story to life, Sat 11 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES Illyria present an outdoor staging of Arthur Conan Doyle's great detective story, Sun 12 Aug, Coughton Court, Alcester

Kids Show

YOUNG HERBERT'S HORRORS: HALF MOON Justin Coe's new spoken-word show for children, featuring 'swashbuckling verse, jaunty music, gallows humour and the obligatory parrot', Tues 7 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MISCHIEF AND MYSTERY IN MOOMIN VALLEY Interactive theatre for younger audiences that fuses puppetry, an 'ingenious' pop-up book set and original music, Fri 10 - Sat 11 Aug, MAC, Birmingham

THE PRINCESS AND THE GIANT Folksy Theatre fuse music and puppetry in an outdoor show based on Caryl Hart's children's book, Sat 11 Aug, Biddulph Grange Garden, Staffordshire

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

FIRST REFORMED (15) Drama/Thriller. Starring Ethan Hawke, Amanda Seyfried. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 6 - Tues 7 Aug

THE BOOKSHOP (12A) Drama. Starring Emily Mortimer, Bill Nighy. Number 8, Pershore, Mon 6 - Tues 7 Aug

SHERLOCK GNOMES (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Kelly Asbury, Mary J. Blige. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Mon 6 & Wed 8

Aug; Number 8, Pershore, Tues 7 Aug

SUMMER 1993 (12a) Drama. Starring Laia Artigas, Paula Robles. Foreign language, subtitled. Malvern Theatres, Tues 7 - Wed 8 Aug; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 8 - Thurs 9 Aug

MOONWALKER (PG) Crime/Fantasy. Starring Michael Jackson, Joe Pesci. This is an outdoor screening. MAC, Birmingham, Wed 8 Aug

MAURICE (15) Drama/Romance. Starring Hugh Grant, James Wilby. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 8 - Thurs 9 Aug

A PLACE OF RAGE Documentary. Director: Pratibha Parmar. MAC, Birmingham, Thurs 9 Aug

DAISIES (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Jitka Cerhová, Ivana Karbanová. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Thurs 9 Aug

THE ESCAPE (15) Drama. Starring Gemma Arterton, Dominic Cooper. Malvern Theatres, Fri 10 Aug

IDEAL HOME (15) Drama/Comedy. Starring Steve Coogan, Paul Rudd. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 10 - Sun 12 Aug

OCEAN'S 8 (12a) Action/Comedy. Starring Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett. Malvern Theatres, Sat 11 - Sun 12 Aug

SKYSCRAPER (12A) Action/Crime. Starring Dwayne Johnson, Neve Campbell. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 11 - Wed 15 Aug

PATRICK (PG) Family. Starring Ed Skrein, Emilia Jones. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 11 - Thurs 16 Aug

MARY SHELLEY (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Elle Fanning, Maisie Williams. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 12 - Thurs 16 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 10 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

DOG DAYS (PG)

THE DARKEST MINDS (tbc)

THE MEG (12a)

UNDER THE TREE (15)

UNFRIENDED: DARK WEB (tbc)

Events

TERRIFIC TUDORS Discover the gruesome, terrible and hilarious side of Tudor life, Mon 6 - Sun 19 Aug, Selly Manor, Bournville

CASTLE TOURS 2018 Learn more about Dudley Castle, Tues 7 Aug, Dudley Castle, Dudley

FAMILY METAL PETALS WORKSHOP Learn the technique of metal forming and embossing to shape and give texture to the leaves and petals of your unique creation, Tues 7 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

GEORGIAN LIVING HISTORY Explore the pastimes of Georgian children, and find out about the toys they would have played with, Tues 7 - Thurs 9 Aug, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

BEACON PARK FUN DAY Including games,stalls, inflatables and food, Wed 8 Aug, Beacon Park, Lichfield

KNIGHTS AND PRINCESSES Dress and dance like a Tudor, have a go at archery and experience the excitement of battle, Wed 8 Aug, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

LITTLE SKIPPERS - FABULOUS FOSSILS Join Little Skippers for a 45-minute boat trip followed by a 'things to make and do' session, Wed 8 - Thurs 9 Aug, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust, Dudley

OPERATION EARTH ROADSHOW Become an environmental scientist and learn about volunteering opportunities for people wishing to explore their natural environment, Thurs 9 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

FUN IN THE KITCHEN Have a go at making some historic food fit for a feast, Thurs 9 Aug, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS Europe's premier patchwork and quilting show, Thurs 9 - Sun 12 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

SURVIVAL SKILLS Have you got what it takes to survive in the wild? Make a shelter, start a fire and camouflage yourself, Thurs 9 - Thurs 23 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

TUNNEL TEDS Bear-themed fun on and around the canal, Fri 10 Aug, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust, Dudley

HELP BUILD A GIANT CASTLE Create your own section, to be joined to others to make one giant cardboard castle, Fri 10 Aug, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

'OH, I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE' FAMILY FUN DAY Featuring inflatables, pony rides, a fun photo booth, games, competitions, sweet giveaways and bubbles, Fri 10 Aug, Wolverhampton Racecourse, Wolverhampton

NATURE DAY: BUGS! Nature-themed activities, Fri 10 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

DRIVE-IN MOVIES AT BEACON PARK Watch movies on a giant inflatable screen, from inside your car and under the stars, Fri 10 - Sat 11 Aug, Beacon Park, Lichfield

SHREWSBURY FLOWER SHOW Featuring TV personalities, celebrity chefs, singers, arena acts and a 'spectacular' firework display, Fri 10 - Sat 11 Aug, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

Fighting Nights - Goodrich Castle

SONGS FROM THE MUSICALS Sat 11 Aug, Wyre Forest, Bewdley

STOURBRIDGE VEGAN FEST A fantastic festival with stalls talks, advice, info, music and entertainment, Sat 11 Aug Stourbridge Town Hall

CRAFT EVENING Grown-ups get to try some favourite kids' activities, Sat 11 Aug, Shakespeare's New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

FAMILY CIRCUS Sat 11 - Sun 12 Aug, Wyre Forest, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

FIGHTING KNIGHTS Try on armour and practise your knightly skills, Sat 11 - Sun 12 Aug, Goodrich Castle, Goodrich, Ross on Wye

VINTAGE AND HANDMADE FESTIVAL New event showcasing handmade, handcrafted products and carefully selected vintage wares, Sat 11 - Sun 12 Aug, RAF Cosford, Shifnal

LIVING HISTORY SHOW Featuring around 1,000 reenactors bringing to life major periods from history, Sat 11 - Sun 12 Aug, Spetchley Park Gardens, Worcestershire

STEAM ON THE ROAD Showcasing the very best of steam, both on the road and on the rails, Sat 11 - Sun 12 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

KNIGHT SCHOOL Learn about combat, swordplay and the code of chivalry, Sun 12 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

BIRDS OF PREY SPECTACULAR Sun 12 Aug, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

THE NATIONAL BMW FESTIVAL Featuring 1,000-plus BMWs, Sun 12 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

CLIMBING WALL AND KARTS Sun 12 - Thurs 16 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

Music Festivals

LAKEFEST Headliners include The Darkness, The Waterboys, Marc Almond, The Proclaimers, Melanie C, Pop Will Eat Itself and many more... Thurs 9 - Sun 12 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury, Herefordshire

FARMER PHIL'S FESTIVAL Line-up includes Aswad, Doctor And The Medics, Dan Owen, Fight The Bear, Legend, Quill & Jilted Generation, Fri 10 - Sun 12 Aug, Rattlinghope, Shropshire

The National BMW Festival - British Motor Museum, Gaydon

Lichfield Arts

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Folk, blues, jazz, roots, rock & more

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SEPTEMBER	Friday 7th	Lisbee Stainton
	Fri 14th & Sat 15th September: Autumn Beer Festival	
	Real ales and ciders from local and regional breweries. Live band each evening.	
	If bringing a party you are advised to book in advance	
	Friday 19th	L2F Ceilidh with The Reel Hot Chilli Peppers
	Sunday 23rd	Merry Hell and Folklaw
	Sunday 30th	The Songs of Leonard Cohen by Keith James
OCTOBER	Saturday 6th	Roxy Magic
	Friday 19th Saturday 20th Sunday 21st	L2F LICHFIELD FESTIVAL OF FOLK
NOVEMBER	Friday 2nd	Gerry Colvin Band
	Saturday 17th	Kent Duchaine
DECEMBER	Wednesday 12th	The Joliet Blues Band
	Friday 14th	Fred Zeppelin
	Saturday 15th	Knight & Spiers
	Saturday 22nd	Johnny Coppin All On A Winter's Night

lichfieldarts.org.uk Box office: 01543 262223

Donegal House Bore Street Lichfield Staffordshire WS13 6LU info@lichfieldarts.org.uk

BRIDGE HOUSE THEATRE & WARWICK HALL

MYTON ROAD
WARWICK
CV34 6PP

THURSDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER. 7.30pm

THE JURASSIC PARKS

Superbolt Theatre presents their sellout multi-award winning laugh-out-loud spin on Spielberg's classic.

Welcome to the unlikely setting of Lyme Regis Community Centre, where the Park Family – Terry, Jade and Noah – embark on a journey to a misty past. Where, when things go wrong, family feuds are faced with the rapturous roar of DIY dinosaurs. This laugh-out-loud spin on Spielberg's classic is a theatrical celebration of cinematic nostalgia and a powerful reminder of the ones we love.

Winner of Critics choice for Best Play at Orlando Fringe International Theatre Festival and the Origins Award for Outstanding New Show at VAULT Festival.

Superbolt is an international collaborative ensemble founded at the Jacques Lecoq Theatre School in Paris.

FRIDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 7.30pm

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR – REMIX

Eight time sell-out veterans of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and one of the country's most sought after comedy club headliners, The Noise Next Door leaves audiences everywhere in awe of their lightning-quick wit and totally original comedic talents. They have been performing their own distinctive brand of off-the-cuff comedy together since they met at university.

The Noise Next Door have appeared on BBC One, BBC Three, ITV1, BBC Radio 1 and BBC Radio 4, they were nominated for a Chortle Award in 2014, and have performed alongside the likes of Michael McIntyre, Al Murray, and Harry Hill. Having received standing ovations in front of corporate dinners, the British forces, secondary school students and even fans at 'Download' Heavy Metal music festival, they are also one of the most versatile acts in the business. Unstoppably funny and uniquely talented, The Noise Next Door are the next big thing in British comedy.

'Immaculately well executed' The Times

'Hilarious… a superior kind of chaos' The Daily Telegraph

FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER 7.30pm

SHOWSTOPPER!

Spontaneous musical comedy at its absolute finest – direct from the West End and now heading to Warwick!

With ten years as an Edinburgh Fringe must-see phenomenon, a BBC Radio 4 series, a critically acclaimed West End run and an Olivier Award to their name, The Showstoppers have delighted audiences across the globe with their ingenious blend of comedy, musical theatre and spontaneity.

A brand new musical comedy is created from scratch at each performance of this award-winning show as audience suggestions are transformed on the spot into all-singing, all-dancing productions with hilarious results. These incredible performers are guaranteed to impress as they create shows packed with drama, dazzling dance routines and catchy melodies – it's just all made up on the spot!

So whether you fancy some Rodgers and Hammerstein set on a ferris wheel or a little Sondheim on Mount Everest – you suggest it and the Showstoppers will sing it!

Box Office: 01926 776438 www.bridgehousetheatre.co.uk

Beres Hammond - O2 Academy, Birmingham

Gigs

WEST THEBARTON Tues 14 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

MOTÖRHEADACHE Thurs 16 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

JOHN GRANT Thurs 16 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

WHITE TYGËR Fri 17 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

NEW PURPLE CELEBRATION - THE MUSIC OF PRINCE Fri 17 Aug, Symphony Hall, B'ham

THE VOICE OF THE HEART - KAREN CARPENTER Fri 17 Aug, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

SOME KINDA SALVATION Fri 17 Aug, The Tin Music And Arts, Canal Basin, Coventry

FOUR DEAD CROWS Fri 17 Aug, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

CATAPULT CLUB FEAT. MARTIN YATES Fri 17 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

AN ORCHESTRAL RENDITION OF DAFT PUNK Fri 17 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE WILD TONICS Fri 17 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ANDREW WEATHERALL Fri 17 - Sat 18 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FREE AT LAST & TRIPWIRE Fri 17 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

FLASH - A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN Fri 17 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE 3 SIXTIES Sat 18 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

SUSPICIOUSLY ELVIS Sat 18 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

ESSENTIAL 80S Sat 18 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

LET THERE B/DC Sat 18 Aug, Route 44, B'ham

UB40 TRIBUTE NIGHT Sat 18 Aug, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley

GODTHRYMM & THE DROWNING Sat 18 Aug, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

MERAKI Sat 18 Aug, Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Worcestershire

BERES HAMMOND & SANCHEZ Sat 18 Aug, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE RAJASTHAN HERITAGE BRASS BAND Sat 18 Aug, MAC, B'ham

THE STONES Sat 18 Aug, The Swan Theatre Worcester

58 BLUES BAND Sat 18 Aug, Tamworth Castle Grounds

MANOEUVRES Sun 19 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

WYE OAK Sun 19 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ELIZA AND THE BEAR Sun 19 Aug, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

Eliza And The Bear - The Assembly, Leamington Spa

Classical Music

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: RAVEL'S DAPHNIS ET CHLOÉ Featuring Ludovic Morlot (conductor), Justina Gringyte (mezzo soprano), the CBSO chorus & CBSO Youth Orchestra. Programme includes Debussy's Nocturne's, 25'; Boulanger's Psalm 130: Du fond de l'abime, 26' & Ravel's Daphnis et Chloé (complete), 50', Tues 14 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

KAMIKAZE CLUB NIGHTS Mon 13 Aug, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

ANDREW BIRD, PAUL MCCAFFERY & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 16 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW BIRD, PAUL MCCAFFERY, SUSIE MCCABE & LUKE HONNORATY Fri 17 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW BIRD, PAUL MCCAFFERY, SUSIE MCCABE & COMIC TBC Sat 18 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, QUINCY & STEVE WILLIAMS Sat 18 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Theatre

MATILDA THE MUSICAL The Royal Shakespeare Company's award-winning musical, currently on tour in the UK for the first ever time, until Sat 8 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

MACBETH Shakespeare's psychological thriller stars Christopher Eccleston's 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 Sep, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG Fawlty Towers meets Noises Off in this award-winning West End comedy, Mon 13 - Sat 18 Aug, Malvern Theatre

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND Take a trip down the rabbit hole with Chapterhouse Theatre Company, Thurs 16 Aug, MAC, Birmingham

PETER PAN Experience Theatre presents its version of JM Barrie's timeless tale, Thurs 16 - Sat 18 Aug, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

TAMBURLAINE Michael Boyd returns to the RSC to direct a new staging of Christopher Marlowe's famous play, Thurs 16 Aug - Sat 1 Dec, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

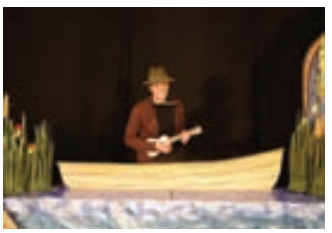
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Join Heartbreak Productions for an evening of comedy, romance and more than one 'comeuppance'...Fri 17 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster

THE YARN SPINNER Storyteller and puppeteer Fiona Angwin tells fantastical tales of mermaids and monsters, witches and fairies, dragons and many other strange creatures from the folklore of Wales and the Isle of Man, Sat 18 Aug, Henry Sandon Hall, Worcester

THE WINTER'S TALE The Festival Players present Shakespeare's romantic tale, Sun 19 Aug, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon

Kids Shows

THE UGLY DUCKLING Sea Legs Puppet Theatre present a musical adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale, Fri 17 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester



Dance

THE NATYA PROJECT Five young dancers trained in the classical Indian dance style of bharatanatyam offer a glimpse of the future of South Asian dance in Britain! Fri 17 Aug, MAC, Birmingham

RUSSIAN STATE OPERA*
PRESENTS

'Russian State Opera enjoyed a well-deserved standing ovation' Daily Post
★★★★★

Verdi's La Traviata
SUNG IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Bizet's Carmen
SUNG IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thu 30 Aug	Coventry, The Belgrade	024 7655 3055
Fri 31 Aug	Coventry, The Belgrade	024 7655 3055
Sat 22 Sept	Shrewsbury, Theatre Severn	01743 281 281
Sun 14 Oct	Malvern Theatres	01684 892 277

For tickets and information, please go to www.russian-state-opera.co.uk

From the same producer experience Classical Ballet this Autumn!

Giselle
Swan Lake
The Nutcracker

Sun 28 Oct	Stafford, Gatehouse Theatre
Thu 1 Nov	Coventry, The Belgrade
Fri 2 Nov	Coventry, The Belgrade
Sat 3 Nov	Coventry, The Belgrade
Sat 10 Nov	Shrewsbury, Theatre Severn
Sun 11 Nov	Shrewsbury, Theatre Severn
Sun 2 Dec	Malvern Theatres

★★★★★
'THE BEST MURDER MYSTERY I HAVE SEEN SINCE THE MOUSETRAP!... YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED'

BILL KENWRIGHT PRESENTS
The Classic Thriller Theatre Company

JOHN PARTRIDGE
DEBORAH GRANT
ROBERT DUNCAN
PHILIP LOWRIE
SCARLETT ARCHER
MATT BARBER

THE CASE OF THE FRIGHTENED LADY
BY EDGAR WALLACE

A NEW ADAPTATION BY ANTONY LAMPARD
DIRECTED BY ROY MARSDEN
DESIGNER JULIE GODFREY
LIGHTING DESIGNER CHRIS DAVEY
SOUND DESIGNER DAN SAMSON

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Bill Woodrow, Crow and Carrion, 1981, Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © The artist
Image courtesy Bill Woodrow

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE ESCAPE (15) Drama. Starring Gemma Arterton, Dominic Cooper. Malvern Theatres, Mon 13 - Tues 14 Aug

APOSTASY (PG) Drama. Starring Siobhan Finneran, Robert Emms. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 13 - Tues 14 Aug; Malvern Theatres, Wed 15 - Thurs 16 Aug

INCREDIBLES 2 (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 13 - Thurs 16 Aug; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 10 - Thurs 16 Aug

MARY SHELLEY (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Elle Fanning, Maisie Williams. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 13 - Fri 17 Aug

LEAVE NO TRACE (PG) Drama. Starring Ben Foster, Jeff Kober. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Tues 14 Aug

VERTIGO (PG) Thriller. Starring James Stewart, Kim Novak. MAC, Birmingham, Tues 14 - Thurs 16 Aug

THE NUN (12a) Drama. Starring Anna Karina, Liselotte Pulver. Foreign language, subtitled. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 15 - Thurs 16 Aug

UNDER THE TREE (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Steinþór Hróar Steinþórsson, Edda Björgvinsdóttir. Foreign language, subtitled. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 15 - Thurs 16 Aug

ELVIS: '68 COMEBACK SPECIAL (PG) Documentary/Music. Starring Elvis Presley, Buddy Arett. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 16 Aug; Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Thurs 16 Aug

THE HAPPY PRINCE (15) Drama/History. Starring Rupert Everett, Colin Firth. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 17 - Mon 20 Aug

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: FALLOUT (12A) Action/Adventure. Starring Tom Cruise, Henry Cavill. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 17 - Tues 21 Aug

TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Nicolas Cage, Kristen Bell. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 17 - Thurs 23 Aug

MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN (12a) Comedy/Musical. Starring Meryl Streep, Lily James. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 17 - Thurs 23 Aug; Number 8, Pershore, Sat 18 Aug

THE MORE YOU IGNORE ME (15) Comedy. Starring Sheridan Smith, Mark Addy. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sat 18 - Tues 21 Aug

FIRST REFORMED (15) Drama/Thriller. Starring Ethan Hawke, Amanda Seyfried. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Sun 19 - Mon 20 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 17 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN (PG)

THE EQUALIZER 2 (tbc)

THE FESTIVAL (tbc)

Events

MEDIEVAL LIVING HISTORY Discover what life was like for medieval castle household characters, until Thurs 2 Aug, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

WILD CHILD CAMP OUT Unleash your wild-child side! Are you tough enough to brave the great outdoors at Brockhampton? Until Fri 3 Aug, Brockhampton Estate, Bringsty, Nr Bromyard

GLADIATOR ARM GUARDS Make your very own manica - an arm protector worn by gladiators when they fought in the arena, until Fri 3 Aug, Lunt Roman Fort, Baginton

REAL BODIES Get to know your body - inside and out, in a 'stunning' new journey exploring the human body through physiology, culture and emotion, until Sun 19 Aug, NEC, B'ham

SUMMER CRAFT ACTIVITIES Drop-in sessions every Tuesday & Thursday throughout the holidays, until Thurs 30 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

THE ENGINEERING SHOW 'Fun-filled' show exploring the world of engineering, until Fri 31 Aug, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

HANDS ON HISTORY: NATURE DETECTIVES Join the Hands On History crew for family-friendly activities every day in the garden, until Fri 31 Aug, Witley Court, Great Witley, Worcestershire

HANDS ON HISTORY: ROUNDHEADS AND CAVALIERS The Hands On History crew bring the past to life every day throughout the holidays, until Fri 31 Aug, Goodrich Castle, Goodrich, Ross on Wye

COUGHS & SNEEZES SPREAD TUDOR DISEASES! Take part in the gruesome 'medical facts' trail, solve the 'bizarre remedies' puzzle and make yourself a finger puppet to take home, until Sat 1 Sept, Tudor House Museum, Worcester

TOYS, TOYS, TOY FACTORY Have a go at making a different toy each day of the week, throughout the summer holidays, until Sat 1 Sept, Coventry Transport Museum, Coventry

OCTONAUTS SHARK MISSION Join Captain Barnacles, Peso, Dashi, Shellington, Professor Inkling, Tweak, Kwazii and Tunip in a quest to uncover the secrets of the ocean's most jawsome predators, until Sun 2 Sept, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

Birthday celebrations at New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

WARS OF THE ROSES LIVE The Wars of the Roses unfolds in an epic new live-action show featuring stunt riding, jousting and state-of-the-art special effects, until Sun 2 Sept, Warwick Castle, Warwick

SUMMER PLAY TRAILS Create your own adventures and have fun exploring the hills, until Sun 2 Sept, Clent Hills, Worcestershire

GREAT SUMMER ADVENTURE Activities and entertainment for the holidays, until Sun 2 Sept, Hatton Adventure World, Warwickshire

JUNGLE BOOK TRAIL Follow the trail around the gardens and grounds to find all the Jungle Book characters, until Sun 2 Sept, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES Programme of activities presented by Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust at Shakespeare's New Place, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Mary Arden's Farm and Hall's Croft, until Sun 2 Sept, Stratford-upon-Avon

SUMMER ARTS PROJECT: THREADS OF THE UNSAID Experimental art installation based on Romeo And Juliet, until Sun 2 Sept, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon

BLITZ SPIRIT OUTDOOR GAMES Outdoor entertainment for all the family, inspired by games played during World War Two, until Sun 2 Sept, Brockhampton Estate, Bringsty, Nr Bromyard

MAKE-DO-AND-MEND FAMILY TRAIL Discover the different ways that people used to 'make do and mend' during the war, until Sun 2 Sept, Brockhampton Estate, Bringsty, Nr Bromyard

GASTRELL ON TRIAL Was Francis Gastrell a victim or a villain? Join in putting on trial the man behind the demolition of Shakespeare's New Place in 1759, until Sun 2 Sept, Shakespeare's New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

SUMMER NIGHTS AT WEST MIDLAND SAFARI PARK Until Sun 2 Sept, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley

MARVELLOUS MINI-BEASTS Discover a variety of miniature creatures, Wed 15 Aug, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

OPERATION EARTH ROADSHOW Become an environmental scientist and learn about volunteering opportunities for people wishing to explore their natural environment, Thurs 16 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

SUMMER PARTY Sat 18 Aug, Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Coventry

BLISTS HILL IN STEAM Get up close and personal with an array of Victorian steam-powered machines, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Aug, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire

NEW PLACE'S SECOND BIRTHDAY Celebrate Shakespeare's New Place turning two, Sun 19 Aug, Shakespeare's New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

MEET THE JACOBEAN BARBER SURGEON Help physician John Hall prescribe Jacobean cures to his patients, Sun 19 Aug, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon

SPARKLING AFTERNOON TEA WITH LOLA LAMOUR Staffordshire Breast Cancer Now invites you to enjoy an afternoon tea 'with added sparkle', Sun 19 Aug, Sandon Hall, Stafford

ZOO2U Meet and learn about a range of animals from around the world, Sun 19 Aug, Trentham Monkey Forest, Staffordshire

Electric Six - The Assembly, Leamington Spa

Gigs

REVEREND PEYTONS BIG DAMN BAND Mon 20 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

FULL OF HELL Mon 20 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

OMNI Mon 20 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GRAHAM BONNET BAND Tues 21 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE BLACKHEART ORCHESTRA Wed 22 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

PNB ROCK - CATCH THESE VIBES Wed 22 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

QUJAKU (JAPAN) Wed 22 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

EMMA JONSON & BAND Wed 22 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

THUNDERPUSSY Thurs 23 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

ESSENTIAL 80S Thurs 23 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

PETER KNIGHT'S GIGSPANNER BIG BAND & SPIERS Thurs 23 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

PHEPHE - LOST IN MY AURA II Thurs 23 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BUCK & EVANS Thurs 23 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LISA MANN Thurs 23 Aug, The Jam House, Birmingham

BLACK SABBATH TRIBUTE: CHILDREN OF THE GRAVY & THE UNRESOLVED Fri 24 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

COMMON PEOPLE Fri 24 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

BON JOVI FOREVER Fri 24 Aug, The Swan Theatre Worcester

STRICTLY NASHVILLE Fri 24 Aug, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

ABBA TRIBUTE Fri 24 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

PAUL WELLER Fri 24 Aug, Genting Arena, Birmingham

SKYLINE SERIES: BRIAN WILSON Fri 24 Aug, Digbeth Arena, B'ham

WILKO JOHNSON Sat 25 Aug, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

SAX IN THE CITY Sat 25 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE ONE LOVE BAND Sat 25 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

RYDER'S CREED, REECE & I, ASSASSIN Sat 25 Aug, Route 44, Birmingham

TOTALLY TINA! Sat 25 Aug, The Swan Theatre Worcester

BRYAN BRINDLEY Sat 25 Aug, Tamworth Castle Grounds

RELENTLESS & THE UPROARS Sat 25 Aug, The Night Owl, B'ham

SKYLINE SERIES: JAMES ARTHUR Sat 25 Aug, Digbeth Arena, B'ham

BOYZ II MEN Sat 25 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

RHINO AND THE RANTERS Sat 25 - Sun 26 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SOLIHULL SUMMER FESTIVAL Sat 25 - Sun 26 Aug, Tudor Grange Park, Solihull

BLACK MAGIC - THE LITTLE MIX SHOW Sun 26 Aug, Albany Theatre, Coventry

ELECTRIC SIX Sun 26 Aug, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

ESCAPADE Sun 26 Aug, O2 Academy, B'ham

AC/DC UK Sun 26 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

James Arthur - Digbeth Arena

Comedy

MICKY P KERR, MICHAEL FABBRI, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 23 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MICKY P KERR, JUNIOR SIMPSON, DYLAN GOTT & MICHAEL FABBRI Fri 24 - Sat 25 Aug, The Glee Club, B'ham

SEAN PERCIVAL, DIANE SPENCER, DANNY DEEGAN & SEAN MEO Sat 25 Aug, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

KANE BROWN, BABATUNDE, SOL BERNSTEIN, QUINCY & WILL E ROBO Sun 26 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

MACBETH Shakespeare's psychological thriller stars Christopher Eccleston's 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

THE WINTER'S TALE The Festival Players present Shakespeare's romantic tale, Tues 21 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

MEN OF THE WORLD Amateur staging of John Godber's bittersweet comedy, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST Folksy Theatre fuse live music, audience participation and silliness in an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's comedy, Wed 22 Aug, Bishops Wood Centre Garden, Stourport-on-Severn

BOOGIE NIGHTS THE MUSICAL New Alexandra Theatre's annual Stage Experience, Wed 22 - Sat 25 Aug, 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, Thurs 23 Aug, Henry Sandon Hall, Worcester

THE COMEDY ABOUT A BANK ROBBER Smash-and-grab comedy promising swagloads of laughter, Thurs 23 Aug - Sat 8 Sept, The REP, Birmingham

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Join Heartbreak Productions for an evening of comedy, romance and more than one 'comeuppance'..., Fri 24 Aug, The Wood Norton, Evesham

LIFE'S A BEACH Featuring three unique shows - Fishy Tales, Dark Water & Elvis' Bingo Balls - created from interviews with the people of the Black Country and Skegness, Fri 24 - Sat 25 Aug, MAC, Birmingham

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST Folksy Theatre fuse live music, audience participation and silliness in an outdoor staging of Shakespeare's comedy, Sat 25 Aug, Martineau Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham

THE TEMPEST Madcap funsters Oddsocks give a sci-fi slant to Shakespeare's last play, Sat 25 Aug, The Roses, Tewkesbury

SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN UGLY B****DS!** Join Cattle Productions for some rude'n'crude fun and frolics... Sat 25 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Kids Show

MATILDA THE MUSICAL The Royal Shakespeare Company's award-winning musical, currently on tour in the UK for the first ever time, until Sat 8 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

PETER PAN Eliott Hanna takes the lead role in a new staging of JM Barrie's swashbuckling tale, Wed 22 - Sun 26 Aug, Malvern Theatre

THE ACORN EMPORIUM A bushy tale for younger audiences about living in a land that doesn't quite feel like home, Thurs 23 - Sun 26 Aug, MAC, Birmingham

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN Heartbreak Productions' outdoor staging of Edith Nesbit's classic children's tale, Fri 24 Aug, Foundry Wood, Leamington Spa

BING! LIVE Join Bing, Sula, Coco and Pando as they learn how to tell stories by pretending, dressing-up and singing songs, Fri 24 - Sat 25 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

INCREDIBLES 2 (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Mon 20 - Wed 22 Aug; Number 8, Pershore, Fri 24 Aug

SICILIAN GHOST STORY (tbc) Drama/Fantasy. Starring Julia Jedlikowska, Gaetano Fernandez. Foreign language, subtitled. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 21 - Thurs 23 Aug

APOSTASY (PG) Drama. Starring Siobhan Finneran, Robert Emms. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Wed 22 Aug

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY & POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY (12a) Drama/History. Starring Lily James, Michael Huisman. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 24 Aug

THE NEGOTIATOR (15) Drama/Thriller.

Starring Jon Hamm, Rosamund Pike. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 24 - Sun 26 Aug

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN (PG) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Hayley Atwell, Ewan McGregor. Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, Fri 24 - Wed 29 Aug

ON THE WATERFRONT (PG) Drama/Thriller. Starring Marlon Brando, Karl Malden. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 25 Aug

OCEAN'S 8 (12a) Action/Comedy. Starring Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett. Number 8, Pershore, Sat 25 Aug

FUNNY GIRL (U) Biography/Comedy. Starring Barbra Streisand, Omar Sharif. This is an outdoor screening. MAC, Birmingham, Sun 26 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Wed 22 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME (15)

Released from Fri 24 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

BLACKKKLANSMAN (15)

LUIS AND THE ALIENS (tbc)

THE CHILDREN ACT (tbc)

APLHA (tbc)

Events

MINI MOTORISTS Under-five activity mornings, Mon 20 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

CIRCUS Tues 21 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

WORLD WAR ONE AT TAMWORTH Find out if you would have been medically fit to join the soldiers on the front line, learn about wartime communications, have a go at decoding secret messages and spend time playing with the games and toys that kept children amused during the Great War, Tues 21 - Thurs 23 Aug, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire

DEN BUILDING Wed 22 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

KNIGHTS AND PRINCESSES Dress and dance like a Tudor, have a go at archery and experience the excitement of battle, Wed 22 Aug, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC Wed 22 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

LITTLE SKIPPERS - CANAL LIFE Join Little Skippers for a 45-minute boat trip followed by a 'things to make and do' session, Wed 22 - Thurs 23 Aug, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust, Dudley

EXOTIC ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS Get up close to exotic animals courtesy of Trevor Hill's animal encounters, Wed 22 - Thurs 23 Aug, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

OPERATION EARTH ROADSHOW Become an environmental scientist and learn about volunteering opportunities for people wishing to explore their natural environment,Thurs 23 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

FUN IN THE KITCHEN Discover cookery through the ages, and have a go at making some historic food fit for a feast, Thurs 23 Aug, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

SONGS FROM THE SHOWS Jump on board one of the narrowboats and be whisked away to the Singing Cavern to enjoy an hour of songs from the shows, Fri 24 Aug, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust, Dudley

INSOMNIA63 The UK's biggest gaming festival, Fri 24 - Mon 27 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

SHAKES-PAW'S DAY Celebrate National Dog Day, Sat 25 Aug, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE WHISKY TRAIN Collaboration between Severn Valley Railway and Hay Wines, Sat 25 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

THEATRE TOURS A unique insight into one of the most historic theatres in the West Midlands, Sat 25 Aug, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

BIG SUMMER BBQ Sat 25 - Sun 26 Aug, FarGo Village, Coventry

PERSHORE PLUM FESTIVAL 2018 Pershore turns purple! Sat 25 - Mon 27 Aug, Pershore, Worcestershire

THE JINNEY RING SCULPTURE TRAIL Exhibition of dramatic sculptures, Sat 25 Aug - Sun 30 Sept, The Jinney Ring Craft Centre Nr Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

SOUTHCREST MANOR BEER FESTIVAL A day of live entertainment, 'delicious food and the finest local cask ales & ciders, Gin & Prosecco,' Sun 26 Aug, Southcrest Manor Hotel, Redditch

Siege - Kenilworth Castle

BOUNCE & BOING Featuring an inflatable slide, obstacle course and bouncy castle, Sun 26 - Mon 27 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

SHREWSBURY STEAM RALLY Featuring demonstrations and over 1,000 exhibits, Sun 26 - Mon 27 Aug, Onslow Park, Shrewsbury

SIEGE! Recreation of the 1266 Siege of Kenilworth Castle, Sun 26 - Mon 27 Aug, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

HISTORY THROUGH THE AGES Covering the medieval period, the Wars of the Roses and Elizabethan England, Sun 26 - Mon 27 Aug, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

HORSE STUNT SHOW Presented by professional horse stunt display team, the Cavalry of Heroes, Sun 26 - Mon 27 Aug, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

PANORAMA TOWER OPEN DAY Enjoy 360-degree views from the balcony of the Panorama Tower, Sun 26 Aug, Croome Park, Worcester

Music Festivals

SHAMBALA FESTIVAL Line-up includes Gentleman's Dub Club, This Is The Kit, Seun Kuti & Egypt 80, Susan Cadogan & The Friendly Fire Band, Thurs 23 - Sun 26 Aug, secret location, Nr Market Harborough, Northampton

BEERMAGEDDON British heavy metal festival. Headliners include Footprints In The Custard, MartYriuM and Haerken, Fri 24 - Sun 26 Aug, Stoke Prior Country Club, Bromsgrove

CAMPER CALLING Line-up includes Mel C (pictured), Feeder, The Coral, Scouting For Girls, Craig Charles, From The Jam, The South, Neville Staple, Showhawk Duo, Fri 24 - Sun 26 Aug, Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire

GREENBELT FESTIVAL Line-up includes Pussy Riot, We Are Scientists, Ozomatli, Ibibio Sound Machine, Duke Special, Pierce Brothers, Martyn Joseph and many more... Fri 24 - Mon 27 Aug, Boughton House, Kettering, Northamptonshire

SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL Featuring Steve Harley (pictured) and Cockney Rebel, Budino, Gretchen Peters, Show Of Hands, Steeleye Span, Peter Knight's Gigspanner and Jon Boden and The Remnant Kings, Fri 24 - Mon 27 Aug, West Midlands Showground, Shrewsbury

STONEDEAF FESTIVAL Line-up includes Skid Row, Wolfsbane, The Quireboys & The Graham Bonnet Band, Sat 25 Aug, Newark Showground, Nottinghamshire

Mel C plays Camper Calling

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Britney Spears - Genting Arena, Birmingham

Gigs

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE: THE MAN OF THE WOODS TOUR Mon 27 Aug, Arena Birmingham

CROW BLACK CHICKEN Mon 27 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

GOMEZ Tues 28 Aug, O2 Institute, B'ham

KUUNATIC Wed 29 Aug, The Tin Music And Arts, Canal Basin, Coventry

HOMEBOUND Wed 29 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

JAKE CLEMONS Thurs 30 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JONAS KAUFMANN Thurs 30 Aug, Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Worcestershire

YOUSSOU NDOUR Thurs 30 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

IAN PARKER & AYNSLEY LISTER Thurs 30 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

80S MANIA Fri 31 Aug, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

OCEAN COLOUR SCENE Fri 31 Aug, Wolverhampton Racecourse

PURE WHITNEY Fri 31 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

YO GOTTI LIVE Fri 31 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BRITNEY SPEARS: PIECE OF ME Fri 31 Aug, Genting Arena, Birmingham

MARSHALL JEFFERSON Fri 31 Aug - Sat 1 Sept, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Youssou Ndour - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Classical Music

SISTEMA EUROPE YOUTH ORCHESTRA Featuring Sascha Goetzel, Jessica Cottis, Jesus Uzcategui, Etienne Abelin, Samuel Matus & Juan Carlos (conductors), Nicola Benedetti (violin) & the Sistema Europe Youth Orchestra. Programme includes works by Marsalis, Elgar, Bernstein, Holst, Marquez & Piazzolla, Mon 27 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: FESTIVAL FAMILY FIREWORKS NIGHT Featuring Kenneth Woods (conductor) & Sofia Larsson (soprano - pictured), Mon 27 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

Comedy

KEVIN HART Thurs 30 Aug, Arena Birmingham

ANDY ASKINS, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 30 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDY ASKINS, KEVIN MCCARTHY, STUART MITCHELL & JOHNNY COCHRANE Fri 31 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

MATILDA THE MUSICAL The Royal Shakespeare Company's award-winning musical, currently on tour in the UK for the first ever time, until Sat 8 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

MACBETH Shakespeare's psychological thriller stars Christopher Eccleston's 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

JERSEY BOYS Internationally acclaimed musical which tells the true-life story of Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons, Tues 28 Aug - Sat 8 Sept, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

CARMEN Russian State Opera House presents its version of Bizet's passionate opera, Thurs 30 Aug, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

UNCLE BEN'S FAMILY FEUD Comedy theatre following the ups and downs of family life, Thurs 30 Aug - Sun 2 Sept, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

LA TRAVIATA Russian State Opera House brings Verdi's beguiling tale to life, Fri 31 Aug, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

DISENCHANTED Birmingham premiere of Dennis T Giacino's off-Broadway hit, Fri 31 Aug - Sat 1 Sept, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

Kids Shows

TIDDLER AND OTHER TERRIFIC TALES 'Terrific' tales woven together with live music, puppetry and a whole host of colourful characters from Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's best-loved titles, Mon 27 - Wed 29 Aug, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

PEPPA PIG'S ADVENTURE Join Peppa as she gets ready to go on an exciting camping trip in the woods with George and her school friends, Tues 28 - Wed 29 Aug, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE PRINCESS AND THE GIANT Folksy Theatre fuse music and puppetry in an outdoor show based on Caryl Hart's children's book, Wed 29 Aug, Martineau Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham

MORGAN & WEST'S MAGIC SHOW (FOR KIDS) Join the time-travelling magicians for an afternoon of brain-boggling illusion and good old-fashioned tomfoolery, Thurs 30 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

TIDDLER AND OTHER TERRIFIC TALES 'Terrific' tales woven together with live music, puppetry and a whole host of colourful characters from Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's best-loved titles, Thurs 30 Aug - Sat 1 Sept, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS National Youth Ballet present a mixed programme celebrating the power of imagination and being bold... Thurs 30 & Fri 31 Aug, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY & POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY (12a) Drama/History. Starring Lily James, Michael Huisman. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 27 - Tues 28 Aug

INCREDIBLES 2 (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter. Number 8, Pershore, Tues 28 Aug

OCEAN'S 8 (12a) Action/Comedy. Starring Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett. Number 8, Pershore, Tues 28 Aug

UNDER THE TREE (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Steinþór Hróar Steinþórsson, Edda Björgvinsdóttir. Foreign language, subtitled. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 28 - Thurs 30 Aug; MAC, Birmingham, Fri 31 Aug

THE MAN FROM MO'WAX (15) Documentary/Music. Starring DJ Shadow, James Lavelle. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 30 Aug

THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT (U) Animation/Action. With the voices of Peter Sallis, Helena Bonham Carter. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 31 Aug

HEARTS BEAT LOUD (PG) Drama/Music. Starring Nick Offerman, Kiersey Clemons. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 31 Aug

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Mon 27 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

THE HAPPYTIME MURDERS (tbc)

Released from Fri 31 Aug, showing at selected cinemas

UPGRADE (tbc)

YARDIE (tbc)

SEARCHING (tbc)

Events

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN Including arts & crafts, shire horse rides, face painting and much more, Sun 26 - Mon 27 Aug, National Brewery Centre, Burton upon Trent

BOUNCE & BOING Featuring an inflatable slide, obstacle course and bouncy castle, Mon 27 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

SIEGE! Recreation of the 1266 Siege of Kenilworth Castle, Mon 27 Aug, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

HISTORY THROUGH THE AGES Covering the medieval period, the Wars of the Roses and Elizabethan England, Mon 27 Aug, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

HORSE STUNT SHOW Presented by professional horse stunt display team, the Cavalry of Heroes, Mon 27 Aug, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

BANK HOLIDAY BBQ Mon 27 Aug, Brockhampton Estate, Bringsty, Nr Bromyard

CASTLE TOURS 2018 Learn more about Dudley Castle, Tues 28 Aug, Dudley Castle, Dudley

OFF-ROADING WITH LAND ROVER Tues 28 - Thurs 30 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

BUSHCRAFT DAY Young explorers can find out about some of the things they can do with the natural materials all around them, Wed 29 Aug, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

LITTLE SKIPPERS - FABULOUS FOSSILS Join Little Skippers for a 45-minute boat trip followed by a 'things to make and do' session, Wed 29 - Thurs 30 Aug, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust, Dudley

EXOTIC ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS Get up close to some exotic animals courtesy of Trevor Hill's animal encounters, Wed 29 - Thurs 30 Aug, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

FAMILY RAG RUG MAKING Rag rug making with a modern twist, Thurs 30 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

DIPPY THE DINOSAUR CRAFT Dinosaur-themed craft activities to celebrate Dippy's summer visit to Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Fri 31 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, B'ham

Music Festivals

THE AUDIO FARM Line-up includes Age Of Glass, Ask My Bull, Beatniks, Mamma Moonshine & Marc Constantine, Salutation Dub and many more... Thurs 30 Aug - Mon 3 Sept, Hopton Court, Kidderminster

Dippy On Tour

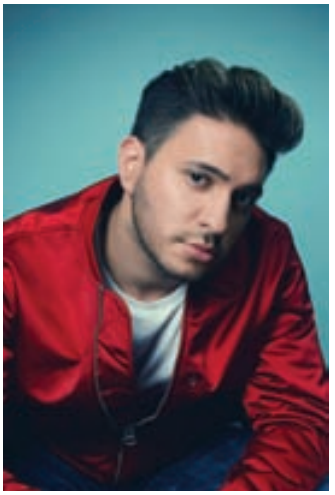
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, until Sun 9 September

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, until Sun 9 September
The Natural History Museum's famous Diplodocus cast - fondly known as Dippy - is spending the summer in Birmingham.
The British icon is on a mission to inspire natural history adventures and encourage families to explore nature on their doorstep.
The exhibition also highlights Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's fantastic bird collection, focusing on the idea of birds as living dinosaurs and looking at their evolution - from their dinosaur ancestors into the 'feathered friends' we know today.
Associated Dippy activities include Little Dinos Messy Play (1 - 29 August), curator-led talks with Lucas Large (1 August & 5 September) and Dino Drink & Draw - a free social event for anyone who likes to doodle, taking place in the gallery's Edwardian Tearoom on 8 September.
Dippy On Tour is a free ticketed event but advanced booking is advised. For further information, visit birminghammuseums.org.uk

GODIVA Headliners include Jake Bugg, Ronan Keating, Jonas Blue, Professor Green & Gabrielle, Fri 31 Aug - Sun 2 Sept, War Memorial Park, Coventry

MOSELEY FOLK FESTIVAL Line-up includes Levellers, Nick Mulvey, Teenage Fanclub, Show Of Hands, Steve Harley & Cockney Rebel, Skinny Lister, Willy Mason, Richard Dawson, and more... Fri 31 Aug - Sun 2 Sept, Moseley Park, Birmingham

OFF THE TRACKS SUMMER FESTIVAL Line-up includes Transglobal Underground, John Otway & His Little Big Band, Dreadzone, Mad Dog Mcrea, Blackballad, Aurora Dawn & The Screaming Skulls, Fri 31 Aug - Sun 2 Sept, Donington Park Farmhouse, Castle Donington



Jonas Blue joins the line-up at Coventry's Godiva Festival

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