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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 01743 281706 **Adrian Parker** adrian.parker@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281714
Contributors: Graham Bostock, James Cameron-Wilson, Katherine Ewing, Jenny Ell, Steve Adams,
Jack Rolfe, Elly Yates-Roberts, Daisy Sparkle, Steve Taylor, Chris Eldon Lee
Publisher and CEO: **Martin Monahan** Accounts Administrator: **Julia Perry** julia@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281717

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Grease is the word as Peter Andre gets angelic

Grease is the word! The hit high-school musical is making a welcome return to Birmingham Hippodrome next summer - with none other than Peter Andre taking on the role of Teen Angel.

The new touring production features choreography from one-time Strictly Come Dancing judge Arlene Phillips and is helmed by Nikolai Foster, Artistic Director at Leicester's Curve theatre, where the show recently enjoyed a sold-out eight-week run.

Commenting on the new production, Nikolai said: "Grease provides a gripping snapshot of a country on the cusp of social change, all set to one of the greatest rock'n'roll scores ever written."

The show runs at the Hippodrome from 13 to 24 August. For more information, visit birminghamhippodrome.com

New theatre show to explore the effects of war

The profound effect of war on young lives - and in particular the experience of returning home from conflict - is the subject matter of a new play being performed at Birmingham's Old Rep Theatre this month (Tuesday 30 October - Friday 2 November).

Set in the past, present and future, The Unreturning focuses on the experiences of three young men who've seen action on the battlefield: George, returning from the Western Front in 1918; Frankie, back from his final tour of Afghanistan in 2013; and Nat, heading home in a not-too-distant future from an overseas refugee camp...

The production is co-presented by Frantic Assembly and Theatre Royal Plymouth.



Waltzing in a New Year's Day winter wonderland



Birmingham's Symphony Hall is hosting a celebration of the music of Johann Strauss on New Year's Day.

Recreating 'the glittering romance of a 19th century Viennese ballroom', Waltzing In A Winter Wonderland is a brand new show featuring Strauss favourites including Blue Danube Waltz, Radetzky March, Thunder And Lightning Polka and Voices Of Spring.

Celebrity chef Whoops it up with kids' book debut

Michelin-starred Birmingham chef Glynn Purnell has published a children's book about his late Jack Russell.

The Magical Adventures Of Whoops The Wonder Dog is aimed at primary school-aged children and tells the story of a little dog who uses her superhero powers to stop evil neighbour Doctor Dactyl from pulling off the crime of the century.

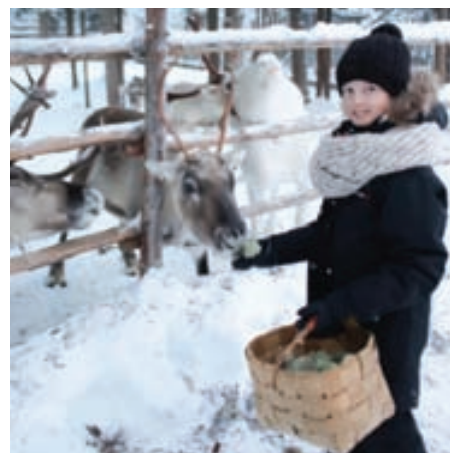
Commenting on his new book, Glynn said: "I still remember the vivid images from the

magical worlds of my favourite authors when I was younger - and I'm excited that I might be able to do the same here. I got very involved in all Whoops' adventures, even though I was writing them!"

An Unmissable trip from Birmingham to Lapland

Midlands families have the chance to visit Father Christmas in his Lapland home this December - thanks to experienced travel specialists Unmissable.

The company has put together a four-day Lapland experience for children and their parents or guardians to enjoy. The trip comes complete with a family snowmobiling adventure and the chance to meet Father & Mrs Christmas, their reindeer, huskies and elves. Flights depart from Birmingham International Airport. For more information, visit unmissablelapland.com or call 0207 428 1221.



A midnight cycle ride to save lives

A midnight cycle ride in support of charities involved in suicide prevention takes place in the Midlands next month.

Awesome Rides, Out Of The Dark starts at midnight on 10 November. Its route will cover 60 miles of well-lit roads. For more information, visit awesomerides.net

Central Park concert re-created in Birmingham

A tribute show recreating Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel's famous 1981 reunion concert is coming to the Midlands this month.

Live In Central Park (Revisited): Simon And Garfunkel features a repertoire of lyrical masterpieces that includes Mrs Robinson, Scarborough Fair, Bridge Over Troubled Water and The Sound Of Silence.

The show takes place at Birmingham's Pizza Express Live on 13 October.



Dumteedum - Brum show a must for Archers fans...

Fans of BBC Radio Four's The Archers can get the low-down on all things Ambridge at a special Birmingham event this month.

Based on fan podcast Dumteedum, the show includes contributions from Archers scriptwriter Keri Davies and actors Charlotte Martin - who plays Susan Carter in the programme - and Emerald O'Hanrahan (who stars as Emma Grundy).

Dumteedum Live takes place at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday 7 October.



Image credit: Lucy Gunning. Climbing Around My Room, 1993. Video, 7:30 minutes. Courtesy the artist and Greene Nafai, New York.

New exhibition marks a century since women won the vote

A new exhibition marking a century since women won the right to vote will open at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's Gas Hall venue next month.

Women Power Protest brings together modern and contemporary art to celebrate female artists whose works have explored themes of protest, social commentary and identity. Comprising pieces by 50-plus artists drawn largely from the Arts Council Collection, the exhibition aims to raise awareness, provoke debate and prompt viewers to reflect on the changes which have happened for women during the last 100 years... Women Power Protest shows at the Gas Hall from 10 November to 31 March.

Hit musical ghosts into the Midlands



Hit musical Ghost is returning to the Midlands. Based on the Oscar-winning 1990 movie starring Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore and Whoopi Goldberg, the show stops off at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 22 to Saturday 26 January.

Tickets can be bought online at grandtheatre.co.uk or by calling 01902 42 92 12.

Festival goes from strength to strength

Birmingham's Improv Festival returns to the city late this month.

Running from Friday 26 October to Saturday 3 November at Blue Orange Theatre and Birmingham Rep, the popular event this year features improvisations built around Star Wars, Shakespeare, Enid Blyton adventures, hip-hop, Halloween spookiness, soap operas and musicals... For full listings and to book tickets, visit birminghamimprovfestival.com





Image credit: Show performed by Shechter II

Dancing in alternative spaces

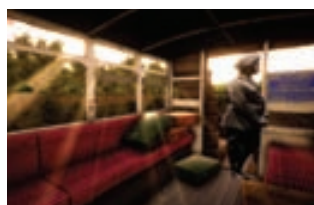
Birmingham dance house DanceXchange (dx) will once again be presenting performances in alternative spaces across the city this autumn, as well as in its usual home of Birmingham Hippodrome's Patrick Studio.

Commenting on dx's out-and-about initiative, Lucie Mirkova, Executive Producer at DanceXchange, said: "We're continuing our commitment to present work in alternative spaces where we hope to engage new audiences. There will be dance experiences in New Street Station and at Thinktank. Birmingham School of Art will be the setting for the world premiere of a topical new work funded by Art 50, a scheme commissioned by Sky Arts to explore the notion of British identity in the wake of the Brexit referendum."

For more information about dx's autumn line-up of shows, visit dancexchange.org.uk

World War One virtual reality experience at the Hippodrome

A 'breathtaking' virtual reality installation, telling the compelling stories of the forgotten Caribbean and South Asian soldiers of World War One, is being presented at Birmingham Hippodrome late this month. Blending performance and technology, Empire Soldiers uses virtual reality and film to create 'a truly immersive experience that's both emotive and unforgettable'. The installation provides viewers with the chance to hear battlefield stories and share the soldiers' emotional experience as they head for home. Empire Soldiers shows in the Hippodrome's foyer from Tuesday 30 October to Thursday 8 November and then at Birmingham New Street Station from Friday 9 to Sunday 11 November.



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Celebrating the dead at the O2 Academy

Festival Of The Dead returns to Birmingham's O2 Academy on Saturday 27 October as part of a UK tour.

Mixing a carnival atmosphere with circus, theatre, clubbing and 'mind-blowing' production, the event enjoyed a hugely successful debut in 2017. This year's festival features, among other highlights, 'spectacular' processions through the crowd and live DJs 'spinning a killer club soundtrack'. To find out more, visit festivalofthedeath.co.uk



Oxjam Brum set to transform Digbeth

Birmingham's Digbeth area will undergo a one-day transformation on Saturday 13 October when music festival Oxjam Brum takes over five of its venues.

The festival celebrates the best of the city's independent music scene, while at the same time raising vital funds for Oxfam.

Commenting on the event, festival manager Adam Pyzer said: "Oxjam Brum is shaping up to be something really special. We're all so passionate about this whole project and can't wait to show everyone what we've been working on. You won't want to miss it."

For more information, visit oxjambrum.co.uk

Strictly to begin its 2019 arena tour in Birmingham

The Strictly Come Dancing UK Arena Tour is once again hitting the road, launching in Birmingham in mid-January. Directed by Strictly TV judge Craig Revel Horwood (pictured), the touring show features celebrities and professional dancers from the 16th series of the award-winning BBC One programme.

Strictly visits Arena Birmingham from 18 to 21 January. For more information, visit strictlycomedancinglive.com



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HALLELUJAH!

The Messiah comes to Birmingham...

Starting its tour at Birmingham Repertory Theatre this month, The Messiah promises to present a nativity show like no other, as two out-of-their-depth actors travel the length and breadth of the country to put on a production of 'biblical proportions'. Taking the role of Maurice is Hugh Dennis, best known from hit TV comedy series Outnumbered. What's On caught up with him to find out more about The Messiah...

"This is the revival of a play from the 1980s," explains Hugh Dennis in talking about The Messiah. "It's really about a two-man theatre group trying to stage the nativity story. It's very funny and moving. We try to play all the characters between the two of us - so as you can imagine, we play lots of different characters each. The premise of it is that it's a bit of a farce because we're way out of our depth with it all. We're terribly well intentioned, but we have no particular idea how we're going to pull it off. It's the first time our characters have actually performed their nativity show, and funnily enough, it will be the same for us - Birmingham is the first stop on our tour."

The Messiah is mainly comic rather than satirical. It's about desire to stage something, longing for a nicer, kinder world - which is probably where some satire would come in, actually - and it's about middle-age angst. But it's all very funny."

The other half of the nativity-performing theatrical duo is played by John Marquez - best known for his role as gullible but loveable PC Joe Penhale in ITV drama series Doc Martin.

Hugh continues: "My character, Maurice, has employed John's, so he's my baby to nurture. I think he's possibly the only person Maurice could have convinced to do this - make of that what you will! I'm in charge, but also not

really because it's all very out of hand. Maurice also employs an opera singer, played by Lesley Garrett, to improve the performance, so she pops up every now and again too."

Having made a name for himself as one half of a comedy double act with Steve Punt in the 1980s, Hugh has since enjoyed a varied career on television, radio and in the theatre.

"I like to mix it up and do a bit of everything, really - I'm greedy like that. The thing I enjoy most is generally not the thing I'm doing at the time. When I'm doing telly, I want to be on stage and vice versa. I'm very lucky, though, because I do like all of it. It's good to have a varied career. If you were doing the same thing on telly year after year, it'd be quite tricky. It's just about exercising all the different brain muscles, really."

Even when a career choice doesn't go according to plan, Hugh always manages to see the positives: "Actually, I've been quite lucky in that respect - there's no job I regret taking. I think it's an attitude-to-life thing, where even if things are terrible, I tend to look back and think it's all been pretty interesting and entertaining."

"In terms of highlights, I've been even luckier. In my acting career, Outnumbered is the highlight because it was such incredible fun."

Then The Now Show is great because being on radio is an incredibly privileged position. On telly you have to go through so many different layers of commissioning, editing, compliance and all the different people who look at it. But on radio, you can say something in a recording on the Thursday night and know that more than likely it'll be broadcast the next day because there are fewer filters to get through. Also, you can just read your script rather than having to learn it - always handy! I've just done a second year of Fleabag for BBC Three, which is another highlight, but I do hope there are even more ahead of me."

Hugh doesn't spend too much time planning his career, preferring to see where life takes him: "Actors just want to carry on doing good stuff and pushing themselves to see where it goes, rather than thinking about a set destination. I just like life to take me on a ride and see what lies ahead. But for now, I'm happy to concentrate on The Messiah. The show was quite a success last time round, so I hope we can do that again."

.....

The Messiah shows at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Thursday 18 to Saturday 27 October.

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Dirty Dancing
MON 5 – SAT 10 NOV



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REVIEW: Fiesta Del Asado Traditional Argentinian cuisine in Birmingham city centre

Described as 'the most fun and fiery dining experience this side of Buenos Aires', Birmingham's first Argentine Asado restaurant, Fiesta Del Asado, is part of the Lasan Group - which also comprises Lasan, Raja Monkey and Jailbird. The venue is situated on the outskirts of the city centre, on Hagley Road in Edgbaston.

Asado is a broad Spanish term for a range of barbecue techniques. It also describes the social event of having or attending a barbecue. Food is placed on grills and lowered over the embers of special applewood chips, where it acquires its distinct smoked taste by absorbing the aromas and sealing in the flavours.

Fiesta Del Asado promises the 'best steak in Birmingham city centre', so naturally my carnivorous partner and I were beyond excited to be visiting the restaurant for the first time.

Boasting a casual and unpretentious atmosphere and decor with, as you'd imagine, a decidedly Argentinian influence, the restaurant itself is dimly lit and

features dark wood and exposed brick.

On arrival we were politely greeted and shown to our table. We ordered two bottles of Quilmes, a traditional Argentinian lager, alongside a portion of perfectly cooked and seasoned padron peppers and a small portion of Iberico ham. A firm favourite of ours, the premium Iberian ham is from free-range acorn-fed pigs and cured for a minimum of three years. Both dishes were perfect choices, successfully whetting our appetite for what was to come.

The menu is full of delights. These include: Estofado de ternera - cubed brisket braised for 12 hours in a malbec & salchichon sauce and served with crisp potato and blackened corn; Cerdo asado lentamente y batatas - slow-roasted belly of pork, sweet potato mash, wilted greens and gravy; and Lubina a la parrilla - sea bass cooked on the grill with crisp garlic and thyme potato, accompanied by fresh dressed peppers, onions and tomatoes. There's also a mouthwatering range of steaks.

Sticking as closely to the Argentinian theme as possible, we ordered as starters the chistorra artysan and the morcilla curada. The latter comprised traditionally smoked black sausage, flavoured with paprika and sweet caramelised onion. The chistorra artysan came in the form of a spiral sausage made from lean pork flavoured with smoked paprika and garlic. Both were stunning, cooked perfectly and boasted strong, meaty flavours. If the sausages were anything to go by, we were in for a real treat with our main course options.

As tempting as the 40oz bife de costilla was (their largest steak, ideal for two people - one side fillet, the other sirloin), we opted for a 12oz ribeye and the marucha sin hueso - a 20oz flat iron steak taken from the 'feather' muscle.

A nicely marbled, lean cut of beef, the flat iron was cooked to absolute perfection and showcased a beautiful taste and texture. The star of the show, however, was the ribeye - melt-in-the-mouth, flavoursome and

all round heavenly. I've eaten many a steak in Birmingham, and this was certainly up there with the very best of them. It's worth noting that the steaks don't come with accompaniments, so we ordered some fries, creamed spinach and both a malbec and béarnaise sauce. Not a necessity by any means, as the cuts of beef were flavoursome enough, but the rich, deep-flavoured malbec and the smooth, creamy béarnaise acted as perfect partners for the steaks.

Fiesta Del Asado use only premium, naturally reared grass-fed beef, which is dry aged for a minimum of 28 days. This is most definitely apparent in the flavour and quality.

Although suitably full, we ordered two desserts. Again sticking to the theme, we went for traditional churros with hot chocolate and an almond & amaretto tart with dulce de leche ice cream. The churros were cooked perfectly - sometimes they can be overdone - and the tart was yet another fantastic choice. Both were devoured in no time at all.

Overall, our first Fiesta Del Asado experience was little short of perfect. From the high quality, stunning food, to the swift and polite service, I would recommend the restaurant to anyone who really loves their meat. The menu is extensive and well-priced and the laid-back atmosphere makes for a thoroughly enjoyable evening indeed.

Lauren Foster

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

Fiesta Del Asado
229 Hagley Road
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ARE YOU KIDDING?

new gender-bending musical at the Hippodrome



Making the decision to have children should never be taken lightly by a couple. In a brand new show called No Kids, real-life partners Nir Paldi and George Mann blend physical storytelling with gender-bending musical cabaret and verbatim theatre to explore the issues around that decision-making process. What's On caught up with Nir and George to find out more...

Why do you think that bringing into discussion the topic of parenthood for gay couples is so important now?

Nir: Many people struggle to have kids even though they really want to, while many others do it just because it's something you naturally do as part of your life's journey, without thinking about it seriously. We know now, thanks to science, that choosing not to have a child is the best thing you can do as a human being to help the planet, so I think in that way it may help people decide. Or it may give those who're struggling to have children some positives to take away from not having kids. Now that members of the LGBTQ+ community can become parents if we want to, I think there's something very interesting in taking myself and George as a kind of case study. We're using this huge decision we have to make and magnifying it to form the basis for a piece of theatre, so that people from all sexual orientations can really investigate fully the choices they have available to them.

What prejudices do you think gay parents face?

Nir: It's interesting for us to explore the concept of some still believing that to be gay is to not be 'normal'. Getting married and having children are considered very straight things to do. George and I have been together for many years and monogamy is, sometimes, also perceived as a wholly heterosexual concept. I think there are many interesting things for the LGBTQ+ community to discuss, especially what it means to be gay nowadays. Is it as controversial to be gay and is it controversial for LGBTQ+ couples to have children? Or is it even more controversial for us to be thankful that the law now says we can have children but nevertheless to choose not to?

Do you think similar prejudices would apply to lesbian couples and other couples where one or both are members of the LGBTQ+ community?

George: I imagine the prejudices would be very similar. Obviously it's hard for us to comment on the experiences of other individuals from the LGBTQ+ community, but we have a few lesbian friends, and being any part of the LGBTQ+ community means having to stand up to many societal prejudices. I feel that for gay or lesbian couples, having a child is a bit like coming out over and over again. People often assume people to be straight before they're told or shown otherwise. You can't choose whether to reveal your sexuality or not when you have a child with your same-sex partner because having that child with you and acting as that family unit in public is almost like an outward display of your sexuality. I think there are a lot of fears and challenges for us that come with that. Even though society is in a much better place now than it was a few decades back, I think there are still people out there facing all of those prejudices.

What genres of theatrical performance can audiences expect to see in No Kids?

Nir: Each little scene has its own number with its own theatrical style, using a lot of different aspects of theatre, dance and pop culture to emphasise how insane the world is, and how the process of choosing to have kids comes with so many pros and cons. I always end up performing in drag because I feel that there's something so liberating about that. I don't often perform, I usually direct, but it was funny when I realised that I more often end up on stage dressed as a woman!

No Kids is part of SHOUT Festival. How did you get involved with SHOUT?

George: Birmingham Hippodrome have supported the making of No Kids and have been really wonderful. They had the idea to programme it as part of SHOUT. We were really excited about that because while we want this piece to reach out to many, many different audiences, it's also important to us that the LGBTQIA+ community engage with it. It's useful to them on so many levels. We're really excited to be bringing it to Birmingham and to SHOUT.

How important do you think festivals focusing on just queer arts & culture are to the LGBTQ+ community?

George: It's always super-important to engage with minority voices. The LGBTQ+ community in this country over the last few decades has really progressed because those voices are heard, but I still don't think that journey is over for us. We're living in a time now with right-wing and conservative movements where we're seeing rights and freedoms around the world sliding backwards for many minorities. It's now important more than ever to embrace the rich and diverse culture we have in this country, and that includes queer culture. There are other countries around the world where people don't have these opportunities to express themselves and therefore suffer as a result, so I think it's important to celebrate what we have.

Nir: It's great to have a festival that's dedicated to unashamedly and directly facing the issues within our community. And to do that through our art is even better.

.....
No Kids shows at Birmingham Hippodrome on Saturday 10 November as part of annual queer arts & culture festival SHOUT.



THE UNRETURNING

What's On caught up with playwright Anna Jordan about her latest work...

What inspired you to write *The Unreturning*?

The idea was born out of lots of exciting discussions with Neil and Scott and the team at Frantic. We were interested in exploring how it feels to come home after a transformative experience; particularly through the eyes of a young man - as this project was inspired by Frantic's Ignition scheme which celebrates its 10th birthday this year. (All of the cast of *The Unreturning* are made up of Ignition graduates). We then explored lots of avenues - lots of different situations in which you might spend time away from home as a young man - and eventually after quite a bit of development the idea of returning home after an experience of war started to show itself as the most dramatic. We've looked at how you change when you are away from home, or how your home can change - be that emotionally or physically. It's a way of exploring what home means.

How does working with Frantic Assembly compare with other companies? Are there extra things you need to consider when you know you are writing a piece that will incorporate movement?

Yes, I think it changes the experience completely in a wonderful way. I've been a huge admirer of Frantic's work and the chance to work with them has been a bit of

a dream for me. Although the work they do is very physically challenging and quite technical, it's hugely accessible for audiences which I think is the most exciting thing about it. It does shape how you write - something I've been aware of is that writing long, very naturalistic scenes is not always the best fit for Frantic's work (in my opinion) and lots of *The Unreturning* is quite poetic and rhythmic and full of imagery, which I imagine the company creating physically with great impact. It's about leaving space for the movement to tell the story too. *The Unreturning* moves very quickly, sometimes through short staccato scenes, seamlessly changing time and location in a heartbeat. The idea is that the scene can magically transform in a matter of moments; this idea of magic was important to us from the beginning. It's really allowed me to be daring and that's a gift for any writer.

How do you feel this is relevant to audiences today?

Sadly, it feels incredibly relevant now, especially with the Syrian Conflict and the refugee crisis filling our news feeds every day as well as rising tensions across the world and a growing sense of uncertainty about the future. I suppose for me as a writer, *The Unreturning* was a way of exploring and exorcising some of those uncertainties - as the play looks forward

to what the future of war could be as well as back at what we've known. There is also, of course, the centenary of the First World War.

I'm aware this all sounds heavy - but there is lightness and laughter in the play too - and hope. It's a lot about friendship and camaraderie and it was important for us as a team to find those moments of light. Those will be brought out not just through the writing but through Frantic's movement language.

What do you hope audiences will take away from the play?

Essentially, I want to tell dramatic and invigorating stories about the way young men are affected by war - whether they are fighting or fleeing it. Theatre's greatest gift is that it can generate empathy and that is something we need more than ever in today's world. With suicide being the leading cause of death for men under 45 in this country I jumped at the chance to write a piece that explored themes of masculinity and male mental health, and I hope it will be enlightening and entertaining for an audience. I hope they will feel they have gone on an epic journey with each of the characters.

.....
The Unreturning plays The Old Rep, Birmingham from Tuesday 30 October - Friday 2 November



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FRI 12TH OCTOBER
**SABRINA
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SUN 20TH OCTOBER
**CELEBRATE
OTIS REDDING**



FRI 2ND NOVEMBER
**CROWD
COMPANY**



SAT 10TH NOVEMBER
SURIE



THU 15TH NOVEMBER
**GONZALO
BERGERA**



FRI 16TH NOVEMBER
**ALISTAIR
GRIFFITH**



SAT 17TH NOVEMBER
**POLLY
GIBBONS**



FRI 7TH DECEMBER
TOM SEALS



SAT 8TH DECEMBER
**MILTON
JONES**



SAT 15TH DECEMBER
**LEDDRA
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Digbeth Oktoberfest returns for fourth year

Digbeth Oktoberfest returns to Birmingham this month.

Now in its fourth year, the festival is moving from its original home of The Old Crown to the Custard Factory, a larger venue situated just a stone's throw away.

Featuring beer from three Bavarian favourites - Erdinger, Kaltenberg and Warsteiner - and street food including burgers, BBQ bratwurst and apple strudel waffles, the event takes place from 5.30pm to midnight on 12 & 13 October.

Tickets cost £12 and can be purchased from Design My Night.



New Slug and Lettuce bar opens in Sutton Coldfield

Following a large-scale investment, leading high-street brand Slug and Lettuce has opened a new premises on Birmingham Road in Sutton Coldfield. The venue has added 23 new dishes to its food menu and created a 'new and improved' cocktail list.

Birmingham braced for big burger festival!

A one-day urban festival featuring 'the best burgers money can buy' is being held in Birmingham this month. Seasonal Markets' Burger Fest, taking place at The Bond Company in Digbeth on Saturday 6 October, will feature some of the city's burger heavyweights, including Original Patty Men, The Patty Freaks, The Flying Cows and Baked In Brick.

DJ sets, a live music stage and a range of children's entertainments also feature.



Brazilian restaurant chain set to open in Birmingham

Brazilian restaurant chain Fazenda is set to open on Birmingham's Colmore Row this winter.

Founded in Leeds, Fazenda already has sister restaurants in Manchester, Liverpool (pictured) and Edinburgh.

Guests control the service with a small double-sided card. The green side signals the chefs to bring out skewers of sizzling meats one by one, the red side indicates a resting point.

The lunchtime menu costs £18.50 on weekdays and £20.50 on weekends and bank holidays. The evening menu costs £32.50 from Monday to Sunday.

Wholey Moly! Vegan cookies arrive in Selfridges...

Premium vegan cookie Wholey Moly is now available exclusively in Selfridges Birmingham.

The cookie comes in three flavours - cacao & orange, cacao & hazelnut, and almond, hemp & chia - and contains no refined sugars or processed ingredients.

"We spent two years trying out different recipes," says founder Meenesh, "baking thousands of cookies in our small London flat until we found the combinations that really hit the spot. They're all vegan, high in fibre, very low in salt and have as little as 5g of sugar, which is 50% less than your average healthy snack bar."





EVERYBODY SAY YEAH!

Hit Broadway and West End musical tours the Midlands

Kinky Boots tells the inspiring story of a Northampton shoe manufacturer's decision to make ladies' footwear for men. The show's music was written by '80s pop legend Cyndi Lauper. What's On recently caught up with the Girls Just Wanna Have Fun star to find out more...

"There's no book on 'how to be famous for dummies,'" says Cyndi Lauper, who, at 65, retains her New York drawl. "You just do what you can. All of a sudden, you get to the top of the mountain and everybody around is like, 'You can't do that! Don't do this! You'll be ruined!'"

Above all, the 1980s' punkiest pop queen, who was catapulted to stardom with Girls Just Wanna Have Fun and Time After Time, was warned off musical theatre. "I was always being beckoned, 'Come this way', and I was like, 'I can't, because if I do my career is over'. I would lose my credibility in pop. It was really a big divide. After a while, you get to a point where you say, 'Well, I think I've been ruined enough; it doesn't matter now - I can do whatever the hell I want.'"

And what she did was Kinky Boots, the mega-hit musical that conquered Broadway and the West End, and which is now going on a UK tour. The songs were written by Lauper, and in New York they won her a Tony Award for best original composition. In 2016, the show won three Olivier Awards. It also bagged the London Evening Standard BBC Radio Two Audience Award for best musical and three WhatsOnStage Awards.

Cyndi had never written for theatre before, and became the first woman ever to win the Tony in the 'best score' category on her own. "What I was really taken with was that the community accepted me. To have these people, who are literally in my own backyard on Broadway, take me in was what kinda got me."

Aptly enough, acceptance is the take-home message of Kinky Boots. "Accepting yourself, you'll accept others. It's a very important show at this time in the world."

Kinky Boots is loosely inspired by the story of an old family firm of Northampton shoe manufacturers that manages to stay afloat after discovering a niche in the market: ladies' footwear worn by men who like to dress up.

The BBC told the story of the firm's rebirth in the series Trouble At The Top. In 2005, the story became a charming independent British movie starring Chiwetel Ejiofor as Lola, a fictional cross-dressing diva demanding sturdy stilettos. But the ultimate destiny for such a fabulous story was always going to be the stage. Kinky Boots The Musical, which explored the unlikely friendship between Lola and straight-laced factory owner Charlie,

opened in Chicago in 2012, moved to Broadway the following year, and made its way to the West End in 2015. It's also gone all around the world to countries including Canada, Australia, Germany and Japan.

But now it's come home: the tour recently opened at the Royal & Derngate in Northampton, the quiet town in Middle England where the story began.

Lauper would have loved to have been there at the opening as she believes "that particular part of it is special." But she counsels against thinking of Kinky Boots as a specifically English show. "It's a story about a really great friendship and two very, very opposite people. And there's a great redemption in the end. I'm a sucker for redemption."

Perhaps there's been some redemption for Lauper, too. She was a huge star in the 1980s, but - as happened to all her contemporaries bar Madonna - she gradually slipped from the top of the chart. She was thinking of creating a musical about her upbringing in Queens when she got a call from her friend, Harvey Fierstein. Fierstein is theatre royalty, the writer of hit play Torch Song Trilogy, about a gay drag performer, and the cross-dressing star of the musical Hairspray.

"He said, 'I'm doing a show called Kinky Boots. Would you like to write the music for me?' I thought, wow. He told me I had to watch the film. I loved it. I thought, oh I get it. He wants me to write 12 good pop songs with a good hook. I figured I could do that. Then I realised, oh, you have to move the story along."

She set about composing anywhere and everywhere. "I brought my phone along with me and I recorded melodies on it. I belonged to a gym that had a track on an upstairs roof, so I would walk and sing and write. When I woke up in the middle of the night, I picked up my iPhone."

The result of Cyndi's endeavours is a string of catchy numbers, from wig-out dance anthems to heart-stopping ballads, among them The Most Beautiful Thing In The World, The Sex Is In The Heel and Not My Father's Son. Ideas came from surprising sources. She thought of the shoe factory workers as Monty Python's knights of the round table. The History Of Wrong Guys, a comic scene-stealer about a woman who has bad luck with men, was inspired by a line from Kung Fu Panda. "I gave everybody a different style because everybody has a different jam when they're in the shower

singing."

She didn't really think about writing for specifically English characters. "When England started doing pop music, it sounded like American music. Their translation of Duane Eddy and the Everly Brothers and Chuck Berry was the Mersey Beat. It was different but still based on rhythm & blues. It wasn't like Harvey asked me to write some foreign stuff. You're not going to ask me to write an opera. I don't study opera."

What she did study as a child was her mother's record collection, which was full of soundtracks from musicals such as My Fair Lady - another study of the English written by Americans. "I did what kids do: I would play each character. I sang Stanley Holloway's part, Rex Harrison's part and Julie Andrews' part."

At the Tony Awards in 2013, Kinky Boots was up against Matilda The Musical, with words by Tim Minchin, which was considered the favourite to win. "I was constantly asking Harvey if Kinky Boots was a hit, and he was saying, 'I don't know yet, Cyn. We have to win best musical'. So when it won best musical, I said, 'Is it a hit now?'"

See it and judge for yourself. You'll never think about shoes in the same way again.

.....

Kinky Boots shows at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from 16 to 27 October; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent from 28 January to 9 February 2019, and Birmingham Hippodrome from 11 to 23 March 2019.



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Comedy

Comedy Night

Featuring Robert White, Tom Houghton and Rahul Kohli

Thursday 11 October, 7.30pm

Hot on the heels of his appearance on Britain's Got Talent - and prior to his UK Tour, Robert White will headline the first comedy night of the autumn season.

Joining Robert will be Tom Houghton and compere Rahul Kohli.



Rock and Pop Music

80s Night

featuring Kick up the 80s - the ultimate party band

Thursday 15 November, 7.30pm

Take a step back in time to the decade of leg warmers, fingerless gloves, Walkmans and the Rubik cube.

The ultimate 80s party band - 'Kick up the 80s' - will be performing all of the biggest 80s hits.



Classical

Magic of the Musicals

Thursday 6 December, 7.30pm

Experience the glitz and glamour of the musicals, performed by the Guild Musical Theatre Group at the University of Birmingham.

The evening will feature numbers from the Broadway and West End song book, including hits from Les Miserables, Hairspray, Legally Blonde and Chicago.

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THE ART OF REGGAE EXHIBITION

Date: Tues 2nd - Thurs 18th October
Venue: Medicine
Price: FREE



REGGAE 50 FILM NIGHT

Date: 4th/11th/18th/26th October
Venue: The Mockford Cinema
Price: FREE



TOOTS & THE MAYTALS LIVE

Date: Wednesday 10th October
Venue: O2 Institute
Price: £29.50



REVOLUTION! 40 YEARS OF STEEL PULSE'S HANDSWORTH REVOLUTION

Date: Saturday 13th October
Venue: Handsworth Wellbeing Centre
Price: FREE



CARROLL THOMPSON LIVE

Date: Wednesday 17th October
Venue: The Jam House
Price: £9



TYRONE MELODY PRESENTS: BIRMINGHAM'S NEW WAVE

Date: Monday 23rd October
Venue: The Hare & Hounds
Price: £3



FREDDIE MCGREGOR LIVE

Date: Wednesday 24th October
Venue: The Jam House
Price: £20 Advance



THE MIGHTY DIAMONDS LIVE

Date: Friday 26th October
Venue: O2 Institute
Price: £12.50 early bird £15 advance



REGGAE 100: THE NEXT 50 YEARS

Date: Tuesday 30th October
Venue: ACOM
Price: FREE



AT THE CONTROLS - PRODUCTION MASTERCLASS WITH WINTA JAMES

Date: Wednesday 31st October
Venue: Access Creative College
Price: FREE

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The Coral

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Fri 5 October

After a five-year hiatus, The Coral released their seventh studio album, *Distance Inbetween*, in 2016. Their return saw the band joined by guitarist Paul Molloy, formerly of The Zutons.

Best known for singles *Dreaming Of You*, *In The Morning*, *Pass It On* and *Don't Think You're The First*, the influential five-piece are on tour following the release of latest album *Move Through The Dawn*.



Anna Calvi

Birmingham Town Hall, Thurs 4 October

BRIT and Mercury Music Prize-nominated singer-songwriter Anna Calvi returns to Birmingham this month to perform her new live show.

Pushing the limits of her guitar and voice beyond anything she's recorded before, her third album, *Hunter*, boasts a new rawness and primal energy.

Having started her music career in 2005, Calvi's early support came from Brian Eno, who heard about her through a friend. Eno has since become her unofficial mentor, describing her during a BBC 6 Music interview as "the best thing since Patti Smith".



Jeff Lynne's ELO

Arena Birmingham, Wed 10, Fri 12 & Sat 13 October

With a unique sound blending rock, pop and classical, ELO have produced 26 UK top-40 singles and sold over 50 million records dur-

ing the course of their career.

Alone In The Universe - the band's first album in 15 years - was released in 2015 and received rave reviews from the critics.

Jeff Lynne continues to serve as the group's producer, songwriter, arranger, lead singer and guitarist.

Jack White

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Wed 17 October

Best known for being one half of The White Stripes, Jack White visits Birmingham this month with his powerful new touring outfit - Carla Azar on drums, Quincy McCrary and Neal Evans on keys, and Dominic Davis on bass guitar. The gig comes on the back of White's third solo album, the critically acclaimed *Boarding House Reach*.

David Byrne

Genting Arena, Birmingham, Fri 26 October

Having performed a quite incredible show in Birmingham back in June as part of a sold-out UK tour, David Byrne makes a welcome return to the city with his 12-piece band. Expect songs from critically acclaimed album *American Utopia*, interspersed with classics from his solo career and his days with Talking Heads.

Fatherson

The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham, Sat 6 October

Scottish alt-rock three-piece Fatherson have been on quite a journey since their inception in 2010, along the way releasing albums *I Am An Island* and *Open Book*, and playing support slots for Frightened Rabbit, Twin Atlantic and Enter Shikari. Third album *Sum Of All Your Parts* came out last month.



TOM CLARKE

Inspired by and named after local band The Enemy's debut album, made-in-Coventry musical We'll Live And Die In These Towns is showing at the city's Belgrade Theatre this month. What's On found out more from The Enemy's frontman - and the show's musical director - Tom Clarke...



In 2007, British indie rock band The Enemy released their debut album, *We'll Live And Die In These Towns*. The record went to number one in the British album charts in its first week of release and was given platinum certification the following year.

Eleven years on and the album that stole the hearts of the nation with its adrenaline-rush energy and working-class poetry has inspired a gritty and compelling new musical drama.

Based on an ancient Hindu tale - *The Bagavad Gita* - the new musical, named after the album, comes from the pen of acclaimed Coventry writer Geoff Thompson. It's being helmed by the Belgrade Theatre's Artistic Director, Hamish Glen.

"If you came into this with an ego, you'd leave with a deflated one because Geoff and Hamish are both so supremely talented," says Tom Clarke, The Enemy's frontman, who's acting as the show's musical director.

"To watch Hamish work is addictive, and Geoff's script is genius. Geoff makes the seamless transition from script into lyrical content and back out again. Hamish is just an absolute powerhouse of a director. He'll say four words that completely change the dynamic and enrich the acting. It's amazing to watch."

The musical tells the story of a young rock musician named Argy, who sits on the cusp of the big time, only to suffer a crisis of confi-

dence hours before the biggest performance of his life in a huge homecoming concert. His manager, unable to convince him to sing, sends him away to revisit his past and decide his future. So Argy walks the streets of his home town, visiting family and friends in a bid to make sense of his feelings and find a way forward.

"It's a really heartfelt story," says Tom. "I cried in auditions the first time I saw it being acted. I don't think I've cried in front of adults who are total strangers, ever. I was literally sat next to Geoff in auditions sobbing in some of the scenes. I was sat there thinking, 'This is absolutely brilliant, they couldn't act this out any differently or any better'.

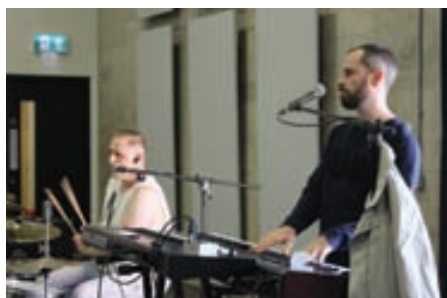
“When Geoff first approached me and said, ‘We’re doing this and I’d like you to be involved as musical director’, I read the script and it could’ve gone either way, I was so scared. I could’ve quite easily passed it off and said, ‘No, get someone who’s done this before’. I agreed to do it on the proviso that if I was rubbish at it, they would sack me in week one. I got through week one without being sacked, so I can’t be that bad at it!”

Although Argy isn’t based on Tom, the character is certainly one to whom The Enemy’s frontman can relate: “The fact that Argy suffers with anxiety and panic attacks is something I completely relate to. I’ve always suffered with huge anxiety, and I used to deal with it by drinking. Last year I finally spoke to a professional about how to exist in the world without being absolutely terrified of life. The journey that Argy goes on, I’ve been there and I really get it. It’s quite cathartic seeing it acted out in front of you.

“I can’t think of anywhere better to do this show than the Belgrade. Geoff is a Coventry writer, and our debut album was made in Coventry. The Belgrade is such an amazing place. I played a gig there years ago with the band that I was playing in before The Enemy. The theatre was a staple of Coventry for decades before I even existed. Hamish is an absolute Coventry legend, and I think with the three of us together, it wouldn’t have been right for the production to be shown anywhere else.”

Following The Enemy’s split in 2016, Tom opened Coventry’s newest music venue, The Empire.

“It’s nice to have a music venue back in the city, and it’s nice to be the driving force behind it. It’s established now and is running itself. A lot of what we do is student and club night-orientated, and that effectively funds keeping a music venue in the city. Phil and



Dave, the main directors, do a superb job, and I don’t need to be down there every night anymore. I was mopping up sick and blood at one point, though - it was an interesting experience!

Tom has also been working hard on his debut solo album.

“I got probably about a third of the way through recording the solo album, all acoustic with no drums, and then had a conversation with my bandmate. We’ve decided that we’re going to do it full band, so it’s back to the drawing board on that. We’re going to record the album over the next year. It’s really exciting!”

So could we ever see an Enemy reunion?

“We’re all on okay terms, we don’t hate each other’s guts. We’d done it for a decade, and like with any creative endeavour, music should be challenging - but it had stopped being challenging and it had stopped being fun. The industry was finding it increasingly hard to find a place for us - there wasn’t a place for us on radio. When you’re up against all that, you kind of think, ‘Well, you know what, maybe the universe is trying to tell me something here and maybe we should go and try different things’. I wouldn’t rule out a reunion one day, but I doubt you’ll see it in the immediate or near future.

“If ever the opportunity presents itself again to be part of another musical, I’ve already said to Hamish that if it’s something I would be right for, I’m in! It’s a yes before he’s even told me what it is!

.....

We’ll Live And Die In These Towns shows at Coventry’s Belgrade Theatre on selected dates until Saturday 20 October.



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Yamada Conducts Bernstein

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 10 October

The highly rated Kazuki Yamada (pictured) takes his bow as the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's new principal guest conductor, presenting a programme of work that features as its centrepiece Leonard Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances* from *West Side Story*. Also on the bill is Ravel's *La Valse* and *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*, while Latvian star and Birmingham favourite Baiba Skride gets to grips with Korngold's lush and lyrical *Violin Concerto*.

Birmingham Philharmonic: War And Peace

The Bramall, University of Birmingham, Sun 7 October

One of the region's best known and most admired non-professional orchestras, the Birmingham Phil was voted 'best orchestra in the Midlands' in the 2018 What's On Readers' Awards.

Their latest concert sees them presenting a programme marking the centenary of the Armistice. *Mars, The Bringer Of War* and *Venus, The Bringer Of Peace* - from Holst's *The Planets* - both feature, as does Vaughan Williams' *Pastoral Symphony* and Berg's *Wozzeck: Three Symphonic Fragments*.



Ex Cathedra: In 40 Parts

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 21 October



Jeffrey Skidmore once again picks up the baton to conduct Birmingham's highly rated early music ensemble, this time in a concert comprising five 40-part pieces. Included in the programme is Thomas Tallis' *Sing And Glorify* and his monumental yet rarely performed *Spem in alium*. There are also two works written specifically for Ex Cathedra - Gabriel Jackson's *Sanctum est verum lumen* (2005) and Alec Roth's *Earthrise* (2010). The latter was inspired by the famous photograph of the same name, taken 50 years ago by the Apollo 8 crew. Striggio's *Ecce beatam lucem* completes the programme.

Steven Osbourne Piano

The Barber Institute, Birmingham, Wed 31 October

One of the UK's foremost pianists, Steven here presents a programme that includes Prokofiev's *Piano Sonata No7* in B-flat. The piece formed part of the composer's *War Sonatas*, which many believe were an expression of Prokofiev's less-than-complimentary opinions about Joseph Stalin. The concert also includes one of Schubert's final piano sonatas, written in the months before his death in 1828, alongside pieces by Poulenc and Debussy.



Symphonic Fantasy

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 19 October

Birmingham's Symphony Hall here hosts the London Concert Orchestra and the Canzonetta choir as they present an evening of music from the world of film and epic fantasy.

The programme features music from movies including *Lord Of The Rings*, *Pirates Of The Caribbean*, *Jurassic Park*, *Harry Potter* and *The Chronicles Of Narnia*... Toby Purser (pictured) conducts.





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Karla Donohoe as Clara, Edouardo Souto da Silva as The Prince. Photo © Ballo Kebab

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Every October, people in the Midlands and across the UK come together to celebrate iconic individuals and landmark events in the history of the African diaspora. Here's a sample of what's happening in our own region during the course of the month...

BLACK HISTORY FILM FESTIVAL Series of themed films every Wednesday throughout October, Wednesbury Library

UNWRITTEN Inviting poets from the international Caribbean diaspora to tell the story of the Caribbean men who fought alongside the British Army in the First World War, Thurs 4 Oct, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Two Gents Productions present a new take on Oscar Wilde's tale of manners, Thurs 4 Oct, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

OLIVA TWEEST Afrobeats musical which follows the ambitions of self-proclaimed gyalis (ladies' man) and club promoter Tobi, as he navigates comedic and sometimes explosive clashes with women, family traditions and his reawakened conscience, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

JEAN TOUSSAINT QUINTET Featuring music from Jean's 11th album, Fri 5 Oct, Birmingham Conservatoire

BEING BUILT TOGETHER Photographic exhibition by Vanley Burke celebrating the diversity of Birmingham and the UK, Sat 6 - Sat 20 Oct, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

AN OFFICER AND A LADY The story of Elizabeth Barker Johnson, an African American woman who led an army unit of women in Birmingham. There will also be a range of stalls and talks which focus on Birmingham and its connection with Black Heritage, Sun 7 Oct, Soho House, Birmingham

THE OFFICIAL BLACK HISTORY

ACTIVITY BOOKS LAUNCH 'A family day full of fun and edutainment', Sun 7 Oct, The H Suite, Icknield Rd, Birmingham

HARDY CAPRIO ANNOUNCES THE HARDY SEASON TOUR Someone whose career is definitely on the up, Hardy was tipped as an artist to watch out for in 2018 by BBC 1Xtra, the Independent, Music Week, the Sun, Nation of Billions and Clash magazine, Mon 8 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CARIBBEAN CULTURAL DAY Featuring a Windrush display, a Black Heroes display, Caribbean foods, arts & crafts, health & wellbeing products and much more... Sat 13 Oct, All Saints Church, Kings Heath, Birmingham

MOKOOMBA Zimbabwe's most celebrated young band, Tues 16 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

THE ETTA JAMES STORY Vika Bull tells the story of soul legend Etta James' turbulent life while singing some of her best-loved songs, Thurs 18 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall



KRS-ONE - UK TOUR + DJ PREDATOR PRIME The rap icon performs in Birmingham as part of a four-date UK tour, Thurs 18 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION - OUR BLACK ROLE MODELS IN THE COMMUNITY Free conference celebrating current and historical black role models, Thurs 18 Oct, Wolverhampton University

SOUL II SOUL Fri 19 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall
DARIUS RUCKER Darius found fame with the Grammy Award-winning Hootie & the Blowfish. Since reintroducing himself to the world as a country artist, he's released four albums, Sun 21 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham



SONS OF KEMET Hypnotic double drum rhythms frame the colourful interplay of saxophone and tuba as original compositions are brought to life by four fiercely creative musicians, Fri 26 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BLACK STEAM Inspirational talks and performance celebrating black brilliance and living history makers in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, Sun 28 Oct, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

COBO: BACK TO THE OLD SKOOL Featuring Rudi Lickwood, Curtis Walker, Slim & John Simmit, Sun 28 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMEDY SPECIAL Featuring Simon Clayton, Aurie Styla, Lateef Lovejoy & Slim, Mon 29 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

BLACK BRITISH ARTS & CULTURE FAMILY WORKSHOP A presentation and creative writing workshop about the Victorian black British actor Ira Aldridge. The workshop is suitable for children aged 10 to 17, Tues 30 Oct, Library of Birmingham

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF REGGAE

The impact, legacy and heritage of 50 years of reggae music is celebrated in BASS2018 festival this month.

Taking place at various Birmingham venues, the event features concerts, films, exhibitions and discussions. Highlights include appearances by Toots And The Maytals and Loversrock pioneer Carrol Thompson (pictured below). The festival also commemorates the 40th anniversary of the release of iconic Steel Pulse album Handsworth Revolution - see more on page 20.



WHAT. WHEN. WHERE.

MUSIC

TOOTS AND THE MAYTALS FEAT. CAPTAIN ACCIDENT Wed 10 Oct, O2 Institute

CARROLL THOMPSON Wed 17 Oct, The Jam House

TYRONE MELODY PRESENTS: BIRMINGHAM'S NEW WAVE Mon 22 Oct, Hare & Hounds

FREDDIE MCGREGOR Wed 24 Oct, The Jam House

THE MIGHTY DIAMONDS Fri 26 Oct, O2 Institute2

FILM

ROCKSTEADY: THE ROOTS OF REGGAE FT SPECIAL PERFORMANCE FROM CHRISTOPHER ELLIS Thurs 4 Oct, The Mockingbird Cinema

THE HARDER THEY COME Thurs 11 Oct, The Mockingbird Cinema

HOMELANDS: JAMAICA AND BRUK OUT! A DANCEHALL QUEEN DOCUMENTARY Fri 26 Oct, The Mockingbird Cinema

TALKS/WORKSHOPS

REVOLUTION! Forty years of Steel Pulse's Handsworth Revolution, Fri 13 Oct, Handsworth Wellbeing Centre (2pm unveiling); Handsworth Library (4pm Q&A)

REGGAE 100 Discussing the next 50 years... Tues 30 Oct, A.C.M.C., 339 Dudley Road

WINTA JAMES: A REGGAE PRODUCER MASTERCLASS Wed 31 Oct, Access Creative College, 68 Heath Mill Lane

ART

THE ART OF REGGAE Exhibition showcasing 101 reggae-inspired posters, designed by artists and illustrators from around the world, 2 - 18 Oct, Medicine, 69 New Street



FINGER ON THE PULSE

**Steel Pulse's ex-percussionist and backing vocalist
Mykaell Riley talks about the band's 40-year-old album,
Handsworth Revolution**



This year marks the 40th anniversary of Birmingham band Steel Pulse's debut album, Handsworth Revolution. To celebrate the birthday - and as part of BASS Festival 2018 - a public mural is this month being unveiled at Handsworth Wellbeing Centre. Former band member Mykaell Riley talks to What's On about the critically acclaimed 1978 release, an album which had a major impact on the UK's reggae music scene...

One of the most enduring images of the UK music scene in 1978 was the sight of a reggae band with frontmen clad in white hoods and robes, performing a song about racism entitled Ku Klux Klan.

The group was Steel Pulse. They came from Birmingham and later that year, the band's debut album, Handsworth Revolution, would leave an indelible mark on the face of British reggae music.

The idea to wear Ku Klux Klan regalia on stage came from the band's percussionist and backing vocalist, Mykaell Riley, who was well aware of the impact that the costumes would have at the time.

"We were trying to communicate, in the most succinct way possible, If you don't understand the hoods, then the lyrics are a translation of that," says Riley. "You bring the two together and that's the history there that we're trying to communicate, alive and kicking in Handsworth in Birmingham.

"In one simple act, one simple bit of white material, we were explaining decades of racial tension and racial abuse to our community. The hoods were a shorthand way of bringing all of that into one space.

"You couldn't just rock up to Woolworths and say, 'I've lost my hoods, mate, can you prepare three hoods, I've got a gig tonight'.

"Once you had the hoods on, you couldn't see to play your guitar, so it turned into being myself and Alphonso [Martin], the other vocalist, wearing them. But even then we silenced many an audience just by putting on the hoods."

The back cover of Handsworth Revolution bears the words 'Album dedicated to the people of Handsworth', so it's fitting that the 40th anniversary of the album's iconic artwork will be commemorated in Handsworth by a celebratory public mural, unveiled as part of Birmingham's month-long BASS 2018 Festival.

While the original visual idea for the sleeve emanated from the band, the album lists Andrew Aloof as illustrator, with credit for the design going to Bloomfield/Travis. Riley recalls the creative process that led to the final artwork.

"My vague memory is that it started with, 'What are you trying to say?' So we said, it's about Handsworth. As we were discussing the whole concept, we told them it was about what was happening in Handsworth, and that we had a song called Handsworth Revolution.

"They said, 'How do you depict that revolution? What is it and what does it look like visually?' We discussed this with the marketing department and the album design department, David [Hinds] did some sketches and then it was translated by the art director.

"We were keen to project this dystopia that is Handsworth. It's the idea that, on one hand, this is the reality - it's blocks of flats, it's broken-down buildings, it's burnt-out cars - but you can escape. So there's a guy that's running away somewhere, and also there's a ray of light coming down on the individuals - these faceless but black individuals standing next to the car."

Riley stresses that the band wanted to project a positive message on the cover: "The image is there to offer hope, to say that you can escape this. With the palm trees, based on the conversations we had with the guy who put it together, there was this idea that, back then, you aspired to get home. Home wasn't the UK, home was Jamaica - and so we've got this dichotomy, which is, are we more Jamaican at that point, or are we more British?

"And the truth is, we're both. It's looking at the challenge of identity back then, which was deciding which of these dominated. And if one did, it was the reality on the ground. We have to survive Handsworth, and to do that as a community we need to somehow force a revolution, which means standing up and being counted. And if that means you leave, you leave."

These days, Riley is a principal investigator of the Black Music Research Unit at the University of Westminster, but his involvement with Steel Pulse up to and including that seminal first album remains an important part of his career.

Apart from the release of Handsworth Revolution, 1978 also saw Steel Pulse open for Bob Marley And The Wailers on their European tour and become a powerful voice in the Rock Against Racism (RAR) movement. A recent



article in the Guardian newspaper, calling for the reactivation of RAR, included Riley as one of its signatories.

"That was instigated by the originator of Rock Against Racism, Red Saunders. When Red called me, he said, 'Look, what do you think about all this racism and fascism that's taking off everywhere?'

"If you travel around Europe, it's much, much more in your face than it is here. Looking back at where we were back then, and then jumping back to where we are now, what we're looking for is some level of progress, but we're moving back to that position so fast that it's scary. So of course I have to stand up and support a viable movement that's challenging fascism."

And what about the UK's impending departure from the EU?

"Brexit became a question of identity, and within that, what's British, what's English, what does it mean? I think for many in the community, they were seeking to create an identity that didn't really exist - Britain has always been multicultural."

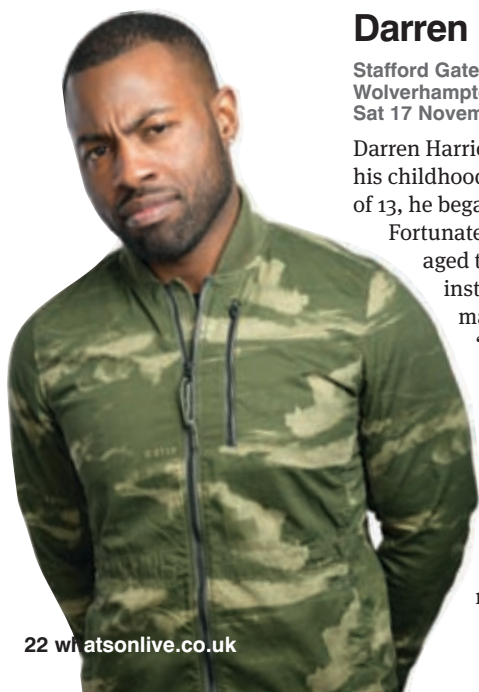
BASS Festival 2018 (1-31 October) features the unveiling of a public mural at Handsworth Wellbeing Centre on Saturday 13 October to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the release of Handsworth Revolution. For more information, visit wearepunch.co.uk/bass-festival



Gina Yashere

The REP, Birmingham, Sun 21 October

Gina's latest show, Funkindemup, finds the London-born comedian on fine form as she contemplates the state of British race relations and Anglo Nigerian manners. Gina's best known from television shows like Mock The Week, but a well-received performance on US TV's Last Comic Standing saw her career heading in another direction, with plenty of work coming her way from across the pond. The 44-year-old comedian is suitably appreciative of her new opportunities in the US, where she last year became a fixture on late-night news satire programme The Daily Show. "There's a glass ceiling for black comedians in America too," she observes, "but by the time you hit it, you're a multi-millionaire."



Darren Harriott

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 27 October; Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Thurs 8 November; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 17 November

Darren Harriott's new show, Visceral, takes a look back at his childhood in Oldbury - and to a time when, at the age of 13, he began carrying a knife.

Fortunately for the 29-year-old comedian, he managed to turn away from a potential life of crime, instead finding his salvation in the business of making people laugh.

"I need to get this stuff out," he explained in a recent interview with the Evening Standard. "All I've really got as a stand-up is my honesty. I'm okay if audiences hate me. What I don't want is pity. These stories might sound like tragedy, but I don't compute it as tragedy. I'm enjoying this roller-coaster. I just worry that it could all go. This is the most important time in my career, but my main goal is to have fun."

Jimeoin

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 12 October

Fancy a straightforward comedy night with a straight-talking - well, actually, a bit of a rambling - comedian? If so, then the sublime Jimeoin is the man for you. A gimmick-free one-man comedy machine, Jimeoin's proved he's got what it takes on all manner of top TV shows, including Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow and Jason Manford's Comedy Rocks. Check him out!



Ali Cook

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 21 October

Escapologist, sleight-of-hand expert, street magician, stage illusionist, thought controller, writer, actor and 'historian of deception' - comedy magician Ali Cook is certainly no one-trick pony. Widely acclaimed for his highly innovative live shows, Ali has received The Magic Circle's highest accolade, joining, among others, HRH The Prince of Wales and David Copperfield as a Member of the Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star. "For me," says Ali, "the real joy is being able to perform so many types and styles of magic. I live by what Paul Daniels said: "A magician can do it all. He is, after all, magic."



Felicity Ward

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Fri 19 October;
Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 3 November

Australian comedian Felicity Ward visits the Midlands with her second nationwide tour, Busting A Nut. Felicity went down a storm with the show at this summer's Edinburgh Festival, where she's a well-established contributor. "Busting A Nut was my eighth stand-up show there, so I've had some practice," says Felicity. "What's different this time is that the show doesn't have a theme - it's just an hour of jokes."



Vikki Stone

MAC, Birmingham, Sat 13 October

Described by The Scotsman as the bastard love child of Victoria Wood and Tim Minchin, Vikki Stone is not only a comedian but a composer and musician. The various hats she wears have ensured she's had a far-from-standard career, with highlights including giving a TED Talk at CERN, playing the typewriter with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, and being part of the presenting team at the BBC Proms.



Doreen's Big Top

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 10 - Thurs 11 October; Oakengates Theatre@The Place, Telford, Tues 16 - Wed 17 October; Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Tues 23 - Wed 24 October; Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 25 - Fri 26 October; The Swan Theatre, Worcester, Mon 29 - Tues 30 October; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Fri 2 November; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Wed 14 November

In February 2012, Doreen's Story - a five-minute mockumentary written by playwright David Tristram - went viral on the internet. The video, which satirised benefit scroungers, starred actress Gill Jordan as the Black Country-born Doreen. Since then, the character has blossomed into one of the 21st century's finest comic creations, regularly

appearing in pantomime and heading out on the road with shows like this one. The new production sees Doreen exploring the history of the circus, complete with 'breathtaking feats of laziness' and a not-to-be-missed attempt at fire-eating with a Black Country vindaloo.

Juliette Burton

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa,
Fri 12 October; Artrix, Bromsgrove,
Sat 10 November

Is being nice outdated, or can small acts of kindness make a big impact?... This is the question being asked by award-winning comedian Juliette Burton as she hits the road on her first ever UK tour.

Entitled Butterfly Effect, Juliette's new show sees her finding out whether kindness holds the power to change lives, cure mental health conditions, make friends, restore hope, dispel despair, end poverty and even defeat death... It's a weighty subject for a stand-up gig, so you've got to admire her ambition!



Sara Pascoe

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Sun 7 October; Birmingham Town Hall,
Wed 28 November

At a time when the rifts between the haves and have nots, the pro-EU and anti-EU, the tolerant and the prejudiced are becoming ever wider, Sara Pascoe is clear about one thing - there are no off-limit subjects when it comes to comedy.

"People forgive the subject matter when they find something funny," she says, "but that doesn't mean the comedian has no responsibility to question their own material. If they're going to tell a joke about rape, they should first consider how you might feel if you've been a victim of it. If, after that, they still feel it's a joke worth telling, then they'll be doing so with complete faith in their own material, which is great."





War Horse

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 10 October - Sat 3 November; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 27 Mar - Sat 6 April

Described as 'the theatrical event of the decade' when it opened in London's West End, War Horse has continued to garner great praise in the ensuing years. Based on Michael Morpurgo's hugely popular 1982

novel, it tells the story of a young man named Albert whose horse, Joey, is sold to the cavalry and shipped to France at the beginning of the First World War. Joey's subsequent adventures lead to him finding himself alone in a no man's land - but Albert is in no mood to give up on his beloved companion, and sets out to find him and take him home to Devon.

The Lovely Bones

The REP, Birmingham, Tues 30 October - Sat 10 November

This poignant human drama, based on Alice Sebold's best-selling novel, concerns a murdered girl who watches from heaven as her family attempts to cope with their devastating loss...

Author Alice Sebold will discuss her wide-ranging career in a special In Conversation event on 1 November, to tie in with the stage adaptation's stay at The REP.



David Edgar: Trying It On

MAC, Birmingham, Fri 12 October; The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 October

David Edgar is used to writing plays; he's not so used to performing in them. But that's all changing with Trying It On.

The Birmingham-born playwright has marked his 70th birthday by taking to the stage in this one-man show, during which he contemplates the ways in which both the world and his own views have changed over the last 50 years.



Dishoom!

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 16 - Sat 20 October

A theatre company that specialises in celebrating and reflecting contemporary British Asian culture and society is bringing this

brand new stage show to Coventry. Rifco Theatre's Dishoom! is a comedy-drama featuring music from the smash-hit Bollywood movie, Sholay. The production is helmed by the company's Artistic Director, Pravesh Kumar. Pravesh started Rifco in 1999, to make 'a different kind of theatre for a community that couldn't see themselves represented on English stages'.





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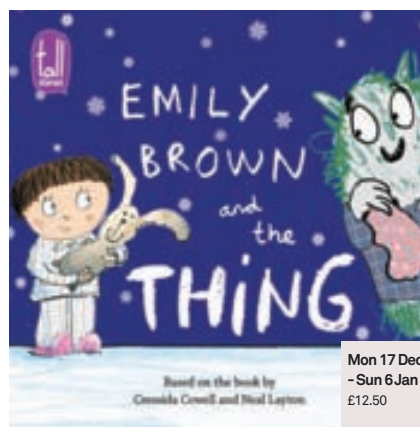
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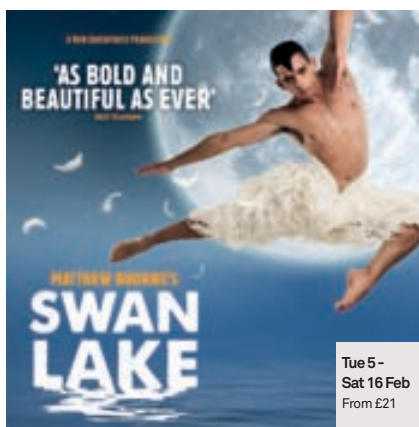
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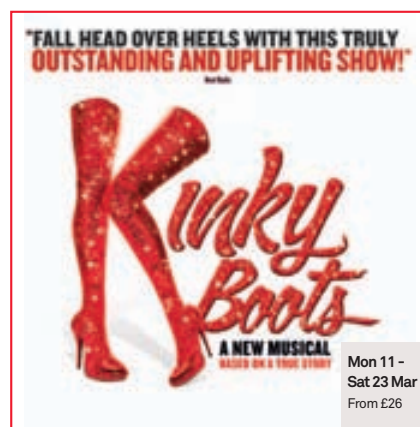
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Sat 8 Jun
From £25



The Ginger Snapped

She's back! Drag Race favourite Jinkx Monsoon next month returns to the Midlands alongside her musician pal - and therapist - Major Scales. The duo will take to the stage to explore the dark side of drag fame. Midlands Zone recently caught up with Jinkx to find out what audiences can expect. Will the ginger finally snap? You'll have to bag yourself a ticket to find out the answer to that one...

What would you say is your star quality?

To find humour in everything. I've always wanted to be a performer, so when I'm on stage performing in front of people, I feel like I come to life in a way that I don't in any other realm of my life. I'm just very lucky because I do what I want.

What do you think sets you apart from other performers?

The extensive training and research I've done for the style of performance that I give. Being a cabaret performer, being a live stage performer, is very different from a lot of other mediums.

Our society is drifting away from live performance and going into internet content,

movies and stuff, so you've gotta find something really special and hideous to put on stage to grab people's attention away from their screens.

Can you tell us a bit about your new album with Major Scales?

Well, the album came out in January and it's called The Ginger Snapped. If anyone's

followed my music, my first album was mostly show tunes, and was really inspired by Bette Middler's bad house days. After we'd accomplished that album, we wanted to explore a different style of music. We both really like those '90s grunge, garage bands, and we worked really hard on the new album. It's mostly all original music by Major Scales and myself. It's got a couple of covers, but it's kinda got a vintage No Doubt sound to it. We took a lot of inspiration from female rock stars of the '90s like Courtney Love, the bands Garbage, Portishead and, of course, early No Doubt. I'm really happy with it because it's edgier than my first album and it's got more pop and rock influences in it, but it's our writing and sound.

Do you have a favourite track from the album?

It has to be Cartoons And Vodka, which is a song about just that. My favourite line is, 'Life is twice as hard when you're living life half on a stage'. It's all about what she wants in a man; it's not someone who's going to dote on her, or who's going to require a lot from her. All she wants to do is come home and relax with cartoons and vodka.

Obviously you're bringing the album to the stage and you say it's based on personal experiences. Do you have any concerns about unveiling your vulnerability on stage?

No. The last two shows I've written were full-exposure, full in-depth looks into my personal life. I find it really rewarding because I'm able to turn some of my more embarrassing moments and some of my more harrowing experiences into entertainment. With The Ginger Snapped tour, the premise is that Jinkx is seeing her psychiatrist live on stage, and the music punctuates the psychotherapy session she's having. It deals heavily with my sex life, and the darker side of being a drag superstar. The goal of the show is to de-stigmatise the idea of talking about your own mental illness and mental affliction - but even with that subject matter, it's very lighthearted and tongue-in-cheek.

Can you provide an example of the dark side of being a superstar drag queen?

We tackle this a lot in our music and in a lot of the shows we do. One of the big

things is living in a Drag Race time of life post-Drag Race phenomenon where the queens are making it big and becoming international superstars. I spend 80% of my year on the road touring, and it's hard finding that balance of having my personal life and staying up to date with my friends and family.

Are there any benefits to doing your own shows as opposed to being in a bigger ensemble - such as Drag World, for instance?

I love doing big ensemble shows and always make time in my schedule to do a couple of tours with my drag sisters, because talking about the dark side of drag is always easier when you're touring with other drag queens who know exactly what you're going through. I'm really passionate about creating my own work, especially with Major Scales, because we pour so much of ourselves into our music and the scripts we write. It's a really rewarding experience to create something from the ground up. Audiences are receptive to it and really enjoy it. I also get to go a little deeper. All my shows are tongue-in-cheek and not too heavy, but I always find a way to incorporate an under-lying message that I care about into the show.

You recently celebrated your 31st birthday. Do you really think your best years are behind you?

The way we tackle it in the show is Jinkx currently wondering if her best years are behind her, and it incites this on-stage mental breakdown which puts the whole show into motion - but I don't actually feel that way. At one point in my life, I thought Drag Race was my big break, but now my idea is very different. Breaks come in waves. You get multiple big breaks in life, and it's all about moving from one big break to the next as positively, efficiently and confidently as possible.

How do audience reactions in the UK differ to those in the States?

Because I watched so much British comedy, the British sense of humour has been infused in me from a very young age. I learned so much about comedy from Absolutely Fabulous, Harry Enfield and Keeping Up Appearances. I think that had a strong influence on the way I write and perform, and my UK audiences get my

jokes immediately.

I don't have to over-explain anything, which leaves me free to do more non-sequitur stuff and off-the-wall dry humour.

Looking back, is there anything you wished you'd done differently?

No, I've never dwelt on how I could've done things differently. If you had the ability to change the past, you don't know in what ways you might affect the present. I always say in terms of Drag Race, even though I won and had a great experience with it, I wish I'd known things back then that I know now. But I wouldn't tamper with anything; tampering may change the outcome and I'm really happy with the outcome.

Have you set yourself any goals for the next 10 years?

I'm currently auditioning for roles in Broadway shows. As a live performer, Broadway seems like the prize at the end of the rainbow, so I'm constantly striving for that and looking for opportunities. I'd also like to do more TV. Television is a brilliant way to reach a lot of people all at once. I'm also passionate about being an advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community and creating positive changes in the world.

You recently moved from Seattle to San Francisco. How's life there treating you?

I completely love it. I lived in downtown Seattle in a quaint two-bedroom apartment for about 11 years and absolutely loved the culture and community there, but I was ready to move out of the city and enjoy my downtime more.

Like I said, I spend so much of my time on the road that when I'm home, the last thing I want to do is go out and party. Not only did I move into the suburbs of San Francisco, where we have a beautiful garden and a house that feels like a mansion compared to my tiny apartment, but I also moved in with my best friend and chosen family members.

So when I'm home, I'm with the people who I like spending my time with, the people who've made such a positive impact on my life.

Jinkx Monsoon And Major Scales: The Ginger Snapped shows at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre on Wednesday 7 November and then at Birmingham Hippodrome on Saturday 17 November.



Troilus And Cressida

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 12 October - Sat 17 November

There's no shortage of drama and intrigue in Shakespeare's rarely performed play, which finds the Greeks and Trojans still at war a full seven years after the Trojan prince Paris's abduction of Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world, from her Greek husband Menelaus. With the Greeks quarrelling amongst themselves, and their champion Achilles in no mood to fight, it falls to rival warrior Ajax to meet the Trojan champion Hector in one-to-one combat.

Meanwhile, Troilus is much distracted by his love for Cressida, the daughter of Calchas, a Trojan who's defected to the Greek camp whilst leaving his daughter in Troy...

Virtuoso percussionist Evelyn Glennie has here collaborated with RSC Artistic Director Gregory Doran to create 'a satirical futuristic vision of a world resounding in battle'.

This new RSC version of Troilus And Cressida will be broadcast live from Stratford-upon-Avon to cinemas on 14 November.

My Mother Said I Never Should

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Tues 2 - Sat 6 October

Chosen by the Royal National Theatre as one of the 100 most significant plays of the 20th century, My Mother Said I Never Should moves back and forth through the lives of four women, in the process setting the enormous social changes of the last century against the desire to love and be loved. Written in 1985 and first staged at Manchester's Contact Theatre, Charlotte Keatley's award-winning play is the most commonly performed work by a female playwright in the world.

Dracula

The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 11 - Sat 20 October

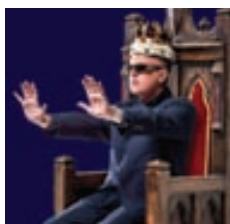
Dracula is best known from its many and varied cinematic incarnations - but as stage productions like The Woman In Black have ably illustrated, a well-presented work of theatre can be every bit as spiningtling as anything the big screen has to offer.

Better make sure you pack some bulbs of garlic and a wooden stake, just to be on the safe side...

Suggs: What A King Cnut

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 15 October; Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Tues 16 October

After selling out his previous touring production, Madness frontman Suggs here takes a lighthearted look at a career that's featured plenty of memorable moments - from experiencing vertigo on the roof of Buckingham Palace, to nearly blowing the closing ceremony of the London Olympics. Oh, and watching his underpants fall to earth on David Bowie's driveway...



Duet For One

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 October

Belinda Lang and Jonathan Coy star in Tom Kempinski's critically acclaimed two-hander, first performed in 1980. While the play focuses on the fictitious character of Stephanie Abrahams, it's actually based on the story of Jacqueline du Pré, the legendary cellist whose life and career were tragically cut short by multiple sclerosis.

"It's very sad and even brutal at times," says Belinda Lang of Duet For One, "but the flip side of it is very funny. Stephanie has a sarcastic wit which I personally find funny - and fortunately the audience find it funny too!"

The War Of The Worlds

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 24 - Sat 27 October

HG Wells' classic tale of Martian invasion is here reimagined for a post-truth world. Blending 'powerful' storytelling and an interactive soundscape, the new adaptation is being presented by the critically acclaimed Tin Robot Theatre. The company has previously visited the Old Joint Stock with sell-out productions of The Tell Tale Heart and A Clockwork Orange.



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STRIPPED BARE

The Full Monty returns to the Midlands

Critically acclaimed movie The Full Monty sees six unemployed Sheffield men, four of whom are former steel workers, form a male striptease act to earn some much-needed cash. Gaz and his best mate Dave begin to recruit men to their act, claiming they're better than anything anyone has seen before because they're willing to go 'the full monty'.

The hit 1997 comedy touches on many social issues still relevant today, including sexuality, body image and mental health. The latest tour of the film's stage version features a cast that includes James Redmond and Joe Gill, who both play gay characters. What's On caught up with the duo to find out more about what audiences can expect...

Who do each of you play in The Full Monty and why do they get involved in Gaz's striptease plan?

James: All the characters are quite funny, and I've got a couple of funny lines. But it's how I look that's more the funny thing because of my ridiculous penis. That's the reason my character, Guy, gets chosen to be a part of the group. But there's a reason to love and relate to all six of the main characters. Each of them has their own challenge to meet, and they're challenges that I think are still relevant today. Joe and I have this really lovely scene with our characters Guy and Lomper; Lomper comes out, and I, as the slightly older guy who's already gone through that, take him under my wing. It's nice because the audience always knows exactly how to respond. We can go from lots of laughs one minute to complete silence for the really moving moments.

Joe: I play Lomper, who's the first guy Gaz and Dave recruit to be part of their strip group. It's quite a dark way in which they meet. I won't give too much away, but my character attempts to take his own life, which they save him from doing in the

nick of time. I join in from there because I think I'm a bit lonely, really. Plus, Lomper's other personal struggle within himself is with his sexuality... I worked on Emmerdale for such a long time, and they were really good at finding relevant stories that aimed to help people who were watching. I don't think this play is any different to that. I think that if a show like The Full Monty can encourage even one person to talk about their body issues, their sexuality or their mental health, then it's a privilege to be part of something as powerful as that.

You've both appeared on TV. What are the main ways in which performing on stage is different to acting on telly?

James: This is my first theatre performance, and I'm kinda bricking it a bit because you know that, for each shot on telly, you get five or six takes to get it right and you can really perfect it. Every member of the team - lighting, sound director etc - helps you figure out how to nail it. But here, you get just the one take, and you do it all in one go over the performance - no breaks and no second chances. So yes, it's very daunting, but I

love it! It's a great feeling in the theatre because you really get to feel the arc of the performance properly, and you get swept along by it. The live, instant feedback is amazing too. When I've done comedy stuff for the telly, nobody laughs, whereas in theatre you get that laugh straight away.

Joe: The instant gratification with theatre is amazing, so you get laughs and tears. I think the comparison between telly and theatre is kind of like the difference for a music artist between being in a recording studio and performing live. I think most of them would say they prefer performing live. For me as an actor, it's no different. The buzz you get in the theatre is the best feeling I've had as an actor. I've done a lot of filmed stuff and not a lot of theatre, and they're very different techniques, so theatre is exciting new territory at the moment. It's definitely something I'd like to pursue more in the future. I think all actors should do it. Young actors, for some reason, don't seem to appreciate theatre or even consider it as a preferred option, and that's a real shame. I'm loving it - what a great play to be a part of! It's really funny and will have you in stitches, but it's also so heartwarming.

“

If you're on the front few rows,
you might get more than you
bargained for...

”

Did either of you have experience with stripping before joining the cast?

James: I've actually done nudity on telly before, so I'm not worried about that. I'm more focused on it being my first time on stage. Of course, for the actual strip, nerves really kick in and you start to second-guess yourself, however many times you rehearse. I have no stripping background, although I did do a strip in Casualty once, but there was very little choreography and I was just kind of copying the guys next to me. But that was a New Year's episode, so a lot of people tuned in and saw it.

Joe: Have I? None that I can tell you about! Professionally, no, but who knows whether I've done it after a night out to someone very, very unlucky?

The burning question is, do you actually go 'the full monty' on stage?

James: We do - every single time. It's not like the film, where you get the view from just the back in the final shot - it's totally full frontal. The work with the lighting makes it slightly less in your face, but we're right at the front of the stage and it all comes off. If you're on the front few rows, you might get more than you

bargained for, but for everyone else it's slightly more obscured. But I've got a very large penis, so I'm hard to miss! It's all real, you know!

Joe: Oh yes, you'll see James' big penis - you won't miss that. But trust me, it's his character's penis, not his. I can confirm it's definitely not his.

Do you think Gaz and the rest of the characters took the right path to get cash quick?

James: I've got my stand-up as my talent to get rich quick like these guys from Sheffield try to do. But yes, in their situation I think I'd do something similar. Maggie Thatcher encouraged them to buy their own council houses and then closed most of the steel industry, so they had no work. They were trapped because the house they'd just bought had dropped significantly in value because no one wanted to live in an area with no work, so they couldn't move away to use their skills elsewhere. Many had families they couldn't leave. They were desperately broke, so I think what these characters do is incredible. For me, though, I'd have my comedy act - although gay porn is always an option!

Joe: You meet all the characters in their sense of desperation, and that's one of the best things about the play - they're all doing this full monty strip for a reason. They're not just thinking about having a laugh and getting their kit off; they're all trying to get out of a tricky situation.

What are your plans for the future?

James: After this, I really hope I can do some more theatre. Being on stage, getting that immediate feedback from audiences and getting to know the rest of the cast has been a real privilege. They're a really great bunch of people. You can't really do a job like this without being both easy-going and professional, and all these guys are good for that. My background is in telly, but now I've experienced theatre, I'd like to do some more and add even more strings to my bow.

Joe: That's the thing about acting. Most people don't have a set plan. I've got this for 10 months and then I'll see what opportunities come along. You never know, maybe I'll end up in Magic Mike or something! I know so many talented people in our business who're out of work. I'm very fortunate in that I've managed to pretty much be constantly employed in the acting world since I was 18. Touch wood that continues, so as long as I'm still enjoying it and I'm making enough to live on and have a decent time, life's good.

The Full Monty shows at: Birmingham Hippodrome from 5 to 10 November; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, 19 to 24 November; Nottingham Theatre Royal, 4 to 9 February; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, 25 February to 2 March; and Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, 4 to 9 March.



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Nativity! The Musical

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Tues 23 - Sun 28 October

The Belgrade gets into the Christmas spirit a few weeks early with this hit stage musical based on the popular film franchise. The show is written and directed by Debbie Isitt, who also created the movies. "I've always believed that Nativity! would make a fantastic stage musical," says Debbie. "It's so full of joy, the children are so sweet and funny and the songs so catchy that it lends itself to being the perfect Christmas musical. The songs really do change the dynamic. It gives you much more insight into the characters and their backstories. And the emotions are more intense, like with the love story between Mr Maddens and Jennifer - it feels even bigger now because they're singing duets."

Not Yet Suffragette

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Fri 12 October

The tampon tax, public breast-feeding, marriage, child birth and the gender pay gap are among the subjects given a thorough airing by Natalie Cutler in her one-woman show, an hour's-worth of performance that brings together comedy, music, dance and political incorrectness.

"It's a show about how far we've not come and the reasons why," explains Natalie. "Women are still being asked the same questions and told the same things - 'How come you're not married? How come you don't have a baby? You should dress like this, don't dress like this'. They're all the same issues that were there 100 years ago. But there are plenty of people in the world trying to address inequality - my show doesn't pretend to have any answers; it simply takes a look at where we've travelled over the last century."



The Case Of The Frightened Lady

Lichfield Garrick, Mon 15 - Sat 20 October



After enjoying a hit with their adaptation of Ruth Rendell's *A Judgement In Stone*, the Classic Thriller Company now turn their attention to a 1931 play from the prolific pen of Edgar Wallace.

When Inspector Tanner investigates a gruesome murder at an ancestral home, it isn't long before he realises that nothing is quite as it seems... John Partridge (pictured) stars.

Shackleton's Carpenter

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Mon 22 October

Gail Louw's one-man play focuses on the character of Harry McNish - explorer Ernest Shackleton's carpenter on the ill-fated polar expedition ship, *Endurance*. Destitute in Wellington, Harry recalls his adventures in

the icy wastes and also his volatile relationship with Shackleton - a key reason, many feel, why he never received the coveted Polar Medal.

Private Peaceful

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Fri 12 - Sat 13 October

Private Peaceful is a short play that packs a real punch. Based on the book by War Horse author Michael Morpurgo and perfectly pitched for the young audience at which it's aimed, the stage production has been hailed for being "as moving as the poetry of Wilfred Owen and as painfully memorable as white-hot shrapnel".

First World War soldier Private Tommo Peaceful is awaiting the firing squad at dawn. With his young life about to be cut tragically short, he recalls his joyful past growing up in rural Devon, his schooldays, his father, and the love of his life - a girl named Molly...



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Maison Foo: A Thing Mislaid

MAC, Birmingham, Wed 10 October; Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Wed 17 October; Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent, Thurs 18 October

An unlikely friendship between two lonely travellers and a mysterious bird lies at the heart of this 90-minute show for children aged 10 and older. Presented by the well-regarded Maison Foo and exploring the themes of migration and journey, the production blends the company's trademark style of visual storytelling, clowning and humour with new experiments in miniature puppetry and live camera.



Dinosaur World Live

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 30 October - Thurs 1 November

Dinosaurs are once again roaming the earth this autumn, thanks to this 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.

Promising to be an absolute monster of an experience, the show may well leave a T-Rex-size imprint on your child's memory for many a year to come.



Doctor Dolittle

Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 27 October; Albany Theatre, Coventry, Sun 28 October; Oakengates Theatre, @ The Place, Telford, Tues 30 October



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

The Tiger Who Came To Tea

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Mon 29 - Tues 30 October; Birmingham Town Hall, Wed 26 December - Sun 13 January



The tea-guzzling tiger is back in town, dropping in on Sophie and her mum just as they're settling down for an afternoon cuppa...

Adapted by David Wood OBE from Judith Kerr's 1968 book, this 55-minute show features singalong songs and boasts plenty of magic - not to mention a big, stripey tiger, of course! Suitable for youngsters aged three and older.

Tabby McTat

Albany Theatre, Coventry, Friday 12 October; Lichfield Garrick, Sun 28 October

A life providing shelter and plenty of home comforts would suit most cats, but it doesn't suit Tabby McTat. Tabby's problem is that he remembers his old life with his now-missing friend, Fred the guitar player. So Tabby forsakes the good life and hits the streets in search of his long-lost buddy...

A heartwarming tale of friendship and loyalty from the winning team of Julia Donaldson and Alex Scheffler, Tabby McTat is brought to the stage by Freckle Productions, the team behind Tiddler And Other Terrific Tales.



Milkshake! Live

Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 27 October; Stafford Gatehouse, Mon 29 October

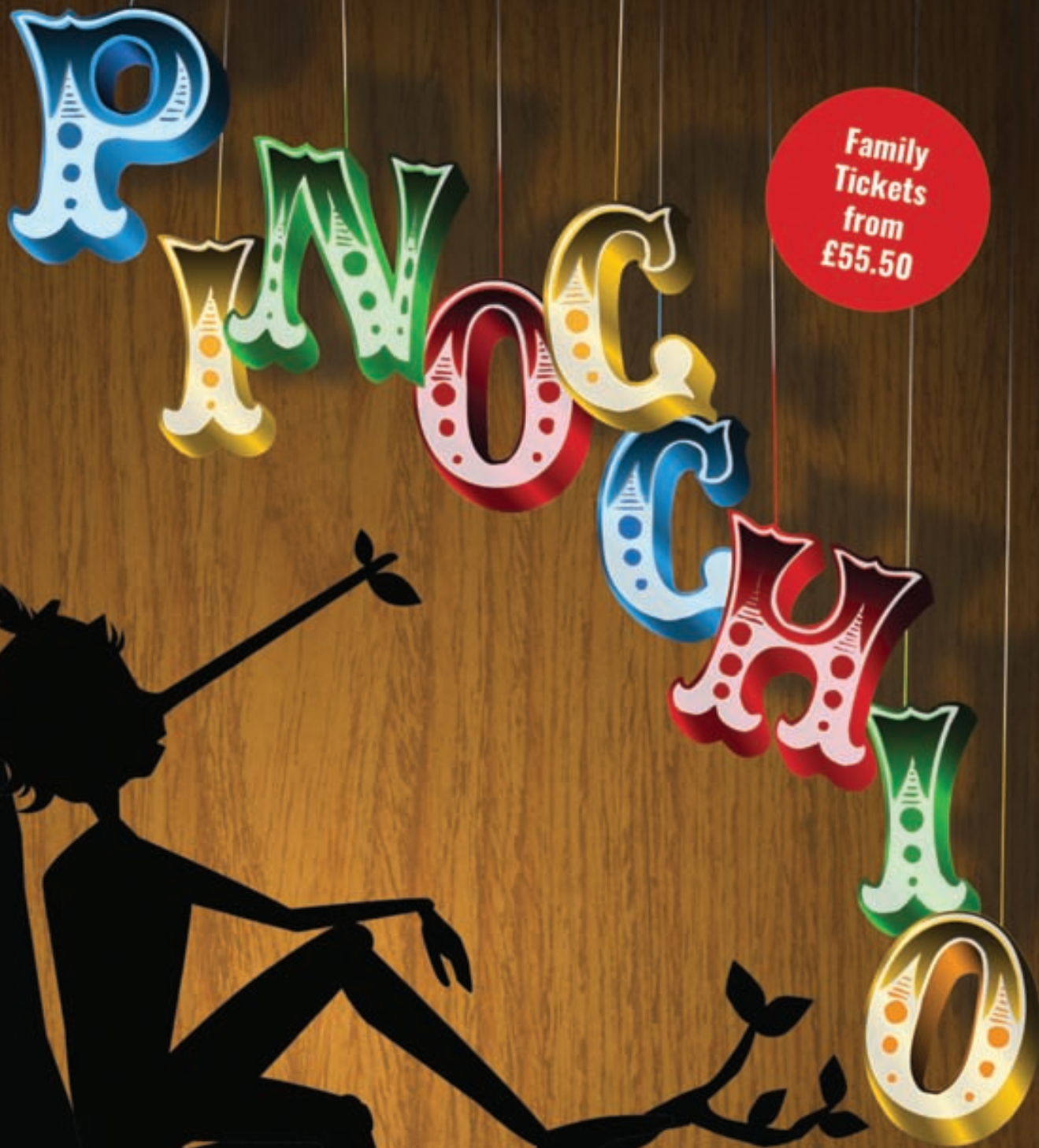
Here taking youngsters on a journey through the world's favourite fairytales are, among others, Bob the Builder, Little Princess, Noddy, Fireman Sam and Shimmer & Shine. If you've watched the TV series and/or been to a previous live production, you'll already know what to expect. If not, get ready for an event that promises lots of laughter, bucketloads of family fun, bags of audience participation and plenty of singing and dancing.

Mother Goose

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 30 October

Most familiar, of course, as a pantomime, the story of Mother Goose offers its performers plenty of opportunity to make all manner of eggstravagantly funny and eggcruciatingly unfunny egg-related jokes. Wolverhampton's favourite pantomime Dame, Ian Adams (pictured), stars alongside another big panto favourite, Julie Paton, in a family-friendly show that's sure to be sizzling with plenty of yolks, sorry! we mean jokes.







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
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LET'S GET IT ON...

Motown The Musical arrives in the Midlands...

Motown Records and its artists certainly made their mark on the world and its music, producing some of the greatest chart-topping songs from the 1950s through to the 1980s. A West End musical telling the story of the legendary label is coming to Birmingham this month. What's On caught up with the show's producer, Adam Spiegel, to find out more...

Think Motown and heaven knows how many famous songs spring readily to mind. From Marvin Gaye's I Heard It Through The Grapevine to The Supreme's Stop! In The Name Of Love, the Detroit-based record label scored hit after massive hit, year after year, decade after decade. Along the way, it routinely took top spot as the highest-earning African American business in the United States.

This month sees the arrival in Birmingham of a show dedicated to the magic of the now-legendary label. Motown The Musical celebrates the sensational Motown sound by telling the story of its founder, Berry Gordy; from his humble beginnings on a car production line to a career spent signing some of the greatest artists of the 20th century and beyond.

Starting with just an \$800 loan from his family, Gordy's passion for music and desire for success catapulted Motown into the limelight and helped to unite a racially divided nation.

"The thing about Motown," reflects producer Adam Spiegel, "was that it made a considerable contribution to the changes that took place in the '60s and '70s in America, in terms of racial integration and some kind of equality. Suddenly, 'black' music was being listened to by everyone in the country, rather than just on 'black' radio stations, and that was a huge change. I think the stars of Motown became the icons of the whole country, so those same stars became the face of America all across the world."

Adam agrees with the man himself, Berry Gordy, when he said that Motown was made to be on the stage.

"I think any music that makes people automatically want to sing and dance deserves to be on stage. Also, with this show, we're in a situation where we're telling the story of an iconic record label that changed the world - it couldn't be more deserving of the stage spotlight."

And Motown The Musical is absolutely the real deal: it's being produced in collaboration with Berry Gordy himself, to ensure the story is as authentic as possible.

"I feel very lucky. We've worked very hard at it, and yet being associated with something like this remains a huge privilege. Being able to spend time with Berry himself is extraordinary, and it's something that I'm enormously grateful to be able to do. But also, the whole team of designers, directors, writers, musicians, actors for the show have really been of the very highest quality, and it's been lovely to be a part of putting Motown The Musical together."

The cast and crew behind the production have plenty of fun making the show, but Adam is sure its Midlands audience will enjoy it even more.

"The more fun you have making something, the more fun it is to watch - those do go hand-in-hand. Working with the music of Motown is a constant pleasure. You walk into the rehearsal room and someone is going to

be singing My Girl or something by the Jackson 5, Stevie Wonder or Smokey Robinson. It's an intensely vibrant and exciting environment. We have a great time doing it, but I hope people who come to see the show enjoy it even more."

Picking just one stand-out track from Motown's repertoire is a real task, but Adam does have a favourite: "There are over 50 songs in the show and it's extremely hard to select just one, but I would have to say Dancing In The Streets by Martha And The Vandellas. It makes everybody just want to jump up and down.

"I honestly think Motown The Musical is the best time you'll have in the theatre, not least because it's a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the best music ever written!"



Motown The Musical shows at Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from Thursday 11 October to Saturday 3 November.

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Seeta Patel: Not Today's Yesterday

Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome,
Tues 23 October

Described as a poetic narrative with the beauty and disquiet of a Brothers Grimm fairytale, *Not Today's Yesterday* sees award-winning artist Seeta Patel blend techniques from the classical dance form of Bharatanatyam with contemporary dance and theatre.

Although a champion and exceptional exponent of Bharatanatyam, Seeta is uncomfortable about referring to the dance form as 'traditional' in the typical sense of the word. "If you attribute that word to Bharatanatyam, you automatically give it cultural baggage," she says. "The sense in which I think you *can* apply the word is in terms of the communication of Bharatanatyam through the generations, and in terms of the teaching of it. In that sense, its tradition is beautiful."

Vienna Festival Ballet: The Nutcracker

Oakengates Theatre, @ The Place, Telford, Tues 2 October; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 14 October; Bedworth Civic Hall, Wed 24 October

One of the great ballet staples, Tchaikovsky's enchanting tale of Clara and her nutcracker doll has been delighting audiences for generations. The fantasy of soldiers, giant rats, snow fairies, magic and mystery this month visits the region courtesy of Vienna Festival Ballet. Featuring a talented array of young dancers, the company was founded in 1980 and typically spends eight months a year performing works from its extensive repertoire in smaller venues across the UK.



Motionhouse: Charge

MAC, Birmingham, Fri 19 - Sat 20 October

Leamington-based Motionhouse's multimedia show about energy is the third element of Artistic Director Kevin Finnan's Earth Trilogy, developing on themes explored in *Scattered* (2009) and *Broken* (2013) about man's relationship with water and the earth.

Making use of digital projections to create an on-stage world in which dancers and images interact seamlessly, the show features six performers using dance and acrobatics to explore the human body, 'tracing the incredible story of energy in our lives'.

"Charge is an amazing collaboration between artists and scientists," explains Motionhouse co-founder Finnan. "I find the science behind the show fascinating, and I want to use my inspiration from this to create a presentation for audiences to enjoy - but which also makes them think about the role energy plays in our lives."



Backlash Ballroom

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 28 October

The producers of this new touring show reckon that if you love *Strictly*, you'll *really* love *Backlash Ballroom* - and the show certainly seems to have all the necessary components to provide an evening of high-energy dance magic. Featuring six professional ballroom and Latin dancers, including world, European and national champions, the production pays homage to the movies and includes, among other dance styles, the waltz, the quick step, the Argentine tango and the charleston.





The Habit Of Art

**Matthew Kelly talks about Alan Bennett's
'filthily funny' play...**

A witty and compassionate play, Alan Bennett's *The Habit Of Art* next month graces the Coventry Belgrade stage and Malvern Theatres, with Olivier Award-winning actor Matthew Kelly in the lead role. What's On recently caught up with Matthew to find out more...

The Habit Of Art is one of renowned playwright Alan Bennett's more recent offerings. The play explores a fictitious meeting between poet WH Auden and composer Benjamin Britten. It's been described as 'wonderfully and sometimes filthily funny, but also deeply and unexpectedly moving'.

"It's a play within a play," says Matthew Kelly, who plays Auden. "So four of us play actors who are also playing parts in a play called *Caliban's Day*. There's Auden and Britten, their biographer Humphrey Carpenter, and Auden's rent boy. So really, that's quite tricky because it's hard to know what Auden was actually like. I've seen a few interviews and listened to his accent because I know Richard Griffiths adopted a very high-pitched voice when he played the part originally in London, and that was very, very effective. With acting, you don't have to be exactly the person you're playing if they're a historical figure - but at the same time, you kind of do. It's a weird one."

Matthew is very much looking forward to playing Auden: "It's lovely for me to play this part because it was played by Richard first and he and I were at college together. I mean, honestly, Auden as a man was just a complete mess. At one point in the play, they ask my character if I've got my props to play Auden in the *Caliban's Day* play. My line in response to that is, 'Yes - I have my cigarettes, my elephantine urine-stained trousers, my disgusting handkerchief and my plastic bag'.

"I think he was a good-hearted man, but Auden's face has been compared to a scrotum, so he was quite an unfortunate man too! The original line reads something like, 'When you see his face, one wonders what his scrotum looks like'. But he had a condition called Touraine-Solente-Golé Syndrome that made him look that way, so I did wonder what to think when I was approached to do the role!"

So why does Matthew think Alan Bennett

chose to structure *The Habit Of Art* as a play within a play?

"It gives it a neat little framework and allows Bennett to comment on his own creation through the four actor characters. It's cheeky, really, because it means he can comment on things he's written as part of *Caliban's Day*. So it's very funny because you can deliver information about what's going on in *Caliban's Day* through hindsight in the wider setting of the entire play.

"Actually, *Caliban's Day* was inspired by Auden's poem, *The Sea And The Mirror*, which was a commentary on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*; he thought that *Caliban* hadn't had his say. But the poem is very hard to access. I'm sure Auden understood what he wrote, but for the rest of us mere mortals, we can't quite get it. So if the play *Caliban's Day* was on its own and just a reflection of that poem, I think the audience would be very confused. To make it a play within a play makes it easier to understand what Auden and Bennett are trying to get at - that the ordinary man is unspoken and unregarded.

Matthew also explains how the play comments on artistic endeavour: "What matters is the artistic work - it's the work that keeps lauded artists like Auden and Britten going. It's our artistic work that identifies us and that we identify with. Auden says, 'If I don't work, then who am I?' He sees poetry as a craft as much as an art. Auden insisted he'd write a poem for anything, so he was a remarkable man in that way. His artistic output became very small towards the end of his life because he became almost too venerated to really truly speak through his work. He was shackled by his own importance in the artistic world, which is really sad, I think."

The Habit Of Art is about plenty more than artistic endeavour, though. "It's also about sex, death, creativity and biography. So ideally, its messages are giving a voice to the un-

regarded as well as the voice behind the great work. Those who are lauded, who are stars like Britten and Auden and so admired for their work, are often misrepresented in biography. A lot of what is passed off as biography is in reality just idle curiosity, general title-tattle and impertinence."

Matthew has certainly made a name for himself in the theatre world since the days when he rarely seemed to be off our television screens. Coming to people's attention in TV shows like *Game For A Laugh*, *You Bet!* and *Stars In Their Eyes*, he's more recently earned rave reviews in stage productions of classic plays including *Of Mice And Men*, for which he won an Olivier Award, and *Waiting For Godot*.

"I could never go back to *Stars In Their Eyes* or something like that because I can't do Saturday night big show presenting anymore. But I would if it came up. I mean, I have an insatiable desire to be the centre of attention, so why wouldn't I?! I'm just as happy in a sound booth doing a voiceover, though. But I do love theatre. Acting isn't super hard work; it's nothing like working down a mine or digging up a road. I'm just playing with a giant dressing-up box really, but the hours are long. You have to be patient and have stamina. Still, theatre keeps me going - *The Habit Of Art* speaks true after all! - and I always believe that the thing I'm doing at the time is the best thing I've ever done. If I didn't think that, I don't know if I'd be able to carry on with this job. Generally, I just love the company of actors; they're kind, generous, spirited and supportive people, even if they are completely bonkers!"

The Habit Of Art shows at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre from 6 to 10 November then at Malvern Theatres from 27 November to 1 December.

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Venom CERT tbc

Starring **Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed, Scott Haze, Reid Scott, Jenny Slate, Woody Harrelson**

Directed by **Ruben Fleischer (USA)**

There's always excitement surrounding the launch of a new Marvel superhero. Eddie Brock - aka Venom - is an investigative journalist who investigates a survivalist group too closely and is infected by an alien 'symbiote.' So he and the extraterrestrial occupy the same body, two individual entities with superhuman powers and a nasty temper. Tom Hardy takes on the role of the hybrid, and he's a class act - as is Michelle Williams, who plays Eddie's girlfriend, Anne Weying, a district attorney (aka She-Venom). Director Ruben Fleischer previously brought us the critically acclaimed *Zombieland* (2009) and the terrific, all-star (and underrated) crime thriller *Gangster Squad* (2013). In 3D.

Released Wed 3 Oct

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Film highlights released in October...

Blindspotting CERT 15 (95 mins)

Starring **Daveed Diggs, Rafael Casal, Janina Gavankar, Jasmine Cephas Jones, Ethan Embry, Wayne Knight**

Directed by **Carlos López Estrada (USA)**

Collin has just three days left of his probation. But if he is to turn his life around, he may have to re-think his relationship with the psychotic Miles, the friend he has known all his life... Daveed Diggs, who plays Collin, co-produced and wrote the screenplay with his real life-long friend, Rafael Casal, who plays Miles. Interesting.

Released Fri 5 Oct



Columbus

CERT 12a (104 mins)

Starring **John Cho, Haley Lu Richardson, Parker Posey, Rory Culkin, Michelle Forbes**

Directed by **Kogonada (USA)**



That's Columbus, Indiana, and is not to be confused with the other 18 towns in the US with the same name. Anyway, it's here that Jin (John Cho), a Korean-born translator, finds himself stranded, alongside his father, who is in a coma. Jin then meets Casey (Richardson), who's stuck in the same town with her mother, a recovering drug addict. Together, they discover a love of the town's modern architecture, for which Columbus is famous.

Released Fri 5 Oct

Johnny English Strikes Again CERT PG (88 mins)

Starring **Rowan Atkinson, Ben Miller, Olga Kurylenko, Jake Lacy, Emma Thompson, Adam James** Directed by **David Kerr (UK/France)**

At last, another spy spoof. Actually, it's been seven years since Johnny was reborn as a martial artist and that sequel did have a smidgen of old-fashioned charm. Here, JE pops out of retirement to track down a ruthless hacker who has exposed the identity of all of the active undercover agents in Britain. So, while we're waiting for Mr Craig...

Released Fri 5 Oct



Film highlights released in October...

Strangeways Here We Come

CERT 15 (86 mins)

Starring Elaine Cassidy, Michelle Keegan, Lauren Socha, Chanel Cresswell, Oliver Cooper-smith, Stephen Lord Directed by Chris Green (UK)

Not to be confused with Ben Wheatley's dystopian drama High-Rise (2015), this is a comedy set in a multi-storeyed building in which the tenants gang together to overthrow a ruthless loan shark. Filmed in Salford, Manchester. And be prepared for some sexual violence.

Released Fri 7 Oct

First Man

CERT tbc (135 mins)

Starring Ryan Gosling, Jason Clarke, Claire Foy, Kyle Chandler, Corey Stoll, Ciarán Hinds Directed by Damien Chazelle (USA)

Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon, and that's quite a 'first' for any guy. This biog, based on the book by James R Hansen, follows Armstrong up to the historical mission of Apollo 11 in 1969. From the Oscar-winning director of Whiplash and La-La Land.

Released Fri 12 Oct



Bad Times At The El Royale

CERT tbc

Starring Jeff Bridges, Cynthia Erivo, Dakota Johnson, Jon Hamm, Cailee Spaeny, Lewis Pullman, Chris Hemsworth Directed by Lewis Pullman (USA)

Jeff Bridges plays Daniel Flynn, an aging criminal masquerading as a priest who pitches up at the rundown hotel of the title. There, he encounter six strangers, each with a mysterious past that has a fateful impact on a hellish night... Drew Goddard previously directed Chris Hemsworth in the thrilling, ingenious Cabin In The Woods (2012).

Released Fri 12 Oct



Sink

CERT 15 (85 mins)

Starring Martin Herdman, Ian Hogg, Marlene Sidaway, Tracey Wilkinson, Joshua Herdmann Directed by Mark Gillis (UK)

Working on a zero hour contract, Micky Mason (Herdman) is finding it hard to make ends meet, to support both his ailing father and his offspring. Then he makes a rash decision, something that he knows is not right, but just right under the circumstances...

Released Fri 12 Oct



Mandy

CERT 18 (121 mins)

Starring Nicolas Cage, Andrea Riseborough, Linus Roache, Bill Duke, Richard Brake, Ned Dennehy Directed by Panos Cosmatos (USA/Belgium)

Nicolas Cage is on the rampage again, this time meting out punishment to those who have kidnapped his girlfriend, Mandy Bloom (Riseborough). Expect some pretty strong violence, gore and horror. Filmed in Belgium.

Released Fri 12 Oct

Smallfoot

CERT PG (96 mins)

With the voices of Channing Tatum, James Corden, Zendaya, Common, LeBron James, Danny DeVito, Gina Rodriguez Directed by Karey Kirkpatrick and Jason Reisig (USA)

It's just a theory, but a Yeti called Migo (Channing Tatum) thinks humans really do exist. But how can he convince his tribe of this preposterous notion? From the Warner Animation Group. In 3D.

Released Fri 12 Oct



Dogman

CERT 15 (103 mins)

Starring Marcello Fonte, Edoardo Ghezzo, Alida Baldari Calabria, Nunzia Schiano Directed by Matteo Garrone (Italy)

The director of Gomorrah and Tale Of Tales now brings us a crime thriller in which a mild-mannered dog groomer (Fonte) finds himself at loggerheads with a local gangster. Fonte won the best actor award at Cannes for his role.

Released Fri 19 Oct



Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween

CERT tbc

Starring Wendi McLendon-Covey, Madison Iseman, Jeremy Ray Taylor, Caleel Harris, Chris Parnell, Ken Jeong Directed by Ari Sandel (USA/Australia)

When two lads open a book that once belonged to the author RL Stine, they inadvertently unleash 'Slappy' and his Halloween Apocalypse. Expect lashings of CGI.

Released Fri 19 Oct

Halloween

CERT tbc (109 mins)

Starring **Jamie Lee Curtis, Judy Greer, Nick Castle, Andi Matichak, Will Patton**
Directed by **David Gordon Green (USA)**

The death of Jamie Lee Curtis in *Halloween: Resurrection* (2002) was greatly exaggerated. This reboot-cum-sequel throws out previous plot points to reintroduce Laurie Strode's tortured relationship with the serial killer Michael Myers (aka The Shape). Green, who's directed such highly acclaimed films as *George Washington* (2000) and *Stronger* (2017), should give the franchise a leg up.

Released Fri 19 Oct

Hunter Killer

CERT 15 (121 mins)

Starring **Gerard Butler, Gary Oldman, Common, Linda Cardellini, Michael Nyqvist, Caroline Goodall, Toby Stephens** Directed by **Donovan Marsh (USA)**

The Russian president has been kidnapped by his own defence minister and it's up to the tyro US submarine commander Joe Glass (Butler) to save him - in Russian waters. Nyqvist, who plays the commander of a Russian sub, passed away last year.

Released Fri 19 Oct

Bohemian Rhapsody

CERT tbc

Starring **Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton, Gwilym Lee, Ben Hardy, Mike Myers** Directed by **Bryan Singer and Dexter Fletcher (UK/USA)**

Leading up to Queen's Live Aid performance at Wembley in 1985, this biopic focuses on the band's flamboyant lead singer Freddie Mercury (played by Malek, from TV's *Mr Robot*). Due to bouts of absenteeism, the film's original director Bryan Singer was replaced in the later stages by the London-born Dexter Fletcher.

Released Wed 24 Oct



CRITIC'S CHOICE

A Star Is Born

CERT 15 (135 mins)

Starring **Bradley Cooper, Lady Gaga, Andrew Dice Clay, Dave Chappelle, Sam Elliott, Anthony Ramos and Alec Baldwin**
Directed by **Bradley Cooper (USA)**

For his directorial debut, Bradley Cooper has certainly chosen some tried-and-tested material. The original film starred Janet Gaynor and was released in 1937, followed by two remakes, with Judy Garland (1954) and Barbra Streisand (1976). Here, Lady Gaga takes on the mantle of the wannabe singer with stars in her eyes and is said to be sensational.

The film premiered to ecstatic reviews at the Venice film festival, and the erstwhile Stefani Germanotta is generating phenomenal Oscar buzz, as is the movie and Cooper as both director and actor. Here, Cooper plays Lady Gaga's mentor as a Country musician with alcohol issues and follows in the footsteps of Fredric March, James Mason and Kris Kristofferson. The music, too, has been praised for being 'electrifying.'

Released Fri 5 Oct



The Hate U Give

CERT tbc

Starring **Amandla Stenberg, Regina Hall, Russell Hornsby, KJ Apa, Common, Anthony Mackie** Directed by **George Tillman Jr (USA)**

A 16-year-old girl (Amandla Stenberg) sees her childhood friend shot dead by police and at great personal risk turns activist. Based on the Young Adult novel by Angie Thomas.

Released Fri 26 Oct

Slaughterhouse Rulez

CERT tbc

Starring **Asa Butterfield, Finn Cole, Hermione Corfield, Michael Sheen, Nick Frost, Simon Pegg** Directed by **Crispian Mills (UK)**

When a fracking operation opens up a sink-hole near an exclusive English boarding school, an unspeakable evil is unleashed. Co-scripted by the film critic Henry Fitzherbert and singer-songwriter Crispian Mills (son of Hayley Mills), the horror comedy unites Simon Pegg and Nick Frost on the big screen for the fifth time.

Released Wed 31 Oct



Dr Phil Hammond



NHS doctor and BBC broadcaster Dr Phil Hammond talks about the importance of the National Health Service...

The NHS is 70 years old in 2018. Is it worth celebrating?

Absolutely. We invented universal health-care and, as Nye Bevan observed, we removed the shadow of fear from millions of homes where people had suffered great harm because they couldn't afford to call the doctor, nurse or midwife. A bit like America today. Within a decade of the NHS, child mortality had plummeted and life expectancy had increased dramatically. However, the National Health Service was largely a National Illness Service. We still spend a fortune diving deeper and deeper into the river of illness, heroically dragging patients back to the bank and trying to put them back together again, with neither the time nor energy to wander upstream and stop them falling in. As technology advances, we can be tricked into treating the untreatable, prolonging life when a gentle death would be a much wiser and kinder option.

And how will your new comedy show help improve the NHS?

I'm going around the UK telling the story of the NHS and asking audiences for their suggestions on improving health and social care. We debate them, I add my own thoughts and then the audience votes on them. At the end of the tour, I'll have a People's Plan for the NHS that I guarantee will make far more sense than anything that comes out of any government. And it'll be a lot funnier. Trust me.

Will you be using it in your stand against Jacob Rees-Mogg at the next election?

Definitely. We have to move the debate beyond Brexit to the parlous state of our public services. But if we take the Rees-Mogg/Boris/Trump superhighway, we will be stuffed on so many levels.

Do you and Rees-Mogg disagree on Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS)?

I'm sure we do. I'm a patron of My Death, My Decision. We certainly need to debate PAS. Personally, if I don't go suddenly I'd like to be able to see myself out before I lose all dignity, or choose to be despatched like George V, whose physician, Lord Dawson, eased his passage in 1936 with a lethal injection of morphine and cocaine directly into the imperial jugular vein. Dawson, who was made a viscount for his

regicide, admitted his actions in a House of Lords debate, arguing there was no need to legalise euthanasia in the UK because 'good doctors already helped their patients to die'. Today, we all too often use our power and paternalism for the opposite effect. As the joke goes; 'Why do they put rivets on coffin lids? To stop oncologists trying one last dose of chemotherapy'.

Doesn't the BMA oppose assisted dying as well?

Yes, but remember the BMA also opposed the NHS. Seventy years on, with thousands of doctors marching in the streets to 'save our NHS', it's easy to forget that 85% of them opposed its introduction in a BMA plebiscite less than six months before launch day. The unspoken reason was that both consultants and GPs feared their private income might take a substantial hit if they were forced to be full-time state employees. More reasonably they worried what might become of them, and the NHS, if it was starved of cash and had a health secretary who was a power-hungry control-freak with a scant grasp of statistics.

So how did Nye Bevan get past the doctors?

Bevan had the confidence of overwhelming public support, and cleverly played medical establishment top trumps by paying a Harley Street visit to Lord Moran, president of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP). Bevan, an uncompromising socialist in opposition, was far more pragmatic in office and forged an unlikely alliance with Moran, nicknamed Corkscrew Charlie because of his cunning. Together they hatched a plan to allow consultants to practise privately on NHS premises using pay beds, and for GPs to be self-employed rather than salaried civil servants at the whim of the state.

Moran, who was Churchill's personal physician, faced fierce competition at the RCP from Lord Horder, a brilliant diagnostician, George VI's personal physician and outspoken opponent of the NHS. The future of the NHS may well have hinged on their 1948 battle for president, which was decided by members each placing a silver coin in a silver bucket as it was passed around the room. Moran won by just a few votes and his, and Bevan's, plan was hatched. Bevan later regretted supporting the growth of private practice within the NHS, declaring that he had 'stuffed consul-

tants mouths with gold'. At the time, it seemed a small price to pay for nationalising an entire health service overnight, to allow everyone access to care regardless of wealth.

But can we afford the NHS?

Of course we can. The economic argument for investing in health, education, housing, food and transport is as strong now as when Attlee's government delivered extraordinary regeneration and investment at a time of such austerity. We now know that the dice for human health are cast in the womb, or even before, and that if a child has four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (placental poisoning, poverty, abuse, neglect etc), their future health and attainment are irreparably blighted.

The challenge now for health and social care is how to prioritise whatever spending our politicians see fit to hand us, and I'd make a strong case for sorting out the bookends of life. We all deserve a wise and gentle death when the time comes, so let's at least get the conversation going. After all, we are all going to die not matter how much we put into the NHS. I'd also argue that if the welfare of children is paramount, as enshrined in the Children's Act, then so should the funding be. Any lifestyle and life-circumstance changes we can make to nudge-up the life trajectory of endangered children will have lifelong benefits for them and us.

Is the NHS still a National Illness Service?

Yes, and it's likely to remain so for some while yet. The real National Health Service belongs to homes, communities, schools, higher education, workplaces, food manufacturers, libraries, recreation facilities, water companies, sustainable transport etc, etc - and to all of us. Healthcare and selfcare are a delicate balance of both collective and individual responsibility for ourselves and our planet. We must all do what we can to help ourselves, and others less fortunate, from falling into that river of illness well before our time. Nye Bevan lost four siblings in childhood and died at 62. His legacy is that most of us no longer suffer such devastating loss.

Dr Phil Hammond: Happy Birthday NHS? will be at Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, on Friday 26 October.



Whistler And Nature

Compton Verney, Warwickshire,
Sat 20 October - Sun 16 December

The style of art produced by American artist James McNeill Whistler was shaped by numerous influences. Among them - and the focal point of this new exhibition - were his family's involvement in early 19th century industry and his own pursuit of a career in the US military. Featuring a collection of paintings, sketches and prints, Whistler And Nature also looks at the artist's work in the context of attitudes to landscape in British art and design; attitudes which were shaped not only by classical revivalism but also by a desire for landscape improvement and productivity.

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Maman

The Barber Institute, Birmingham,
Fri 19 October - Sun 20 January

Marking the 150th anniversary of French artist Édouard Vuillard's birth and focusing on the first decade of his career, this brand new exhibition features a selection of paintings, pastels, prints and photographs lent by collections both in Britain

and across Europe.

Vuillard produced small-scale work featuring domestic subject matter during those initial 10 years as an artist, painting his mother on numerous occasions. Indeed, during the course of his career, Vuillard painted her in excess of 500 times, and it's with this use of his mother as model that the exhibition primarily concerns itself.

For The Fallen

The Potteries Museum & Gallery,
Stoke-on-Trent, until Sun 18 November

A 22-metre-long painted wall hanging, depicting a panorama of the battlefields fought over by the 5th Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment during the First

World War, is the centrepiece of this exhibition.

Presented in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that brought the four-year conflict to an end, the display also includes archives and objects relating to the end of the war.

BP Portrait Award

Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
Fri 12 October - Fri 30 November

The prestigious BP Portrait Award makes a welcome return to Wolverhampton this month. Now in its 39th year, the free-to-view exhibition showcases outstanding and innovative new portraits from around the world.

In total, the 2018 competition attracted 2,667 entries from 88 countries. First prize went to Barcelona-born artist Miriam Escofet, whose portrait of her mother drinking tea was described by the judges as 'a very sensitive depiction of an elderly sitter'.



Polly Apfelbaum: Waiting For The UFOs

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, until Sun 18 November

This major exhibition of new and recent work by internationally renowned artist Polly Apfelbaum features large-scale colourful installations of textiles, ceramics and drawings.

Taking a political and feminist position, the New York-based Apfelbaum produces artworks designed to challenge notions of entitlement and to promote social equality.

The exhibition's unusual title is taken from British singer-songwriter Graham Parker's 1979 song, Waiting For The UFOs, recalling, as the exhibition's publicity describes it, 'the vast empty spaces of the American landscape, and the characters who anxiously anticipate extra-terrestrial visits'.

Creating The Spectacle! Immersed In 360

MAC, Birmingham, until Sun 25 November

Multimedia, performance and installation artist Sue Austin is a woman on a mission - to represent her experience as a wheelchair user in a brighter light, while at the same time "challenging the idea of disabled as 'other'".

Sue's MAC presentation was created in 2012 for the Cultural Olympiad In Britain - the celebration of the arts that led up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games - and comprises a groundbreaking series of live

art and video works of an underwater wheelchair.

The artwork has received plenty of international attention during the past six years, and is estimated to have been viewed by 400 million-plus people.





IMAGE: Tom Dale Company: I Infinite - see festival highlights section for details

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS...

RETRO GAMING NIGHT FOR BIG GEEKS

Sat 27 Oct

Have you been missing all those video games you used to play as a kid? Well this is your chance to revel in being a *big* kid and rediscover some of those retro classics with Dead Pixels, including Street Fighter 2, Mortal Kombat, Doom, Sonic The Hedgehog and Mario Kart. Plus, now you're a big geek instead of a little geek, you can play your favourite video games whilst enjoying a delicious pint of craft beer!

SMART PLAY ZONE

Sat 27 - Tues 30 Oct

The main event for little (and big) geeks is the supercool Smart Play Zone. MAC's Little Geeks HQ will be jam-packed full of the very best retro games. The tech hub will also feature drone demos, and you can even help build a Raspberry Pi weather station.

MARSHMALLOW LASER FEAST: IN THE EYES OF THE ANIMALS

Sat 27 - Sun 28 Oct

Discover what it's like to be a creature of the forest. Once you're immersed in a whole new

world thanks to the virtual reality headset, a combination of animal-like sight, a 360° film and an accompanying soundtrack will provide you with an artistic interpretation of what it's like to be one of four British species.



LITTLE GEEKS

a brand new digital festival lands in Birmingham for October half term...

Created by Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) Birmingham, Little Geeks is an innovative new festival exploring the digital world.

The inaugural programme has something for everyone but is particularly geared towards families with children, as MAC Chief Executive & Artistic Director Debbie Kermod explains: "Little Geeks came out of recognition that technology is such a huge part of every generation's lives today. We love intergenerational activities here at MAC, and we're very aware that there is this extraordinary approach to learning that's called reverse mentoring. This is where children, even very little ones, are teaching mums, dads, grandparents and other older people how to do little digital tricks. We've seen this process in some of our other activities at MAC, and we thought it'd be a wonderful festival idea to bring families together.

"For mums and dads, digital can be a negative thing in children's lives when they're poring over iPads and other technology instead of playing with other things. So what we wanted to do is show the creative side of technology. For example, we've also tried to bring nature into technology here, because technology really can be a useful tool to understand wildlife. I

guess we just wanted to prove that the digital world doesn't just exist indoors in a darkened room when staring blankly at a screen.

Artists have imaginative ways of bringing out new experiences for people."

Little Geeks' activities come with a family-friendly price tag.

"A lot of our activities are free because we were very generously supported by the players of People's Postcode Lottery. There are a few paid events, but they're very reasonably priced thanks to our support. The free events allow people to pop by with their families and have a go at what Little Geeks is all about without even buying a ticket."

Little Geeks will also see MAC working closely with local communities and schools, particularly with regard to the Girls That Geek conference day which takes place prior to the festival.

"There should be a concern within the education and jobs sectors that more boys are going into technology careers than girls. It's a massive issue because technology is for everybody; it's a very creative output and is really the future for us all. I think it's important that girls get the opportunity to explore that career possibility. Although the day is open to all, what we really want to

ensure is that girls gain more confidence and become inspired by the digital world.

"We have this day which is going to be 'girls only', and we're inviting schools to bring pupils along to the event. Hopefully we can make young women realise that they can contribute to this extremely exciting but often male-dominated area. The progression of technology is moving so fast and girls can't be left behind."

Debbie has high hopes for the future of Little Geeks.

"I think what we'll do is learn from our audience - we're an organisation that listens to people. From there, we'll begin to progress and make Little Geeks a brand. We'll see, but there's been such an exciting response already that we're really keen to continue it. We hope in the future some of the universities will come on board because it could be a great opportunity for them to showcase their work. I think Birmingham needs festivals like Little Geeks because there's so much terrific work being done across the city. It's nice to bring it all together in one place."

Little Geeks runs at Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham from Saturday 27 October to Friday 2 November.

MESHWORK ORCHESTRA

Wed 31 Oct - Fri 2 Nov

Make music by weaving textiles with conductive materials and become part of the Meshwork Orchestra. You'll be able to create textile sensors as part of an electronic musical instrument which you can play. This is a commissioned installation by acclaimed artist-educator Becca Rose Glowacki.

TOM DALE COMPANY: I INFINITE

Thurs 1 - Fri 2 Nov

A digitally animated live dance show inspired by the digital world's quest to recreate life.

Set in a white, digitally animated environment, I Infinite combines dance, music, art and design to explore the boundaries between the digital and organic world.

VISUAL POKE: SPOOKY DIGITAL PROJECTION MAPPING

Fri 2 Nov

You may think you know MAC well - but do you? Keep your eyes peeled because it's about to be temporarily transformed - on the outside, at least - with digital projection mapping from Visual Poke that has a

decidedly haunted feel to it. Get ready for spooky goings-on as the building gets an instant digital makeover with some eye-catching visuals that simply have to be seen to be believed...



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Horse Of The Year Show

NEC, Birmingham, Wed 3 - Sun 7 October

Celebrating its 70th anniversary, the Horse Of The Year Show gallops back into Birmingham this month.

The five-day event includes a range of national

and international showjumping classes, with competitors battling to be crowned champion. This year's show also features more displays than ever before, including contributions from the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment Musical Ride and Alizée Froment, who will be making a UK debut.

China Revealed

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Wed 3, Fri 5 and Sun 7 October

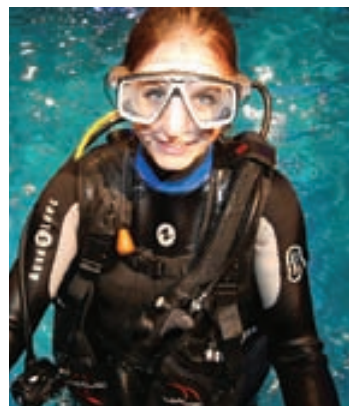


Compton Verney's annual festival exploring Chinese art and culture makes a welcome return.

A celebration of ancient China and its continuing cultural traditions, the event features, among other attractions, a hands-on tour of the gallery's ancient Chinese bronze collection, a lecture on the Terra-cotta Army and a family fun day full of dance, music and song.

Dive 2018

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 27 & Sun 28 October



Boasting hundreds of exhibitors - including manufacturers and retailers of diving equipment, and travel agents offering a wide range of dive holiday destinations - Dive 2018 also features an unrivalled programme of guest speakers. Other elements of the show include two large in-hall presentation stages, pools, mini-theatres, TekDeck and prominent dive-travel, training and underwater photography areas.



Motorhome And Caravan Show 2018

NEC, Birmingham, Tues 16 - Sun 21 October

Returning to Birmingham's NEC for another year, the Motorhome And Caravan Show is the industry's one and only new-season launch event in the UK.

With over 370 exhibitors to discover, visitors have the opportunity to chat to manufacturers about a wide range of product launches, from caravans and lodges to holiday homes and accessories.

The show also features talks by industry experts, enthusiasts and celebrity speakers, and free expert-led tuition covering a range of essential skills to help you prepare for your next big adventure.

Wartime Hangar Dance

RAF Museum, Cosford, Shropshire Sat 13 October

Back by popular demand, RAF Cosford's 1940s Hangar Dance takes place inside Hangar One, the home of the museum's collection of World War Two aircraft and artefacts.

Participants are encouraged to don their finest wartime costumes for the event.

Music is provided by Paul Drakeley and his All Stars Band & Singers.



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Disney On Ice: Dream Big

Arena Birmingham, Fri 19 - Sun 28 October

Moana, one of the latest additions to the Disney franchise, makes her European debut in this brand new Disney On Ice production. Audiences can expect an action-packed perfor-

mance filled with 'high-flying jumps and breathtaking skating' from much-loved characters including Frozen's Anna, Elsa and Olaf and Disney princesses both past and present. Those who arrive early to the show will be treated to a special 90th birthday celebration in honour of Walt Disney's 'true original', Mickey Mouse.

Grand Designs Live

NEC, Birmingham, Wed 10 - Sun 14 October

Based on the popular Channel Four series and packed with inspirational ideas, Grand Designs Live comprises six project zones and features new product launches and specialist exhibitors. The TV show's presenter, Kevin McCloud, will be on stage across the weekend, taking part in educational seminars and debates with a host of industry experts.



Flame And Thunder

Santa Pod Raceway, Northants, Sat 27 October

A regular on the Santa Pod calendar, the family-focused Flame And Thunder show brings together monster trucks, jet cars and drag cars for plenty of spectacular main-track action. Other highlights include numerous sideshows, a range of funfair rides, and sure-to-be-breathtaking displays from Rodrigo the human cannonball and a pyrotechnic aerobatics display team. The event is brought to a close with a 'spectacular' firework display.

Destination Star Trek

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 19 - Sun 21 October

With 2018 marking the 25th anniversary of TV show Deep Space Nine, Europe's official Star Trek convention is this month bringing the celebrations to the NEC. As well as featuring interactive exhibits with genuine props and costumes from Star Trek's 50-plus years, the three-day event also provides fans with the chance to come face to face with stars from the franchise, including original-series favourites William Shatner and Nichelle Nichols.



The 25th Carole Nash Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show

Staffordshire County Showground, Sat 13 & Sun 14 October

Club stands, live action, autumn sales, classic off-road machines and special guest stars from iconic eras of motorcycling are all featured in a show which regularly welcomes more than 30,000 enthusiasts through its doors. Celebrating the growing popularity of emerging and modern classics from the 1960s, '70s and '80s, the event features hundreds of traders and dealers, as well as numerous autajumble stands offering a wealth of parts and spares for every project.





Halloween Nights

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,
Fri 26 - Sat 27 October

Expect a frightfully good evening of spine-tingling entertainment as the Black Country Living Museum transforms into a spooktacular world

of family-focused fun.

Attractions include fire breathers, stilt walkers, live music and tales told by eerie candlelight. There's also a haunted mine experience to sample and an opportunity for youngsters to trick-or-treat their way around the museum's houses and shops.

Screamfest

National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire,
Thurs 11 October - Sat 3 November

If you're looking to get your heart rate up this Halloween, Screamfest will surely do the trick. With five 'scares' available to explore - including a Mexican Day Of The Dead-inspired maze and a circus-themed funhouse full of freaks and creeps - visitors are promised 'the fright of their lives'. Away from the scares, there's also live entertainment throughout the night, with DJs, extreme performers and street theatre all featuring.



Spooky Science Week

Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham,
Sat 27 October - Sun 4 November

Little monsters are invited to try their hand at some spooky science at Thinktank this half-term. Interactive drop-in sessions in the museum's slime labs take place throughout the week, while budding 'mad scientists' get the chance to create their very own monster, screeching ghost or fizzing slime.

Halloween Family Boat Trips

Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust,
Fri 26 - Weds 31 October



What better way to get into the Halloween spirit than by exploring Dudley Canal Trust's naturally spooky tunnels and caverns?

The Trust is running special children's boat trips this half-term holiday, during which youngsters will encounter some truly impressive glow-in-the-dark Halloween puppets.

The boat trips are 'spooky' but not scary, and should be suitable for children over three years of age.

More Treat Than Trick

Drayton Manor Theme Park,
Staffordshire, Sat 20 October -
Fri 2 November

Drayton Manor Park is inviting families to dust off their broomsticks and batwings and treat themselves to some ghoulish Halloween fun this month.

Creepy capers to enjoy include the chance to see the ever-popular Thomas Land attraction transformed into the 'spooktacular' Island of Sodor. More-courageous youngsters can face their fear of the unknown by taking part in the 'five mystery boxes' challenge. The theme park's fabulous white-knuckle rides, meanwhile, provide the perfect opportunity to add a churning stomach to that Halloween-induced tingling spine!





Candy And Cobwebs

Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge,
Fri 26 October

Blists Hill Victorian Town is this month hosting a brand new Halloween event created especially for youngsters. Suitable for under-eights, Candy And Cobwebs invites children to come dressed in their

best Halloween attire for an evening spent exploring the historic streets of the Victorian town. With lanterns, cobwebs and carved pumpkins much in evidence, event highlights include autumnal candle dipping, spine-tingling ghost stories and the chance to trick-or-treat the ever-so-spooky townsfolk.

Dr Nerium's Garden Of Ghouls

Birmingham Botanical Gardens,
Fri 26 October - Sun 4 November

A brand new attraction for 2018, this live-action scaremaze takes visitors through Birmingham Botanical Gardens via a fully immersive experience. The challenge for participants is a straightforward one: to do what many before them have failed to manage and make it through the maze - despite the attentions of the weird, wonderful and terrifying creatures that have escaped Dr Nerium's world famous laboratory. For those who make it to safety, there's a special entertainment zone to enjoy, complete with street food traders, bars, music and circus-themed attractions.



Ghost Search

Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire,
Wed 31 October

Take an after-hours walk around Tamworth Castle in search of ghouls and ghosts. There'll be vigils in some of the castle's reputedly haunted rooms too, where visitors might snatch a glimpse of the Black Lady or the White Lady, two of the venue's notorious ghostly residents.



Scarefest

Alton Towers, Staffordshire, Sat 6 - Sun 7, Sat
13 - Sun 14, Fri 19 October - Fri 2 November

Filled with spooks, frights and thrills for everyone, Alton Tower's popular Halloween season returns for another year.

An extension of opening hours means that guests can enjoy their favourite rides after dark, as well as checking out loads of extra entertainment.

Younger visitors can take part in spooktacular family fun and shows, including the brand new CBeebies Monster Ball.

For older thrill-seekers, the park's award-winning scare mazes make a welcome return, complete with the newly added Project 42.



Fright Street

Tudor World, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 27 October
- Sat 3 November

Taking place in Stratford-upon-Avon's most haunted building, Tudor World will be celebrating Halloween with lots of activities for both young and old. Daytime activities include a children's Halloween trail and the chance to have your fortune read by the resident fortune teller. After dark, spooky tours will be available for the adults through the building's labyrinth of shadowy hallways, all by the lantern light.

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BOBBY MAIR ■ GUZ KHAN

ALL YOU NEED IS LSD

THINKING DRINKERS

ORCHESTRA OF CHAOS

BISMILLAH! ■ VIKKI STONE

MRS BARBARA NICE

PARLOUR GAMES ■ NOEL JAMES

JOSH PUGH ■ ROB KEMP

DIRTY WHITE BOYS

ROUND THE HORNE

STEVE LILLY'S COMEDY CLASSICS

THE AWKWARD SILENCE

HIT THE ODE ■ KANE BROWN

HANCOCK & CO ■ UoB FOOTNOTES

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

the list



Birmingham Literature Festival at various locations in Birmingham - Thurs 4 - Sun 14 October

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

What's On

Mon 1 to Sun 7 October



All You Need Is LSD at
The REP, Birmingham

Thurs 4 - Sat 13 October

Mon 8 to Sun 14 October



James Martin at
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Sun 14 October

Mon 15 to Sun 21 October



Puzzle Creature at The
Patrick Studio, Birmingham

Wed 17 - Thurs 18 October

Mon 22 to Wed 31 October



Kacey Musgraves at
O2 Academy, Birmingham

Sun 28 October

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

Visual Arts

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

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

BOM (B'ham Open Media)

NEW THE KITTY AI : ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR GOVERNANCE Exhibition by Pinar Yoldas contemplating both AI and humanity's relationship to this emerging technology, Thurs 4 Oct - Sat 8 Dec

NEW BEHOLDER Virtual reality experience by United Visual Artists (UVA) exploring beauty from autistic perspectives, Thurs 4 Oct - Sat 8 Dec

Grand Union

JOANNE MASDING: BRUNTWOOD CORNERBLOCK COMMISSION Permanent installation made by artist and Grand Union studio holder Joanne Masding, until Fri 5 July 2019

Ikon Gallery

KATE GROOBEY - PURE PLEASURE Celebration of female pleasure, consisting of video, dressed mannequin and a painting, until Sun 18 Nov

MAC, Birmingham

CREATING THE SPECTACLE! IMMERSED IN 360 In repurposing her wheelchair to create fantastical art, Sue Austin reshapes how we think about disability, until Sun 25 Nov

RBSA Gallery

NEW SPLASH! A WINDOW ON WATER-COLOUR BIRMINGHAM WATERCOLOUR SOCIETY Showcase of recent work in a variety of styles, from traditional landscape to the abstract and semi-abstract, Mon 8 - Sat 20 Oct

NEW SUNLIGHT, WATER, REFLECTIONS, BLUE SKIES, TREES Display of recent landscapes, including impressionistic paintings in gouache and oils alongside more traditional drawing studies, Mon 8 - Sat 20 Oct

NEW ALEX CALLAWAY RBSA Alex aims

to create 'a little magic from the mundane', inviting the viewer to slow down and contemplate the wonders of the ordinary, Mon 8 Oct - Sat 3 Nov

NEW FAIR DAY'S WORK: KEITH TURLEY RBSA Exhibition of portraits and figures in working environments, including strong Black Country references in the form of chainmaking, glass-making and canal life, Mon 22 Oct - Sat 3 Nov

The Barber Institute

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

NEW MAMAN Exhibition focusing on the first decade of Édouard Vuillard's career, featuring paintings, pastels, prints and photographs lent by collections in Britain and Europe, Fri 19 Oct - Sun 20 Jan

NEW LOOKING AT ANIMALS Exhibition exploring a wide range of representations of animals, drawing on drawings and prints dating from the 16th to the 20th century by artists including Rubens, Gericault, Delacroix and Franz Marc, Fri 19 Oct - Sun 10 Feb

Other VISUAL ARTS

NEW MEDIAFEST One-month exhibition juxtaposing new media artworks by UK artists with innovators from the 1970s & '80s, Fri 5 - Sat 27 Oct, Vivid Projects, Birmingham

NEW PAINTER, SCULPTOR, POET: PART II Hung around the gallery are material appropriated paintings obscured by poems embroidered onto the surface, Sat 6 - Sat 20 Oct, Stryx Gallery, Digbeth

NEW SKIN Exhibition of figurative paintings and drawings by Neil Moore, Sat 6 - Tues 30 Oct, Artifex Gallery, Sutton Coldfield

NEW ACTS OF RESISTANCE Exhibition by Marianne Forrest, watchmaker and creator of sculptural timepieces for urban spaces, Mon 15 Oct - Fri 9 Nov, Vittoria Street Gallery, B'ham

NEW LOOK TWICE BY GIFFORD AND QUINN Collection of recent figurative paintings from Birmingham artists Ruth Gifford and Graham Quinn, Wed 17 - Mon 29 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

NEW LUCY ORTA - PROCESSION BANNERS Artist Lucy Orta collaborated with female residents of HMP Downview to design 30 banners to mark 100 years since British women won the vote, Tues 23 Oct - Sun 20 Jan, Medicine Bakery & Gallery, B'ham

Gigs

KOJO FUNDS Mon 1 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JORDAN MACKAMPA Mon 1 Oct, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

AVALANCHE PARTY Mon 1 Oct, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

LARRY CARLTON Tues 2 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

CAROUSEL Tues 2 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

OCTAVIAN Tues 2 Oct, Mama Roux's, B'ham

THE NIGHTINGALES, NEAR JAZZ EXPERIENCE & STEWART LEE Tues 2 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TELEMAN Tues 2 Oct, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

THE AMITY AFFLICTION Tues 2 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KOVIC Wed 3 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

CHRIS SHERBURN & DENNY BARTLEY Wed 3 Oct, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

KNOXVILLE HIGHWAY Wed 3 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

ACRES Wed 3 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

HOPE & SOCIAL Wed 3 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

CLEOPATRICK Wed 3 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

LUKE COMBS Wed 3 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

PAUL YOUNG Wed 3 Oct, Town Hall, B'ham

LUCA STRICAGNOLI Thurs 4 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE THREE DEGREES Thurs 4 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

INTER ARMA Thurs 4 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

VIRGINIA WING Thurs 4 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ANNA CALVI Thurs 4 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

CHINA CRISIS Thurs 4 Oct, Pizza Express, Brindley Place, B'ham

CROWBAR + INGESTED Thurs 4 Oct, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

THREE DAYS GRACE Thurs 4 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CATAPULT CLUB Fri 5 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LET THERE BE LOVE - CLAIRE MARTIN & RAY GELATO Fri 5 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

CULT FICTION Fri 5 Oct, Route 44, Birmingham

STEREO HONEY Fri 5 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE CORAL Fri 5 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

BABY BUSHKA Fri 5 Oct, The Night Owl, B'ham

MARK HANSLIP'S HTRIO Fri 5 Oct, MAC, B'ham

ROXY MAGIC Fri 5 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ANNA MEREDITH & SOUTHBANK SINFONIA Fri 5 Oct, Town Hall, Birmingham

THE CORAL DJ SET Fri 5 Oct, The Night Owl, Birmingham

NAMIWA JAZZ Fri 5 Oct, Pizza Express, Brindley Place, Birmingham

KRYSTHLA Fri 5 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

STEVE HACKETT GENESIS REVISITED Fri 5 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

THE BEAT BROTHERS Fri 5 - Sat 6 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

MIDLAND Sat 6 Oct,

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DIAMOND HEAD Sat 6 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

MAMA Sat 6 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MIKE STEWART LAWRENCE Sat 6 Oct, The Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull

THE RIFLES Sat 6 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

COL3TRANE Sat 6 Oct, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

REBEL REBEL Sat 6 Oct, Route 44, Birmingham

HUNTER AND THE BEAR Sat 6 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TOM SPEIGHT Sat 6 Oct, Ort, Birmingham

FATHERSON & BLUE AMERICANS Sat 6 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

ROXY MAGIC Sat 6 Oct, Lichfield Guildhall

THE REAL PEOPLE Sat 6 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

THE MUSICAL BOX Sat 6 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

STAMINA - SUPERSTAR EDITION WITH SNEAKBO Sat 6 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BETHEL MUSIC Sun 7 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

HOGJAW Sun 7 Oct, The Asylum, B'ham

ART SCHOOL GIRLFRIEND Sun 7 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

G FLIP Sun 7 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE STORY SO FAR Sun 7 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

WANNABE: THE SPICE GIRLS SHOW Sun 7 Oct, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall



Hope & Social - MAC, Birmingham

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by Widor, J.S Bach, Gounod, Best, Gounod & Rossini, Mon 1 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

A CELEBRATION OF GRANVILLE BANTOCK Featuring Maria Marchant (piano). Programme includes works by Bantock & Sibelius, Tues 2 Oct, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THE SIXTEEN: CHORAL PILGRIMAGE Wed 3 Oct, Coventry Cathedral

CBSO: TCHAIKOVSKY AND BEETHOVEN Featuring Constantinos Carydis (conductor) and Yulianna Avdeeva (piano). Programme includes works by Skalkottas, Tchaikovsky, Koukos and Beethoven, Thurs 4 - Sun 7 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BENYOONES QUARTET Featuring Zara Benyounes & Emily Holland (violin), Sara Roberts (viola) & Kim Vaughan (cello). Programme includes works by Purcell, John Woolrich & Haydn, Fri 5 Oct, The Barber Institute, B'ham

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor) & Natasha Day (soprano). Programme includes works by Holst, Berg & Vaughan Williams, Sun 7 Oct, The Bramall, Birmingham

Comedy

HARRY & CHRIS: SAVE THE WORLD Tues 2 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



JASON MANFORD Wed 3 Oct, Dudley Town Hall

ROBIN INCE Thurs 4 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

GARETH RICHARDS, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON PLUS COMIC TBC Thurs 4 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

ROBIN INCE Fri 5 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CHERRY REDS COMEDY CLUB Fri 5 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

BREAKING TALENT AWARD 2018 Fri 5 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TONY WRIGHT, ROB MULHOLLAND, STEPHANIE LANG & COMIC TBC Fri 5 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

DANNY O'BRIEN, GARETH RICHARDS, ANDREW RYAN & COMIC TBC Fri 5 - Sat 6

Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL FOOT Sat 6 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

CHRISTIAN REILLY, SARAH CALLAGHAN, JARLATH REGAN & CRAIG MURRAY Sat 6 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

DEANO MAC, JASON PATTERSON, JUDIE LOVE & SMASH Sat 6 Oct, MAC, B'ham

LEE HURST Sun 7 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

GARY POWNDLAND & FRIENDS Sun 7 Oct, the Glee Club, Birmingham

THE LAUGHING SOLE COMEDY FOR KIDS Sun 7 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

Theatre

REBUS: LONG SHADOWS Brand new play based on Ian Rankin's fictional detective, John Rebus, until Sat 6 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

TAMBURLAINE Michael Boyd directs a new staging of Christopher Marlowe's famous play, until Sat 1 Dec, Royal Shakespeare Theatre Stratford-upon-Avon

TARTUFFE New version of Moliere's provocative French classic, until Sat 23 Feb, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon



THE FISHERMEN New Perspectives present a new version of Chigozie Obioma's allegory of brotherhood, vengeance and fate... Tues 2 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BEYOND THE BARRICADE The UK's longest-running musical theatre concert tour, Tues 2 - Wed 3 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

FINDING JOY Vamos Theatre present their acclaimed show about dementia, Thurs 4 - Fri 5 Oct, MAC, B'ham

DUET FOR ONE Belinda Lang & Oliver Cotton star in a new staging of Tom Kempinski's award-winning play, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CURSE OF THE SIGN OF FOUR All & Sundry Productions presents its version of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's tale of intrigue, stolen treasure and murder, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

BISMILLAH A story of disenfranchisement, social alienation, prejudice, radicalisation and the rock band Queen, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 Oct, Old Joint



All You Need Is LSD - The REP, Birmingham

Stock Theatre, Birmingham

ALL YOU NEED IS LSD Darkly humorous new play illuminating the drugs debate and examining the freedom we have to make our own choices, Thurs 4 - Sat 13 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

THE THINKING DRINKERS PUB CRAWL Enjoy five free drinks as the award-winning experts take you from the symposiums of Ancient Greece to the classic British boozer via Wild West saloons, Victorian gin palaces and the secret Speakeasy, Fri 5 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

PRIVATE PARTS LIVE TV stars Jamie Laing and Francis Boule tread the boards with their live 'laugh-a-minute extravaganza', developed from their hit podcast, Sat 6 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

BREAKING THE CODE The Crescent Theatre Company present Hugh Whitmore's 'compassionate, amusing and ultimately tragic play', Sat 6 - Sat 13 Oct, Crescent Theatre, B'ham

BUFO BUFO The Awkward Silence return with another multi-character

comedy set in a strange and captivating world, Sun 7 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Kids Shows

ALICE IN WONDERLAND Amateur staging of Lewis Carroll's fantastical tale, Fri 5 - Sat 13 Oct, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

BING LIVE! The first ever Bing stage show, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

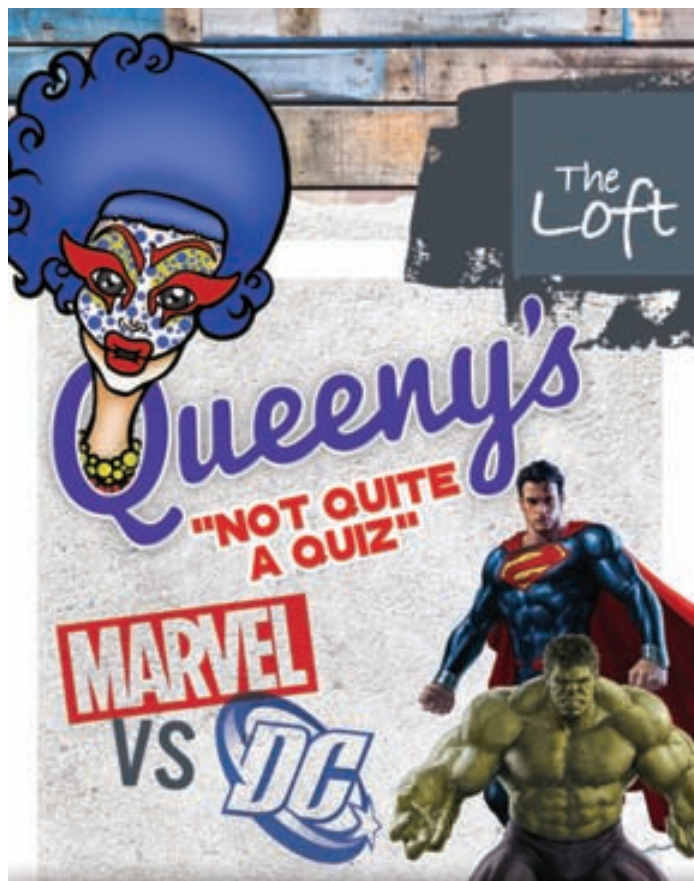
Dance

SHOW Shechter II present a 'wild and wicked' three-act production, Tues 2 - Wed 3 Oct, DanceXchange, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

FIRE & FURY Birmingham Royal Ballet



BRB's Fire And Fury - Birmingham Hippodrome



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present a double bill featuring David Bintley's *The King Dances* and Juango Arqués' *Ignite*, Wed 3 - Sat 6 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

AKAAR Sonia Sabri Company showcase some of the region's emerging talent alongside guest artists, Sun 7 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

Talks

COLIN STAFFORD-JOHNSON: LIVING A WILD LIFE Evening with 'one of the world's most acclaimed filmmakers', Mon 1 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE: MATHEMATICS – THE NEW ANTIBIOTIC? Dr Sara Jabbari from the University of Birmingham talks about her work using mathematics to help accelerate the journey towards new treatments for bacterial infections, Tues 2 Oct, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

RAF STORIES TALKS - CANDIDA ADKINS Daughter of famous female Spitfire pilot Jackie Moggridge, Candida Adkins shares stories about her mother, Thurs 4 Oct, RAF Cosford, Shifnal

HIT THE ODE Unique performance-poetry night which sees one regional, one national and one international poet perform alongside open micers, Fri 5 Oct, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

NEIL OLIVER - THE STORY OF THE BRITISH ISLES IN 100 PLACES Join Neil as he talks about his 20 years travelling to every corner of Great Britain, Fri 5 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

LOVE THE ARCHERS? Get the low-down on *Ambridge* with *Archers* scriptwriter Keri Davies and performers Charlotte Martin (Susan Carter) & Emerald O'Hanrahan (Emma Grundy), Sun 7 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE CHILDREN ACT (12a) Drama. Starring Emma Thompson, Stanley Tucci. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 28, Mon 1 & Fri 5 Oct

AMERICAN ANIMALS (15) Crime/Drama. Starring Spencer Reinhard, Warren Lipka. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 28 Sept - Thurs 4 Oct

THE PREDATOR (18) Adventure/Horror. Starring Boyd Holbrook, Trevante Rhodes. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 28 Sept - Thurs 4 Oct

MATANGI/MAYA/M.I.A Documentary/Biography. Starring M.I.A. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 28 Sept -

Thurs 4 Oct

LUCKY (15) Comedy/Drama. Starring Harry Dean Stanton, David Lynch. MAC, Birmingham, Sat 29 Sept - Thurs 4 Oct

DISTANT VOICES, STILL LIVES (15) Drama/Music. Starring Pete Postlethwaite, Freda Dowie. MAC, Birmingham, Sun 30 Sept - Tues 2 Oct

THE BOOKSHOP (12a) Drama. Starring Emily Mortimer, Bill Nighy. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 5 Oct

THE SEAGULL (12a) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Elisabeth Moss, Saoirse Ronan. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 5 - Wed 10 Oct

CRAZY RICH ASIANS (12a) Comedy/Romance. Starring Constance Wu, Henry Golding. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 5 - Thurs 11 Oct

CLIMAX (18) Drama/Horror. Starring Sofia Boutella, Romain Guillermic. Foreign language, subtitled. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 5 - Thurs 11 Oct

A SIMPLE FAVOUR (15) Crime/Drama. Starring Anna Kendrick, Blake Lively. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 5 - Thurs 11 Oct

LAUREL AND HARDY: IN AND OUT OF SERVICE Comedy. Three classic black and white comedies. Starring Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy. MAC, Birmingham, Sun 7 Oct

TRON / TRON LEGACY (PG) Adventure/Sci-Fi. Starring Jeff Bridges. Sci-fi double bill. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 7 Oct

REINVENTING MARVIN (15) Drama. Starring Finnegan Oldfield, Grégory Gadebois. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Sun 7 - Thurs 11 Oct

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

A STAR IS BORN (15)

BLIND SPOTTING (15)

STRANGEWAYS HERE WE COME (15)

COLUMBUS (tbc)

JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN (tbc)

Events

SPOOKY SPECTACULAR Featuring witches, wizards & werewolves, until Sun 4 Nov, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley

THE PLANETS 2018 Written out of a fascination with astrology, Holst's *The Planets* was first performed 100 years ago. But what would it sound like if created by today's composers? Tues 2 Oct, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW This year the show celebrates its 70th anniversary, Wed 3 - Sun 7 Oct, NEC, Birmingham



Birmingham Literary Festival

various locations in and around Birmingham, Thurs 4 to Sun 14 October

A host of top literary talent has been lined up for the 21st Birmingham Literature Festival.

From humble beginnings back in 1998, the event has developed into one of the city's most widely acclaimed celebrations of the arts.

Highlights of this year's festival include contributions from well-known Midlands Caitlin Moran (pictured), Nigel Slater and Jonathan Coe, events including panel discussions, book launches, writing workshops, nature walks and a trip onboard a narrowboat, and shows that feature theatre, music, storytelling, poetry and live-on-stage cooking.

Commenting on the event, Festival Director Antonia Beck said: "We're delighted to present 10 days of inspiring, thought-provoking and entertaining events in venues across Birmingham city centre, which not only showcase great books and writers from the UK and abroad, but also create space to bring people together for great conversation and ideas."

sary, Wed 3 - Sun 7 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL 10 day event celebrating words, books and ideas in many forms, Thurs 4 - Sun 14 Oct, various locations in and around Birmingham

DUNGEON LATES Strictly for adult traitors, Fri 5 Oct, Warwick Castle

IRONBRIDGE LATES: SILENT DISCO Fri 5 Oct, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK Sat 6 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery

Quarter, Birmingham

BACKSTAGE TOUR Sat 6 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

SCAREFEST Enjoy your favourite rides in the dark, plus loads of extra entertainment, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Oct, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

ARTS MARKETS 2018 Monthly markets showcasing the work of local designer makers, Sun 7 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

APPLE & CIDER DAY Find out about the history of the apple and how it was used in Tudor times, Sun 7 Oct, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham



thinktank
Birmingham science museum



Spooky Science Week

Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov

- Science of Fright Live Show
- Spooky Slime Labs
- Wicked Witch Storytelling

SPOOKY SCIENCE NIGHT

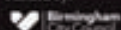
Find out what really happens at Night of the Museum!

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Castle



Half-term haunting, spooky family fun and a Bonfire Night to remember!

Children's Halloween Evening

Saturday 27th October 5.00pm-8.00pm

Bring all the family, get dressed up in your spookiest costume and enjoy the ghostly goings on around the Castle. Free pumpkin lantern for all paying children.

Haunted Castle

Sunday 28th to Friday 2nd November
11.30am-4.00pm

A week full of ghostly goings on at the spooktacular haunted Castle. Look out for creepy characters and surprises - only the courageous will not be spooked!

Ghost Search

Wednesday 31st October

7.30pm-Midnight

Join us for a night with a difference on our ghost walk around the Medieval Castle, with vigils conducted in reputedly haunted rooms.

Bonfire Night

Saturday 3rd November from 5.30pm
(Fireworks 8.00pm)

This is a chance to visit Tamworth Castle after dark, before enjoying the ever popular breathtaking firework display in the Castle Grounds.



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and hands-on
activities

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For more information please call 01827 709 618
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Tamworth Castle, The Holloway, Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 7NA

Gigs

HARDY CAPRIO Mon 8 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TONY HADLEY Mon 8 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



ANNA PANCALDI Mon 8 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CHILDCARE & LAZY DAY Tues 9 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

BIG Q FISH Tues 9 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

TOOTS AND THE MAYTALS Wed 10 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MARIE-CLAIRE BERRENN & HER HUSBANDS Wed 10 Oct, Red Lion Folk Club, Kings Heath, Birmingham

MNEK Wed 10 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW Wed 10 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

GOSPEL CENTRAL Wed 10 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

JEFF LYNNE'S ELO Wed 10 Oct, Arena B'ham

OMYO Wed 10 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JESS WILLIAMSON Wed 10 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CRYWANK, KERMES, YR POETRY & A BULL Wed 10 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TOM ROBINSON Wed 10 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE DANIEL WAKEFORD EXPERIENCE Thurs 11 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

A VISION OF ELVIS Thurs 11 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

SEA GIRLS Thurs 11 Oct, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

MOBIUS LOOP Thurs 11 Oct, Hare & Hounds,

Birmingham

APOLLO SOUL Thurs 11 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

SAINT AGNES Thurs 11 Oct, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

ROSS FROM FRIENDS Thurs 11 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FRANKIE STEW & HARVEY GUNN Thurs 11 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

DARWIN DEEZ Thurs 11 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ALEX LLEO Thurs 11 Oct, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

KAST OFF KINKS Thurs 11 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

BABY BUSHKA Thurs 11 Oct, The Night Owl, Birmingham

ENSLAVED + HIGH ON FIRE Fri 12 Oct, The Mill, Digbeth, B'ham

GABY K Fri 12 Oct, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

ERADIKATOR Fri 12 Oct, Route 44, Birmingham

SABRINA FRANCIS & FLOM Fri 12 Oct, Pizza Express, Brindley Place, Birmingham

HEAVY BEAT HOUSE PARTY Fri 12 Oct, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

IMPERIAL LEISURE Fri 12 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BECKY HILL Fri 12 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

JILTED JOHN Fri 12 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

LOSKI Fri 12 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ROBERT LANE Fri 12 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE VRYLL SOCIETY + PEACH FUZZ Fri 12 Oct, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

OUR GIRL Fri 12 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

PURE MCCARTNEY FEAT. TONY COBURN Fri 12 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

JEFF LYNNE'S ELO Fri 12 - Sat 13 Oct, Arena Birmingham

MADE FOR THE WEEK-END Fri 12 - Sat 13 Oct, Genting Arena, Birmingham

K.FLAY Sat 13 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ABBA MANIA Sat 13 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE Sat 13 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

INCARNADINE COVEN Sat 13 Oct, Scruffy Murphy's, Birmingham

LEE LESSACK AND JOHNNY RODGERS Sat 13 Oct, Pizza Express, Brindley Place, B'ham

ASTROID BOYS Sat 13 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

TIN TINS HYPE 25TH SILVER ANNIVERSARY Sat 13 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LE CLUB FONDUE PRESENTS MOSELEY DANCE CENTRE Sat 13 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DEFINITELY MIGHTBE Sat 13 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JORJA SMITH Sat 13 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

DAN OWEN Sat 13 Oct, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham



MC TRIGGA BIRTHDAY BASH PRESENTS POWER Sat 13 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DEAF BALLOONS, RAPHAELLA KORNAISKIS & BALM Sat 13 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE PARROTS Sun 14 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

COHEED AND CAMBRIA Sun 14 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GET CAPE WEAR CAPE FLY Sun 14 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

FAIRPORT CONVENTION Sun 14 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

Classical Music

CBSO: YAMADA CONDUCTS BERNSTEIN Featuring Kazuki Yamada (conductor) & Baiba Skride (violin). Programme includes works by Ravel, Korngold & Bernstein, Wed 10 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MAIA PERSSON (SOPRANO) & JOSEPH MIDDLETON (PIANO) Programme includes works by Clara Schumann, Robert Schumann, Duparc, Nystroem & Sibelius, Wed 10 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

MOZART'S WIND SERENADE Featuring Emmet Byrne & Rachael Pankhurst (oboes), Oliver James & Mark O'Brien (clarinets), Mark Phillips & Michael Kidd (horns), Margaret Cookhorn (bassoon) & Adrian Spillett (percussion). Programme includes works by Pärt & Mozart, Thurs 11 Oct, CBSO Centre, B'ham

CBSO: THE MUSIC OF HARRY POTTER Featuring Michael Seal (conductor) and the CBSO Youth Chorus. Programme includes music from Philosopher's Stone, Chamber of Secrets, Prisoner of Azkaban, Goblet of Fire, Order of the Phoenix, Half-Blood Prince and Deathly Hallows, Fri 12 Oct, Symphony Hall, B'ham

DAVID QUIGLEY (PIANO) Programme includes works by Debussy, Respighi, Chopin, Liszt & Howard Blake, Fri 12 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: SHOSTAKOVICH'S FIFTH Featuring Xian Zhang (conductor) and Fatma Said (soprano). Programme includes Shostakovich's Symphony No 5, 44' and works by Rachmaninoff and Strauss, Sat 13 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

CHERRY REDS COMEDY CLUB Wed 10 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, B'ham

STEWART FRANCIS Thurs 11 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ROBERT WHITE, TOM HOUGHTON & RAHUL KOHLI Thurs 11 Oct, The Brimall, Birmingham

DANA ALEXANDER, CAREY MARX & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 11 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL SINHA Thurs 11 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

ROBIN INCE Fri 12 Oct, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield

JOEY PAGE, MARK SMITH Fri 12 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

CHERRY REDS COMEDY CLUB Fri 12 Oct, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, B'ham

THOMAS GREEN, DOUG SEGAL & COMICS TBC Fri 12 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

TOM BINNS Fri 12 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DANA ALEXANDER, CAREY MARX, BOBBY MAIR & MAFF BROWN Fri 12 - Sat 13 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

DANE BAPTISTE Sat 13 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BARBARA NICE'S RAFFLE Sat 13 Oct, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

RICH WILSON, TOM HOUGHTON, DAVE LONGLEY & LEO KEARSE Sat 13 Oct, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

VIKKI STONE Sat 13 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

FAT PENGUIN IMPROV Sun 14 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

Theatre

UNSPOKEN Bravo 22 Company's new drama of love, loss, loneliness and hope, performed by ex-service personnel, Mon 8 - Tues 9 Oct, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

TOP HAT Amateur staging presented by South Staffs Musical Theatre Company, Tues 9 - Sat 13 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MALCOLM STENT & DON MACLEAN - TWO OF A KIND... BUT DIFFERENT Evening of variety show entertainment featuring stories, reminiscences, jokes and a few songs... Wed 10 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

WAR HORSE Acclaimed West End drama based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo, Wed 10 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

PARLOUR GAMES A 'right royal romp' through British history, exploring politics, passion and parlour games, Thurs 11 - Sat 13 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

DRACULA New staging of Bram Stoker's gothic novel, Thurs 11 - Sat 20 Oct, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

MOTOWN THE MUSICAL Hit West End show about Motown founder Berry Gordy, Thurs 11 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

DAVID EDGAR: TRYING IT ON The Birmingham-born playwright takes to the stage in a one-man show and contemplates the ways in which both the world and his own views have changed over the past 50 years, Fri 12 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

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Thursday 1 November, 7.00pm
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THE LEGEND CONTINUES...
Saturday 3 November, 7.30pm
Tickets: £17.00

FAITH: THE GEORGE MICHAEL LEGACY
Saturday 24 November, 7.30pm
Tickets: £23.50

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: FAMILY PANTOMIME
Tuesday 11 - Monday 31 December
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ment, social alienation, prejudice, radicalisation and the rock band Queen, Fri 12 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

SCHOOL FOR LOVERS, A MUSICAL SEX-TET-A-TETE Opera Novella present a modern version of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, complete with dialogue and a small orchestra, Fri 12 - Sun 14 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA Virtuoso percussionist Evelyn Glennie collaborates with Artistic Director Gregory Doran to create a satirical futuristic vision of a world resounding with the rhythm of battle, Fri 12 Oct - Sat 17 Nov, Royal Shakespeare Theatre Stratford-upon-Avon

Kids Shows

A THING MISLAID Maison Foo present a tale 'full of footsteps, hope and an unlikely friendship between two lonely travellers and a mysterious bird', Wed 10 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

Talks

AN EVENING WITH STACEY DOOLEY Rare live appearance during which Stacey discusses everything from gender equality and domestic violence to sex trafficking and sexual identity, Tues 9 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

JAMES MARTIN ON THE ROAD AGAIN Join James as he reflects on his love of hearty food and various other passions, Sun 14 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



Dance

FLAWLESS - CHASE THE DREAM: THE REBOOT High-energy acrobatic family show following the journey of 10 big dreamers hoping to live their ultimate dance fantasy on board the Inter-galactic Dream Ship, Wed 10 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE NUTCRACKER Vienna Festival Ballet presents its staging of the popular ballet, Sun 14 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

BEST F(R)IENDS VOLUME 1 & 2 (18) Comedy/Thriller. Starring Greg Sestero, Tommy Wiseau. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 12 Oct

FACES PLACES (12a) Documentary. Starring Agnès Varda, JR, Jeannine Carpentier. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 12 - Tues 16 Oct

SKATE KITCHEN (15) Drama. Starring Kabrina Adams, Emmanuel Barco. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 12 - Wed 17 Oct

THE RECEPTIONIST (18) Drama. Starring Josh Whitehouse, Lorraine Stanley. MAC, Birmingham, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Oct

HALLOWEEN (18) Horror/Thriller. Starring Donald Pleasence, Jamie Lee Curtis. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 14 - Mon 15 Oct

BLACK 47 (15) Drama/Action. Starring Hugo Weaving, James Frecheville. MAC, Birmingham, Sun 14 - Tues 23 Oct

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 12 Oct, showing at selected cinemas

BAD TIMES AT THE EL ROYALE (tbc)

FIRST MAN (tbc)

MANDY (18)

SINK (15)

SMALLFOOT (PG)

Events

GRAND DESIGNS LIVE Expert advice, new product launches and specialist exhibitors, Wed 10 - Sun 14 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

BACKSTAGE TOUR Thurs 11 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

DUNGEON LATES Strictly for adult traitors, Fri 12 Oct, Warwick Castle

WARTIME HANGAR DANCE 1940s-style event with the Aerospace Museum Society, Sat 13 Oct, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

MEDIEVAL BANQUET Sat 13 Oct, Warwick Castle

BACKSTAGE TOUR Sat 13 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

THE SPICE TRAIN A chance to marvel at the massive locomotives on display before heading into the restaurant to try a variety of curries from around the world, Sat 13 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

BAVARIAN EVENING Featuring an inter-



Simplyhealth Great Birmingham Run - City Centre

active Bavarian Oompah band, Sat 13 Oct, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley

SCAREFEST Enjoy your favourite rides in the dark, plus loads of extra entertainment, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Oct, Alton

Towers, Staffordshire

SIMPLYHEALTH GREAT BIRMINGHAM RUN PLUS JUNIOR & MINI RUN The city's annual half marathon, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Oct, Birmingham City Centre

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Gigs

MICHAEL BOLTON Mon 15 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BLACK HONEY Mon 15 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GUUNA B Tues 16 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RYAN HAMILTON AND THE HARLEQUIN GHOSTS Tues 16 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

THE BRIAN JONESTOWN MASSACRE Tues 16 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE Wed 17 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

MASSIVE Wed 17 Oct, The Asylum, B'ham

JACK WHITE Wed 17 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TUNNG Wed 17 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JIM CAUSLEY Wed 17 Oct, Red Lion Folk Club, Kings Heath, Birmingham

OLIE BRICE QUINTET Wed 17 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

SICK JOY Wed 17 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE MATT MONRO STORY Wed 17 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LEVEL 42 Wed 17 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CARROLL THOMPSON Wed 17 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

TOM WALKER Thurs 18 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CARBON LEAF Thurs 18 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

PAUL CHERRY Thurs 18 Oct, The Night Owl, Birmingham

SARABETH TRIO Thurs 18 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BLACK PEAKS Thurs 18 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

AVELINO Thurs 18 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

MAGGIE BELL & DAVE

KELLY Thurs 18 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

DAUGHTRY Thurs 18 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KRS-ONE Thurs 18 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

CULTURE ABUSE + GOUGE AWAY Thurs 18 Oct, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

THE UPBEAT BEATLES Thurs 18 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

AT LAST: THE ETTA JAMES STORY Thurs 18 Oct, Town Hall, B'ham

EDITORS Fri 19 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

DERANGE Fri 19 Oct, Scruffy Murphy's, Birmingham

THE MANOR Fri 19 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

GORDON HENDRICKS AS ELVIS Fri 19 - Sat 20 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE WORLD FAMOUS ELVIS SHOW Fri 19 - Sat 20 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

CICI INTO THE WILD Fri 19 - Sat 20 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE CHATS Fri 19 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham

SOUL II SOUL Fri 19 Oct, B'ham Town Hall

ANNISOKAY Fri 19 Oct, The Asylum, B'ham

SAM COE & THE LONG SHADOWS Fri 19 Oct, Pizza Express, Brindley Place, Birmingham

WHO KNOWS WHERE THE TIME GOES?: THE JULIE JULY BAND Fri 19 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE ULTIMATE EAGLES Fri 19 Oct, The Robin, Bilston

SIGALA Fri 19 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ANNABEL ALLUM Fri 19 Oct, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

GLASS CEILINGS Fri 19 Oct, The Victoria, Birmingham

MR BEN Fri 19 - Sat 20 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham

ANTARCTIC MONKEYS Sat 20 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ASH Sat 20 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SAM AMIDON Sat 20 Oct, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

HANDS LIKE HOUSES Sat 20 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham

THE COATHANGERS + DITZ + MUTT Sat 20 Oct, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

ALL YEARS LEAVING Sat 20 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SHOW OF HANDS Sat 20 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

NOTHING, NOWHERE Sat 20 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MUDIBU & THE JEZEBEL SEXTET Sat 20 Oct, Pizza Express, Brindley Place, Birmingham

THE WORLD-FAMOUS GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA DIRECTED BY RAY MCVAY Sun 21 Oct, Dudley Town Hall

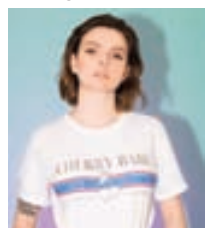
TOM ODELL Sun 21 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ERIC MARTIN Sun 21 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SKREAM Sun 21 Oct, Mama Roux's, B'ham

BLOODY KNEES Sun 21 Oct, The Flapper, Birmingham

EMMA BLACKERY Sun 21 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham



ALL YEARS LEAVING Sun 21 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

WHY DON'T WE Sun 21 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE SURRENDERS Sun 21 Oct, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

DARIUS RUCKER Sun 21 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

NYA'S HOUSE OF SOUL Sun 21 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Classical Music

YEVGENY SUDBIN IN RECITAL Featuring Yevgeny Sudbin (piano). Programme includes works by Scarlatti, Tchaikovsky, Scriabin and Prokofiev, Mon 15 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme comprises Wagner's (trans. Edwin Lemare) Overture from Rienzi, Mon 15 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring François Leleux (director / oboe / Cor Anglais). Programme includes works by Brahms, Haydn, Debussy (arr. Silvestrini) & Bizet, Wed 17 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

NIGEL KENNEDY The multi-million selling virtuoso violinist will perform pieces by Bach, Gershwin, as well as his own self-penned pieces, Thurs 18 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA: SYMPHONIC FANTASY Also featuring Toby Purser (conductor) & the Canzonetta Choir. Programme includes film scores from Harry Potter, The Hobbit, Pirates Of The Caribbean, Twilight, Dragonheart and more... Fri 19 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BUSCH PIANO TRIO Featuring Omri Epstein (piano), Mathieu Van Bellen (violin) & Ori Epstein (cello). Programme includes works by Suk & Dvorak, Fri 19 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA: IN 40 PARTS Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor). Programme includes works by Tallis, Striggio, Jackson, Roth and Tallis, Sun 21 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy

ABANDOMAN, Wed 17 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SARAH KEYWORTH, STEVE GRIBBIN & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 18 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SARAH KEYWORTH, STEVE GRIBBIN, JOHN LYNN & STEVE BUGEJA Fri 19 - Sat 20 Oct, The Glee Club, B'ham

KAI SAMRA Sat 20 Oct, The REP,

Birmingham

LOL COMEDY CLUB Sat 20 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT Sat 20 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

JAMALI MADDIX Sun 21 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MAT RICARDO Sun 21 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

GINA YASHERE, MAUREEN YOUNGER & PRINCE ABDI Sun 21 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

Theatre

MACBETH: DIRECTORS CUT Untraditional Shakespeare featuring 'striking design and sensory surprises', Mon 15 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

SALT Play exploring colonial history's existence in the everyday and the politics of grief, Mon 15 - Tues 16 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

THE CASE OF THE FRIGHTENED LADY John Partridge stars in a new staging of Edgar Wallace's classic thriller, Mon 15 - Sat 20 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

DIRTY DANCING Much-acclaimed musical featuring a host of hit songs, including the iconic The Time Of My Life, Mon 15 - Sat 20 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

ART WITH HEART: DECLARATION A 'vibrant and daring adventure' of school day survival tactics, superhero alter-egos and the stumbling blocks to self-acceptance, Tues 16 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

KINKY BOOTS Acclaimed musical which takes its audience on a journey from a factory floor in Northampton to the glamorous catwalks of Milan. Songs come courtesy of pop icon Cyndi Lauper, Tues 16 - Sat 27 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING New musical featuring songs from the Great War, Wed 17 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull



MISSION ABORT A one-woman play which offers a 'frank and funny' glimpse into the mental and physical trauma of abortion, Wed 17 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

STUFF Janice Connolly & Michael Crouch shine light on the subject of hoarding, Wed 17 - Sat 20 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

KUKUNOR/KALAHARI Production presented with spoken word and sign language on an equal footing and dealing with a person's physical, spiritual, real and imaginary limitations, Thurs 18 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

DAVID EDGAR: TRYING IT ON The Birmingham-born playwright takes to the stage in a one-man show and contemplates the ways in which both the world and his own views have changed over the past 50 years, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 Oct, Studio Theatre@The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE MESSIAH Hugh Dennis, John Marquez & Lesley Garrett star in a Christmas comedy that promises to conjure up the sublime, the ridiculous and the angelic, Thurs 18 - Sat 27 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

RUSH FEATURING THE J A REGGAE BAND Rush Theatre Company celebrate Reggae music, Fri 19 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SUSIE SELF: QUILT SONG Upbeat musical opera emulating hit West End Hamilton and featuring rising stars from Birmingham's Ormiston Academy, Fri 19 - Sat 20 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

WE APOLOGISE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE A tale of deadlines, distractions... and a talking duck, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Oct, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

MAT RICARDO VS THE WORLD One-man variety show featuring 'world-class juggling, magic & illusion, escapology, sleight of hand, knife throwing, stand-up comedy, feats of strength and demonstrations of dexterity', Sun 21 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

Kids Shows

FIRST STAGES: HANSEL AND GRETEL Interactive theatre experience which brings to life the famous Brothers Grimm story, Sat 20 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

YOUR TOYS Slot Machine Theatre present a heartwarming tale about friends pulling together, Sun 21 Oct, MAC, Birmingham



Talks

PLAY READING: JOHN DRINKWATER'S ABRAHAM LINCOLN Reading of John Drinkwater's Abraham Lincoln, to mark the centenary of the play's premiere on the very same stage, Sat 20 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, B'ham

Dance

PUZZLE CREATURE Neon Dance present Adrienne Hart's brand new work, which unscrambles attitudes to both age and the body, Wed 17 - Thurs 18 Oct, DanceXchange, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome



MOTIONHOUSE: CHARGE Six dancers fuse dance and acrobatics in a performance inspired by the role of electricity in the human body, Fri 19 - Sat 20 Oct, MAC, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY? Documentary. Starring Wendy Brown, Angela Davis. MAC, Birmingham, Wed 17 Oct

COLUMBUS (12a) Drama. Starring John Cho, Haley Lu Richardson. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 19 - Mon 22 Oct

THE WIFE (15) Drama. Starring Christian Slater, Glenn Close. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 19 - Thurs 25 Oct

UNDER THE WIRE (15) Documentary. Starring Ziad Abaza, Janine Birkett. MAC, Birmingham, Sat 20 Oct

BURNING AN ILLUSION (15) Drama. Starring Cassie McFarlane, Victor Romero Evans. MAC, Birmingham, Sat 20 Oct

BIXA TRAVESTY (18) Documentary. Starring Linn da Quebrada. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Sat 20 Oct

ISLAND (15) Documentary. Directed by Steven Eastwood. MAC, Birmingham, Sun 21 Oct

BEYOND THE FRONTLINES: TALES OF RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE FROM PALES-

TINE Documentary. Directed by Alexandra Dols. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Sun 21 Oct

Events

THE MOTORHOME AND CARAVAN SHOW Featuring new and exclusive leisure vehicle launches by major manufacturers, Tues 16 - Sun 21 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

LICHFIELD OKTOBERFEST All the fun of the most famous beer festival in the world... right in the middle of Lichfield, Fri 19 - Sat 20 Oct, Beacon Park, Lichfield

DESTINATION STAR TREK BIRMINGHAM The only official Star Trek event in Europe, Fri 19 - Sun 21 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

DISNEY ON ICE PRESENTS DREAM BIG Disney's most adventurous dreamers, including Moana, Fri 19 - Sun 28 Oct, Arena Birmingham, Birmingham

SCAREFEST Enjoy your favourite rides in the dark, plus loads of extra enter-

tainment, Fri 19 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

FANTASTICAL CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL Featuring artisan chocolate traders, free themed photo booths, themed characters & story corners, chocolate sculpting, craft stations and more... Sat 20 Oct, The H Suite, Edgbaston, Birmingham

PAW PATROL VISIT Ride out into the countryside on one of the trains and see PAW Patrol's Marshall & Rubble, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

MORE TREAT THAN TRICK Family Halloween activities and eerie entertainment, Sat 20 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR Join Dermot O'Scary for a 'spooktacular show', Sat 20 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Cadbury World, Birmingham

THE HAUNTED CASTLE With 'wondrous witches, Horrible Histories and the return of the spectacular fire joust', Sat 20 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Warwick Castle

SAREHOLE MILL AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR A variety of craft and gift stalls, Sun 21 Oct, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

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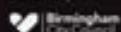
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- Weoley Castle Ruins
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POINT



Gigs

THE SPACE LADY Mon 22 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
RUDIMENTAL Mon 22 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
GIRLI Mon 22 Oct, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham
DRAKE WHITE AND THE BIG FIRE Mon 22 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham
THE FEELING Mon 22 Oct, Town Hall, B'ham
STEPHEN MALKMUS AND THE JACKS Mon 22 Oct, The Asylum, B'ham
TOM GRENAN Tues 23 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
BC CAMPLIGHT Tues 23 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
LUCY SPRAGGAN Tues 23 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham
THE LOVELY EGGS Tues 23 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
MELVINS Tues 23 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham
ATTILA Tues 23 Oct, The Asylum, B'ham
MAX & HARVEY Wed 24 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
JIMMY LEE Wed 24 Oct, Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham
CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH & MURRAY A. LIGHTBURN (OF THE DEARS) Wed 24 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
BLACK MEKON & KING BROTHERS Wed 24 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
FREDDIE MCGREGOR Wed 24 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham
MARTY WILDE & THE WILDCATS Wed 24 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull
JACK MAYNARD Wed 24 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
MILES HUNT (THE WONDER STUFF) Thurs 25 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
GIANT PARTY & THE AROSA Thurs 25 Oct, The Sunflower

Lounge, Birmingham
RODDY FRAME Thurs 25 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall
DEL CAMINO Thurs 25 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham
HENRI HERBERT & THE FURY Thurs 25 Oct, The Night Owl, B'ham
MARTIN TURNER EX WISHBONE ASH Thurs 25 Oct, The Robin, Bilston
FICKLE FRIENDS Fri 26 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
RICHARD THOMPSON Fri 26 Oct, Town Hall, Birmingham
SOPHIE HUNGER Fri 26 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham
BROKEN MINDS - HALLOWEEN JUNGLE Fri 26 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE MIGHTY DIAMONDS Fri 26 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham
ANNE-MARIE ALLEN Fri 26 Oct, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham
DAVID BYRNE Fri 26 Oct, Genting Arena, Birmingham
IDLES Fri 26 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham
URBAN INTRO Fri 26 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham
CLUB KURU Fri 26 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
TRACKSUIT & TRANCE: THE 90S RAVE FT. ULTRABEAT Fri 26 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham
SONS OF KEMET Fri 26 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE BOB DYLAN STORY

Fri 26 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull
BUGZY MALONE Fri 26 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
LUKE DANIELS & NANCY KERR Fri 26 Oct, MAC, Birmingham
ENRIQUE IGLESIAS Sat 27 Oct, Genting Arena, Birmingham
COASTS Sat 27 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham
4EVER HOLLYWOOD Sat 27 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull
NATALIE HOLMES Sat 27 Oct, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham
FEROCIOUS DOG Sat 27 Oct, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton
CHASE RICE Sat 27 Oct, O2 Institute, B'ham
TWISTED WHEEL Sat 27 Oct, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham
COAST TO COAST Sat 27 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham
THE VOIDZ Sat 27 Oct, The Mill, Digbeth, Birmingham
THE JACKS Sat 27 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham
CORROSION OF CONFORMITY & ORANGE GOBLIN Sat 27 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham
THE UNIT AMA Sun 28 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
KUNG FU RINTINTIN Sun 28 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
KACEY MUSGRAVES Sun 28 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE WHITNEY HOUSTON SHOW Sun 28 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



Kacey Musgraves - O2 Academy, Birmingham

Classical Music

JOO YEON SIR (VIOLIN) Lunchtime concert featuring works by Poulenc, Stravinsky & Vladigerov, Tues 23 Oct, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
BENJAMIN GROSVENOR: MOZART Also featuring Vassily Sinaisky (conductor), Benjamin Grosvenor (piano) and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Programme includes works by Wagner, Mozart and Sibelius, Thurs 25 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
CBSO CENTRE STAGE - STRAUSS: METAMORPHOSEN Featuring Marie-Christine Zupancic (flute), Jonathan Martindale & Jane Wright (violins), Adam Römer, Christopher Yates & Amy Thomas (violas), Hatty Snell & Helen Edgar (cellos), Tony Alcock & Julian Atkinson (double bass). Programme includes works by Haydn, Schulhoff, Sperger & R. Strauss, Thurs 25 Oct, CBSO Centre, B'ham
JOANNA GUTOWSKA (CELLO) Programme includes works by Casadó, David Matthews, Manos Charalabopoulos & JS Bach, Fri 26 Oct, The Barber Institute, B'ham
THE DANTE QUARTET: EXPLORING SHOSTAKOVICH A rare opportunity to hear all Shostakovich's string quartets in one weekend, Fri 26 - Sun 28 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove
CBSO: SOUNDS OF THE SEA Featuring Timothy Redmond (conductor) & Tom Redmond (presenter). Programme includes works by Menken, Zimmer, Vaughan Williams & Debussy, Sun 28 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

ROB DEERING, NIGEL NG, SADIA AZMAT & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 25 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
DOREEN'S BIG TOP Thurs 25 - Fri 26 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham
ROB KEMP Fri 26 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
BRENNAN REECE, TIM RENKOW, ROB DEERING & NIGEL NG Fri 26 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
SIMON LOMAS, RUSSELL HICKS, ROB DERRING & NIGEL NG Sat 27 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JIM DAVIDSON Sat 27 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
KNOCK KNOCK COMEDY Sun 28 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham
GLEE FAMILY COMEDY SHOW Sun 28

Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham
RUDI LICKWOOD, CURTIS WALKER, SLIM & JOHN SIMMIT Sun 28 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

STILL NO IDEA Mischievous exposé of good intentions gone bad. Part verbatim theatre, part improv, part comedy sketch show, Tues 23 - Sat 27 Oct, The REP, Birmingham
9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL Amateur staging of the Dolly Parton musical, presented by CLOC Musical Theatre Company, Tues 23 - Sat 27 Oct, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
ELEPHANT & CASTLE Gig theatre show about how honest it's possible to be and have your relationship survive, Wed 24 Oct, MAC, Birmingham
COSMOTHEKA Evening of comedy, variety & music from Dave & Dan Sealey and their 'great mate' Adam Berry, Wed 24 Oct, The Core, Solihull
THE CAPITAL Stan's Cafe explore themes of financial inequality and strained human relationships in a story told without words, Wed 24 - Sat 27 Oct, The REP, Birmingham
THE WAR OF THE WORLDS HG Wells' masterpiece, vividly reimagined for the post-truth era, Wed 24 - Sat 27 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham
A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT Featuring Dandy, The Empty Can, Ollie Spencer, Joe Thomas & Wayne Beese, Thurs 25 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull
SLEEPLESS Rogueplay present 'a solo aerial theatre piece of contemporary circus' exploring sleep deprivation, Thurs 25 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove
SWING WITH LAUGHTER - WITH BOBBY DAVRO Also featuring Kenny Lynch, Anita Harris, Jessica Martin & The Rat Pack, Fri 26 Oct, Lichfield Garrick
TAIKO MEANTIME: RESONANCE TOUR Featuring a new repertoire ranging from delicate composition to explosive crowd-pleasing barnstormers, Fri 26 Oct, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham
I USED TO HEAR FOOTSTEPS Haunted by curiosity, a young man attempts to piece together the ghost story of his childhood home, Fri 26 Oct, Lichfield Garrick
ONE MAN STRANGER THINGS - A PARODY Canadian actor Charles Ross single-handedly recreates season one of the Netflix sensation, Sat 27 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall
4EVER HOLLYWOOD All-singing, all-dancing show celebrating 'four fabu-



Lands - MAC, Birmingham

ious decades of timeless tunes and the fancy footwork of silver screen legends', Sat 27 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

LANDS Antler Theatre Company present a 'playful, intimate dissection' of a relationship teetering on the edge of collapse, Sat 27 Oct, MAC, B'ham

SHAKUNTALA Subrang Arts present Kalidas' epic tale of love, loss and redemption, Sat 27 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Kids Show

HARRY HILL'S KIDZ SHOW: HOW TO BE FUNNY - FOR KIDS! Harry offers hints and tips for any youngster who fancies being 'a bit of a joker', Tues 23 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MILKSHAKE LIVE! Sat 27 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

TABBY MCTAT Heartwarming tale of friendship and loyalty based on Julia Donaldson's book of the same name, Sun 28 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

Talks

ERIC CANTONA The legendary Manchester Utd player talks about his life, Fri 26 Oct, Regency Banqueting Suite, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH BRIAN BLESSED Join the larger-than-life actor as he talks about his career on stage and screen, Sat 27 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

Dance

SEETA PATEL - NOT TODAY'S YESTERDAY International collaboration between award-winning Bharatanatyam artist

Seeta Patel and choreographer Lina Limosani, Tues 23 Oct, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

SWAN LAKE Presented by Russian State Ballet and Opera House, Sun 28 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

KING OF THIEVES (15) Crime/Drama. Starring Michael Caine, Michael Gambon. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 22 - Tues 23 & Fri 26 Oct; MAC, Birmingham, Tues 30 - Wed 31 Oct

MATANGI/MAYA/M.I.A Documentary/Biography. Starring M.I.A. MAC, Birmingham, Tues 23 - Wed 24 Oct

SUMMER OF 84 (tbc) Drama/Horror. Starring Graham Verchere, Judah Lewis. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 25 Oct

THE RIDER Drama/Western. Starring Brady Jandreau, Mooney. MAC, Birmingham, Fri 26 - Sun 28 Oct

RAGING MOON (PG) Drama. Starring Domhnall Gleeson, Ruth Wilson. MAC, Birmingham, Sat 27 Oct

PUMPKINS (18) Horror. Starring Dani Thompson, Maria Lee Metheringham. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 27 Oct

HELLRAISER (18) Horror/Thriller. Starring Andrew Robinson, Clare Higgins. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 27 Oct

THE RAGING MOON (12a) Drama. Starring Malcolm McDowell, Nanette Newman. MAC, Birmingham, Sat 27 Oct

THE LITTLE STRANGER (12a) Drama/Horror. Starring Domhnall Gleeson, Ruth Wilson. MAC, Birmingham, Sat 27 - Wed 31 Oct

THE BIG BAD FOX AND OTHER TALES (U) Animation/Adventure. MAC, Birmingham, Mon 29 - Wed 31 Oct

IT (18) Horror/Thriller. Starring Bill Skarsgård, Jaeden Lieberher. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Tues 30 Oct

THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS (PG) Family/Fantasy. Starring Cate Blanchett, Jack Black. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 30 - Wed 31 Oct

TROLL 2 (18) Fantasy/Horror. Starring Michael Paul Stephenson, George Hardy. MAC, Birmingham, Wed 31 Oct

HALLOWEEN (18) Horror/Thriller. Starring Donald Pleasence, Jamie Lee Curtis. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 31 Oct

THE EVIL DEAD (18) Horror. Starring Bruce Campbell, Ellen Sandweiss. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 31 Oct

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 26 Oct, showing at selected cinemas

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY (tbc)

THE HATE YOU GIVE (tbc)

SLAUGHTERHOUSE RULEZ (tbc)

Events

OCTOBER HALF TERM Autumn family fun, Mon 22 - Fri 26 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CERAMIC ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS Brand new workshops, Wed 24 Oct, Coalport China Museum, Telford, Shropshire

FRIGHT NIGHTS See the castle transformed into a house of horrors - with a cast of creepy characters making themselves at home, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 Oct, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

CANDY AND COBWEBS A Halloween trick or treat event for under-eights, Fri 26 Oct, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire

HALLOWEEN NIGHTS A 'frightfully good' evening of entertainment, Fri 26 - Sat 27 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

FRIGHT NIGHTS: ASTON ALIVE! Visit the Museum of Curiosities in 'spooktacular circumstances', Fri 26 - Sat 27 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham

THE VAPER EXPO 2018 The biggest and most prestigious vape convention in the world, Fri 26 - Sun 28 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

FESTIVAL OF THE DEAD Carnival-esque pageantry, giant skull processions, acrobats, dancers, decorative art & costumes, Sat 27 Oct, Starworks Warehouse, Wolverhampton

GCCF SUPREME CAT SHOW The UK's premier cat show, Sat 27 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

BACKSTAGE TOUR Sat 27 Oct, The REP, Birmingham

JEWELLERY QUARTER GHOST WALK Sat 27 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

THE MONSTER BALL Entertainment and a three-course meal, Sat 27 Oct, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

GINISTRY OF MAGIC MUGGLE BALL Prepare your finest robes and ready your wands for a night of magical drinks, Sat 27 Oct, The Grain Store, Wolverhampton

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING Sat 27 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

GHOST TRAINS Are you brave enough to climb aboard the Ghost Train? Sat 27 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

FESTIVAL OF THE DEAD Featuring a 15ft-tall vulture roaming the crowd, giant skulls and carnival processions, Sat 27 Oct, O2 Academy, B'ham

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN EVENING Get dressed up in your spookiest costume to enjoy the ghostly goings-on around the castle, Sat 27 Oct, Tamworth Castle

SPOOKY SCIENCE NIGHT Spooky party for mad scientists, witches and wizards, Sat 27 Oct, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

GHOSTLY GASLIGHT Dress up in your most frightening Halloween costume and join the ghosts, ghouls and monsters, Sat 27 Oct, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire

PUMPKIN FLOTILLA Sat 27 - Sun 28 Oct, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

DIVE 2018 Sat 27 - Sun 28 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

PUMPKIN PARLOUR Pumpkin carving at the Farm, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Oct, Becketts Farm, Birmingham

SPOOKY SCIENCE WEEK Family activities throughout the school holiday, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

OCTOBER HALF TERM Family fun, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

OCTOBER HALF TERM 2018 Help the museum's junior designer find 'the missing plans', Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

TERRIFYING TALES Discover spooky Black Country legends and separate folklore from fact, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

SPOOKY SCIENCE WEEK: OCTOBER HALF TERM Family activities, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

OCTOBER HALF TERM Family fun, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham



The Black Eyed Peas - O2 Academy, Birmingham

Gigs

BLOXX Mon 29 Oct, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
THE BLACK EYED PEAS Mon 29 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham
THE KVB Mon 29 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
FREYA RIDINGS Mon 29 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham
THE PROCLAIMERS Mon 29 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
CARO EMERALD Tues 30

Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
ANTI FLAG + CANCER BATS Tues 30 Oct, The Asylum, Birmingham
VIDEO GAMES LIVE Tues 30 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham
MATTHEWS SOUTHERN COMFORT & MAGNA CARTA Tues 30 Oct, The Robin, Bilston
THE STYLISTICS Wed 31 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
SNACK FAMILY Wed 31 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
SHE MAKES WAR Wed

31 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
HARRY MANX Wed 31 Oct, The Robin, Bilston
STATE CHAMPS Wed 31 Oct, O2 Institute, Birmingham
GABIDDON Wed 31 Oct, The Jam House, Birmingham
INSECURE MEN Wed 31 Oct, Mama Roux's, Birmingham
FIL CAMPBELL & TOM MCFARLANE Wed 31 Oct, Red Lion Folk Club, Kings Heath, Birmingham



Caro Emerald - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Classical Music

ST. MATTHEW PASSION English Touring Opera present a new version of Bach's masterpiece, Mon 29 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER Programme includes works by Ireland, Distler, Franck, J. Francaix & L. Boellmann, Mon 29 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

HALLOWEEN SILENT MOVIE SPECIAL Featuring Nigel Ogden on organ. Programme comprises Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, Wed 31 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

STEVEN OSBORNE (PIANO) Programme includes works by Poulenc, Debussy, Prokofiev & Schubert, Wed 31 Oct, The Barber Institute, B'ham

Comedy

ELIS JAMES (PICTURED) & JOHN ROBINS Tues 30 - Wed 31 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham



Theatre

FINDING JOY Vamos Theatre's acclaimed show about dementia, Mon 29 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE WALPURGISNACHT HAUNTINGS Three chilling tales by popular fantasy fiction writer AG Smith, Mon 29 - Tues 30 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

FRANTIC ASSEMBLY: THE UNRETURNING New play by Anna Jordan exploring the profound effect that war has on young lives, Tues 30 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

THE LOVELY BONES Stage premiere of Alice Sebold's coming-of-age tale, Tues 30 Oct - Sat 10 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

DRACULA - THE BLOODY TRUTH A new telling of Bram Stoker's, Wed 31 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

Kids Shows

MOTHER GOOSE Wolverhampton's favourite Dame, Ian Adams, teams up with Julie Paton to present the ever-popular story, Tues 30 Oct, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Talks

NEIL OLIVER - THE STORY OF THE BRITISH ISLES IN 100 PLACES Join Neil as he talks about his 20 years travelling to every corner of Great Britain, Mon 29 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

Dance

ROBIN WINDSOR - THE FAREWELL TOUR Strictly's Robin Windsor heads out on tour for the very last time, Mon 29 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

BEAUTY & THE BEAST Ballet Theatre UK present a new, choreographed version of the much-loved fairytale, Tues 30 Oct, The Core Theatre, Solihull

Events

ASTON HALL LATE: GHOSTLY ENCOUNTERS Theatrical ghost tour, Sun 28 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham

HAUNTED CASTLE A week of ghostly goings-on, Sun 28 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, Tamworth Castle

HALLOWEEN KITCHEN 'Spooky' session of pumpkin carving and muffin making, Mon 29 - Wed 31 Oct, Becketts Farm, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN HOCUS POCUS Trick-or-treat trail around the castle, Mon 29 - Wed 31 Oct, Dudley Zoological Gardens

EYE MUSIC TRUST: SENSATIONAL COLOUR & MUSIC Create your own 'sound-paintings' using touch-sensitive paint and brand new computer software, Mon 29 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, MAC, Birmingham

GHOSTLY TALES: FAMILY-FRIENDLY GHOST TOUR Daytime tour of one of Birmingham's most haunted buildings, Tues 30 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham





Halloween at Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

HALLOWEEN NIGHTS Tues 30 - Wed 31 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

GHOST TRAINS Are you brave enough to climb aboard the Ghost Train? Tues 30 - Wed 31 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

HALLOWEEN HALF TERM & CRAFT DAYS See the venue dressed for Halloween, take part in Halloween-themed craft days and try the haunted house and gruesome garden trails, Tues 30 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

ASTON HALLOWEEN See the venue transformed into a haunted mansion, Wed 31 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham

NICK SHARRATT'S DRAWALONG Join the acclaimed children's writer & illustrator to find out how he creates his picture books, Wed 31 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

HALLOWEEN SPOOKY SPECTACULAR SCIENCE SHOWS Professor Pickle & Doctor Pumpkin are back, Wed 31 Oct, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

PUMPKIN FLOTILLA Wed 31 Oct, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

GHOST SEARCH Ghost walk around the castle, with vigils conducted in reput-

edly haunted rooms, Wed 31 Oct, Tamworth Castle

HALLOWEEN TOURS Ghostly apparitions, dastardly deeds and gruesome goings-on with Kenilworth's 'spook-tacular storyteller', Wed 31 Oct, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

HUBBLE BUBBLE TRICK OR TREAT Do you dare to explore the spooky cellars at Soho House? Wed 31 Oct - Thurs 1 Nov, Soho House, B'ham



BECCA ROSE GLOWACKI: MESHWORK ORCHESTRA Make music by weaving textiles with conductive materials and become part of the Meshwork Orchestra, Wed 31 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, MAC, Birmingham

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