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Your 16-page week by week listings guide

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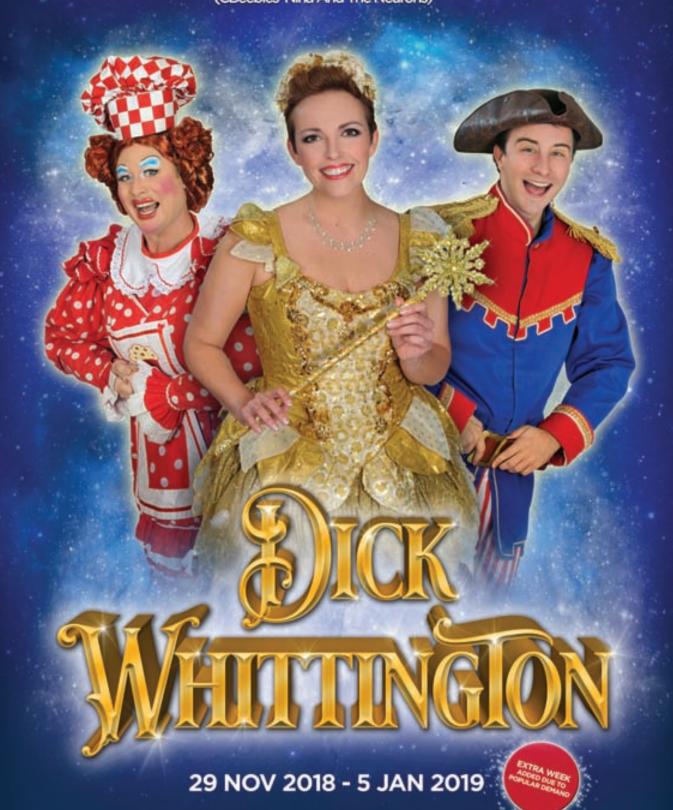
brings the Celtic Otherworld to Lichfield Garrick



**SAM RABONE** 

KATRINA BRYAN (CBeebies' Nina And The Neurons)

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### A Grand extension for Wolverhampton theatre

A planning application is to be submitted by Wolverhampton Grand Theatre to expand its premises in the city centre.

Keith Williams Architects have drawn up plans to build a pop-up theatre next door to the venue, on the site of the former post office building.

Commenting on the news: Grand Theatre CEO and Artistic Director Adrian Jackson said: "There is a vision to make Lichfield Street the arts hub of Wolverhampton city centre, and although the theatre already contributes massively to the local economy, there is so much more we can achieve in the community, for education and cultural enrichment."

### Wolverhampton to host prestigious art show

Wolverhampton has been selected as one of four cities to host the biggest touring exhibition of contemporary art in the UK. Hayward Gallery Touring's British Art Show 9 will stop off at Wolverhampton Art Gallery and University of Wolverhampton School of Art from February to May 2021.

The exhibition showcases a new generation of British artists and is acknowledged as one of the country's most important recurrent displays of contemporary art.



### New Vic crowned most welcoming theatre

Staffordshire's New Vic Theatre has been named the West Midlands' Most Welcoming Theatre 2018 in the UK Theatre Awards. The 'most welcoming' category is the only award that's decided via an entirely public

vote.

Commenting on the success, the New Vic's Managing Director, Fiona Wallace, said: "We're passionate about ensuring everyone enjoys their visits to the New Vic, and this award is recognition of our hardworking staff and volunteers, who strive to ensure our visitors have the best experience possible."



### Spring in your step at popular walking festival

The team behind the annual Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival have launched their long-walks programme for the 2019 event. The popular festival, running from 4 to 12 May, features more than 50 free walks over nine days, including a number of themed walks ranging in length from two to 21 miles. To reserve a place or request a copy of the programme, contact the Ironbridge Visitor Information Centre by email at tic@ironbridge.org.uk or call 01952 433 424. For more details about the walks, visit ironbridgewalking.co.uk or email info@ironbridgewalking.co.uk.

### Drama company set to 'cry God for Harry'...

Shropshire Drama Company (SDC) is celebrating its 60th anniversary by presenting a production of Henry V, a play which they first performed 20 years ago.

Commenting on the forthcoming show, SDC spokesperson Neville Street said: "In addition to the group of talented new people on board, some of the actors from 1998 are in the forthcoming production. We hope that the generous audiences we have received since 1958 will continue to attend our productions for many more years to come."

SDC perform Henry V at Shrewsbury's

Theatre Severn from Wednesday 7 to Saturday 10 November.



### Line-up revealed for Let's Rock Shrewsbury 2019

Popular one-day retro festival Let's Rock Shrewsbury will make a welcome return to the town next summer, complete with a high-profile line-up of performers.

Contributors already confirmed for 2019 include disco divas Sister Sledge (pictured), the Thompson Twins' Tom Bailey, American songstress Belinda Carlisle, Roland Gift of Fine Young Cannibals, Kim Appleby (of Mel & Kim), Chesney Hawkes, Betty Boo, Johnny Hates Jazz, Jaki Graham, Captain Sensible and Sonia.

A mystery headliner will be announced in December. For more information and to book tickets, visit letsrockshrewsbury.com



### It's all about the swing at Telford theatre

Telford's Oakengates Theatre is this month hosting 'a spectacular evening of vintage glamour and spellbinding entertainment' inspired by the swing era.

Taking place at the venue on Saturday 17 November and featuring live music, cabaret, burlesque and circus acts, The Electro Swing Ball is also hosting a vintage makeover 'parlour', which will be onsite from the early afternoon. For more information, visit theplacetelford.com



### Matthew Bourne to bring Romeo & Juliet to the Midlands

Matthew Bourne's new production of Romeo And Juliet is coming to the Midlands as part of a UK tour. The show will see the title roles being played by six rising stars of Bourne's dance company, New Adventures, and two new dancers making their professional debuts.

Commenting on the production, Matthew said: "Romeo And Juliet will be a celebration of youthful energy, talent and creativity both on and off-stage. As we enter our fourth decade as a company, I'm finding the development of young talent ever more important and fulfilling. I look forward to being refreshed and inspired by what this team of young artists will bring to Shakespeare's classic tale of tragic conflict and young love."

Matthew Bourne's Romeo And Juliet will show at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 10 to Saturday 14 September.

### Robert De Niro's waiting

Fancy spending an evening in the company of one of the world's most legendary actors?



If so, you'll be interested to know that Hollywood movie star Robert De Niro is visiting the Midlands this month. Robert will be appearing at a black-tie dinner event which will also include an on-stage interview with the man himself and an auction of De Niro memorabilia.

An Experience With Robert De Niro takes place at Birmingham's International Convention Centre on Tuesday 27 November.

For more information, visit eventbrite.co.uk

### Record year of charity fundraising for Shrewsbury's annual folk festival

Visitors to this year's Shrewsbury Folk Festival helped to raise a record amount of cash for the event's long-term charity partner. Hope House, which supports children with life-limiting illnesses and their families, received more than  $\pounds$ 7,000 from this year's four-day event, including a donation in excess of  $\pounds$ 2,000 from the festival's organisers.

Commenting on the news, Vanessa Thomas, the Major Gifts Manager for Hope House, said: "We are so thrilled to continue our partnership with the festival. The record-breaking amount raised will pay for months of music therapy sessions at the hospice, helping some very special children with life-threatening conditions to find fun and happiness through making music."





### It's Club Tropicana for Joe McElderry

X Factor winner Joe McElderry will make a welcome return to the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next year to star in a brand new show. Joe, who was a big success at the venue last Christmas when he appeared in the pantomime production of Aladdin, will head the cast of Club Tropicana The Musical, 'a summer adventure of love in the sun' featuring a soundtrack of smash-hit pop classics performed live on stage. The production visits Wolverhampton from Monday 29 April to Saturday 4 May. For more information and to book tickets, visit grandtheatre.co.uk

### Shropshire woman set to go it alone across the Atlantic



The founder of a charity which aims to inspire young people facing life-changing injury, illness or trauma is set to take on a 3,000-mile fundraising challenge next month.

Kelda Wood, who set up Climbing Out in 2010, is aiming to become the first adaptive person ever to solo-row the Atlantic as part of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. She is hoping to raise over £50,000 for her charity in the process.

Commenting on her fundraising adventure, Kelda said: "I've been on a huge journey myself since my own life-changing injury in 2002. I now want to support others to find the same confidence and self-belief that I've found through my journey and that's why I'm going to row the Atlantic!

For more information about the charity and Kelda's challenge, visit climbingout.org.uk

### **Cathedral Illuminated returns to Lichfield**

Lichfield's Cathedral Illuminated presentation is returning for a fourth year. After twice winning the What's On Readers' Award for 'best event in Staffordshire', the artistic collaboration Luxmuralis are back at the cathedral with a 'spectacular new light & sound experience for all the family'. As well as all-new projections around the cathedral, the illuminations feature bespoke music from Luxmuralis composer David Harper. The ticket-only event also includes



readings of the Nativity and a chance to enjoy the Christmas Tree festival. Tickets for the event sell fast and are now on sale for 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22 December.

### Late-night Xmas shopping dates...

Shrewsbury Market Hall is staging a string of late-night events in the lead-up to Christmas

On Saturday 3 November and Saturday 1 December, the market's street food venues, gin bar and pop-up wine, craft beer and cocktail bars will stay open until 10pm.

A selection of the market's gift

and homeware boutiques, artist and design studios, and pre-loved bookshop Raven Books, will also be open into the evening. There will be two late-night festive shopping events too, taking place on Wednesday 14 November and Wednesday 12 December, when shoppers can browse the market's stalls for gifts and enjoy a bite to eat until 9pm.

### The write stuff in Shrewsbury

International authors, awardwinning poets and leading writers all feature in the lineup for the third annual Shrewsbury Festival Of Literature, taking place at venues across the town from 23 to 25 November.

Contributors include acclaimed novelist Manda Scott (pictured), mental health campaigner Rachel Kelly, poet Matthew Francis and Shropshire-based nature writer, poet and broadcaster Paul Evans.

Festival highlights include a poetry slam, a writing workshop and a 'human library', where the books literally tell their own story.

For more information, visit shrewsburylitfest.co.uk.



Saturday 28 December 7.30pm

### MMER JOHN WILLIAMS

Conducted by Anthony Inglis, the London Concert Orchestra celebrates the greatest film composers of all time.

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# Calendar Girls

Tim Firth and Gary Barlow's award-winning musical comedy heads to the Midlands

### Over a cuppa with three of the cast of Calendar Girls The Musical, Vicky Edwards discovers that Ruth Madoc is 'perky,' Fern Britton's intuition sometimes malfunctions, Denise Welch can't be doing with temper tantrums, and Gary Barlow and Tim Firth are to musical comedy what Mary Berry is to baking...

If Calendar Girls The Musical were a cake, the recipe would read something like this: Take an inspirational true story, add one super-talented writer and one world famous pop star, and mix their expertise thoroughly. Once you have a perfect blend of warmth, humour, poignancy and music, line a 12-inch diameter cake tin with an accomplished production team and a cast featuring a clutch of our finest actors and singers. Lace with a sublime supporting cast and rehearse well. Garnish with a stunning set and gorgeous lights and serve to rapturous applause up and down the country.

Thrilled to be one of the girls (but keeping her kit firmly *on* - "I'm playing Marie, so no nips or noo for me!"), presenter and best-selling novelist Fern Britton cheerfully admits that she almost missed out, initially telling her agent that on instinct it wasn't for her

"And then came the call saying that Gary Barlow would like to have a cup of coffee and a chat with me!" she exclaims, eyes bright and smile wide. "Suddenly I found myself in a room reading the script, with Gary, Tim Firth [writer], the producers and the casting director. And boy, am I glad that they persisted!

"Never was I happier to be wrong about something. Some people don't like musicals because of all the bursting into song, but with this you hardly know that a song has started until it's halfway through. You're totally pulled along by your earholes, and the songs really advance the story. Tim Firth is a god! He wrote the play, the movie and the musical - he's like a Yorkshire Stephen Sondheim with the lyrics. As for Gary, he's written some incredible songs."

Having previously starred in the stage play version, Ruth Madoc is the old hand of the assembled cast, but she wasn't convinced about returning to the subject. "And then I realised that my agent had been working on it for the past six months, so I thought I'd jolly well better go and do the audition! I expected them to want me to play Marie again, but they said they wanted me to play the older woman this time, which is wonderful; Jessie has got some fantastic lines."

Based on a true story, Tim Firth's film and his subsequent award-winning play, Calendar Girls is a reworking of the award-winning and critically acclaimed The Girls, which played to packed houses in the West End last year and is now returning home to Yorkshire to kick off a new UK & Ireland tour.

Loose Women's Denise Welch stirs her tea and reflects on why the story, in various incarnations, has endured: "It's about friendship and community, and I think we all relate to that. Celia, my character, has been off as an air hostess and has always been looking for something more. When she comes back, she realises that it was already there. As we get older, we all realise that."

The first question Denise asked when she was approached about appearing in Calendar Girls was who else was in the show: "I'm too old and long in the tooth to be dealing with egos and temper tantrums. Thankfully we all get on, but second to the script, that was the most important thing to me."

The show attracts a hugely diverse audience - so why do the ladies think that is?

"It's an incredibly human story," says Fern Britten. "Life is all about loss, love, making a mess, making mistakes, clearing it up and atoning. It's a terribly hackneyed phrase, but our show is life-affirming."

"And it *is* a different proposition when you have music to the extent that we have," says Ruth Madoc, who, as an experienced musical theatre actress, knows a thing or two about

the genre. "The music expands the subject far bigger than the play ever was. It's fabulous, and audiences are in for a real treat. The music makes it a wonderful, emotional journey, but it's seamless; it slides into the dialogue. It never feels like 'here comes a song', and that makes it a very powerful piece of theatre. I'm really on the boil about it!"

But the show has even more to offer. Having already raised huge amounts of money through merchandise and bucket collections at each performance, the production will continue to benefit the charity Bloodwise - a fact of which the ladies are extremely proud.

Discussing the tour, which takes them all over the UK, Ruth says she's looking forward to seeing new places and revisiting old friends: "I prefer touring to being in the West End. I like the feel of companies; the family orientation, which harks back to how it was when I started out 60 years ago. The kids and the grandchildren will come in dribs and drabs. I'm a National Trust fan, so we'll be exploring and will see lots of friends along the way."

So is Ruth worried about disrobing on stage does 'the Great British Take Off' hold any fears? She waves any concerns aside: "We'll have great big pineapples or whatever in front of us, so the audience won't see much. And besides," she adds, with a naughty glint in her eye, "at 75, you really don't care!"

Calendar Girls The Musical visits the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Tues 13 to Sat 17 November. The show returns to the Midlands region next year, stopping off at Birmingham Hippodrome from 28 May to 8 June.

### WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT



CREATIVE LEARNING STOKE-ON-TRENT PRESENTS ELEVEN ELEVEN

WED 7 - FRI 9 NOV

REGENT THEATRE



AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CALENDAR GIRLS

TUE 13 - SAT 17 NOV

REGENT THEATRE



A WHOPPER OF A PLAY
THE FULL MONTY

MON 19 - SAT 24 NOV

REGENT THEATRE



THE ULTIMATE CASH TRIBUTE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW

**SUN 2 DEC** 

REGENT THEATRE



SPARKLE AND SHINE WITH NATIVITY! THE MUSICAL

WED 5 - SAT 8 DEC

REGENT THEATRE



GATHER YOUR MERRY MEN FOR ROBIN HOOD

FRI 14 DEC - SUN 6 JAN

REGENT THEATRE



THE ULTIMATE
ROBBIE WILLIAMS TRIBUTE
LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU

SAT 12 JAN

REGENT THEATRE



CREATIVE LEARNING STOKE-ON-TRENT PRESENTS 019 DANCE

MON 14 - SUN 20 JAN



MOSCOW CITY BALLET PRESENTS
SWAN LAKE

**THU 24 - SAT 26 JAN** 

REGENT THEATRE



AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL KINKY BOOTS

MON 28 JAN - SAT 9 FEB

REGENT THEATRE

THE BOB DYLAN STORY THU 1 NOV W

THE CARPENTERS STORY FRI 9 NOV WI

WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT SAT 10 NOV W

HEROES REMEMBERED - CONCERT OF CELEBRATION

SUN 11 NOV W

JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM & BLUES ORCHESTRA SAT 17 NOV W

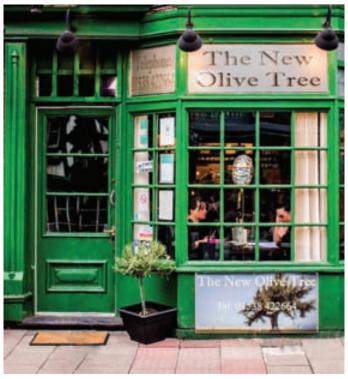
LEVISON WOOD - JOURNEYS THROUGH THE BADLANDS AND BEYOND SUN 18 NOV W

THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD SHOW THU 22 NOV WE

A VISION OF ELVIS FRI 23 NOV 🚾



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### REVIEW: The New Olive Tree Phenomenal service and delicious tapas at family-run Staffordshire restaurant

Located in the small Staffordshire town of Cheadle, The New Olive Tree is a family-run tapas bar serving delicious and authentic Mediterranean dishes. After winning the Best Independent Restaurant In Staffordshire title in our 2018 What's On Readers' Awards, it was certainly a place we wanted to check out, to see what all the fuss was about...

The menu is split into sections - nibbles, paella and vegetarian, fish and meat tapas. The restaurant also boasts a 'none of that foreign stuff' section - which features a range of dishes including fillet steak, sausage & mash and haddock & chips - a children's menu and an Olive Tree Special.

The Olive Tree Special is aimed at two people sharing and costs £50 for three courses. To start, diners can choose from either the Trio of Dips - aioli, hummus and balsamic and olive oil served with fingers of warm artisan breads, olives and feta - or the Anti Pasti Board - a selection of continental meats, olives, feta, olive oil and balsamic dip, hummus and bread. The main course is then made up of any five tapas dishes of your choice from the nibbles, vegetarian, fish or meat section. Dessert consists of any three desserts of your choice from the daily menu.

We felt that the Olive Tree Special was fantastic value for money, so opted for that.

To start, we chose the Anti Pasti Board mentioned above and added a side of aioli. The hummus and aioli were beautifully creamy, the bread fluffy and warm and the olive oil and balsamic of a high quality. There was plenty of meat, olives and feta, too - The New Olive Tree certainly doesn't skimp on its portion sizes. All elements on the

platter were spot on and acted as a perfect taster for the food that was to follow.

Choosing from a mouthwatering menu of tapas delights, for our main course we opted for haggis and smokey bacon hash with stilton butter, salt'n'chilli chicken with siracha, pan-fried beef fillet with garlic oil, rocket, parmesan and balsamic, beer battered halloumi with a green chilli dip and patatas bravas. We couldn't whittle our favourites down to five, so we also had the pan-fried tiger prawns with chilli and garlic - an absolute essential whenever I order tapas.

Every dish was beautiful! The haggis dish was meaty and strong-flavoured, the prawns were cooked and seasoned to perfection and the juicy steak provided a gorgeous melt-in-themouth sensation. The beer batter on the halloumi was tasty and light, with the green chilli dip acting as the perfect accompaniment and the crispy chicken showcasing subtle chilli and salt flavours.

The patatas bravas was, without a doubt, the nicest I've had anywhere, ever. Comprising sautéed potatoes, peppers, red onion, hot mojo sauce and feta cheese, it really was 'comfort-food heaven' (with a kick!) and a welcome adaptation of the often-dull classic.

The combination of flavours provided by each dish was certainly up there with some of the nicest I've enjoyed in a tapas restaurant. It's clear to see why The New Olive Tree was voted Best Independent Restaurant In Staffordshire by our readers!

During our visit, and despite having a full house to contend with (due to its popularity, advanced booking is essential on weekends), the owner, Lou, took time out on numerous occasions to come over and chat to us. From the decor to the ambience

and the service, The New Olive

Tree has adopted an extremely laid-back approach to dining. Lou explained that she wants people to feel like they're popping over to a friend's house for tea, rather than feeling like they're dining out in a restaurant. She's certainly achieved her aim. The decor has a living room feel to it - there are even pictures on display from Lou and Martin's wedding day - and the service is informal and friendly. This approach may not be everyone's cup of tea, but it certainly

We ended our evening with a trio of desserts. We chose the lemon posset, the cookie dough and the sticky toffee pudding. Hats off to the chef for all three! The lemon posset was smooth and creamy, the cookie dough - served warm with vanilla ice cream - was naughty and sweet, and the sticky toffee pudding was, again, up there with the nicest I've ever tried.

worked for us.

Lou and Martin have something truly special going on here - The New Olive Tree is a real gem.
From the quaint decor and the warm and downright phenomenal service, to the delicious food and chilled-out atmosphere, the eatery was so good that our nearthree-hour drive to get there and back was absolutely worthwhile. I certainly wouldn't think twice about making the journey again, not only for a second time but also a third, fourth or even a 10th time. Lauren Foster

Food: Service: Ambience: Overall value OVERALL



The New Olive Tree 88 High Street Cheadle Stoke-on-Trent ST10 1AJ Tel: 01538 422664



The Peach Tree, 18-21 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. SY2 6AE

### Beatles-themed bar opens in Staffordshire

Beatles superfan Mark Curran has opened a bar dedicated to the Fab Four. Located on Kings Street in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Hard Days Night serves a range of Beatles-inspired cocktails and features a selection of Beatles memorabilia and a replica of the Abbey Road pedestrian crossing. Craft beers, gins and food are also available. The new venue is open seven days a week.

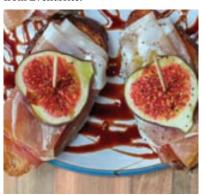
### CAMRA Winter Ales Fayre in Dudley

Dudley's Winter Ales Fayre takes place at the Town Hall from Thursday 29 November to Saturday 1 December. Presented by Dudley & South Staffs CAMRA, the event will feature more than 70 traditional real ales, cider, wine and hot & cold food. There will also be live entertainment on the Friday and Saturday.

### Sass In The Kitchen at Shrewsbury pop-up

Shrewsbury-based chef Antigone Mulford is this month hosting her second pop-up event.

The founder of Instagram blog Sass In The Kitchen, 25-year-old Antigone will be presenting an Italian Venetianinspired menu of tapas-style small plates at Number 11 on 8 & 9 November. The menu includes Aperol cocktails on arrival, nduja arancini, Cicchetti, duck and porcini Polpette, pork belly with pickled radicchio, a trio of desserts and a number of other Venetian delicacies. Tickets cost £34 and can be purchased from Eventbrite.





### Wrapchic brings Indian street food to Wolverhampton

An eatery specialising in fresh Indian street food has opened in Wolverhampton's Mander Centre. Wrapchic serves naan wraps, tortillas and rice bowls filled with delights including chicken Rajasthani, chicken Mughlai, fish Malabari and paneer Bhurji, all cooked by expert Indian chefs with authentic spices and aromatics.

The restaurant has plenty of vegan and vegetarian options available too, and also caters for customers who're gluten and/or dairy-free. All meat is halal. Breakfast options are available, including fresh coffee provided by ChangePlease, the social enterprise that helps get homeless people into work and learning new skills.

### New Indian restaurant Blanc NRI opens in Staffordshire

A new Indian restaurant has opened in the Staffordshire town of Stone. Blanc NRI - which stands for Not Really Indian - features a menu which boasts both traditional and modern Indian cuisine, including lobster moilee, Kumaragom duck roast, tilapia fillets in banana leaves and Goan fish curry. Businessman Husban Ahmed has invested £350,000 in the new venture. Blanc NRI is open 6pm to 10.30pm Sunday to Thursday and 6pm to 11pm on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, visit blancnri.co.uk









ENJOY A WINTER WOLVERHAMPTON



#### Seth Lakeman

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Thurs 15 November

Starting out in the 1990s alongside brothers Sam and Sean, Seth Lakeman boldly stepped into the solo spotlight in 2002. He immediately found an audience with debut album The Punch Bowl, before going on to bag a Mercury Prize nomination for follow-up offering Kitty Jay.

In between writing and recording albums, he's played to audiences around the world, performed with the BBC Concert Orchestra, become a dad of twins and toured with Robert Plant after featuring on his latest album, Carry Fire.

Joined for this Wolverhampton gig by a new band line-up, the award-winning multi-instrumentalist will be performing both established hits and tracks from his ninth studio album, The Well Worn Path.



#### **Bad Manners**

The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury, Fri 16 November

Long in the tooth they may be, but English 2 Tone ska wizards Bad Manners still command a significant following around the globe. Very much a novelty act - courtesy, in the main, of the on-stage antics of bald-headed frontman Buster Bloodvessel - they spent the early 1980s vying for chart positions with fellow ska revival bands Madness, The Specials and The Selecter. Hit albums include Gosh It's... Bad Manners, Loonee Tunes! and Ska'n'B. They're visiting Shrewsbury this month as part of their Christmas tour.





#### **Dan Owen**

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 16 November

After a sold-out gig at Theatre Severn for the mayor's charity concert, Dan Owen returns to the venue for his first full band show, in support of debut album Stay Awake With Me. "I like to think of it as a collection of personal stories and experiences," explains

the local musician. "I feel like this is what I've been working for since I first picked up a guitar at the age of eight. A lot has happened since then, and these songs cover some of the high and low points, both for me and for some of those closest to me. I'm really grateful to everyone who's been a part of the process, and I couldn't be more proud of the result."

#### Skindred

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 16 November

"For our latest album, we threw away the rulebook," says Skindred guitarist Mikey Demus. "We pushed ourselves harder than ever to create the biggest, baddest and most banging songs we could muster." The album in question, the band's seventh studio offering, is Big Tings, released earlier this year to great critical acclaim. Hailing from Newport and fusing heavy metal, alternative rock and reggae, the talented four-piece will no doubt be putting songs from the new album front and centre when they visit Stoke-on-Trent with their current touring show, That's My Jam.

### Oysterband

The Robin, Bilston, Wed 21 November
Six-piece folk outfit Oysterband celebrate
four decades of a unique and fiercely independent career this year. Expect to hear
some of their finest songs, including Put Out
The Lights, When I'm Up (I Can't Get Down),
Blood Wedding and Everywhere I Go, as
well as numerous others from their extensive back catalogue.

### The Little Unsaid

MAC Birmingham, Fri 16 November; Oswestry Hermon Chapel Arts Centre, Shropshire, Sat 17 November; Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Fri 30 November

The Little Unsaid's music embraces elements of rock, folk, electronica, jazz and altpop. Combining string and brass orchestration with beats, electronics, found sounds and songwriter John Elliott's haunting, androgynous vocals, the on-the-rise four-piece are one of the UK's must-see live acts

They've spent the last year touring Europe, presenting a live show that's been hailed for boasting 'a thumping depth of passion'.



# THE CATHEDRAL ILLUMINATED CHRISTMAS 2018

### PEACEONEARTH 5

17 - 22 December Excluding 19 December

For details on times and tickets visit our website Produced by Luxmuralis

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www.lichfield-cathedral.org/peace





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### Halle Orchestra Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 16 November

One of the UK's top symphonic ensembles, the Manchester-based Halle Orchestra is admired around the globe for its extensive orchestral repertoire. This Victoria Hall concert sees the award-winning Jonathon Heyward (pictured) picking up the baton to conduct a programme that includes Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto. Also featured is music from two of Wagner's most popular operas - The romantic Lohengrin and his only comedy, Die Meistersinger. The programme is completed by the prelude to Humperdinck's Hansel Und Gretel. The pianist is Alexandra Dariescu.

### Spectacular Classics

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 10 November

Birmingham's foremost orchestra and number one choir team up to present more classics than you can shake a conductor's baton at. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the City of Birmingham Choir bring their musical talents to bear on a host of much-loved compositions, including Prokofiev's Dance Of The Knights and Jenkins' Benedictus from The Armed Man.

Nessun Dorma, Rule Britannia!, Land Of Hope And Glory and all the explosive magic of the 1812 Overture also feature, and are certain to have the audience flag-waving in the aisles come the end of the night.



### **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 14 November



The CBSO here get their collective teeth into Tchaikovsky's Fifth, a piece which has become one of the composer's most popular works, despite the man himself being less than enamoured with his own creation. Also featured in the evening's programme is Janáček's Taras Bulba and Prokofiev's fairytale First Violin Concerto, for which the orchestra is joined by renowned Russian-Italian violinist Sergej Krylov. Rising star Stanislav Kochanovsky (pictured above) is the man with the baton.

### **Collegium Musicum 90**

The Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury, Sun 11 November

With a well-established reputation for their performances of baroque and classical music, Collegium Musicum 90 boast a repertoire that ranges from chamber pieces to large-scale works for choir and orchestra. This Shropshire Music concert sees them exploring the work and influence of the legendary Arcangelo Corelli, an Italian composer and violinist who made a significant contribution to the development of music in the baroque era and beyond.



### Welsh National Opera

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 14 - Sat 17 November

Founded in Cardiff in 1943, Welsh National Opera (WNO) is a regular performer in the Midlands, presenting seasons of work at the Birmingham Hippodrome. The company is committed to producing shows which are extremely accessible for its audiences, whether they be operagoing regulars or people attending a performance for the very first time. WNO's autumn season features two timeless classics - Verdi's La traviata and Rossini's retelling of Cinderella, La Cenerentola. They are presented alongside David Pountney's War And Peace (pictured), a new production which WNO promises will be as ambitious and epic in scale as Tolstov's famous novel itself.





### How did your collaboration with the RSC come about?

I was simply asked out of the blue by the show's director, Greg Doran, if I would consider writing the music for Troilus And Cressida.

#### What did you initially find attractive about the project, and has it fulfilled your expectations?

It took me a long time to accept the invitation to write the music because this was completely out of my comfort zone. I had never written for theatre before and have worked very little in that kind of setting. However, I was immediately made welcome by the whole RSC team and was struck by the fact that they wanted something different sound wise, and that Greg really wanted to make the music an integral and influential part of the play. I have found the whole experience to be such a privilege and a massive learning curve. It has totally fulfilled my expectations.

#### Generally speaking, do you enjoy Shakespeare plays? What are their pros and cons from your point of view?

At school I found Shakespeare hard work, and I have never really embraced the plays since, which was another reason why it took me some time to accept being involved in this project. I felt I could only write for something that I enjoyed or could latch onto. However, since being involved and witnessing the whole rehearsal process from the beginning, I have been totally converted! I even went to a very local production near where I live and was hooked. I now see Shakespeare and his work in a totally new light and would eagerly attend more productions in the future...and who knows, perhaps even compose for more! I think the pros come from the vision of the director, and in this case Greg is so embracing of the creativity of all involved, which makes everything such an organic and 'living' process. The challenges are more logistical, in that there are so many elements to come together. This means that the music score will be constantly tweaked and balanced according to the movements and projection of the actors, how the set feels, lighting, sound effects and so on. It's an exciting process.

### On a general level, what are the main challenges of producing music for theatre work as opposed to a concert performance or an album?

Embracing all elements of the set, costumes, voice projection, speed and feel of the actors' movements, timings, balancing live playing with recorded sounds and so on. Also, the music cues are more fragmented than writing for the concert platform or for an album. One has to know each character in the play and

decide what the sound of the character may be. That can really only happen once you see the actors in action during rehearsals and be part of the dialogue between the director and the whole team. There's no way that music for this scenario can be written in isolation.

### More specifically, what was the most challenging aspect of providing a sound-track for Troilus And Cressida?

I'm writing with just under a week before we go into technical rehearsals, so a lot will still have to be adjusted with the score as we adjust to the theatre and set. But so far the most challenging aspect is to get cohesiveness between the characters from the Greek camp and those from the Trojan side. Percussion has a huge dynamic range and therefore we have to achieve high energy in places but still allow the spoken word to come through; working out the frequencies/soundscape that can work with the spoken voice so as not to cancel the voice out. Many of the percussion sounds I recorded with Dave Price in my studio, and so we're bringing them together with the live percussion. A challenge is knowing how long musical passages will be, based on how an actor may recite something or how long it takes them to move. They need to be free to interpret what they do, and so the music score needs to be prepared to elongate or shorten right on the spot.

## Your soundtrack has been described as satirical and futuristic. Did you produce the music to fit Greg Doran's interpretation of the play, or did your ambitions for the music define the path he decided to take with the production?

Both, really. Greg has been open right from the start and has given me free range as to what to do. He was clear that he wanted the score to be percussive, dynamic and surprising. He wants the audience to physically feel the music and soundscape, and for the stage to almost become an instrument. This has opened up possibilities of having musicians come on stage to play, and for certain props, such as the crates where the Greeks enter from, to become things that can be struck. Even the motorbike sounds become part of the soundscape. It's still evolving, as we are still in the rehearsal process, so until the music and musicians are on set with the actors, so much more may change in the next two weeks. The main thing is that there is constant dialogue between all parties, both on a creative level and of course while making sure that the aims are realistic and practical.

What are your thoughts about Troilus And Cressida, Shakespeare's 'most testosterone-fuelled play', being the RSC's first gender-balanced production?

It has taken me a while to get into this play, but now I absolutely love it. The play is hard to define, just like a lot of the music I play, so I see it as very contemporary - something that is relevant to us all. It's more about the individual characters as opposed to the actual plot or location. No matter where a war is taking place, the same human emotions arise. No matter where two people fall in love, the same human emotions arise, and so on. It's a play that taps into every emotion possible, from funny to the horrible, quirky, mundane and serious. For me, as a composer, this is heaven! The casting is brilliant and inspirational.

### What do you hope that your soundtrack will add to the experience of watching Shakespeare from an audience's point of view?

I hope that the audience will embrace the sound as an integral part of how a play has been designed and interpreted; appreciating that all elements of a play are essential and equal. Theatres are meant for each discipline to be displayed, and so it's fantastic that Greg has given such a platform and emphasis to music.

### What have you learned from the experience?

I have always been aware of the importance of teamwork, but this experience really has heightened that. There are so many creative, talented and extremely hard-working people who put a project like this together. The respect and value towards what each person does is crucial, and I have very much felt included in the process. The ebb and flow of embracing ideas means that you know the score will always be fluid, right up to the final performance.

#### Would you contemplate future work with the RSC, and if so, which other Shakespeare play would you like to get your teeth into musically?

Absolutely, I would not wish for this to be a one-off. I would certainly be a lot more aware as to the working process and what is required. I would never have imagined embracing Troilus And Cressida, but (thanks to Greg's incredible direction) here I am loving the actual play. Based on that, I would be completely open to any play!

Troilus And Cressida shows in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre until Saturday 17 November. The play will also be broadcast live into cinemas on Wednesday 14 November.



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#### **Emerald Storm**

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 2 November

Performers from Lord Of The Dance, Riverdance and Ireland's Call present this new Irish dance sensation a show that features everything from 'traditional soft-shoe choreography and explosive Irish tap routines to the sensual fire of salsa, the smooth coolness of jazz and the prim precision of ballroom'.

Classic songs including Danny Boy also feature, as does contemporary acoustic music 'in the style of Ed Sheeran'. For those who like a strong storyline to accompany their fix of dance, the show should prove to be a real winner, telling the tale of how mortals battle to save the mythological heaven of the Celtic Otherworld from utter destruction.



### Ankusha And Other Mysteries

MAC, Birmingham, Sun 4 Nov; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 26 November

The highly rated Kamala Devam Company are very much in the business of seeking answers to unanswerable questions in this latest work: Does fate or free will have a greater hand in shaping the course of our lives? How do we define ourselves without limiting our potential? In a battle against ourselves, who will come out as victor? Running for 100 minutes, the show features three classical and contemporary South Asian dance solos, an explosive trio and a multi-award-winning dance film. It visits the Midlands as part of the company's first ever UK tour.



MAC, Birmingham, Thurs 1 & Fri 2 November

Part dance and part video installation, I Infinite explores the boundaries between artificial and real, digital and organic worlds. A solo dance piece, the work is presented in a white, digitally animated environment around which the audience is free to move throughout the performance.

"The synergy between dance and the digital arts is the major artery pumping through our practice," explains choreographer Tom Dale. "It's woven into all our programmes of work. The company's vision, through its collaborations with the digital arts, is to reimagine dance and inspire the next generation of dance makers."

#### **Hansel & Gretel**

Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 30 November & Sat 1 December

New York club styles of house, waacking and vogue, presented alongside African and contemporary dance, ensure that this version of Hansel & Gretel is like no other. A contemporary retelling by Uchenna Dance choreographer and founder Vicki Igbokwe, the show finds the famous fairytale siblings lost and overwhelmed in the city (rather than in the traditional setting of the forest). But can they outwit the adults and find their way back to their family?...





Zoe Lyons Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 18 November

High on confidence and blessed with a razor-sharp wit (always useful when you're a comedian), Zoe Lyons creates funny routines based on astute observation of life's absurdities. Her latest show takes a look at the impact of technology on people's ability to stay human, and also at our increasingly evident desire to detach from community as we get older.

### **Dave Gorman**

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 17 & Sun 18 November; Symphony Hall, B'ham, Thurs 22 November; Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton, Sun 25 November

Dave Gorman's idea of stand-up comedy seems to be that as long as there's room for him to stand up, he'll do some comedy! Why else would this intrepid funnyman have made the decision a few years back to play not only 2,000-seater theatres when he headed out on tour but also 30-seat village halls, a barn and even a railway



### **Stephen K Amos**

Old Rep, Birmingham, Sun 4 November; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 26 January

"I used to do a joke where I said I'd have to wait for Lenny Henry to die before I could get on television," says Stephen K Amos, referring to his belief that big breaks for black comedians are few and far between. Whatever the truth, there's little question that Stephen's very much basking in the

televisual limelight these days. His success is no surprise, mind, given the quality of his material and his effortless ability to strike all the right chords with his ever-appreciative audience.





#### **Ross Noble**

Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Sun 11 November

Geordie comic Ross Noble may not have hit the heights once expected of him, but he's undoubtedly one of the UK's most talented funnymen. He also has a nice line in surreal comedy, never gives an audience the same show twice, and boasts an impressive number of followers on Twitter. Ross heads for the Midlands this month with his new show El Hablador.



#### **Ahir Shah**

The REP, Birmingham, Fri 16 November; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 25 November; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Sat 9 February

Ahir Shah is happy to describe his act as a blend of 'philosophical inquiry, political vigour and sweet gags', and realises that the path to comedy stardom can be a long and arduous one. "Over the course of the last decade," he says, "my status on the circuit has skyrocketed from 'curiosity' to 'interloper'!" Ahir's latest touring show, Duffer, contemplates three subjects - 'life and what comes after, death and what comes before, and Bohemian Rhapsody'.

#### **Phil Nichol**

MAC, Birmingham, Sat 10 November; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 11 November

High-energy comedy blended with humorous storytelling is the name of the game when Phil Nicol comes to town. Canadian Phil's a real bare-all kind of comedian, who's happy to expose the peculiarities of his personality to anybody who fancies taking a peek - and all in the name of great comedy... What a guy!

#### **Geoff Norcott**

The Core, Solihull, Fri 16 November

Geoff Norcott is one of the sharpest tools in the comedy shed, presenting shows which blend observational humour with satire and even the odd impression or several! Being a former teacher, plenty of Geoff's gags relate to school experiences and the education system. He's also made something of a name for himself in the field of sports-related humour, a niche that's yielded him plenty of work both on television and radio.

#### **Hal Cruttenden**

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 7 November; Oakengates Theatre @The Place, Telford, Wed 14 November

Hal Cruttenden places great emphasis on cleverly constructed punchlines, and is always happy to ridicule himself if he thinks there's a laugh to be gained by doing so. Alongside his stand-up, he's also a successful actor, appearing in numerous TV shows including EastEnders - and on film in The Madness Of King George.

His new touring show is called Chubster, a title chosen by his daughters. Hal wants it known that he is now on a diet...





#### Jen Brister

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Fri 2 November; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 4 November; Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 20 November

Jen Brister is a busy woman. As well as making time and space to further develop her stand-up career, she's nowadays also busy being a mum.

"I remember having the time to watch a box set, or go for a long walk in the park, or even meet a friend for coffee," recalls Jen of her bygone days of freedom. "I look back at that time like it was a golden era - and it was, because these days I have to make time even to go to the toilet.

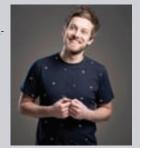
"It's Mama's special time in the toilet... Sorry, why are you in the toilet with me? No, put the toilet paper down... Don't put that in your mouth... I don't need you to hold my hand, that's just for *your* number twos not mine... Seriously, get that out of your mouth!"

### **Chris Ramsey**

William Aston Hall, Wrexham, Thurs 8 November; Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Thurs 22 November

As well as being a highly rated stand-up on the UK comedy circuit, Geordie boy Chris has also developed an impressive telly career, appearing on shows including 8 Out Of 10 Cats, Celebrity Juice and South Shields-set sitcom Hebburn. Gags include: "My venue for the Edinburgh

Festival is a portacabin; it's literally a portacabin! I'm a Geordie, in a portacabin. I was going to call the show Auf Wiedersehen Pet Live".



### **Phill Jupitus**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Fri 16 November

Well known for the unusual spelling of his Christian name, his memorable surname (an anglicised version of the original surname Šeputis) and his well-padded

physique, Phill Jupitus is an actor, performance poet, cartoonist and podcaster as well as a stand-up comedian. He describes his latest touring show, Juplicity, as 'containing adult themes and situations, but delivered childishly'.



brings her Entry Level Human tour to the Midlands

Award-winning comedian Zoe Lyons returns to the Midlands this month with her new standup show, Entry Level Human. Zoe took time out from her busy schedule to talk to Midlands Zone about motivation, inspiration and her recent stint on television's Celebrity MasterChef...

### What's your earliest memory of being funny, Zoe?

Oh, crikey! I think probably at primary school. I wasn't a class clown in any shape or form, but I did used to entertain the parents at the school gate. I would act out little stories in front of them. In class, I was as dull as ditchwater, so definitely wasn't the joker of the class. I suppose I just felt more comfortable in the company of the parents. I always longed for a life of dinner parties, even at the age of eight!

### Who would you say has inspired you the most?

It's a mixture of people. I suppose when I was growing up it was the likes of Billy Connolly and Victoria Wood. I still enjoy watching Victoria's stuff. She was such a warm writer and brought out some lovely characters.

### Can you tell us a bit about Entry Level Human?

It's a new tour show that's loosely based on the idea of human nature and stupidity - a rich scene these days for comedians, and I include myself in that. It's a poke at human stupidness. My shows combine being slightly topical with my own take on things, which veers towards stupidness and silliness. My shows aren't aimed at changing the world; I just want to alter and iron out people's lives.

### What motivates you to get up on stage? Do you have a regular pre-show routine, and how do you wind down postshow?

Like a lot of performers, I like to have a little bit of space before I go on stage. I know we're not performing at the London Philharmonic or on a bazooka, but comedy does require a bit of head space. I don't have any weird rituals. I used to have some little lucky 'donks' and things, but I lost so many of them that I decided they weren't all that lucky after all and I'm not superstitious, so I got rid.

"Coming down' post-show is the hard bit. I find it really difficult to go to sleep when I've been on stage. My adrenaline is up and seems to hang around for ages, so I tend to watch a movie and have a cup of cocoa. I try not to have alcohol, as that's the worst thing. Post-show is very dull, to be honest - not very rock'n'roll.

### You've performed in Birmingham numerous times. Is there anything that sets the city's audiences apart from others?

I like playing in Birmingham. It's very diverse and you get a great mix, which is really lovely.

### Apart from being funny, what would you say makes a good comic?

In your bag of human skills, you need to be good at being on your own; you need to be able to entertain yourself. If you don't have that skill, you'll go nuts. You need to learn to be grounded. It's a competitive business and one based on showing off. You need to be able to manage your ego and keep it in check, otherwise it could fly off like a buzzard on amphetamines, so you need to tether it like a robin in clogs. You do need to have an ego, but it needs to be proportionate in size. I guess you also need an inquisitive mind, be able to drive and be good at using Google maps. That's essential!

### Is there any subject matter that should be off-limits in comedy?

No, I don't think anything is off-limits as long as it has a point and it's done well. But there are people who should be off-limits from doing comedy - for example, if their skill level isn't adequate enough to portray what they're trying to say funnily. I don't talk about certain subjects because I just don't have the skills to articulate them and deliver them properly.

### Is there anything you've ever said on stage that you've later regretted?

Probably 'it's lovely to be here'. You say that many times, but in your head you're thinking, I can't wait to get in the car and leave this dump! No, not really! Joking apart, I don't think I have, although I've told some awful jokes, especially during the first two years of my career.

### What's the best heckle you've ever received?

The weirdest one I ever got was when someone shouted at me, 'What made you choose those shoes?' That stuck with me for years because it was just such an odd thing to say in what I thought was a really good gig.

### Have you ever walked off stage during a set?

Oh yeah, I've cut the set short on occasion and have endured an awful death - a terrible death that felt like it lasted four weeks when in reality it probably lasted 12 minutes - when the audience have just stared at you like you've done something unspeakable to their dinner, in a space where the sound is quieter than silence.

### Where's the best place you've ever performed?

Crikey, they all vary, but I suppose it has to be Kilkenny. I played the festival there for the first time a few years ago. It was magical, and they were such an energetic audience. The whole town was there for the festival, and the atmosphere was electric.

### What do you like to do when you're not being funny?

I like to cook and to eat. I like to plan trips away, and I like scuba diving. The wife and I are either planning trips, going on a trip or buying ridiculous stuff made out of neon print to go on trips. We also read up about fish...

#### Talking of cooking, has your recent experience on Celebrity MasterChef changed you in any way?

I'm definitely more adventurous in the kitchen. I'll give stuff a go that I wouldn't have done before. I was typically one of those people who would read a recipe, get halfway though and go, God, I don't know how to do that. Now I'll give it a go.

#### How do you put your new-found skills to use? Do you plan massive dinner parties for friends and family?

No, that's the sad bit. Because I work nights, I'm normally sat eating a pot noodle with a teaspoon in a hotel room. So when I have a bit of time and I'm home and it's just me and my wife, I'll try and cook something different or new. I like to mix things up and not stick to recipes like most people do.

### What would you have done as a job if you hadn't become a comedian?

Absolutely nothing that involved being inside and wearing a suit. I think I'd have liked to be a ski instructor, a landscape gardener, a forest ranger or a fisherman.

### You've been on the circuit for 14 years now. How have attitudes changed towards female comedians during that time?

I've had audiences walk out and shout at me, fold their arms saying that they're not going to listen to a woman. D'you know what, though - it being harder initially has probably made it better for us now. Female comedians had to work harder; we had to come up with more diverse material because we were always judged so harshly.

It wouldn't matter if there were four blokes who'd all done material about Star Wars - they wouldn't be judged on that, but if you were to get up on stage and say something that was typically female, you were immediately picked up on it. That's now changed because of television - it's a much more balanced environment nowadays.

Zoe performs her new show, Entry Level Human, at Nottingham Glee Club on Thursday 8 November and then at Birmingham Glee Club on Sunday 18 November.



### **Rock Of Ages**

Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 13 - Sat 17 November; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 12 - Sat 16 February; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 11 - Sat 16 March; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 28 May - Sat 1 June.

Cinema-goers who caught the 2012 movie version of Rock Of Ages, starring Tom Cruise, Alec Baldwin, Russell Brand and Catherine Zeta-Jones, will know exactly what to expect from this feelgood musical. For those who didn't and therefore don't, it focuses on the romance

between a smalltown girl and a big-city rocker, and is packed to its proverbial rafters with classic 1980s numbers. So if you're someone for whom the decade of Glasnost, yuppies, Miami Vice and mullet hair-dos took place against a soundtrack of pounding rock anthems, this is a show well worth catching. Former Coronation Street favourite Kevin 'Curly Watts' Kennedy stars, and is joined in the cast by one-time Pop Idol contestant and Big Brother housemate Zoe Birkett when the show rocks into Birmingham this month. Casting will differ for other Midlands dates.

### **Orange Polar Bear**

The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 1 - Sat 10 November

Powerful visuals and inventive staging are cleverly combined in this brand new production, co-written by award-winning playwrights Evan Placey and Sun-Duck Ko. Performed in English and Korean, the play tells the story of William and Jiyoung, two 15-year-olds living on opposite sides of the globe who are both trying to make their way in an increasingly challenging and fast-changing world.



### Beauty And The Beast: A Musical Parody

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 24 November - Sun 2 December

Fat Rascal Theatre show that there's plenty more to the fairytale story of Beauty And The Beast than meets the eye. Gender swapping the lead roles, the company present a highenergy musical parody that finds a castledwelling she-beast hoping against hope that a handsome young bookworm will fall for her feminine charms - in spite of all her fur...

### A Journey Through War

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 5 - Sat 10 November

On The Floor Theatre Company are the ensemble behind this thought-provoking new work, presented during the week leading up to the centenary anniversary of the First World War armistice. Combining literature from the time of the 1914-18 conflict with brand new writing, the show explores the ex-

periences of the conscripts who lived and died in the trenches, and of the civilians whose loved ones never returned home from the Front.

#### **Romeo And Juliet**

The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 3 - Sat 10 November

Widely regarded as Shakespeare's fifth tragedy, this story of a forbidden and secret love tends to fair less well critically than the rest of the playwright's high-profile works. Its popularity is nonetheless ensured by its timeless themes and its regular appearance as a study text on the National Curriculum.



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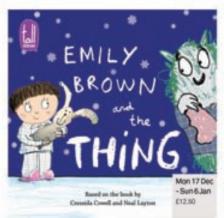


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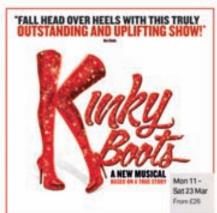






















# Festive fun with no strings attached!

The highlight of The Old Rep Theatre's festive season is family favourite Pinocchio - the much-loved story of a puppet who's brought to life... What's On recently spoke to director Alec Fellows-Bennett about the show and his ongoing love affair with The Old Rep...

Pinocchio is the walking, talking puppet who countless generations have come to know and love - along with his chirruping side-kick and his mischievous nose that grows and grows whenever he tells even the smallest of porky pies.

Director Alec Fellows-Bennett, who helms The Old Rep's stage adaptation of Carlo Collodi's classic story, thinks the tale perfectly captures the spirit of Christmas: "I think that it's good for the festive season because it's a very recognisable title. Actually, the story isn't going to be exactly what people expect because everyone's so used to the Disney film, and the original story differs from that a little bit.

"Pinocchio is fundamentally not so much a story about a puppet as a story about humanity, and about how our behaviour, traits and conduct give us this quality. It's about whether it really matters that you're made of wood when you exhibit the humanity and innocence that Pinocchio does. I see this as really fitting with the festive season, a time that's so giving and celebratory, with 'good will to all men'. Plus, of course, it's about puppets and bright, colourful theatre, with toys that come to life. So for the little ones, it's their Christmas presents coming to life in front of their eyes."

Many of us think of Pinocchio as a puppet dreaming of becoming a real boy. The Old Rep's version sees the part played by young actress Holly Sayer...

"When we put the casting call out, we didn't make it specific to a gender, and it was Holly who best fitted with our vision for the character. I wouldn't say it's an androgynous Pinocchio either because Holly won't be able to help bringing who she is to the role. We're focusing on Pinocchio being a non-human

character learning what it means to be a human being. Pinocchio takes every new situation at face value because it doesn't understand basic human concepts. For example, Pinocchio doesn't realise the fox and the cat are robbers, so when told one coin is worth more than three, Pinocchio just assumes they're telling the truth. Holly has such an innocence about her - just like Pinocchio. She was just brilliant at portraying the character's growth."

Alec is very keen to promote theatre as an inclusive, social, family environment: "I don't think anybody anywhere should ever think that they can't take their child to the theatre. For our signed and relaxed performances, hardly anything changes. It's so lovely to watch those in the audience who don't need the signing just accepting the presence of that feature as part of the performance. Equally, the only changes made to the show for the relaxed performance is that we may remove certain loud noises or strobe lighting and similar things that could cause distress. In the actual content of the performance, nothing changes other than that we might take some sections slightly slower to make sure everything is audible.

"It's incredibly important to develop theatre for families as a social thing. It's not like the cinema, where you sit in the dark so absorbed in the film that it's like there's nobody else with you. Theatre is one of the few things that forces you to be a collective, forces you to be an audience and become a collective group all interacting with and responding to the same piece of work. I want this to be open to absolutely everybody."

Alec is a very familiar face at The Old Rep and has a long-standing relationship with the theatre: "The Old Rep was the home of Birmingham's stage school, and that's where I

went. In my early 20s I returned for a few roles, and I was always keen to get back. The Old Rep is probably my favourite theatre because of its great history and all the people and companies who've worked and performed there. So when they started producing their own Christmas shows, I was keen to get involved."

This time around, however, Alec wanted to direct: "I very much go between being an actor and being a director. I want to direct things in which I'm very invested in the story as a whole, and I like to act in things where a particular character really sparks my interest. This is a brand spanking new adaptation written for The Old Rep, and I've worked with the writer, Toby Hulse, before. It's a play perfect for the venue, and it has the perfect original music accompaniment too, written by Steve Allan Jones to match the script."

Alec discovered his passion for directing completely by chance - with a little help from British stereotyping: "I ended up acting in America and, because I had an English accent, I guess they assumed I knew what I was talking about! I was asked by a company over there if I would direct their next production, which happened to be a Shakespeare - I guess that fact was very much on my side too! From there, I realised I liked the directing side of the theatre world. From that time onwards I've taken each project as it comes, getting a lot of satisfaction from either acting or directing - providing the project has been suitable, of course."

Pinocchio shows at The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, from Sat 17 November to Sunday 30 December.



#### **Bram Stoker's Dracula**

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 20 - Sat 24 November

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 spinetingling as anything the big screen has to offer.

This brand new version of Bram Stoker's famous gothic horror story features 'breathtaking illusions', 'spine chilling effects' and a cast that includes veteran actress Cheryl Campbell, a familiar face from television series such as Call The Midwife and Peep Show.

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

### Sherlock Holmes: The Sign Of Four

Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 8 - Sat 10 November; Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 29 November - Sat 1 December; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 23 - Fri 25 January

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous creation makes a welcome return in one of the novelist's most frequently adapted stories.

The Sign Of Four finds Sherlock Holmes embroiled in a murky world of deception and trickery, as he and his faithful companion, Dr John Watson, attempt to locate their latest client's missing father.

The production is presented by the highly regarded Blackeyed Theatre and comes complete with 'original live music, stylish theatricality and magical storytelling'.



### **Puppetry Of The Penis**

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 9 November; The Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sat 17 Nov; Prince Of Wales Centre, Sat 1 December

Puppetry Of The Penis entails its performers finding far more ways to utilise their geni-

talia than the average red-blooded male. Who'd have thought, for example, that a fella's meat and two veg could be transformed into the Loch Ness Monster or the Eiffel Tower? Hefty heroes in the groin department though the show's stars may be, they're sensible enough to know that backrow admirers might have problems seeing the more subtle nuances of their genital acrobatics. To address the situation, they tend to employ a video camera and a large screen, to ensure everyone can enjoy a piece of the action.

### They Don't Pay? We Won't Pay!

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Tues 6 - Sat 10 November

After Accidental Death Of An Anarchist, this 1974 political satire is probably Italian playwright Dario Fo's best-known work.

This new adaptation by Deborah McAndrew

sees the action transposed to Brexit Britain, where the unemployed and debt-ridden Maggie realises that a riot at the local supermarket offers her the perfect opportunity to stock her empty cupboards...

Presented by
Northern Broadsides in collaboration with York Theatre

Royal.



### Jinkx Monsoon & Major Scales

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 7 November; Birmingham Hippodrome, Sat 17 November

Following last year's sell-out show, RuPaul's Drag Race favourite Jinkx Monsoon returns to the Midlands alongside 'lyrical genius' Major Scales, to showcase music from their upcoming album. The new show sees music and mental health collide in what's being described as 'a witty and biting look at the dark side of drag fame'.



### Wicked Wizard Of Fizzog

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sat 17 November

This chuckleworthy parody of Wicked and The Wizard Of Oz is presented by Black Country favourites Fizzog. The company are suitably proud of their Midlands roots and urge anybody who enjoys a good laugh to get along to this latest production. "Our shows are riotous, poignant and nostalgic," say Fizzog, "but most of all, hysterically funny."

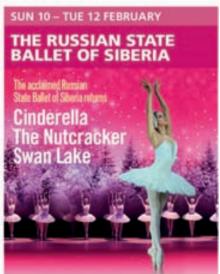


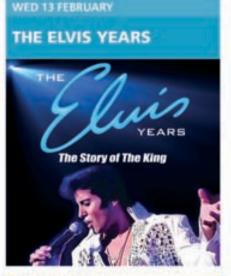
# GREAT SHOWS COMING UP AT WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE

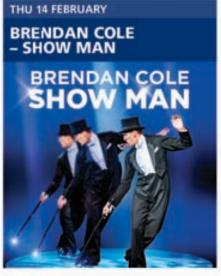




















Alice Sebold's world-famous novel premieres on the Birmingham REP's stage...

"Your characters never really go away - of course you feel a fondness towards them." Novelist Alice Sebold has recently had reason to revisit the characters of The Lovely Bones, her 2002 globally best-selling novel about a young girl, Susie Salmon, who watches her family from heaven after she's raped and murdered by a serial killer.

For those who've never encountered the novel, it might sound like grim reading. In fact, The Lovely Bones found a huge audience due to its tenderly drawn portrait of a family coming to terms with grief. Millions of readers felt a fondness of their own for Susie and the Salmon family.

Now, they're coming to life onstage. Bryony Lavery has adapted the novel, for the first theatrical version of The Lovely Bones anywhere in the world.

What was her initial reaction to being asked to turn this smash hit book into a stage play?

"I think it was 'yikes!" laughs Lavery. "It's not a straight narrative - it's like loads of paths through a rather beautiful and disturbing forest. Which doesn't make it easy to adapt at all..."

Still, the playwright is no stranger to crafting stage versions of classic novels, from Brighton Rock to A Christmas Carol to 101 Dalmatians – and she'd add The Lovely Bones to their rank. "It is a classic. It always brings us comfort, because of its strength and its honesty and its toughness, actually."

But what did the American writer think of her novel being turned into a play?

"I liked the idea - I think there are things you can do onstage that you can't do in any other medium," says Sebold. She's been reading drafts and offering feedback, but she's happy to cede control of the material. "I just trust the people who are performing it and directing it – they know what happens to words when you put them on stage, and I don't."

Plus, part of the appeal was that Sebold couldn't imagine quite how the story, which moves seamlessly between heaven and earth, could actually be realised on stage.

"For me, it's going to be amazing to see: how do they have different levels, heaven and earth, and the various places that are in the novel? How do they make it real, but not too real? That's one of the reasons why I think theatre can be fascinating: there are lots of imaginative recesses for the audience to fill."

The process of adaptation is something Lavery gets great satisfaction from - partly because of the need to solve these challenges. "I love it. I get to be the junior writer to great writers. But the main thrill is to make it a theatrical-shaped piece of work rather than a novel, and each one has different problems and different joys."

Lavery's initial idea for staging this story was to have very defined heaven and earth spaces on different physical levels. But after workshops with actors and the show's director, Melly Still, they discovered that heaven could be everywhere - because "that's the magic of theatre."

"The most wonderful thing about it is our Susie wanders through her family [on earth], but of course they can't see her," explains Lavery. "So one feels incredible empathy with her, because she's this child that's being ignored."

This adds a degree of poignancy - but also, a degree of humour. This Susie has a very familiar teenage stroppy exasperation with her situation in the afterlife, and at her family not listening to her.

"That yields a lot of comedy and texture, because she's so furious about it; she's a wonderful pouty teenager at times," Lavery says. And she adds that laughter is really necessary in this often dark story.

"You can't hold your breath for two hours; you need to open a steam valve and let something out."

Working on dark material can be harrowing – but the process here has, in fact, proved to be really rather good fun. Because of this, Sebold has ended up being rather more involved in the production than she had expected.

Speaking warmly of pinging emails back and forth across the Atlantic with Lavery, she says; "One of my favourite words is 'moxie', and she seems to have quite a bit of it..."

For Lavery, it's not so common to be adapting material where the original writer is still with us. But working with Sebold has been wonderful, she says. "I was quite daunted at first, because Dickens and Graham Green and people don't send notes... but a writer's notes to another writer are always thrilling and challenging."

Is she looking forward to Sebold seeing it? "Of course - because she sounds fun. But I'll be as nervous as anything."

How does it feel for Sebold, handing over her much-loved characters to someone else?

"There are some authors who like a sense of control where those things are concerned, but I really enjoy seeing what other people do with my stuff," she says sanguinely.

Still, in revisiting The Lovely Bones Sebold must also revisit a very real trauma of her own. In 1981, when she was a student, she was raped and beaten while walking home one evening.

The novel is certainly not about her, but the attack was a spur.

"When people say 'it's autobiographical' the first thing I say is 'but I'm not dead'," she comments dryly. And while she acknowledges that, without that experience, she might not have written The Lovely Bones, she says that her true inspiration was "all of those girls who never had a voice because they died, unlike myself."

She recalls how, in the Seventies - when the story is set - there seemed to be "so many serial killers", and so many young female victims. "And we were fascinated by serial killers like Ted Bundy, but we didn't really know anything about the women he killed. I was very aware of this voiceless mass of women – that was pretty much the inspiration for me," she says.

Sexual violence is certainly not something we've done away in the intervening decades. But The Lovely Bones has also proved a timeless story, and one worth revisiting for altogether more hopeful reasons.

There is something comforting in the balanced structure of the story: not only do the family on earth slowly come to some acceptance of their grief - a process anyone who's lost anyone will recognise - but in heaven, too, Susie must go on the same journey of letting go.

"It's not about murder; it's about redemption," agrees Lavery. "'The lovely bones' refers to the lovely new bones that grow around this reconfigured family. It's a tough book – it doesn't do 'oh the murderer's going to get caught and everybody's going to be happy' - but it's about reconstruction after terrible disasters.

"And it's about family - even if one of them is in heaven."

Sebold still often hears from readers that the book provided solace when trying to come to terms with a death in the family, even if in very different circumstances.

"That was a wonderfully unexpected result of writing the book," she says. "It's like a play being written: you just can't predict where your work is going to go."

The Lovely Bones shows at The REP, Birmingham from Tuesday 30 October until Sat 10 November



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### The Full Monty

Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 5 - Sat 10 November; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 19 - Sat 24 November; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury Mon 4 - Sat 9 March

When six men find themselves unemployed, dignity, hope and self-belief are suddenly in short supply. Until, that is, they take the plunge and become male strippers...

This brand new stage version of the hit 1996 movie stars Hollyoaks' Gary Lucy in the lead role of Gaz. He's joined by, among others, Joe Gill, best known as Finn Barton in Emmerdale. "You meet all the characters in their sense of desperation," says Joe. "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."

### The Habit Of Art

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 6 - Sat 10 November; Malvern Theatres, Tues 27 November - Sat 1 December

With his new opera, Death In Venice, Benjamin Britten knows he's sailing pretty close to the wind. No wonder he turns for advice to his former collaborator and friend, WH Auden. But 25 years after they last met, can these two difficult men finally find a way to satisfy their unsettling creative impulses?... A play about creativity, biography, sex and death, Alan Bennett's The Habit Of Art scored a huge hit for the National Theatre back in 2010. This new touring version stars Matthew Kelly and David Yelland.



#### **Hamnet**

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 20 - Thurs 22 November

With award-winning productions already gracing their CV, Dublin-based theatre company Dead Centre stop off in Shakespeare country with a well-reviewed show about the Stratford bard's one and only son. Eleven years of age when illness claimed his young

life, Hamnet died three years before Shakespeare wrote Hamlet. With his life moving to-

wards its end, the boy pieces together a portrait of his famous father, a man by whom he has been abandoned as Shakespeare pursues a career in London's theatre world...



#### Still Alice

Malvern Theatres, Tues 20 - Sat 24 November
Neuroscientist Lisa Genova's bestselling
novel is here adapted for the stage, four years
after the release of the critically acclaimed
movie version, for which Julianne Moore won
a best-actress Oscar. Telling the story of Harvard professor Alice Howland's battle with
early-onset Alzheimer's, it stars Scottish actress Sharon Small - best known from BBC
television's Inspector Lynley Mysteries.
The show has garnered plenty of acclaim on
its travels across the UK over the last couple
of months.



#### **Tartuffe**

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Selected dates until Sat 23 February

A comedy about faith, family and faking it, this brand new version of Moliere's 17th century masterpiece brings events bang up to date. The story centres around the wealthy Pervaiz family. Living in modern-day Birmingham, they have in their midst the charismatic and devout Muslim cleric Tartuffe. But is their guest all that he seems - and will family life ever be the same again?...

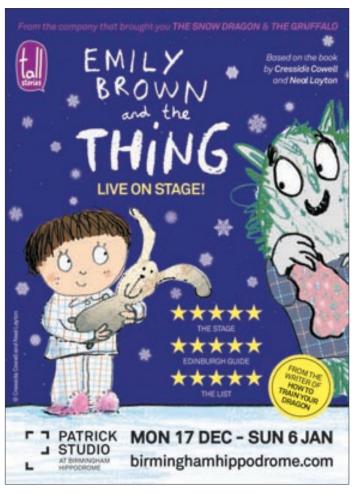
### **Finding Joy**

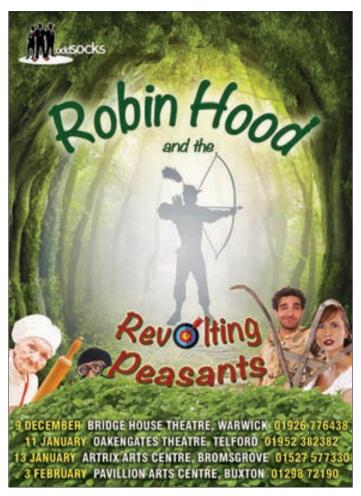
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 8 November; Studio Theatre @The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, Fri 9 & Sat 10 November; Coach House Theatre, Malvern, Tues 20 November

A work of full mask theatre based on true stories, Vamos' Finding Joy has been described as a funny and fearless piece that's positively brimming with visual inventiveness. When



Danny decides to become his grandmother Joy's carer, their new-found bond is somewhat unexpected. Joy is creative, funny and losing her memory; Danny is rebellious and always getting into trouble. Yet bond the pair most certainly do. The question is, where will their newly developed connection lead them?...







#### **Awful Auntie**

Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 27 November - Sat 1 December

Frights, fights and friendships are the order of the day in this lively adaptation of David Walliams' much-loved story. At the centre of the tale is a young girl named Stella. The sole heir to Saxby Hall, she finds herself in danger of losing both her inheritance and her life when she comes up against her thoroughly unpleasant Aunt Alberta... Produced by the team behind the hugely successful stage adaptation of Walliams' Gangsta Granny, the show comes complete with a very old car, a very large owl, a very small ghost and plenty of opportunity to enjoy a jolly good chuckle.



#### **Egg And Spoon**

The REP, Birmingham, Sat 17 November

Presented as part of First Stages, a Birmingham Rep programme of shows designed to introduce young children to theatre, Egg And Spoon is performed by the Aberdeen-based Lyngo Theatre. "The show is an interactive romp through the seasons," Lyngo explain, "where you come in and out of our magic circle and get to open all the gifts of nature. We'll run through the rain and the falling leaves and sleep under the snow till spring wakes us up for the butterfly party."

#### CBeebies Thumbelina

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 3 & Sun 4 November

Justin Fletcher, Ben Faulks and Andy Day are among the CBeebies stars taking part in a brand new show that blends dance, action-packed comedy and 1960s-influenced music. Born inside a flower, the ever-so-tiny Thumbelina finds herself living in an oversized world of woodland creatures and giant plants, but without having a clue who she is or where she's come from. Maybe the bugs, spiders, toads and mice at a nearby animal party can help shed some light on the subject for her...

#### Sleepyhead

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 9 & Sat 10 Nov; Smethwick Library, Birmingham, Sun 18 Nov; MAC Birmingham, Tues 20 November - Sun 2 December



Little Angel Theatre make a welcome return to MAC with a show that features 'a pinch of circus and a large dollop of silliness'. Telling the tale of a tired dad's efforts to get his baby to go to sleep, and the tiny tot's desire to stay awake and play with his friend Rabbit, the show has been created for youngsters aged between two and five. Its running time is 45 minutes.

#### Stick Man

Lichfield Garrick, Sun 11 & Mon 12 November; Evesham Arts Centre, Worcestershire, Sat 24 & Sun 25 November

"Scamp Theatre send shivers down my spine," reveals Julia Donaldson, the co-creator (along with Alex Scheffler) of the hugely popular children's book on which this show is based. "They're so lively and innovative. I love their production of Stick Man, and so do the audiences." Featuring a trio of talented performers, the show brings together puppetry, songs, live music and 'funky moves' to tell the story of Stick Man's desperate attempts to get back to the family tree. Suitable for children aged three and older.



#### **How To Hide A Lion**

Albany Theatre, Coventry, Thurs 8 November Based on Helen Stephens' magical book of the same name, this new stage production promises young audiences a roaringly enjoyable 45 minutes. 'Music, song, playful humour, dazzling puppets and some rip-roaring jazz' all feature, as a little girl named Iris helps to hide a lion from the townsfolk who're hunting him.

#### Guess How Much I Love You

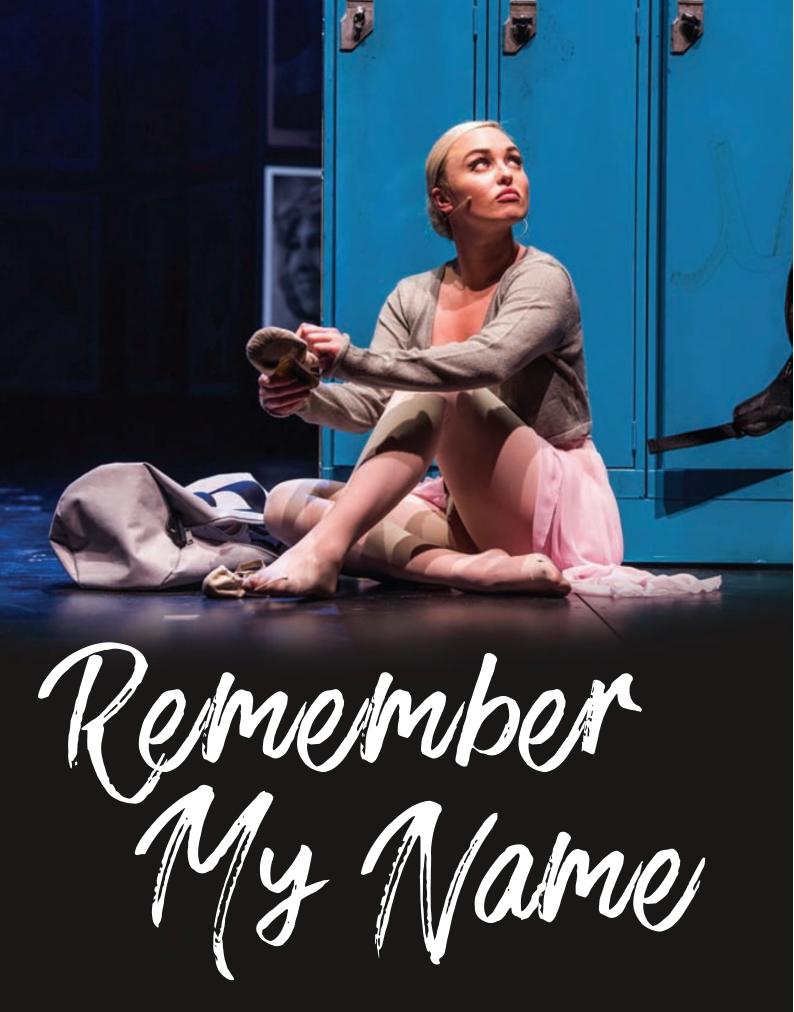
Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 3 November
With highly praised productions of James
And The Giant Peach, Seussical and The
Quite Remarkable Adventures Of The Owl
And The Pussycat behind them, Selladoor
Family here present a theatre work inspired
by Sam McBratney and Anita Jeram's bestselling 1994 picture book. Combining puppets, live music and interactive play for
children aged three and older, the show finds
Little & Big Nutbrown Hare waking up to discover the delights and colours of each season.



#### Oskar's Amazing Adventure

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 November

Theatre Fideri Fidera are the talented company behind this original play for young children. Recounting the story of a puppy's search for friendship in the wilderness of the Alps, the show brings together music, song, storytelling, physical theatre, clowning and puppetry. Each performance will be followed by a 10-minute playtime, where youngsters in the audience can meet the performer and play with the production's animal puppets.



## The new UK tour of smash-hit West Ender Fame The Musical dances into the Midlands this month. What's On caught up with Jorgie Porter, who's starring as ballet dancer Iris in the new production, to find out more...

One of the world's best-loved musicals, Fame explores the tumultuous teenage years of students at New York's High School for the Performing Arts. Many of us already know how the youngsters fair with the ups and downs of life, thanks to the sensational 1980s pop-culture movie that inspired both the musical and a television series. But if you're as yet unaware of the joys of Fame The Musical - or maybe you just wish to experience them again - then this particular tour is not to be missed, as it marks the production's 30th anniversary.

It would be understandable if the musical's past successes weighed heavily on the shoulders of the current cast, but for former Hollyoaks star Jorgie Porter, who's set to make her stage debut with this tour, the overriding feeling is one of sheer excitement: "I literally can't wait for this to happen - this will be my stage debut and I want it to start right now! I love Fame. I think it's incredible, and when I listen to every song I get goosebumps because it's just such good music. I'm super-excited - I really can't contain myself, to be honest!"

Taking on the role of Iris in the musical means that Jorgie will be returning to her ballet roots: "I was dancing from the age of three and have trained in classical ballet for almost all of my life. While I was in Hollyoaks, the dancing element became more of a passion than a job, so I'm even more excited to do a U-turn and get back to ballet in this role. It was my dream from when I was a kid, and not many people get to actually fulfil that, so when the opportunity came along I grabbed it. My career took me on a little journey somewhere else, but the fact I've been able to come back to this is amazing. I'm just so excited!"

On the surface, Jorgie's character in Fame seems like the stereotypical 'rich girl' you see in films and musicals; spoilt and stuck-up. Thanks to recent reality TV appearances, it

will be evident to the general public that Jorgie herself has little in common with the character she's playing: "I want to change roles and be taken out of my comfort zone. Doing reality shows has been a really good thing for me in revealing to people who I truly am. I think I'm very lucky in that way because it's not an opportunity many people get. It also shows all the different roles I can play, and that I'm not typecast in any way. I like the fact that I can go into any role and step out of myself, but also that the public know me for me. Fame shows all different aspects of performance, and Iris is not the musical-theatre type; obviously I still sing in the production, because it's a musical, but she's more calm and lady-like. I, on the other hand, will be singing my heart out in the car, pretending I'm in a music video!"

Jorgie loves the fact that she relates so closely to the show as a whole: "I can definitely relate to Fame, from growing up in a dance college. You might think that the singing. dancing, constant performing and rehearsing that the Fame characters do in their day-to-day lives is quite far-fetched, but it really isn't. If anything, people were swinging from the ceilings in college! The fact that I get to play a role that's in a production so close to me is so nice because I can put a bit of myself and my own memories in there."

She also hopes that productions such as Fame, featuring elements of classical dance or other dance genres, will help widen the demographic at dance shows and put paid to the misconception that straight ballet productions are too high-brow.

"Fame is a really good opportunity to show off all sorts of dancing and performance through each of the character's journeys and their different performance passions. There really is something for everyone, and it's an opportunity for audiences to sample different bits and pieces of the performing arts in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. So I definitely hope

it will encourage more people to consider going to ballet shows."

Jorgie is a firm believer in the universal qualities of Fame The Musical. Because the plot deals with many issues close to the hearts of young people, such as prejudice, identity, sexuality and first love, she feels that the show is able to touch everyone - musical fans and sceptics alike.

"These days adolescents are more involved in tackling these issues head-on, and it's definitely interesting to see how a musical that originally came from a film made in the 1980s can still be so relevant now. It's good that the production shows these mature themes in relation to teenagers because I think it's easy for adults to overlook the ability of young people to really have important things to say about them. So although the musical is so much fun, it's also got a message behind it that can be relevant to everyone."

It's the rollercoaster ride of uncertainty that Jorgie enjoys so much about being an actress. With that in mind, does she have any plans for the future?

"I love being on telly and on stage. I'm very lucky that I'm about to get the opportunity to do both. Future-wise, I don't think you can ever tell, and that's why I love this job so much. One minute I'm jumping out of an airplane in a jungle, the next I'm on a TV quiz show or hopping onto the stage to do ballet! I'm just happy to see what comes along, really."

Jorgie Porter stars in Fame The Musical at Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from Mon 19 to Sat 24 November; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 28 January - Sat 2 February; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 15 - Sat 20 April; Malvern Theatres, Mon 9 - Sat 13 July



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#### Festive shows and attractions opening in **November**



There's plenty of opportunity for Midlanders to get into the festive spirit over the next few weeks. The region is hosting some of the best pantos and Christmas shows in the land, not to mention a wide range of other activities to enjoy from checking out a magic lantern trail and searching for Santa to wrapping up your Christmas shopping at Birmingham's splendidly festive German market. You name it, the marvellous Midlands has got it covered...



#### The Wizard Of Oz

The REP, Birmingham, Sat 24 November - Sun 13 January

This classic story from the pen of L Frank Baum has been delighting children for over a century. A marvellous mix of magic, mayhem and munchkins, it tells the story of Dorothy Gale and her unexpected trip over the rainbow to the wonderful land of Oz. There, she meets the scarecrow, the tin man and a cowardly lion, heads off on a journey along the yellow brick road to find the Emerald City, and has more than one unpleasant encounter with the Wicked Witch of the West.

If ever a ruby-slippered girl was in need of a wizard...

#### **Sleeping Beauty**

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 21 November - Sat 5 January



The tragic tale of a young princess who's tricked by an evil fairy and pricks her finger on a spinning-wheel, causing her to fall asleep for 100 years, offers a great story around which to build a pantomime production of real quality.

And Sleeping Beauty 2018 is likely to be just that, given the Belgrade's exemplary record when it comes to presenting top-notch panto magic.

Indeed, we're so confident you'll be wideeyed with excitement that we'll even bet our best antique spinning-wheel that the only person in the auditorium who won't be wide awake will be the ever-so-sleepy title character herself!

As is usual for the Belgrade panto, the show is written and directed by Iain Lauchlan (pictured).

#### **Dick Whittington**

Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 29 November - Sat 5 January

The story of a young man who heads for London in search of fame and fortune is one of the most popular of all pantomimes, not least because of the top adventures in which the happy-go-lucky Dick finds himself involved. With Sarah the Cook and King Rat both putting in an appearance, and heady romance with the delightful Alice also on the cards for young Dick, this is a show that promises to be packed to its festive rafters with action, comedy and fun.

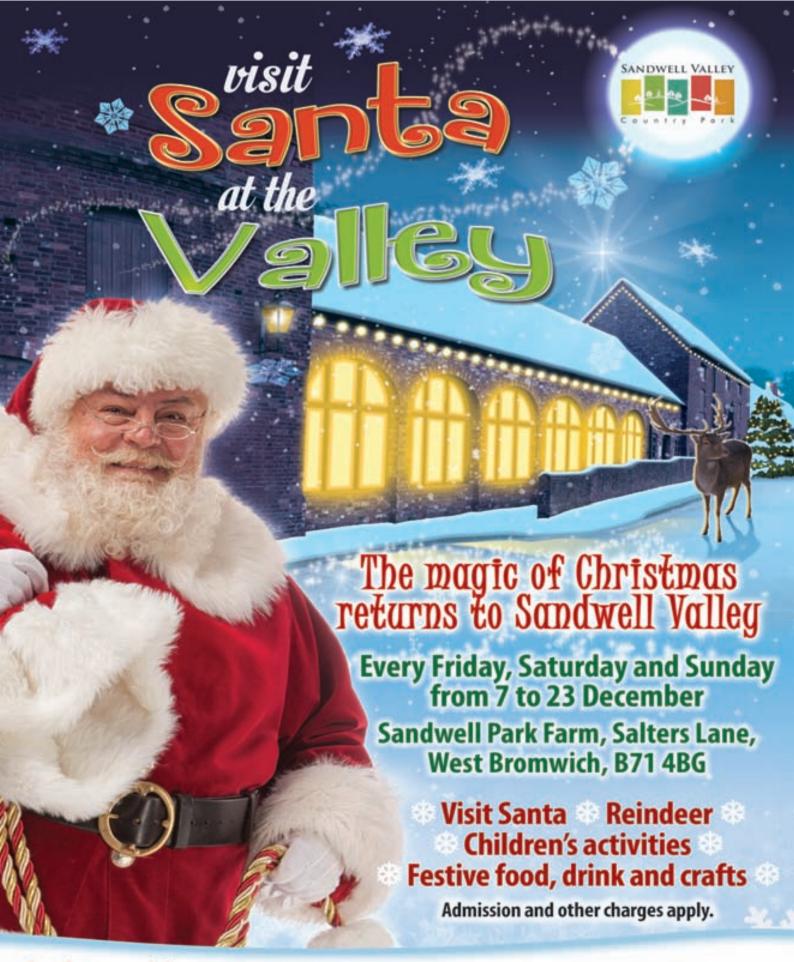
CBeebies star Katrina Bryan joins returning panto favourites Sam Rabone and Ben Thornton.



#### **Mother Goose**

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 28 November - Sun 6 January

It may not be one of the most frequently performed pantos, but Mother Goose nonetheless has plenty going for it, including the opportunity to make all manner of eggstravagantly funny and eggcruciatingly unfunny egg-related jokes. The show stars Theatre Severn's favourite panto Dame, Brad Fitt. in the role of Mother Goose **BBC** Radio Shropshire's Eric Smith also features in the cast.



Book now, visit: www.sandwell.gov.uk/santaatthevalley



## Christmas

#### Festive shows and attractions opening in November

#### **Pinocchio**

The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 17 November -Sun 30 December

The legendary tale of the wooden child with a disappointing propensity for telling porky pies - to the detriment of his fast-growing proboscis - is here presented as the Old Rep's Christmas treat for families. Carved by lonely toymaker Geppetto, Pinocchio - accompanied by a trusty Cricket companion - heads out on an exciting journey, eager to discover what it will require of him to become a real boy. But there's plenty of danger lurking in wait for the adventurous friends, not least in the shape of the less-than-entirely-pleasant puppet master, Mangiafuoco...

## The Wind In The Willows

New Vic Theatre, Newcastleunder-Lyme, Sat 17 November -Sat 26 January

Artistic Director Theresa Heskins' stage adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's much-loved riverside tale ably demonstrates the way in which one life can command the full attention of three others! Mole, Badger and Ratty simply don't have time for any of their own interests - they're far too busy having to look after their reckless and irrepressible friend, Toad...

"The wit and charm of Kenneth Grahame's novel is such a delight," says Theresa Heskins. "No matter how many times I read it, it makes me chuckle. And Toad's zest for adventure I've found utterly irresistible. Bringing these characters to New Vic audiences will be a joy and a privilege."

The production features a large cast, live music and 'plenty of cunning, courage and friendship'.

#### Wilde Creatures

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 28 November - Sun 30 December

"Wilde Creatures has four acting-musicians who're extremely talented and manage to bring Oscar Wilde's stories to life in a very imaginative and modern way."

So says Toby Mitchell, the co-founder of Tall Stories, the theatre company bringing this high-energy celebration of Wilde's classic fairytales to Coventry this Christmas.

"There's a seamlessness to the productions. Although the stories are complex and there are lots of scene changes and props, we make it flow so that it doesn't seem clunky. But that doesn't mean it's simple to achieve... We may look like swans from the front, but you don't realise how much furious paddling is going on behind the scenes!"



#### The Nutcracker

Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 23 November - Thurs 13 December

Sir Peter Wright's enchanting version of this firm festive favourite returns to the Hippodrome this month, courtesy of Birmingham Royal Ballet. Created in 1990, Wright's production is seen by many as the finest interpretation of Tchaikovsky's magnificent and mesmerising score.

In true Christmas spirit, the story follows a young girl named Clara as she's swept up in a fantasy of soldiers, giant rats, snow fairies, magic and mystery, before finally being transformed into a beautiful ballerina.

A magical must-see show for little princesses everywhere...

#### Rudolf

MAC, Birmingham, Sat 17 November - Mon 31 December

Puppetry, songs, laughter and fun are among the family-friendly ingredients being promised by Pins And Needles as they return to MAC to offer up another festive feast of theatrical magic. Having previously scored yuletide hits with their productions of Raymond Brigg's Father Christmas and The Bear, the talented company this year turn their attention to Santa's most famous reindeer.

Rudolf has landed in a zoo, and her big red nose and flashy antlers are making her less than popular with the other reindeer.

And as if that's not bad enough, she also can't quite shake the feeling that she really should be somewhere else, on some kind of big snowy adventure... Expect your children to be suitably enchanted.

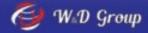


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#### Festive attractions opening in **November**





#### Ice Skate Birmingham

Eastside Green, Birmingham, Thurs 15 November - Sun 27 January

Ice Skate Birmingham makes a welcome return to the city centre this month. Year on year voted one of the best outdoor ice skating rinks in the UK, the popular visitor attraction can hold up to 300 people per session. Younger or inexperienced skating enthusiasts can keep upright by using special penguin skating aids, which can be booked online in advance.

#### Santa's Winter Wonderland

SnowDome, Tamworth, Staffs, Fri 16 November - Mon 31 December



This year's all-new Santa Show sees Santa wanting to recount his favourite story - but finding that his efforts are compromised by the unexpected arrival of some very famous faces...

Suitable for all age groups, the show is just one element of the festive fun on offer at Tamworth's snowy indoor attraction. Visitors can also explore Santa's Christmas snow trail, take a walk through the enchanted forest, enjoy a game of snowballs and hitch a ride on a sledge.

The less adventurous will be able to observe all

the action as they amble along the promenade walkway.

There's even an animal village to visit, where

There's even an animal village to visit, where you can meet Santa's reindeer and say hi to some of the big fella's furry friends.

#### Santa Hunts

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sat 24 November - Mon 24 December

The rumour that's flying like a magic reindeer around the region is that Santa has been spotted at the Black Country Living Museum. He seems to be a little limelight-shy, mind - which is why young visitors to the venue are being invited to join festive costumed guides in a 'fun-filled' search to find him. Along the way, kids can solve

magical clues, sprinkle dust on reindeer shoes and even send letters up the chimney to Santa's workshop. A surprise gift awaits anybody who succeeds in finding the jolly-faced bearded one...



#### **Magical Lantern Festival**

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Fri 23 November - Tues 1 January

As Christmas experiences go, this one is particularly 'illuminating'.

The grandeur of the Botanical Gardens, with its dense woodlands and winding pathways, provides the perfect backdrop against which to enjoy a trail of giant lanterns, including ones representing Santa and his reindeers.

A food & drink area and an opportunity to buy festival merchandise as a memento of the experience also features.

#### Frankfurt Christmas Market

Birmingham City Centre, Thurs 15 November - Sun 23 December

This is the largest outdoor Christmas market in the country and sits at the centre of Birmingham's festive celebrations.

Drawing crowds from across the city and further afield, the Frankfurt Markets feature a wide range of traditional handmade toys, artwork and items from across the world.

There's plenty of food and drink to sample too, including mulled wine, grilled sausages, vegetarian options, pretzels and German beer. Carol singers, live music and a carousel further enhance the festive atmosphere.

#### Cathedral Christmas Market

Cathedral Square, Birmingham, Thurs 15 November - Sun 22 December

Brand new for this year and coming complete with a Santa's Grotto, this outdoor market also boasts one of the city's biggest Christmas trees.

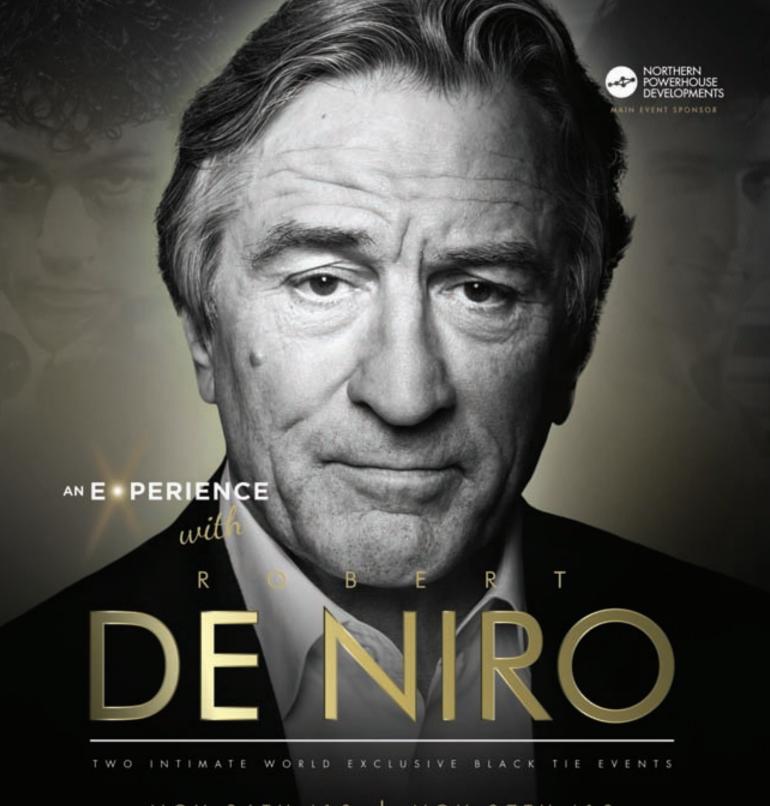
Commenting on the new attraction, Birmingham Cathedral Chief Executive Anna Pitt said: "Those who visit the cathedral this year, whether for worship, the market, carols or events, will find a very warm welcome."

### Switching on the Christmas lights...

Here are just a few of the festive light switch-ons taking place across the region. For more, visit whatsonlive.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM Thurs 15 Nov, City Centre COVENTRY Wed 21 Nov, Broadgate SHREWSBURY Wed 14 Nov, The Square STAFFORD Sat 17 Nov, Market Square STOKE-ON-TRENT (HANLEY) Thurs 15 Nov, Hanley Town Hall

WARWICK Thurs 29 Nov, Market Place WORCESTER Thurs 22 Nov, Worcester High Street



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FOR VENUE & TICKET INFORMATION









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#### Widows CERT 15 (128 mins)

Starring Viola Davis, Michelle Rodriguez, Elizabeth Debicki, Cynthia Erivo, Colin Farrell, Brian Tyree Henry, Daniel Kaluuya, Jacki Weaver, Carrie Coon, Robert Duvall, Liam Neeson

Directed by Steve McQueen (UK/USA)

With just three films to his name, Steve McQueen has established himself as one of the leading lights of British cinema - and the recipient of a host of international honours. Here, the London-born former video artist has adapted Lynda La Plante's London-set TV series (1983-1985) to the big screen and has attracted an extraordinary cast. Following in the wake of the recent Racer And The Jailbird, Ocean's Eight, American Animals and King Of Thieves, Widows is a heist thriller, but with a difference. A botched robbery in Chicago leads to the death of its four perpetrators - and a huge hole in the lives of the men's widows. And a terrible debt - something the women decide to settle in their own unique way. The reviews have been ecstatic.

**Released Tues 6 Nov** 



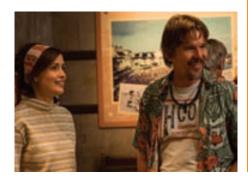
#### Film highlights released in November...

#### Juliet, Naked CERT 15 (98 mins)

Starring Rose Byrne, Ethan Hawke, Chris O' Dowd, Megan Dodds, Denise Gough, Phil Davis Directed by Jesse Peretz (UK/USA)

Juliet's not naked, of course, she's a track on the new album of American singer-songwriter Tucker Crowe (Hawke), beloved by music fan Duncan Thomson (O'Dowd). She is acoustic, though. But what's really annoying is that Duncan's girlfriend Annie (Byrne) gets to listen to it first... Based on the hilarious novel by Nick Hornby.

#### Released Fri 2 Nov



### The Nutcracker And The Four Realms

CERT PG (99 mins)

Starring Keira Knightley, Mackenzie Foy, Misty Copeland, Helen Mirren, Morgan Freeman, Matthew Macfadyen, Richard E Grant Directed by Lasse Hallström and Joe Johnston (USA)



Based on ETA Hoffmann's The Nutcracker And The Mouse King and also inspired by Tchaikovsky's ballet, this has Disney written all over it. Mackenzie Foy (Interstellar) plays the girl who has to deal with gingerbread soldiers and an army of mice. Helen Mirren plays Mother Ginger. In 3D.

Released Fri 2 Nov

#### Peterloo CERT 12a (153 mins)

Starring Rory Kinnear, Maxine Peake, Pearce Quigley, David Moorst, Alastair Mackenzie Directed by Mike Leigh (UK)

The Peterloo Massacre, in 1819, was one of the most shameful episodes in British history, when a gathering of over 60,000 peaceful demonstrators in Manchester was dispersed by government troops, leading to several deaths and the serious injury of many hundreds

#### Released Fri 2 Nov



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#### Overlord CERT 18 (109 mins)

Starring Jovan Adepo, Wyatt Russell, Jacob Anderson, Dominic Applewhite, Pilou Asbæk, Bokeem Woodbine Directed by Julius Avery (USA)

Of course, Overlord is the codename for the invasion of Normandy during the Second World War, but here there's even worse. When two American paratroopers are caught behind



enemy lines, they discover something far more terrifying than German soldiers. Expect excessive violence.

#### Released Wed 7 Nov

#### The Grinch CERT PG (60 mins)

With the voices of Benedict Cumberbatch, Rashida Jones, Kenan Thompson, Cameron Seely, Angela Lansbury, Pharrell Williams Directed by Scott Mosier and Yarrow Cheney (USA)

The Grinch is back. Again. Following the festive curmudgeon's previous incarnations on TV and in the form of Jim Carrey, we now have the full-length animated version. For those who don't know, it's based on the children's book by Dr Seuss (Theodor Geisel) and is about a misanthropic green thing that sets out to ruin Christmas for the Whos. In 3D.

#### Released Fri 9 Nov



#### Suspiria CERT 18 (152 mins)

Starring Dakota Johnson, Tilda Swinton, Mia Goth, Chloë Grace Moretz Directed by Luca Guadagnino (Italy/USA)

A young American Mennonite joins a dance academy in Berlin and is plagued by unspeakable phenomena. The original Suspiria (1977) was one of the scariest horror films of all time, helped no end by its demonic soundtrack. Here, the director of the Oscarwinning Call Me By Your Name plunges headfirst into the fear and loathing. Note the 18 certificate.

#### Released Fri 16 Nov

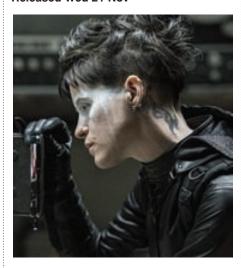
## The Girl In The Spider's Web CERT the

Starring Claire Foy, Sverrir Gudnason, LaKeith Stanfield, Sylvia Hoeks, Stephen Merchant, Claes Bang

Directed by Fede Álvarez (USA/Sweden)

You just can't keep Scandi noir away. Following the American remake of The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo with Daniel Craig, here comes the sequel to the remake. This time the maverick hacker Lisbeth Salander is played by Claire Foy, while the consummate Steven Knight (Peaky Blinders, Locke) finetuned the adaptation. Expect plenty of cybercrime and corrupt politicians.

#### Released Wed 21 Nov



#### Robin Hood CERT 12a (116 mins)

Starring Taron Egerton, Jamie Foxx, Ben Mendelsohn, Eve Hewson, Tim Minchin, Jamie Dornan Directed by Otto Bathurst (USA)

An outlaw and veteran of the Crusades teams up with a Moorish soldier to fight the corruption of the English monarchy. Tim Minchin, of all people, plays Friar Tuck. Filmed in Croatia.

#### **Released Wed 21 Nov**



#### **Assassination Nation**

**CERT 18 (108 mins)** 

Starring Odessa Young, Suki Waterhouse, Hari Nef, Abra, Anika Noni Rose Directed by Sam Levinson (USA)

There's a data breach in the quintessentially American town of Salem, Massachusetts, and four high school students find themselves fighting for their lives. The black comedy is the second directorial work from Sam Levinson, son of the Oscar-winning filmmaker Barry Levinson. Expect extreme violence.

Released Fri 23 Nov

## Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes Of Grindewald

Starring Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol, Jude Law, Johnny Depp Directed by David Yates (UK/USA)

The thoroughly reprehensible Gellert Grindewald (Johnny Depp) has escaped

custody, forcing Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law) and Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) to join forces to stop the dark wizard's dastardly plans. The film is the 10th chapter in the so-called 'Wizarding World franchise' and is scripted by JK Rowling. In 3D.

Released Fri 16 Nov



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#### Nativity Rocks! CERT tbc

Starring Simon Lipkin, Celia Imrie, Anna Chancellor, Helen George, Ruth Jones, Meera Syal, Hugh Dennis Directed by Debbie Isitt (UK)

What we do know is that this is the fourth family comedy in the Nativity franchise created by Debbie Isitt. However, at the time of going to press no plot details were available, but there will be schoolchildren, rock'n'roll and a return to St Bernadette's Catholic school in Coventry. Happy Christmas.

#### Released Fri 23 Nov



#### Nobody's Fool CERT tbc

Starring Tiffany Haddish, Tika Sumpter, Omari Hardwick, Amber Riley, Whoopi Goldberg Directed by Tyler Perry (USA)

Danica (Tika Sumpter) is on course to become the first black woman to be promoted to vice-president of her company. Then her sister (Tiffany Haddish) is released from prison... Directed by the comedian and filmmaker Tyler Perry, who, in 2011, was the highest paid man in showbusiness (according to Forbes magazine).

#### Released Fri 23 Nov

#### Creed II CERT the

Starring Michael B Jordan, Sylvester Stallone, Tessa Thompson, Florian Munteanu, Dolph Lundgren, Brigitte Nielsen Directed by Steven Caple Jr (USA)

You just can't beat nostalgia. Now that Adonis Creed, the son of Apollo Creed, is crowned light heavyweight champion - thanks to the guidance of Rocky Balboa - he finds himself defending his title against Viktor Drago, the son of Ivan Drago (Dolph Lundgren), who killed his father. This is the eighth instalment in the Rocky franchise.

#### Released Fri 30 Nov





#### Wildlife CERT 12a (104 mins)

Starring Carey Mulligan, Jake Gyllenhaal, Ed Oxenbould, Bill Camp Directed by Paul Dano (USA)

Richard Ford is a quintessentially American writer and, in its way, this adaptation of his 1990 novel is a quintessentially American film. First-time director Paul Dano - the actor - captures the milieu perfectly and aesthetically, aided by first-class performances from his two leads as a couple who, in 1960, have just moved to Great Falls in Montana (a favourite Richard Ford location). There, their marriage - as witnessed through the eyes of

their 14-year-old son, Joe (Oxenbould) - starts to come apart at the seams, echoed in the raging wildfires in the nearby mountains. Unlike many an actor cutting his directorial teeth, Dano resists the temptation to show off, instead laying out his tale in a punctiliously straightforward manner. Thus we are drawn into the interior lives of these ostensibly ordinary souls, so that when they start lying to each other, the transgressions genuinely rankle. It's a compelling, deeply disturbing piece.

Released Fri 9 Nov

#### Disobedience CERT 15 (114 mins)

Starring Rachel Weisz, Rachel McAdams, Alessandro Nivola, Anton Lesser, Bernice Stegers, Allan Corduner Directed by Sebastián Lelio (UK/Ireland/USA)



The daughter of a rabbi in a North London Orthodox Jewish community, Ronit Krushka (Rachel Weisz) now works as a photographer in New York, having been shunned by her family. However, she returns to London to attend her father's funeral, where ghosts from her past catch up with her. Based on the award-winning novel by Naomi Alderman, who grew up in an Orthodox Jewish environment herself.

#### Released Fri 30 Nov

#### Ralph Breaks The Internet

CERT PG

With the voices of John C Reilly, Sarah Silverman, Jane Lynch, Taraji P Henson, Gal Gadot, Kristen Bell, Kelly Macdonald Directed by Rich Moore and Phil Johnston (USA)

Following on from his exploits in Disney's ingenious Wreck-It-Ralph (2012), the arcade game villain embarks on a new adventure thanks to the discovery of a wi-fi router. It's a whole new world. Available in 3D and IMAX.

#### Released Fri 30 Nov





## WOMEN. POWER. PROTEST.

What's On chats to Emalee Beddoes-Davis, Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art at Birmingham Museums Trust, about Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's new exhibition...

#### How did Women Power Protest come about. Emalee?

We proposed the concept of the exhibition as part of the Arts Council Collection National Partnership Programme, which Birmingham Museums Trust is part of. The programme aims to make incredible artworks from the national Arts Council Collection accessible to more people across the country and increase engagement with contemporary art. The exhibition follows other successful partnership shows, including Coming Out and The Everyday And Extraordinary. In 1918, the Representation of the People Act made the first women in the UK eligible to vote. Women Power Protest is part of a programme of events and displays commemorating this important date, and takes a more contemporary look at women's

As curator, I selected the artworks from a shortlist and have been working with colleagues in our learning and outreach teams to develop the exhibition.

#### Can you give a brief overview of the exhibition?

Women Power Protest will explore the genius, activism, experiences and creativity of selected female artists in the Arts Council Collection and Birmingham's collection. The exhibition traces the suffragettes' legacy of activism, hope and dignity through a number of poignant and powerful contemporary art pieces by artists including Susan Hiller, Lubaina Himid and Mary Kelly.

## The exhibition includes works by 55 female artists. What was the selection criteria and who was involved in this?

The selection was made by myself, my predecessor Lisa Beauchamp, and Ann Jones, Curator of the Arts Council Collection. Our criteria were women artists who are known to be invested in issues related to women's rights. We worked with local people, including the Precious Trust, Shelter and Birmingham LGBTQ, to interpret these works and the themes of hope, dignity and activism which were inspired by the suffragettes.

## As a curator, what has the exhibition taught you personally about women's suffrage?

The 1918 Representation of the People Act gave suffrage to all men over 21 and women over 30 who met property-based qualifications. Under these terms, I wouldn't have been given the right to vote. This year is the anniversary of a momentous occasion for women, but the limitations of the act are an important reminder that while we should celebrate successes, it is essential that we

continue to demand equal terms across the intersections of gender, sexuality, race and class. Looking to modern and contemporary artworks allows the exhibition to explore how women's experiences have changed since 1918, and frame questions about the issues that still need to be addressed.

## The exhibition doesn't shy away from difficult issues. What's the most extreme example of this?

There are a number of pieces which deal with difficult issues, but for me the most challenging is Apocalypse by Susan Coe. The piece is from a body of work by the artist about a news story of a woman who was gang-raped in a bar in New York while a crowd of people watched and no one stopped or reported it. It speaks of the culture of silence around sexual assault, which is only now beginning to be challenged in mainstream culture. These issues are extremely important to explore, but we're aware that for many this can be too troubling. We have arranged the exhibition so that Apocalypse and other graphically violent pieces are placed in a way that can be avoided by visitors who feel the need to do

#### How are women from black and minority ethnic backgrounds represented?

A number of pieces explore the experiences of people of colour, including cotton.com by Turner Prize-winning artist Lubaina Himid and Maud Sulter's As A Black Woman. We strive to make our exhibitions as representative as possible. Over a quarter of the artworks in the exhibition were created by women from BAME backgrounds, but we recognise the historic bias in collections and how this puts limits on the selections for exhibitions like this. We have to continue to strive to ensure female artists, and in particular those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, are given the platform they deserve, so that exhibitions can continue to become more representative. We are actively increasing the representation of BAME artists, designers and makers in Birmingham's collection, and many of the learning events and activities for Women Power Protest aim to address the topic of representation as part of modern-day women's rights.

#### Do you have a favourite in the collection?

I love Claudette Jonson's Trilogy series from the Arts Council Collection. Portraiture is one of the most interesting traditions in the history of British art, and Johnson's work reappropriates this with such knowing beauty and strength. I find the firm, serious expressions and relaxed body language of the sitters incredibly powerful.

#### Give an example of how local history -Birmingham's role in the suffrage movement - is represented within the exhibition...

As part of a weekend of celebratory women's events for the Women Power Protest exhibition, taking place from Friday 16 to Sunday 18 November, a blue plaque will be revealed in Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery on the Friday, commemorating suffragette Bertha Ryland. In 1914, Bertha entered the museum and attacked a painting as part of the militant campaign for women's rights.

Women Power Protest is in homage to the suffrage movement, rather than a historical exploration of the journey to suffrage. It focuses on artworks exploring the activism and experiences of modern and contemporary artists. A zine we are creating to accompany the exhibition draws more on Birmingham's role in historic and contemporary activism, including an essay written by Dr Nicola Gauld about Bertha Ryland, as well as artwork by Sarah Taylor-Silverwood about campaigning group Feminist Work For Change, among other acts of creative activism.

The weekend will continue with an afternoon of performances in the exhibition space on Saturday 17 November, including spokenword poetry and music performed by exciting Birmingham artists Amerah Saleh, Jasmine Gardosi and Affie Jam.

We'll also be hosting a Women In Parliament discussion event on this day. To commemorate 100 years since women were able to stand for parliament, there will be a panel discussion with four female MPs from Birmingham and Solihull, chaired by leading feminist campaigner Caroline Criado Perez. There are more details on the website, birminghammuseums.org.uk.

## Finally, what lasting impression do you hope visitors will take away from the Women Power Protest experience?

The exhibition is an emotional rollercoaster of hope, beauty, tenderness, insecurity, fear, anger, discomfort and pain. It shows not only the multiplicity of experiences of being a woman, but also the important artists who are able to capture these experiences. I hope the exhibition offers insight into the incredible resilience, talent and bravery of women over the past century.

Women Power Protest shows at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery from Saturday 10 November until Sunday 31 March

## Visual Arts at Birmingham Hippodrome

TAKE A LOOK when you come to see a show or pop into the theatre in the daytime.





#### In the Wings: New Perspective

Moments captured by two Birmingham Royal Ballet dancers turned photographers.



#### The Face of Suffrage

Photographs from the suffrage movement. Complementing an installation at New St. Co-produced by GRAIN, Maud Amoliffe-Sennett c. 1908. From the LSE Library.

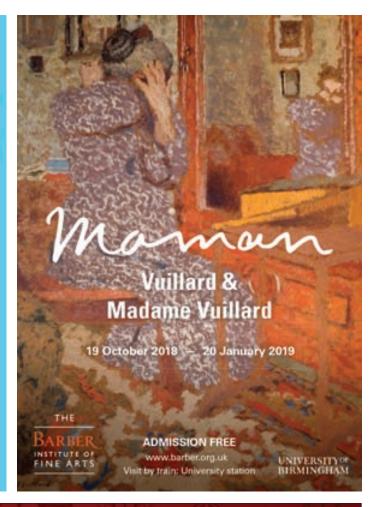


#### Once Upon A Time -A Visual History of Pantomime

Artists Craig Earp and Danny Lloyd respond to and rework the pantomime archive. Credit: Craig Earp, Danny Lloyd @Attu

birminghamhippodrome.com/visualarts

Birmingham Hippodrome, Hurst St, Southside, B5 4TB











birminghammuseums.org.uk/whats-on





#### **Face Of Suffrage**

New Street Station, Birmingham, Thurs 15 November - Fri 14 December

A unique art installation celebrating the Suffragette movement, Face Of Suffrage is a giant mosaic comprising 3,500 photos of women from the West Midlands and beyond, including images of individuals involved in the movement during the early 1900s.

The 200 metre-square floor-based mosaic has been installed in New Street Station's large concourse and is the work of artist Helen Marshall, who's previously created similar projects across Britain to mark other historic occasions.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to

show such a huge artwork in such an exciting public space," says Helen. "The idea came from my personal experience as a female achieving my dream to be an artist, and from my wish for women to become more visible, as they have been so invisible throughout art history, both in representation in portraiture and as artists in their own right."

This exhibition is complimented by a series of photographs on show at the city's Birmingham Hippodrome.

Image: Maud Arncliffe-Sennett c 1908

#### Elizabeth Magill: Headland New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Sun 20 January

"Although my work refers to landscape," explains Elizabeth Magill, "it's more like an exterior view, an attempt to create a setting or space to place things; a kind of deposit of thoughts and observations within the framework of a personal and painting practice."

Born in Canada and brought up in Northern Ireland, Elizabeth is one of her generation's leading painters, first coming to the attention of the art world in the early 1990s.

This latest exhibition presents a selection

of her most recent works and seems certain to secure her a whole new fan base.



### The First Casualty Of War Is Truth

Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire, until Sun 2 December

Forming part of Shropshire's programme of commemorative events to honour and remember the lives of those who served in and were affected by the Great War, this thought-provoking exhibition examines how the 1914-18 conflict has been represented in the media.

The show has been curated by a group of Shropshire artists and aims to expose truths obscured by time, loss and misinformation.

Some of the included pieces have previously

Some of the included pieces have previously been exhibited at Shrewsbury's St Chad's Church and Theatre Severn.

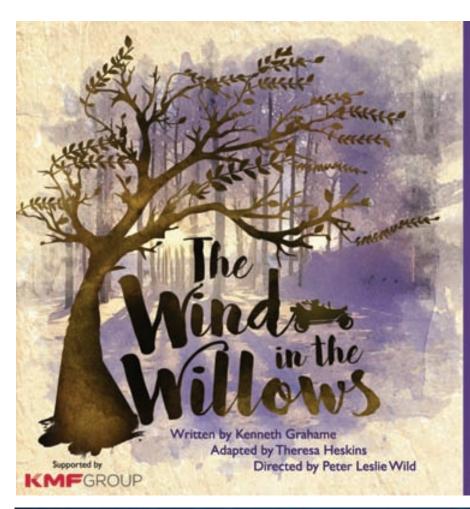


## In My Shoes: Art & The Self Since The 1990s



PACCAR Room, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sun 6 January

This Arts Council Collection national touring exhibition - featuring works by Hayley Newman, Sarah Lucas, Grayson Perry and Tracey Emin - explores the ways in which UK-based artists have included themselves in their work since the 1990s. Reflecting society's ever-increasing interest in self-expression, the show presents a wide range of contemporary approaches across a number of different art forms.



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## Birmingham International Tattoo 2018

Arena Birmingham, Sat 24 & Sun 25 November

Celebrating its 30th year in style, Britain's biggest indoor international tattoo showcases bands from across the United Kingdom, Poland, Austria and Russia, with more than 1,000 performers taking part in the show.

The event would not be complete without the ever-popular closing ceremony, which features the Royal Air Force Cosford Queen's Colour and Escort, the traditional Land Of Hope And Glory, the Evening Hymn and The Lone Piper.

#### **Ludlow Medieval Christmas Fayre**

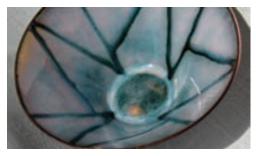
Ludlow Castle, Shropshire, Sat 24 & Sun 25 November

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Ludlow's hugely popular Medieval Christmas Fayre. The event sees more than 100 stalls fill the castle grounds, selling seasonal wares and historical goods & crafts throughout the weekend. Visitors can also enjoy a wide range of medieval games and entertainment, including jesters, interactive theatre and the epic Tournament of Knights.



#### **Gorgeous Christmas Craft And Food Fair**

Enginuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire, Sat 24 & Sun 25 November



Designer-makers from across the West Midlands head to Ironbridge this month for the 2018 Gorgeous Christmas Craft Fair. From one-off designer pieces to affordable goods, the show features a wide variety of hand-made designs and individual artworks, all of which are available to purchase. Not only will visitors be able to stock up on Christmas gifts, they can also watch exhibitors demonstrating their craft and providing an insight into their work. Some of the region's best food & drink providers are on hand too, offering tons of tasty treats for browsers who fancy taking a break from shopping and watching.

## Remember, remember the 5th of November...

WOLVERHAMPTON BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS NIGHT Fri 2 Nov, from 5pm, Wolverhampton Bacecourse

TAMWORTH'S BONFIRE NIGHT Sat 3 Nov, from 6pm, Tamworth Castle

SIXWAYS BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS DISPLAY Sat 3 Nov, from 5pm, Sixways Stadium, Worcester

BLISTS HILL FIREWORKS NIGHT Sat 3 Nov, from 6pm, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

**EDGBASTON FIREWORKS** Sat 3 Nov, from 5.30pm, Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham

BONFIRE NIGHT WITH A TUDOR TWIST Sat 3 Nov, Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon SOLIHULL FIREWORKS Sat 3 Nov.

**SOLIHULL FIREWORKS** Sat 3 No from 4.30pm, Tudor Grange, Solihull

HIMLEY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS
Sat 3 Nov, from 4.30pm, Himley
Hall, Dudley

SHREWSBURY'S CHARITY FIREWORKS AND BONFIRE SPECTACULAR Sat 3 Nov, from 4pm, West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury

CONKERS FIREWORKS AND LASER SHOW Sat 3 - Sun 4 Nov, from 5.30pm, Conkers, Rawdon Road, Moira

ALTON TOWERS RESORT ULTIMATE FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR Sat 3 & Sun 4 Nov, Alton Towers Theme Park, Staffordshire

WARWICK TOWN BONFIRE & FIREWORKS Sat 4 Nov, from 4.30pm, Warwickshire Racecourse

WESTON PARK BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS Sun 4 Nov, from 3pm, Weston Park, Shifnal BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL

GARDENS FIREWORKS Mon 5 Nov, from 5pm, Birmingham Botanical Gardens





#### Mind Body Spirit Wellbeing Festival

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 2 - Sun 4 November

The Mind Body Spirit Wellbeing Festival makes a welcome return to Birmingham this month.

The three-day event offers 'spiritual seekers' a safe place in which to commune and share their ideas, beliefs and philosophies.

Attractions at this month's show include a workshop programme presenting new ideas on relationships, awakening, inspired living, NLP, yoga, meditation, science and angels. New for this year is Nourish - providing top tips to enhance your nutritional wellbeing - and Oasis Of Sound, a meditational therapy experience created with a sound bath.



#### Lancaster Insurance Classic Motor Show

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 9 - Sun 11 November
Covering over one million square feet and showcasing more than 3,000 classic and vintage cars
and motorbikes, the Classic Motor Show is the
biggest event of its kind in the country.
Popular elements of the show include the autojumble area - where car fanatics can get their
hands on a ton of parts and spares for their vehicles - and the exhibition zone, bringing together
500 specialist automotive exhibitors and traders
offering a mix of products and services.
Wheeler Dealers' Mike Brewer and Ant Anstead
will also be putting in an appearance, along
with a number of other celebrity guests.

## MCM Birmingham Comic Con

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 24 & Sun 25 November

Fans of comics, movies, TV shows, cosplay and gaming can rejoice - 'the ultimate popculture experience' is back at the NEC!
Check out interactive features, stroll around the Comic Village and catch up with your favourite stars when they participate in the Theatre Panels - events in which they'll be taking questions from the audience and sharing plenty of behind-the-scenes gossip.
Celebrity guests at this year's exhibition include Twin Peaks' Sherilyn Fenn and The Walking Dead's David Morrissey.





#### **Baby To Toddler**

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 24 & Sun 25 November

From the organisers of The Baby Show comes this brand new onestop-shop for parents and parentsto-be.

From buggies and car seats to toys and feeding accessories, the show provides everything you need for your little ones, and all under one roof. And as the event is taking place in late November, visitors will also be able to take advantage of numerous Black Friday deals. If you've got your youngsters in tow, fear not - the event has been created with the whole family in mind. From the purpose-built changing area to the 'non-stop fun' of KidsZone, everything has been designed to make your day out as hassle-free as possible.



## **BBC Good Food Show**

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 29 November - Sun 2 December

A long-time favourite on the UK's culinary events calendar, the BBC Good Food Show heads back to Birmingham with its winter edition, once again offering samples to try and items to buy. This year sees TV favourites Mary Berry, Michel Roux Jr and Paul Hollywood (amongst others) cooking up a storm live on stage across the weekend. Other attractions include book signings with star chefs and the chance to stock up on festive food & drink from the show's 450-plus independent and artisan exhibitors.

#### **BRICK Live**

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 1 - Sun 4 November
Hailed as the UK's largest Lego exhibition,
BRICK Live features numerous popular displays
from previous years - including Star Wars, Duplo
and Minecraft - alongside a new-for-2018 interactive experience entitled Mythical Beasts.
Enthusiasts can also access exclusive Lego
pieces for their collection at the show's BRICK
Lane, whilst over in the race ramps and brick
pits, visitors can get hands-on by building their
very own creations.





#### **Festive Gift Fair**

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 15 - Sun 18 November Now in its 23rd year, the Festive Gift Fair features more than 320 stalls and boasts thousands of glorious gift ideas and colourful Christmas decorations

Live bands, stilt walkers and pantomime characters are also on hand to entertain the crowds and further enhance the festive mood.

And you'll be able to stock up on an array of tasty Christmas treats in the foodie section, where award-winning and artisan companies will be exhibiting across the weekend.

Oh, and a delightfully jocular fellow with a big white beard and a fat sack of prezzies is in attendance too - probably on the lookout for a nice glass of sherry and a delicious mince pie, we'd imagine...

## Arts & Antiques For Everyone

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 15 - Sun 18 November

Bringing together more than 200 specialist art and antique dealers, Arts & Antiques For Everyone is the largest and best-established vetted art, interiors and antiques fair outside of London. The show offers the perfect opportunity for enthusiasts and collectors to browse, purchase and obtain information on a vast array of furniture and collectables.

A diversity of periods and styles crossing a variety of disciplines features at this latest show, including ceramics, glass, paintings, jewellery and both British and continental furniture.



ALL OF TRAVIS PASTRANA'S CRAZIEST IDEAS IN ONE SPECTACULAR 2-HOUR SHOW!



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#### What's On

Thurs 1 to Sun 4 November



Jake Morley at Shrewsbury's Henry Tudor House

Sun 4 November

Mon 5 to Sun 11 November



Angelos Epithemiou -Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Sat 10 November

Mon 12 to Sun 18 November



Levison Wood -Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

Sun 18 November

Mon 19 to Fri 30 November



LTJ Bukem -The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Fri 30 November

## thelist

#### THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER

#### **Visual Arts**

New Art Gallery - Walsall

**GRACE A WILLIAMS: INTERMISSION** Two-screen projection focused on the gaze of two unknown black men whose enigmatic portraits appear on 19th century photographic slides found by the artist, until Sun 11 Nov

LILY WALES - BLUE STREAK Working with photomontage, Birminghambased artist Lily Wales creates 2D and sculptural works that reference the language of military weaponry, until Sun 9 Dec

#### Newcastle Borough Museum & Art Gallery

REVEAL Exhibition of art and photography created by service users in adult community day services, which is part of North Staffordshire combined healthcare, until Sun 4 Nov

#### Potteries Museum & Art Gallery - Stoke-On-Trent

**NEW A WINTER WONDERLAND** Display of ceramics, the shape, decoration and design of which has been inspired by winter, Sat 10 Nov - Sun 17

NEW SEASONS Exhibition by Staffordshire Artists referencing the four season of the year and showcasing work produced by the group within the last two years, Sat 24 Nov - Sun 24 Feb

#### Qube Gallery, Oswestry

**NEW HOMEFRONT HEROINES** Exhibition exploring the lives and roles of women in World War One. Part of the Oswestry-wide Wilfred Owen Festival, Thurs 1 - Fri 16 Nov

**NEW CHRISTMAS ARTS AND CRAFTS EX-HIBITION** Featuring locally made arts & crafts. A great place to pick up unique Christmas gifts, Mon 19 Nov -Sat 22 Dec

#### Weston Park, Shifnal

**NEW ABOVE AND BELOW - JOHN SCOTT** MARTIN Paintings and linocuts of mining and miners by John Scott Martin, Thurs 1 - Fri 30 Nov

#### The Willow Art Gallery, Oswestry

**NEW WINTER OPEN EXHIBITION** The Shropshire Guild of Contemporary Craft exhibits a wide range of work. including stained glass, ceramics, furniture, jewellery, weaving and textiles, Sat 17 Nov - Sat 12 Jan

**NEW AFFORDABLE ART** Featuring an inwork by members of the Borderland

Visual Arts, Sat 17 Nov - Sat 12 Jan

#### Wolverhampton Art Gallery

BP PORTRAIT AWARD 2018 Annual exhibition of contemporary painted portraiture by artists of all ages from across the world, until Fri 30 Nov

JOURNEYS: MAKING MARKS WITH MEAN-ING Featuring work by members of Still Lively, a wide-ranging partnership that helps older people to create, share and celebrate their artworks, stories and ideas. The exhibition consists of drawings made by more than 100 people who responded to the challenge to 'have a go at drawing', until Sun 6 Jan

JANE & LOUISE WILSON: UNDEAD SUN Large-scale video installation inspired by archive photographs, artefacts and diary entries. It explores the impact of the First World War and the technological forces that it unleashed, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 20 Jan

#### Other VISUAL ARTS

SHROPSHIRE MIND Celebrating the creativity of people who use the services at Shropshire Mind. All the pieces on display have been produced by those who use art to express themselves, until Wed 14 Nov, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

**CLAIRE SCOTT** Showcase of landscape paintings, until Sat 17 Nov, Twenty Twenty Gallery, Ludlow

WINTER LANDSCAPES Mixed-media show of painters, printmakers and potters, featuring Zoë Taylor, Carol Saunderson and Gary Groucutt, until Sat 24 Nov, Twenty Twenty Gallery, Much Wenlock

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS: THE PEO-PLE'S STORY EXHIBITION A specially commissioned exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One, until Fri 14 Dec, Museum of Cannock Chase, Stafford-

FOUR IN THE FRAME A display of artwork created by four local artists; Hazel Gillard, Jacqueline Bradley, Steve Millward & Alex Maczkowski, until Fri 21 Dec, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**NEW CENTENARY OF THE END OF THE END OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR** Display highlighting the contributions made by thousands of local men and women during the First World War, both at home and overseas, Wed 7 Nov - Mon 31 Dec, Wolverhampton City Archives

**NEW RURAL SURREALISM** Exhibition using the imagery of dreams, folklore and fantasy in the tradition of painting and print, Sat 24 Nov - Mon 31 Dec, Twenty Twenty Gallery, Ludlow

#### Gigs

THE BOB DYLAN STORY Thurs 1 Nov. Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent SOUND OF THE SIRENS

Thurs 1 Nov. Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

BLACK MAGIC - LITTLE MIX SHOW Thurs 1 Nov. Sutton Coldfield Town

**CELTIC COUNTRY WITH DOMINIC KIRWAN &** BRANDON MCPHEE

Thurs 1 Nov. Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**NEW PURPLE CELEBRA-**TION Thurs 1 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

BRUNO MARS: 24K MAGIC Thurs 1 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

RAYE Thurs 1 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**ELDER ISLAND** Thurs 1 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

WISHBONE ASH Thurs 1 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-

**HEADIE ONE** Thurs 1 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**MUTUAL BENEFIT** Thurs 1 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**TOVE STYRKE** Thurs 1 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE BON JOVI EXPERI-ENCE Thurs 1 Nov. Lichfield Garrick

**5 SECONDS OF SUMMER** Thurs 1 Nov, O2

Academy, Birmingham FROM THE JAM - ALL MOD CONS 40TH AN-**NIVERSARY TOUR** Thurs 1 Nov. The Robin. Bil-

**GERRY COLVIN BAND** Fri 2 Nov, Lichfield Guildhall

ston

DIRTY DC Fri 2 Nov, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

DR FEELGOOD Fri 2 Nov. The Robin, Bilston

**ULTIMATE COLDPLAY** Fri 2 Nov, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

KARINE POLWART Fri 2 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

CATAPULT CLUB FEAT. WAKENING THE HOLLOW COPY Fri 2 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

FAT FREDDY'S DROP Fri 2 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

AIDAN MOFFAT & RM **HUBBERT** Fri 2 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TOYAH Fri 2 Nov, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

**HUGH CORNWELL ELEC-**TRIC Fri 2 Nov, The Sugarmill. Stoke-on-

THE SUPERSKAS Fri 2 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

**GENESIS CONNECTED** Fri 2 Nov, Oakengates Theatre at The Place. Telford, Shropshire

THANK ABBA FOR THE MIISIC Fri 2 Nov Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE SHEEPDOGS & THE GOOD WATER Fri 2 Nov. The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

IVORY WAVE Fri 2 Nov. O2 Institute, B'ham

WILL HAVEN Fri 2 Nov, The Asylum, B'ham

**CALIFORNIA DREAMERS** Fri 2 - Sat 3 Nov, Theatre On The Steps. Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

AND FINALLY... PHIL COLLINS Sat 3 Nov, Forest Arts Centre. Walsall

VIVA LA COLDPLAY Sat 3 Nov. The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenclock, South Shropshire

**ROCK BOTTOM - UFO** TRIBUTE Sat 3 Nov. Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

VICE SQUAD, THE VIBRA-TORS & MENACE Sat 3

Nov, The Robin, Bil-

**LEWIS CAPALDI** Sat 3 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**GLENN TILBROOK** Sat 3 Nov, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burtonupon-Trent

**TONY CHRISTIE** Sat 3 Nov. Wolverhampton **Grand Theatre** 

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS Sat 3 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

SLAWOMIR Sat 3 Nov. O2 Academy, B'ham

RAINBOW KITTEN SUR-PRISE Sat 3 Nov. O2 Institute, Birmingham

**BOOTLEG ABBA** Sat 3 Nov. Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

THE SMITHS LTD Sat 3 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

**KILLERSTREAM** Sat 3 Nov, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

SIGRID Sun 4 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TIDE LINES Sun 4 Nov. O2 Academy, B'ham

JAKE MORLEY Sun 4 Nov, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

HERE LIES MAN Sun 4 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GODSMACK Sun 4 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE WATCH PLAYS GEN-ESIS Sun 4 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

NATTY 'MAN LIKE I' 10TH **ANNIVERSARY** Sun 4 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**CATFISH AND TOM** WALKER Sun 4 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury



Jake Morley - Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

spiring and diverse selection of art-

#### **Thursday 1 - Sunday 4 November**

#### **Classical Music**

CBSO: DVORÁK'S CELLO CONCERTO Featuring Alexander Vedernikov (conductor) and Paul Watkins (cello).
Programme includes works by Beethoven, Dvořák and Shostakovich, Thurs 1 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Michael Seal (conductor). Programme comprises Stravinsky's The Rite Of Spring, Thurs 1 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

VIENNA TONKÜNSTLER: BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH Featuring Yutaka Sado (conductor), and Angela Hewitt (piano). Programme includes works by Bernstein and Beethoven, Fri 2 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE LUDLOW CONCERT ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Beethoven, Dvorak & Mendelssohn, Sat 3 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

BIRMINGHAM CANOLDIR MALE CHOIR: REMEMBRANCE Featuring Birmingham Canoldir Male Choir with the English Association of Male Voice Choirs, Sun 4 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA: LENINGRAD SYMPHONY Featuring Michael Seal (conductor). Programme includes works by Britten and Shostakovich, Sun 4 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

#### **Comedy**

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, KEITH FARNAN FEATURING COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 1 Nov The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, JEFF INNOCENT, JAKE BAKER & CARL JONES Thurs 1 Nov, The George Hotel, Lichfield ROY CHUBBY BROWN Thurs 1 Nov,

Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford, Shropshire

KUM-N-AVALOFF COMEDY NIGHT Thurs 1 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

**JEN BRISTER** Fri 2 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

LIAM PICKFORD, SULLY O'SULLIVAN, KAREN BAILEY & TWO COMICS TBC Fri 2 Nov, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, KEITH FARNAN, JOSH PUGH & SHANE MAUSS Fri 2 - Sat 3 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ALFIE MOORE Sat 3 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

CHRIS WASHINGTON, STEVE SHANYASKI, TUDUR OWEN & MANDY KNIGHT Sat 3 Nov, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

JOHN SIMMIT, DREW FRASER, FELICITY ETHNIC & SIDEMAN Sat 3 Nov, MAC, Birmingham **COMEDY IN THE MET** Sat 3 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

#### **Theatre**

MOTOWN THE MUSICAL Hit West End musical telling the story of the man who broke barriers and fought against the odds to create something more than a record label, until Sat 3 Nov. The Alexandra Theatre. B'ham



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, until Sat 17 Nov, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

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

THE UNRETURNING Compelling new play by Anna Jordan which explores the profound effect that war has on young lives, and asks - what does coming home really mean? Tues 30 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, The Old Rep, B'ham

**BEAUTIFUL THING** Razor-sharp depiction of life on a post-war council estate, Tues 30 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

THE LOVELY BONES Stage premiere of Alice Sebold's coming-of-age tale, Tues 30 Oct - Sat 10 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

BAD GIRLS Hit musical based on the award-winning television series, Wed 31 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

A BLACK COUNTRY NIGHT OUT Humour and music combine in this popular show featuring Dandy, The Empty Can, Ollie Spencer, Joe Thomas & Wayne Beese, Thurs 1 Nov, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

SARAJEVO BIG BANG Follow a cast of characters and find out how we are all connected to the gunshot that started The Great War, Thurs 1 Nov, Quatt Village Hall, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

TO HAVE TO SHOOT IRISHMEN A new play with songs by Lizzie Nunnery, Thurs 1 - Fri 2 Nov, Theatre Severn,

Shrewsbury

**ORANGE POLAR BEAR** New play giving voice to a young generation trying to find their place in a fast-changing world, Thurs 1 - Sat 10 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

AUSTENTATIOUS - THE IMPROVISED JANE AUSTEN NOVEL Featuring a cast of quirky comedy performers, this improvised play is based on nothing more than a title suggested by the audience, Fri 2 Nov, The REP, B'ham

BEASTLY MONSTERS AND MONSTROUS BEASTS Original theatrical show in which Alice Quartermain recounts several of her daring escapades from the Edwardian era, Fri 2 Nov, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

WINTER TALES Three spine-tingling tales for a winter's evening, including Henry James' classic ghost story, The Turn Of The Screw, Fri 2 Nov, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

TIME TO REMEMBER SSAFA West Midlands (Armed Forces Charity) present a theatrical performance that pays tribute to the 'ladies left at home' during the Great War, Fri 2 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

JANE EYRE: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY Onewoman show in which Rebecca Vaughan embodies Jane - and several other characters - in an intimate study of love's realities, Fri 2 Nov, Lichfield Garrick



THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY OF STEVE JOBS Leave your iPhone at home, if you dare, and check out this 'funny, thought-provoking and insightful story, full of inconvenient truths.', Fri 2 - Sat 3 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

PRIVATE PEACEFUL Starcross Youth Theatre present an amateur staging of Michael Morpurgo's World War One play, Fri 2 - Sat 3 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

PANGOTTIC: LONG SHOT An evening of clowning, contraptions, comedy and courage, as one man's belief in the near-impossible is put to the test, Sat 3 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

SHOWSTOPPER! THE IMPROVISED MUSI-CAL Brand new musical comedy created from scratch at each performance with audience suggestions transformed on the spot into allsinging, all-dancing productions, Sat 3 Nov, The REP, Birmingham DAD'S ARMY RADIO HOUR Two actors play 25 characters in a new staging of three classic radio episodes based on favourite scripts from the original TV series, Sat 3 Nov, The Old Rep, Birmingham

THAT'LL BE THE DAY Rock'n'roll variety show, Sat 3 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

ROMEO & JULIET The Crescent Theatre Company present a fast-paced contemporary take on Shakespeare's famous love story, Sat 3 - Sat 10 Nov, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**THE PITY OF WAR** Celebration of the life and work of Wilfred Owen, featuring readings of Owen's letters to his mother, Sun 4 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



#### **Kids Shows**

LITTLE HOWARD'S BIG SHOW FOR KIDS Following the success of their TV show, real human Big Howard and animated six-year-old Little Howard fuse interactive stand-up and animation in a show for all the family, Thurs 1 Nov, MAC, Birmingham

THE SHOWSTOPPERS' KIDS SHOW Improvised musical show which takes kids' ideas and turns them into musical adventures from scratch, Sat 3 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

**GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU** Presented by Selladoor Family, Sat 3 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall



CBEEBIES: THUMBELINA Unique staging of the original Hans Christian Andersen tale, featuring music, dance and comedy for younger audiences, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

## thelist

#### **Thursday 1 - Sunday 4 November**

#### **Dance**

SILK ROAD Flamenco roots are blended with a unique, contemporary style in this story of East meets West, Thurs 1 - Fri 2 Nov, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

TOM DALE COMPANY: I INFINITE Exploration of the boundaries between the artificial, real, digital and organic worlds, Thurs 1 - Fri 2 Nov, MAC, Birmingham

**EMERALD STORM** Fresh take on original Irish dance, featuring live music, Fri 2 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

ANKUSHA & OTHER MYSTERIES Via three distinctive classical & contemporary South Asian dance solos, Kamala Devam Company seek answers to unanswerable questions... Sun 4 Nov, MAC, Birmingham

#### **Talks**

IN CONVERSATION WITH ALICE SEBOLD

The award-winning author of The Lovely Bones discusses her wideranging career in a special event to tie in with the stage adaptation of her novel, Thurs 1 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

#### FIIM

#### **INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:**

**THE RIDER (15)** Drama/Western. Starring Brady Jandreau, Mooney. Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 1 Nov

FIRST MAN (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Ryan Gosling, Claire Foy. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 1 Nov

**VENOM (15)** Horror/Sci-Fi. Starring Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton. Thurs 1 Nov

**THE SHINING (15)** Horror. Starring Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duvall. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Thurs 1 Nov

PETER RABBIT (PG) Animation/Adventure. Starring Domhnall Gleeson, James Corden. Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Thurs 1 Nov

KING OF THIEVES (15) Crime/Drama. Starring Michael Caine, Michael Gambon. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Thurs 1 Nov

A FANTASTIC WOMAN (15) Drama. Starring Daniela Vega, Francisco Reyes. Foreign language, subtitled. The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 2 Nov

MANDY (18) Horror/Thriller. Starring Nicolas Cage, Andrea Riseborough. Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 2 Nov

#### AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON

(15) Horror/Comedy. Starring David Naughton, Jenny Agutter. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Shrops, Fri 2 Nov

A QUIET PLACE (15) Horror/Mystery. Starring Emily Blunt, John Krasinski. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Shrops, Fri 2 Nov

**THE WIFE (15)** Drama. Starring Christian Slater, Glenn Close. Stoke Film Theatre, Sat 3 Nov

#### **NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:**

Released from Fri 2 Nov, showing at selected cinemas

**JULIET, NAKED (15)** 

MIRAI (PG)

PETERLOO (12a)

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS (PG)

#### **Events**

HUBBLE BUBBLE TRICK OR TREAT Do you dare to explore the spooky cellars at Soho House? until Thurs 1 Nov, Soho House, Birmingham

SCAREFEST Enjoy your favourite rides in the dark, plus loads of extra entertainment, until Fri 2 Nov, Alton Towers. Stoke-on-Trent

HALLOWEEN HALF TERM & CRAFT DAYS See the hall dressed for Halloween, take part in Halloween-themed craft days and try the haunted house and gruesome garden trails, until Fri 2 Nov, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

HAUNTED CASTLE A week of ghostly goings on at Tamworth Castle's haunted spooktacular, until Fri 2 Nov, Tamworth Castle

AIRFIX MAKE AND TAKE Suitable for seasoned model makers or Airfix novices, until Fri 2 Nov, RAF Cosford, Shifnal

MORE TREAT THAN TRICK Family Halloween activities and eerie entertainment, until Fri 2 Nov, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

SPOOKY SPECTACULAR Witches, wizards and werewolves abound!, until Sun 4 Nov, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park. Bewdley

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR Join Dermot O'Scary for this spooktacular showing, as Frankie Frankenstein, Witchy Woo Woo and Wolfy the Wolfman compete for this year's 'mystery prize', until Sun 4 Nov, Cadbury World, Birmingham

**SPOOKY SCIENCE WEEK** Featuring a host of family activities, until Sun 4 Nov, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

**OCTOBER HALF TERM** Family-friendly half-term activities, until Sun 4 Nov, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, B'ham

TERRIFYING TALES Discover spooky Black Country legends and separate folklore from fact, until Sun 4 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**SPOOKY STOKESAY** Enjoy 'frightfully fun craft activities', until Sun 4 Nov, Stokesay Castle. Nr Craven Arms, South Shropshire

NIMROD TOURS Climb on board the Nimrod and learn about its intelligence-gathering role in the Royal Air Force, until Sun 4 Nov, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

FAMILY FUN DAY Take a family-friendly guided tour of the Smith & Pepper jewellery factory, Thurs 1 Nov, Museum of The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW A haven for knitting, cross stitch, paper crafting, jewellery, dressmaking and stitching enthusiasts, Thurs 1 - Sun 4 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

SIMPLY CHRISTMAS - THE CRAFTY CHRISTMAS SHOW Retail show featuring bespoke and unusual gifts, Thurs 1 - Sun 4 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

**BRICKLIVE** The ultimate weekend for Lego lovers, Thurs 1 - Sun 4 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

CANDLELIT TOURS OF THE BACK TO BACKS Hear stories about the people who called Court 15 home for over 160 years, Fri 2 Nov, Birmingham Back to Backs

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS NIGHT Familyfriendly evening including a funfair, food outlets, bars, music and entertainment, Fri 2 Nov, Wolverhampton Racecourse

BACKSTAGE TOUR Journey behind the scenes at one of Britain's premier producing theatres, Fri 2 - Sat 3 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

**GRADJOBS LIVE!** The UK's leading graduate job fair, Fri 2 - Sat 3 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

MIND BODY SPIRIT Featuring inspirational speakers, musicians, artists and performers, Fri 2 - Sun 4 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

BEST OF BRITISH FIREWORKS SPECTAC-ULAR Fri 2 - Sun 4 Nov, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

CAKE INTERNATIONAL The UK's leading cake decorating, sugarcraft & baking show, Fri 2 - Sun 4 Nov, NEC, B'ham

THE GIN TRAIN Gin-tasting experience with a festive twist, Sat 3 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL BONFIRE & FIRE-WORKS Featuring The Knights of Middle England, Sat 3 Nov, Pillaton Hall Farm, Penkridge, Staffs

RIDE THE ROCKET FIREWORK TRAIN Enjoy an evening train journey to Carrog - and on the way back, stop off at Glyndyfrdwy Station for fireworks, Sat 3 Nov, Llangollen Railway **BONFIRE NIGHT** Sat 3 Nov, Tamworth

Castle

FIREWORKS NIGHT Family fireworks and a fiery performance in the Ironworks by Scarlet Butterfly, Sat 3 Nov, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire



HIMLEY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS Celebrating heroes and heroines from all walks of life, Sat 3 Nov, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN FLOAT Lots of fun activities for families, including star gazing with the Astronomy Society and traditional fairground games, Sat 3 Nov, Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster

THE NATIONAL PET SHOW Find out more about your favourite pet and how to take care of them, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

ULTIMATE FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR A last chance to experience the venue's rides and attractions before the 2018 season comes to an end, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Nov, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

FROST FAIR Wide selection of handmade crafts and Christmas gifts from Shropshire craftspeople, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Nov, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

MAKING 'SNUGBOROUGH' Chance for children to help create habitat piles and find out about the estate's wildlife, Sat 3 - Sun 4 Nov, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

MODEL RAILEX Featuring up to 14 visiting layouts, Sun 4 Nov, National Brewery Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

WWI COMMEMORATION DAY Marking the centenary of the armistice that ended World War One, Sun 4 Nov, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**GUNPOWDER PLOT** Featuring craft activities, quizzes and trails, Sun 4 Nov, Haden Hill House Museum, Cradley Heath

THE CHAMPAGNE TRAIN Travel through the Severn Valley in a luxurious 1936built first-class carriage (once hauled by the Flying Scotsman), Sun 4 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

**BONFIRE & FIREWORKS** Sun 4 Nov, Weston Park, Nr Wolverhampton

#### **Monday 5 - Sunday 11 November**

#### **Gigs**

**SHINEDOWN** Mon 5 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE STYLISTICS Mon 5 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**JOHNNY MARR** Mon 5 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**DEVILSKIN** Mon 5 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

**DANNY BRYANT** Mon 5 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

JUST JACK Tues 6 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH KING CRIMSON Tues 6 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MICHAEL SCHENKER FEST Tues 6 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**GRYPHON** Tues 6 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**HAYLEY** Tues 6 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham

FRIGS Wed 7 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**TOM BAXTER** Wed 7 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**DAN REED NETWORK**Wed 7 Nov, The
Robin, Bilston

JOE BAYLISS Wed 7 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**FOUR OF DIAMONDS** Wed 7 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FIRST AID KIT Wed 7 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham



MIC LOWRY Wed 7 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

**SLAYER** Wed 7 Nov, Arena Birmingham

IMPERICON NEVER SAY DIE! TOUR 2018 Wed 7 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

ERJA LYYTINEN & HER BAND Thurs 8 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

THE SIMON & GAR-

**FUNKEL STORY** Thurs 8 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

KLUB KIDS PRESENTS THE ROAST BATTLES Thurs 8 Nov, O2

Academy, Birmingham **GENTLEMAN'S DUB CLUB** Thurs 8 Nov, The Mill, Digbeth, Birmingham

JUDIE TZUKE, BEVERLEY CRAVEN & JULIE FORD-HAM Thurs 8 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

**OLD DOMINION** Thurs 8 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MARTIN STEPHENSON & THE DAINTEES Thurs 8 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**THREATIN** Thurs 8 Nov, The Asylum, B'ham

BARRY STEELE & FRIENDS AS THE ROY ORBISON STORY Fri 9 Nov, Oakengates Theatre at The Place,

Telford, Shropshire **S-X** Fri 9 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

GORDON HENDRICKS-THE ULTIMATE ELVIS TRIBUTE Fri 9 Nov, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

BLOXX + VISTAS + SAR-COLINE Fri 9 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

THE MECHANICAL HEARTS Fri 9 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

ARRESTED DEVELOP-MENT Fri 9 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

THE CARPENTERS STORY Fri 9 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**KILLING JOKE** Fri 9 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

WITHIN TEMPTATION Fri 9 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**TEENAGE FANCLUB** Fri 9 - Sun 11 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT Sat 10 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-

SOMEONE LIKE YOU -THE ADELE SONGBOOK Sat 10 Nov, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

ABSOLUTE BOWIE - 50 YEARS OF BOWIE Sat 10 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

NOUGHTY NINETIES Sat 10 Nov, The River Rooms. Stourbridge

RICHARD DIGANCE Sat 10 Nov, Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley, Shropshire

THE HIGH KINGS Sat 10 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

**SLEEPER** Sat 10 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

PHIL CAMPBELL & THE BASTARD SONS + LEADER OF DOWN Sat 10 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

**GIANT & THE GEORGES**Sat 10 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE BUSBY BABES Sat 10 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

BLACKBERRY SMOKE Sat 10 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE BON JOVI EXPERI-ENCE Sat 10 Nov, Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford

THE PRODIGY & PUBLIC ENEMY Sat 10 Nov, Arena Birmingham, Birmingham

KIRVANA & PEARL SCAM Sat 10 Nov, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

VITOR PEREIRA QUINTET Sat 10 Nov, The Hive, Shrewsbury



INTO THE SHADOWS Sun 11 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

LESS THAN JAKE & REEL BIG FISH Sun 11 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

DASHBOARD CONFES-SIONAL Sun 11 Nov, The Mill, Digbeth, Birmingham

THE UKULELE ORCHES-TRA OF GREAT BRITAIN Sun 11 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

FOCUS FEAT. THIJS VAN LEER Sun 11 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**LEON BRIDGES** Sun 11 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

#### Classical Music

MARTIN JAMES BARTLETT (PIANO) Programme includes works by Mac-Dowell, Gershwin, Godowsky, Barber & Wild, Tues 6 Nov, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: SYMPHONIC DANCES Featuring Elim Chan (conductor) and Jeremy Denk (piano). Programme includes works by Dukas, Mozart and Rachmaninov, Thurs 8 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DUDLEY REMEMBERS Featuring Sovereign Brass, Lutley Community Choir, Dudley College Students and Reverend Sue Oliver. Ian Rawlings comperes, Thurs 8 Nov, Dudley Town Hall

SPECTACULAR CLASSICS Featuring the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Choir & Anthony Inglis (conductor). Programme includes works by Prokofiev, Orff, Grieg, Bizet, Verdi, Strauss, Ravel, Rossini, Jenkins, Tchaikovsky, Elgar, Handel & Wood, Sat 10 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

REQUIEM FOR HUMANKIND Featuring Lichfield Cathedral Choral Foundation & Chamber Choir with Darwin Ensemble Chamber Orchestra, Sat 10 Nov. Lichfield Cathedral

REMEMBRANCE CONCERT Celebration of music, art, readings & poetry, culminating in Mozart's Requiem conducted by the CBSO's Michael Seal, Sun 11 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE Annual event held in association with the Royal British Legion and Telford Christians Together, Sun 11 Nov, The Place@ Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

COLLEGIUM MUSICUM 90 - THE CORELLI PHENOMENON Featuring Simon Standage & Catherine Martin (violins), Andrew Skidmore (cello) & Nicholas Parle (harpsichord). Programme includes works by Corelli, Geminiani, Visconti, Albinoni, Scarlatti & Montanari, Sun 11 Nov, The Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury

#### Comedy

FIN TAYLOR Wed 7 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARLON DAVIS, ABIGOLIAH SCHAMAUN & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 8 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MARLON DAVIS, ABIGOLIAH SCHAMAUN, CHRIS MACARTHUR-BOYD & JOE BOR Fri 9 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham SIMON EVANS Fri 9 Nov, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

FREDDIE FARRELL, BRENDON BURNS & JACK CAMPBELL Fri 9 Nov, The Comedy Loft, B'ham

TEZ ILYAS, SEAN MCLOUGHLIN & PETE TECKMAN Fri 9 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

MARK DOLAN, DANNY WARD & MICKY P KERR Fri 9 Nov, Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton

PHIL NICHOL Sat 10 Nov, MAC, B'ham JUSTIN MOORHOUSE, JOE BOR, ABIGO-LIAH SCHAMAUN & CHRIS MACARTHUR-BOYD Sat 10 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROB ROUSE, ROBERT WHITE, ROGER MONKHOUSE & COMIC TBC Sat 10 Nov, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

ANGELOS EPITHEMIOU (PICTURED), HARRIET DYER & LIAM PICKFORD Sat 10 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge



**BOX OF FROGS** Sun 11 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MICKEY SHARMA, JAY SODAGAR, SINDHU VEE & CHUCKLE SINGHS Sun 11 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL TONKINSON, NOEL JAMES & SALLY-ANNE HAYWARD Sun 11 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

#### **Theatre**

SUGGS: WHAT A KING CNUT Madness frontman Suggs takes a lighthearted look back at his career, Mon 5 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

A JOURNEY THROUGH WAR On The Floor Theatre Company fuse famous World War One literature with original new writing to take audiences on a journey from 1914 to 1918, Mon 5 -Sat 10 Nov, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE FULL MONTY Simon Beaufoy's award-winning stage play, starring Gary Lucy, Mon 5 - Sat 10 Nov, Birmincham Hippodrome

THE THRILL OF LOVE The Nonentities present a dramatisation of the true story of Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain. Please note that this production contains adult content, Mon 5 - Sat 10 Nov, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

DIRTY DANCING The hit musical makes a welcome return! Mon 5 -Sat 10 Nov, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham





## thelist

#### **Monday 5 - Sunday 11 November**

**SONS OF PITCHES** Fast-paced medleys and mind-bending mashups from the award-winning British vocal group, Tues 6 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

THE FULL MONTY: THE MUSICAL Presented by Bilston Operatic Company, Tues 6 - Sat 10 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE Presented by Erdington Operatic Society, Tues 6 - Sat 10 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

THEY DON'T PAY? WE WON'T PAY! Dario Fo's fast and furious political satire on the plight of the working poor, transported to Brexit Britain, Tues 6 -Sat 10 Nov, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

THE GAME Stafford Players present an amateur staging of Harold Brighouse's story of love, honour, class and football in the 1900s, Tues 6 - Sat 10 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

JINKX MONSOON & MAJOR SCALES - THE GINGER SNAPPED Ru Paul's Drag Race star Jinkx Monsoon and lyrical genius Major Scales take a witty look at the dark side of Drag fame, Wed 7 Nov, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**DADMAN: THE BATH-TIME WARRIOR** A story about surprise, shock, change and the fireworks of love, Wed 7 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**TONY STOCKWELL** An evening of mediumship, Wed 7 Nov, The Place@ Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

**HENRY V** Shropshire Drama Company present Shakespeare's famous history play, Wed 7 - Sat 10 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

COPACABANA Amateur staging by Tamworth Musical Theatre Company, Wed 7 - Sun 11 Nov, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

**THE GIRL BEHIND THE GLASS** Exploration of sexual violence, Thurs 8 Nov, MAC, Birmingham

FINDING JOY Vamos Theatre present a life-affirming story of lost memories and discovered love, Thurs 8 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**SONS OF PITCHES** Fast-paced medleys and mind-bending mashups from the award-winning British vocal group, Thurs 8 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE DREAMBOYS Brand new show from 'the UK's most famous girls' night out', Thurs 8 Nov, The Place@ Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshira

**SINCERELY, US** Presented by Backstreet Theatre Company, Thurs 8 - Fri 9 Nov, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

THE STARS THAT REMAIN Drama exploring the endurance and erosion of love, the fragility of life and the emotional fallout triggered by addiction,

Thurs 8 - Sat 10 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**SCR00GE!** The Manor Players present a musical version of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, Thurs 8 - Sat 10 Nov, The Roses, Kidderminster

CITY OF ANGELS Presented by Backstreet Theatre Company, Thurs 8 -Sat 10 Nov, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

SHERLOCK HOLMES: SIGN OF FOUR Blackeyed Theatre world-premiere their version of Arthur Conan Doyle's famous tale, Thurs 8 - Sat 10 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

PUPPETRY OF THE PENIS 'Australia's greatest theatrical export' celebrates its 20th anniversary with a 'greatest bits' tour, Fri 9 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

CONFESSIONS OF A COCKNEY TEMPLE DANCER Shane Shamnhu explores the ways in which race, language, identity and culture have defined him, Fri 9 Nov, SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

**GEORGE EGG: DIY CHEF** A fusion of stand-up, live cooking and comedy lecture, Fri 9 Nov, Little Wenlock Village Hall, Nr Telford, Shropshire



**HEROES** Amateur staging of Gerald Sibleyras' play, adapted by Tom Stoppard, Fri 9 - Sat 17 Nov, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

NO KIDS Gender-bending musical cabaret questioning society's attitude to the idea of two dads, Sat 10 Nov, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hipnodrome

STORIES ON A STRING Journey to the heart of the mysterious rain forest, with live Brazilian music, songs and puppetry. For ages 6+, Sat 10 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**GEORGE EGG: DIY CHEF** A fusion of stand-up, live cooking and comedy lecture, Sat 10 Nov, Chelmarsh Parish Hall, Nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire

THE LAST DAY Cannock Chase Arts Council presentation fusing music, song and drama to recreate the moving story of the last day of the First World War, Sun 11 Nov, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

HOMECOMINGS Large-scale promenade performance piece from Birmingham Hippodrome's Musical Theatre Youth Company and their families, exploring the after-effects of Armistice Day, Sun 11 Nov, New Street Station, Birmingham

**GEORGE EGG: DIY CHEF** A fusion of stand-up, live cooking and comedy lecture, Sun 11 Nov, Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall, Shrewsbury

A GARLAND OF POPPIES Evening of songs, sketches and poems woven together to pay tribute to the men and women of the First World War, Sun 11 Nov, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

#### **Kids Shows**

**OUCH!** Rhubarb Theatre present a brand new show fusing imagination, dance and music, Mon 5 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

STICK MAN Scamp Theatre's adaptation of Julia Donaldson's popular book, Sun 11 - Mon 12 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

#### **Talks**

NEIL OLIVER: THE STORY OF THE BRITISH ISLES IN 100 PLACES Wed 7 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**DR JORDAN B PETERSON** The University of Toronto professor discusses overcoming life's biggest obstacles, Wed 7 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH NIGELLA LAWSON Thurs 8 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

#### **Dance**

THE KNOT Didy Veldman's latest dance creation centres on ritual, doubt, nerves and the sheer magic of weddings - a production where the bride, groom, best man and bridesmaids are all world-class dancers and audience members are the wedding guests, Thurs 8 Nov, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Amateur staging presented by the Judith Bibby Academy of Dance, Thurs 8 - Sat 10 Nov, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stokeon-Trent

**THE NUTCRACKER** Presented by Russian State Ballet & Opera House, Sat 10 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



**GISELLE** Presented by Russian State Ballet & Opera House, Sun 11 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DEEPAVALI, THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT Evening of South Asian dance in celebration of Deepavali, more commonly known as Diwali, Sun 11 Nov, MAC. B'ham

#### **Events**

BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS FIREWORKS Mon 5 Nov, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CANDLELIT TOURS OF THE BACK TO BACKS Hear stories about the people who called Court 15 home for over 160 years, Thurs 8 Nov, Birmingham Back to Backs

RAF STORIES TALKS - AYLA HOLDOM
The first openly transgender pilot in
the British Armed Forces, Ayla shares
stories about her life and career,
Thurs 8 Nov, RAF Cosford, Shifnal

38TH STOKE BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL
Over 100 traditional ales, ciders and
perries, Thurs 8 - Sat 10 Nov, Spode
China Halls, Stoke-on-Trent

POPPY FIELDS Poignant interior son et lumiere includes bespoke performances by the Oscar-winning actor Eddie Redmayne, Thurs 8 - Sun 11 Nov, Lichfield Cathedral

LANCASTER INSURANCE CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW The biggest event of its kind, the show this year boasts more than 2,500 vehicles covering an area of over one million square feet, Fri 9 -Sun 11 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

THE CLASSIC MOTORBIKE SHOW A chance for enthusiasts to share their passion for classic motorbikes, Fri 9 - Sun 11 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

BACKSTAGE TOUR Journey behind the scenes at one of Britain's premier producing theatres, Sat 10 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

THE GIN TRAIN Gin-tasting experience - with a festive twist, Sat 10 Nov, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

CHARITY NEON DOG WALK Enjoy a woodland walk with your four-legged friends, Sat 10 Nov, Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster

FAMILY MAGIC WEEKENDS Enjoy live shows by magicians and ventriloquists, Sat 10 - Sun 11 Nov, Cadbury World, Birmingham

FIREWORK FESTIVAL WEEKEND Featuring late-night rides and music to bring the party alive, Sat 10 - Sun 11 Nov, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley

ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE Special service of commemoration marking the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War, Sun 11 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

## What's on...





Thursday 8 November, 7.30pm

THE DREAMBOYS
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



Friday 9 November, 7.30pm
THE ROY ORBISON STORY



Saturday 10 November, 7.30pm **BON JOVI EXPERIENCE** 



Wednesday 14 November, 8.00pm
HAL CRUTTENDEN
CHURSTER



Thursday 15 November, 7.30pm

A CELEBRATION OF JOHN DENVER STARRING WAYNE DENTON



Saturday 17 November, 7.30pm **ELECTRO SWING BALL**REMIXING THE ERA



Tuesday 20 November, 7.30pm

RAT PACK CHRISTMAS SHOW with special guests don maclean and charley toulan



Friday 30 November, 2.00pm

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

NEIL SANDS AND HIS WONDERFUL WEST END CAST



Saturday 1 December, 7.00pm SOUL & MOTOWN PARTY NIGHT WITH SARAH COLLINS

01952 382382 www.theplacetelford.com









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## thelist

#### **Monday 12 - Sunday 18 November**

#### Gigs

**EZRA COLLECTIVE** Mon 12 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**HOTHOUSE FLOWERS** Mon 12 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

ALEX CLARE - ACOUSTIC TOUR Mon 12 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**SAINT RAYMOND** Mon 12 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**TOM MISCH** Mon 12 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JONAH MATRANGA AND FRIENDS + OXYGEN THIEF + DEATH OF RATS Mon 12 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

RODDY WOOMBLE Tues 13 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**\$0UNDS FAMILIAR** Tues 13 Nov, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

**SEAMUS FOGARTY** Tues 13 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**SOUNDS FAMILIAR** Tues 13 Nov, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

**GARY NUMAN** Tues 13 Nov, Symphony Hall, B'ham

THE PAT MCMANUS
BAND Tues 13 Nov, The
Robin, Bilston

**CARVIN JONES** Wed 14 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

MALFUNCTION Wed 14 Nov, The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham

**THE ALGORITHM** Wed 14 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

TONIGHT ALIVE - 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY ACOUSTIC PERFOR-MANCE Thurs 15 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

**PAUL DRAPER** Thurs 15 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

ONLY WAY IS THE 80'S Thurs 15 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE ELECTRIC STRAWBS
Thurs 15 Nov, The
Robin, Bilston

**KOJEY RADICAL** Thurs 15 Nov, O2 Academy,

Birmingham

**EASY LIFE** Thurs 15 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MATTIEL Thurs 15 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

**SETH LAKEMAN** Thurs 15 Nov, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD SHOW Thurs 15 Nov, Arena B'ham

A CELEBRATION OF JOHN DENVER Thurs 15 Nov, Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford

**RICK ASTLEY** Thurs 15 Nov, Genting Arena, Birmingham

THERAPY? + SPECIAL GUESTS Thurs 15 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stokeon-Trent

**THE SPITFIRES** Thurs 15 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**ESTRONS** Thurs 15 Nov, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

GORDON HENDRICKS IS ELVIS Fri 16 Nov, Oakengates Theatre at The Place Telford

THE LITTLE UNSAID Fri 16 Nov, MAC, B'ham

MADONNA VS. CHER Fri 16 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**CULTURE CLUB** Fri 16 Nov, Arena B'ham

THE JOHN HENDLEY MEMORIAL COMEDY AND FOLK MUSIC NIGHT Fri 16 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**MAXWELL AVENUE** Fri 16 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

AC/DC UK Fri 16 Nov, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE WORLD FAMOUS ELVIS SHOW WITH CHRIS CONNOR Fri 16 Nov, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

DR JOHN COOPER CLARKE Fri 16 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

FLORENCE + THE MA-CHINE Fri 16 Nov, Genting Arena, B'ham

ALBERT'S SHED (HERE CASINO - CANDID - FREE GALAXY - SCOTT KELLY) Fri 16 Nov, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury **SKAM** Fri 16 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

BAD MANNERS - THE CHRISTMAS TOUR Fri 16 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE TEA STREET BAND + 10 0'CLOCK CHEMI-CAL + THIEVES ASYLUM Fri 16 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

JAYWALKERS Sat 17 Nov, The Hive, Shrewsbury

JIM MORAY Sat 17 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton



**THE ONE LOVE BAND** Sat 17 Nov, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**BILLY OCEAN** Sat 17 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

KENT DUCHAINE Sat 17 Nov, Lichfield Guildhall JOOLS HOLLAND AND

JOOLS HOLLAND AND
HIS RHYTHM AND BLUES
ORCHESTRA Sat 17
Nov, Victoria Hall,
Stoke-on-Trent



METRIC Sat 17 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**BLEEDING HEARTS** Sat 17 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

MIGHTY VIPERS FEAT.
PANDA LASAGNE Sat 17
Nov, Albert's Shed Bar,
Shrewsbury

ROBBIE MCINTOSH Sun 18 Nov, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

**SIMPLY SINATRA** Sun 18 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HAWKLORDS Sun 18 Nov, The Robin, Bil-

**JESS GLYNNE** Sun 18 Nov, Genting Arena, Birmingham

**ASHTON LANE** Sun 18 Nov, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

#### Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT Featuring László Fassang (Organist). Programme includes works by Liszt, Dezső d'Antalffy, Bartók and L. Fassang, Mon 12 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBS0: TCHAIKOVSKY'S FIFTH Featuring Stanislav Kochanovsky (conductor) and Sergej Krylov (violin). Programme includes works by Janáček, Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky, Wed 14 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME Featuring Michael Seal (conductor), John Suchet (presenter) and Julian Wilkins (organ). Programme includes works by Orff, Smetana, Fauré, Elgar, Williams, Holst, Vaughan Williams, Sibelius, Mozart and Prokofiev, Fri 16 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THALLEIN ENSEMBLE Featuring
Daniele Rosina (conductor). Programme includes works by Dobrinka
Tabakova, Joe Cutler, Emily Abdy &
Maarten Benschop, Fri 16 Nov, The
Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham
Conservatoire

HALLE ORCHESTRA Featuring Jonathon Heyward (conductor) & Alexandra Dariescu (soloist). Programme includes works by Humperdinck, Tchaikovsky, Wagner & Die Meistersinger, Fri 16 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

THE BACH BOYS Featuring University Chamber Orchestra & Andrew Kirkman (director). Programme includes works by JC Bach & CPE Bach, Sat 17 Nov, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCI-ETY: GRANT US PEACE Reflective music to commemorate the ending of the First World War 100 years ago, Sat 17 Nov, St George's Church, Edgbaston, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY SINGERS & WOMEN'S CHOIR Featuring Simon Carrington & Patrick Barrett (conductors). Programme includes works by Roxanna Panufnik, Purcell, Biebl & more... Sun 18 Nov, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

#### Comedy

**J0E LYCETT** Mon 12 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HAL CRUTTENDEN Wed 14 Nov, Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford, Shropshire

JOHN FOTHERGILL, TOM WARD & COM-EDY CAROUSEL FEAT. ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 15 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham AHIR SHAH Fri 16 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

**ADAM ROWE** Fri 16 Nov, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

TEZ ILYAS, NEIL MCFARLANE, WILL DUG-GAN & TWO COMICS TBC Fri 16 Nov, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

THE JOHN HENDLEY MEMORIAL COM-EDY AND FOLK MUSIC NIGHT Fri 16 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

JOHN FOTHERGILL, TOM WARD, BARRY DODDS & JACK GLEADOW Fri 16 - Sat 17 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DALISO CHAPONDA, SEAN PERCIVAL, STEVE BUGEJA & DAMION LARKIN Sat 17 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, JOE SUTHER-LAND, PAUL PIRIE & JESSICA FOSTEKEW Sat 17 Nov, The Comedy Loft, B'ham

DALISO CHAPONDA, THOMAS GREEN, STEVE SHANYASKI & PETER BRUSH Sat 17 Nov, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

**TOM BINNS** Sun 18 Nov, Station Pub, Sutton Coldfield

#### **Theatre**

**SEX EDUCATION** A show for anyone who's wondered why they want what they want, Mon 12 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

A CHRISTMAS CAROL John O'Connor faithfully recreates Dickens' famous performance of his best-loved ghost story, Mon 12 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MACBETH Volcano Theatre adaptation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, Tues 13 - Wed 14 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

ROCK OF AGES Smash-hit musical featuring classic rock anthems, big hair, big dreams and some serious rock-'n'roll debauchery. Danielle Hope, Sam Ferriday & Kevin Kennedy star, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Nov, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

CALENDER GIRLS - THE MUSICAL Gary Barlow & Tim Firth's hit musical stars Fern Britton, Anna-Jane Casey, Sara Crowe, Karen Dunbar, Ruth Madoc, Rebecca Storm & Denise Welch, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

WHITE CHRISTMAS Cradley Heath Amateur Operatic Society presents its version of Irving Berlin's festive classic, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

**OUR HOUSE** Stoke Youth Theatre Company present an amateur staging of Tim Firth's Madness musical, Tues 13 - Sat 17 Nov, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

AN EVENING OF ERIC AND ERN Homage









Eat & shop an artisan Christmas at **Shrewsbury Market Hall** 

QUALITY HOMEWARE & GIFT BOUTIQUES

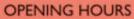
ARTISAN DECORATIONS

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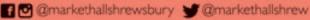
CHRISTMAS TURKEY, GOOSE & GAME

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Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 8am - 4pm a small selection of cafes & stalls open Thursday 8am - 2pm













## thelist

#### **Monday 12 - Sunday 18 November**

to Morecambe & Wise featuring renditions of the duo's best-loved comedy sketches, Wed 14 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THIRTY-ODD FEET BELOW BELGIUM A glimpse into the lives of two truly remarkable people during the First World War, Wed 14 Nov, Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

WNO: LA TRAVIATA Welsh National Opera presents its version of Verdi's tragic love story, Wed 14 - Fri 16 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

WNO: LA CENERENTOLA Welsh National Opera presents Rossini's delightful retelling of Cinderella - with a few twists along the way, Thurs 15 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome



THAT'LL BE THE DAY - THE CHRISTMAS SHOW Rock'n'roll variety show featuring all your favourite Christmas classics from the '50s, '60s & '70s, Thurs 15 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

AGENT OF INFLUENCE: THE SECRET LIFE OF PAMELA MORE One-woman play set in pre-World War Two London and following the adventures of socialite and columnist Lady Pamelo More, Thurs 15 Nov, Aston On Clun Village Hall, Nr Craven Arms, South Shropshire

WOMEN OF AKTION Bent Architect present a barely considered view of the 1914-18 war, Thurs 15 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

JANE EYRE Hotbuckle bring their 'inventiveness, humour and unique magic' to Bronte's compelling tale, Thurs 15 - Fri 16 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**THE HAPPY APPLE** St Lukes Dramatic Society present a satire exploring the cynical world of advertising, Thurs 15 - Sat 17 Nov, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

AGENT OF INFLUENCE: THE SECRET LIFE OF PAMELA MORE One-woman play set in pre-World War Two London and following the adventures of socialite and columnist Lady Pamelo More, Fri 16 Nov, The Talbot Theatre, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

**THUNDER ROAD** Celebratory look at the voluntary sector, Fri 16 Nov, Habberley Village Hall, Pontesbury, Shropshire

IN PRAISE OF FOLLY Foppish Theatre perform a farce of all ages - presenting 21st century views through an 18th century lens, Fri 16 Nov, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham FRINGE WIVES CLUB: GLITTERY CLIT-

TERY 'Sequin-covered, Champagnefuelled, cosmic feminist extravaganza' that's 'guaranteed to blow your mind and your pants!', Fri 16 - Sat 17 Nov, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

JOSEPH AND THE TECHNICOLOR DREAM-COAT Amateur staging presented by Cabaret Theatre Company, Fri 16 -Sat 17 Nov, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

THE WICKED WIZARD OF FIZZOG A Black Country fairytale, presented as a play within a play, Sat 17 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

AGENT OF INFLUENCE: THE SECRET LIFE OF PAMELA MORE One-woman play set in pre-World War Two London and following the adventures of socialite and columnist Lady Pamelo More, Sat 17 Nov, Cardington Village Hall, Nr Church Stretton, South Shropshire

WNO: WAR & PEACE Welsh National Opera present David Poutney's ambitious staging of Leo Tolstoy's epic novel, Sat 17 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome

JINKX MONSOON & MAJOR SCALES - THE GINGER SNAPPED Ru Paul's Drag Race star Jinkx Monsoon and lyrical genius Major Scales take a witty look at the dark side of Drag fame, Sat 17 Nov, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

A CELEBRATION OF PEACE Music and dance from around the world, presented by Concord College, Sat 17 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Brand new adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's enchanting riverside tale, Sat 17 Nov - Sat 26 Jan, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

POST New theatre show by Xavier de Sousa, inviting audiences to 'join the table, eat yummy Portuguese food, drink potent Cachaça, get merry, make new friends and challenge exactly what makes a nation', Sun 18 Nov, MAC, Birmingham

**BE OUR GUEST** Seasons Theatre Company present a song-and-dance extravaganza, Sun 18 Nov, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

**CINDERELLA** Presented by Stageworks Academy, Sun 18 Nov, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

THAT'LL BE THE DAY - THE CHRISTMAS SHOW Rock'n'roll variety featuring Christmas classics from the '50s, '60s and '70s, Sun 18 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

AGENT OF INFLUENCE: THE SECRET LIFE
OF PAMELA MORE One-woman play set
in pre-World War Two London and following the adventures of socialite and
columnist Lady Pamelo More, Sun 18
Nov, Stoke St Milborough Village
Hall, Ludlow, South Shropshire

#### **Kids Shows**

FIRST STAGES: EGG AND SPOON An interactive romp through the seasons, where young audiences can go in and out of a magic circle and open the gifts of nature, Sat 17 Nov, The REP, Birmingham

#### **Talks**

DR JOHN COOPER CLARKE; LUCKIEST MAN ALIVE TOUR Showcase of spoken word, Fri 16 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

A WILD NIGHT WITH TIGERS Local wildlife photographer Andy Rouse fuses tall tales and stand-up comedy, Fri 16 Nov, Festival Drayton, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

AN AUDIENCE WITH SIMON REEVE The broadcaster and New York Times bestselling author shares tales from more than 15 years of travels to the most remote and extreme corners of the planet, Sat 17 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

LEVISON WOOD - JOURNEYS THROUGH THE BADLANDS AND BEYOND Levison

shares tales from his recent journeys across some of the most perilous zones on earth, Sun 18 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent



#### **Dance**

FACE IN Candoco Dance Company present Yasmeen Godder's new work, which invites audiences to consider contemporary dance in 'bold new ways', Tues 13 Nov, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



FREEFALL - CHAIRS TOO Freefall Dance Company, Birmingham Royal Ballet's own company of highly gifted dancers with learning disabilities, returns to the Patrick Studio for its annual performance showcase, Thurs 15 Nov, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

DIWALI UTSAV - SITARON KE SANG Arena Theatre's Associate Artist Jaivant Patel presents an uplifting evening of South Asian arts to celebrate Diwali, Sat 17 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

#### Events

CONSERVATION CENTRE OPEN WEEK

2018 Event providing visitors with access to aircraft in the museum's conservation hangar, Mon 12 - Sun 18
Nov. RAF Cosford. Shifnal

NIMROD TOURS Climb on board the Nimrod and learn about its intelligence-gathering role in the Royal Air Force, Mon 12 - Sun 18 Nov, RAF Cosford, Shifnal

FESTIVE GIFT FAIR One of the most popular Christmas shopping events in the UK, Thurs 15 - Sun 18 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

ART & ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE The largest and best-established vetted art, interiors and antiques fair outside of London, Thurs 15 - Sun 18 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

SANTA'S WINTER WONDERLAND Santa returns with a brand new show for 2018, Fri 16 Nov - Mon 31 Dec, The Snowdome, Tamworth

CANDLELIT TOURS OF THE BACK TO BACKS Hear stories about the people who called Court 15 home for over 160 years, Sat 17 Nov, Birmingham Back to Backs

VICTORIAN PRINTING EXPERIENCE DAY Find out more about traditional printing techniques and produce your own print materials, Sat 17 Nov, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shronshire

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS Sat 17 - Sun 18 Nov, Cadbury World, B'ham

MOTORCYCLE LIVE 2018 One of the UK's top shows for biking enthusiasts, Sat 17 - Sun 25 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

CHRISTMAS LAPLAND EXPERIENCE Meet and feed the herd of reindeer, then visit Father Christmas in his traditional Scandinavian-style grotto, Sat 17 Nov - Sun 23 Dec, Blithbury Reindeer Lodge, Rugeley, Staffs

NORTH POLE ADVENTURE A 'magical two-hour family Christmas journey to the North Pole to meet Father Christmas and his friends', Sat 17 Nov - Mon 24 Dec, National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton Upon Trent

DRAYTON'S MAGICAL CHRISTMAS Featuring live shows, carols, presents, light shows, festive food, Father Christmas and a 'magnificent' fireworks display, plus so much more, Sat 17 Nov - Mon 31 Dec, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth



## thelist

#### Gigs

**SHEAFS** Mon 19 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ROGER TAYLOR'S QUEEN EXTRAVAGANZA Mon 19 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

UNKNOWN MORTAL OR-CHESTRA Mon 19 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

COURTNEY BARNETT Mon 19 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

**BAD TOUCH** Mon 19 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

JESSIE J Tues 20 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

**GHOST TOWN STEPPAS** Tues 20 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

RAT PACK CHRISTMAS SHOW Tues 20 Nov, Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford, Shropshire

CAVETOWN Wed 21 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ALFA MIST Wed 21 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PLACES + FACES Wed 21 Nov, The Mill Digbeth, Birmingham

MAXIMUM R&B WITH THE MANFREDS SUP-PORTED BY GEORGIE FAME Wed 21 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

**0YSTERBAND** Wed 21 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**THE DEAD DAISIES** Wed 21 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**YOU WIN AGAIN** Wed 21 Nov, Prince Of Wales Theatre, Cannock

**BLANCMANGE** Thurs 22 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

#### THE FOUR TOPS AND THE TEMPTATIONS

Thurs 22 Nov, Arena Birmingham

THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD SHOW Thurs 22 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**YOU ME AT SIX** Thurs 22 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JAYKAE Thurs 22 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE RAMONAS, HACK-SAW, THE WILD STRAYS, TINFISH & QUEEN MAN-

**TIS** Fri 23 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SHAM 69 AND ANGELIC UPSTARTS Fri 23 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

STEWART MAC + SPE-CIAL GUESTS Fri 23 Nov, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

**DREADZONE** Fri 23 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

THE SKA45S Fri 23 Nov, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

VICKERS BOVEY GUITAR DUO: THE BEST PARKS IN BIRMINGHAM Fri 23 Nov. The Mac. B'ham

THE MEN THEY COULD-N'T HANG Fri 23 Nov, O2 Academy. B'ham

BRING ME THE HORIZON Fri 23 Nov, Arena Birmingham

MOGWAI + THE TWI-LIGHT SAD Fri 23 Nov, The Mill Digbeth, Birmingham

THE STAFFORDSHIRE BAND Fri 23 Nov, Forest Arts Centre, Wal-

RALPH MCTELL Fri 23 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

**STRICTLY ABBA** Fri 23 Nov, Theatre On The



Ovsterband - The Robin, Bilston

Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

**SLAVES** Fri 23 Nov, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MORGAN JAMES - FROM WHITE TO BLUE TOUR Fri 23 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FOREVER JACKSON Fri 23 Nov, Prince Of Wales Theatre, Can-

INTO THE SHADOWS Fri 23 Nov, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

LARKINS + DIVENIRE + THE LOUNGE ACT Fri 23 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

THE BOOTLEG SHADOWS Sat 24 Nov, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

**J0E S0L0** Sat 24 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

STILLMARILLION PER-FORM FISH ERA MARIL-LION Sat 24 Nov, Newhampton Arts Centre, W'hampton

BIG BIRMINGHAM SOUL NIGHT: WIGAN CASINO REUNION Sat 24 Nov, The Night Owl, Birmingham

FREE RADIO LIVE 2018 Sat 24 Nov, Genting Arena, Birmingham

ONE STOP BOOGIE - 70S V 80S Sat 24 Nov, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**LIMEHOUSE LIZZY** Sat 24 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**NOTHING BUT THIEVES**Sat 24 Nov, O2
Academy, Birmingham

THE JAPANESE HOUSE Sat 24 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**PEACE** Sat 24 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FAITH - THE GEORGE MICHAEL LEGACY Sat 24 Nov, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

BIG GIRLS DONT CRY Sat 24 Nov, Prince Of Wales, Cannock

**WALTER TROUT** Sun 25 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

**SILENT PLANET** Sun 25 Nov, The Asylum, Birmingham

#### Classical Music

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL MONDAY LUNCHTIME SERIES Featuring Kate Fawcett (director & baroque) & Martin Perkins (director & harpsichord). Programme includes works by JS Bach, Couperin & Jeramiah Clark, Mon 19 Nov, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

LUNCHTIME CONCERT: MAUREEN BRATHWAITE (SOPRANO) Also featuring Alec Hone (piano). Programme includes works by Mozart, Rachmaninov, Strauss, Hold & Montsalvatge, Tues 20 Nov, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

STRINGS CONCERT Music Centre concert featuring Apollo Strings, Phoenix Strings, Capriccio strings & Beaux Electrix, Tues 20 Nov, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

CBS0: FAITHFUL JOURNEY Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor) & Mary Bevan (soprano). Programme includes works by Panufnik & Tchaikovsky, Wed 21 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

RECITAL DOUBLE BILL Featuring Gen Li & Ryan Drucker (pianos). Programme includes works by Beethoven, Debussy, Prokofiev & Franck, Thurs 22 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

THE ENRAG'D MUSICIAN: A PORTRAIT OF HANDEL'S VIOLINIST PIETRO ANTONIO CASTRUCCI Featuring Iva Fleischhansová (baroque violin), Nikolay Ginov (baroque cello) & Luke Green (harpsichord), Fri 23 Nov, The Barber Institute, University of B'ham

CBS0: KREMERATA BALTICA Featuring Gidon Kremer (violin / director). Programme includes works by Desyatnikov, Bach-Busoni, Weinberg & Schubert, Sat 24 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR: BRILLIANT BACH Featuring Paul Spicer (conductor), Simon Ponsford (countertenor), Daniel Auchincloss (tenor), Julian Debreuil (bass), The Musical & Amicable Society Orchestra & Martyn Rawles (organ), Sat 24 Nov, St Philips Cathedral, Birmingham

RODERICK WILLIAMS (BARITONE) & SUSIE ALLAN (PIANO) Programme includes works by Elgar, Gurney, Butterworth, Finzi & Vaughan Williams, Sat 24 Nov, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

INSTRUMENTAL GALA CONCERT Featuring Alex Tighe (flute choir conductor), Bedwyn Phillips (clarinet choir conductor), Sabrino Ko, Benedict Goodall (string orchestra conductors). Programme includes works by Elgar, Warlock & Holst, Sat 24 Nov,

Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

**ORGAN PROMS** Sat 24 Nov, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CHOIR: DREAM OF GERONTIUS Also featuring Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, Adrian Lucas (conductor) & Kathryn Rudge, David Butt Philip & Morgan Pearse (soloists), Sun 25 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

#### Comedy

JEN BRISTER Tues 20 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

**LARRY DEAN** Tues 20 Nov, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

LARRY DEAN Wed 21 Nov, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

CHRIS RAMSEY Thurs 22 Nov, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

PAUL MCCAFFREY PLUS COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON

Thurs 22 Nov, The Glee Club, B'ham **DAVE GORMAN** Thurs 22 - Fri 23 Nov,

DAVE GORMAN Thurs 22 - Fri 23 Nov Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**ADAM ROWE** Fri 23 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOM WARD, SUSAN MURRAY, CATHER-INE BOHART & TWO COMICS TBC Fri 23 Nov, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

TOM STADE, PAUL MCCAFFERY, JOHN SCOTT & DAVE LONGLEY Fri 23 - Sat 24 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

GAVIN WEBSTER, JULIAN DEANE & BARRY DODDS Sat 24 Nov, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

THE INDIANS ARE COMING - DIWALI DHAMAKA Sun 25 Nov, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

GUZ KHAN, DANE BAPTISTE, BA-BATUNDE, DARREN HARRIOTT, QUINCY & AURIE STYLA Sun 25 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

#### Theatre

THE FULL MONTY Simon Beaufoy's award-winning stage play, starring Gary Lucy, Andrew Dunn, Louis Emerick, Joe Gill, Kai Owen & James Redmond, Mon 19 - Sat 24 Nov, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

FAME THE MUSICAL The 30th anniversary tour, starring Keith Jack, Mica Paris and Jorgie Porter, Mon 19 - Sat 24 Nov, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

PSYCHIC SALLY 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY TOUR Tues 20 Nov, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

**DRACULA** European premiere of a brand new stage adaptation of Bram

#### **Monday 19 - Sunday 25 November**

Stoker's gothic horror story, Tues 20 -Sat 24 Nov, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



HEART OF DARKNESS Joseph Conrad's classic story of lies and brutal greed, transported to a forsaken Europe and presented as a tale for our time. Think Apocalypse Now meets The Road meets Double Indemnity, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Nov, The REP, B'ham

**SWEENEY TODD** Five Towers Theatre present an amateur staging of Stephen Sondheim's award-winning musical, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Nov, Stoke Repertory Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**AN EVENING WITH PAM AYRES** Wed 21 Nov, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

ONCE UPON A WEDNESDAY: TIM RALPHS, REBRANDING BEELZEBUB Storytelling for adults, as Tim presents innovative re-imaginings of traditional tales, Wed 21 Nov, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

**DECLARATION** Play examining the subject of having differences, and contemplating the faces we wear to fit in, Thurs 22 Nov, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

THE BELIEVERS ARE BUT BROTHERS A bold show exploring the smoke-and-mirrors world of online extremism, anonymity and hate speech, Thurs 22 - Fri 23 Nov, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

JACK THE GIANT SHRINKER Masque Theatre Company fuse magic and mayhem in Sue Waters' festive show, Thurs 22 - Fri 23 Nov, Mitchell Arts Centre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

THE BROKEN TRUCE Stourbridge Theatre Company present a play by local writer David Morris, commemorating the centenary of the World War One armistice, Thurs 22 - Sat 24 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN UGLY BASTARDS Rude, crude fun and frolics. The production is restricted to over-18s only, Fri 23 - Sat 24 Nov, The Wightman, Shrewsbury

**PEROLY AND THE BEAST: A MUSICAL PARODY** Fat Rascal Theatre explore whether fairytales really can come true - even when the princess doesn't quite fit the slipper, Sat 24 Nov - Sun 2 Dec, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birminchan

**THE WIZARD OF 0Z** Follow the yellow brick road to the Emerald City this Christmas, Sat 24 Nov - Sun 13 Jan, The REP, Birmingham

#### **Kids Shows**

**SLEEPYHEAD** Little Angel Theatre fuse 'magic, circus, a dollop of silliness and plenty of laughs' in a show for young audiences, Tues 20 Nov - Sun 2 Dec, MAC, Birmingham

#### **Dance**

**AUTUMN DANCE FESTIVAL 2018** Mon 19 Nov, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

**THE NUTCRACKER** BRB presents its annual staging of Sir Peter Wright's world famous festive production, Fri 23 Nov - Thurs 13 Dec, Birmingham Hippodrome

A DECADE OF DANCE Annual show from the Aimee Louise School of Dance, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Nov, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

#### Film

#### **INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:**

A STAR IS BORN (15) Drama/Music. Starring Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Fri 23 Nov

**THE BROMLEY BOYS (PG)** Comedy. Starring Martine McCutcheon, Alan Davies. Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 19 Nov

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY (12a) Drama/History. Starring Jessica Brown Findlay, Tom Courtenay. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 19 Nov

#### DARKEST HOUR (PG)

Biography/Drama. Starring Gary Oldman, Lily James. Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Tues 20 Nov

**WESTERN (PG)** Drama. Starring Meinhard Neumann, Reinhardt Wetrek. Foreign language, subtitled. Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 20 Nov

CUSTODY (15) Drama. Starring Léa Drucker, Denis Ménochet. Foreign language, subtitled. Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 20 Nov

**THE WIFE (15)** Drama. Starring Christian Slater, Glenn Close. Wem Town Hall, North Shrops, Tues 20 & Thurs 22 Nov

**VENOM (15)** Horror/Sci-Fi. Starring Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Wed 21 Nov

THE LONELINESS OF THE LONG DISTANCE RUNNER (12) Drama. Starring Michael Redgrave, Tom Courtenay. The Hive, Shrewsbury, Wed 21 Nov

**FEMALE HUMAN ANIMAL (15)**Mystery/Romance. Starring Chloe

Aridjis, Marc Hosemann. MAC, Birmingham, Thurs 22 Nov

UTØYA - JULY 22 tbc Drama/Thriller. Starring Andrea Berntzen, Aleksander Holmen. Foreign language, subtitled. Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 22 Nov

A SIMPLE FAVOR (15) Comedy/Crime. Starring Anna Kendrick, Blake Lively. Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 23 Nov

THE RIDER (15) Drama/Western. Starring Brady Jandreau, Mooney. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 23 Nov

#### **NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:**

Released from Wed 21 Nov, showing at selected cinemas

ROBIN HOOD (12a)

THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB (tbc)
ASSASSINATION NATION (tbc)
NATIVITY ROCKS! (tbc)

#### **Events**

NOBODY'S FOOL (tbc)

NITRO CIRCUS YOU GOT THIS TOUR Featuring Travis Pastrana and the best athletes in FMX, BMX, Scooter and Inline, including multiple X Games medalists and several Nitro World Games champions, Tues 20 Nov, Arena Birmingham

CREATE CHRISTMAS Series of special courses to learn a new skill and also to tick off a few gifts on your shopping list, Tues 20 - Thurs 29 Nov, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

REEL ROCK WORLD TOUR Collection of climbing and adventure movies from some of the world's best adventure filmmakers, Fri 23 Nov, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

CANDLELIT TOURS OF THE BACK TO BACKS Hear stories about the people who called Court 15 home for over 160 years, Fri 23 Nov, Birmingham Back to Backs

ARROWS OF TIME Celebration of the 55th anniversary of the first broadcast of Dr Who, Fri 23 Nov, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

MAKE A WOODEN ELF WORKSHOP Get into the festive spirit and create an elf decoration for your home or garden, Sat 24 Nov, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

**CREATE A CHRISTMAS RAG WREATH** Sat 24 Nov, Birmingham Back to Backs

GORGEOUS CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR Featuring designer-makers from across the West Midlands, plus local fine food producers and retailers, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Nov, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS Festive day out with a chocolatey twist and the chance to see Father Christmas in his very own stage show, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Nov, Cadbury World, Birmingham

BABY TO TODDLER From the organisers of The Baby Show, Baby To Toddler is for parents and parents-to-be, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

WARLEY NATIONAL MODEL RAILWAY EX-HIBITION The 51st annual Warley show and the 26th national event at the NEC, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

MCM BIRMINGHAM COMIC CON The ultimate pop-culture experience returns for a weekend of geeky goodness! Sat 24 - Sun 25 Nov. NEC, B'ham

CHRISTMAS IN THE HOME A celebration of festive domestic bliss, complete with a selection of seasonal activities to enjoy, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

SANTA HUNTS A surprise gift awaits anybody who succeeds in finding Father Christmas, Sat 24 - Sun 25 Nov, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

THE 2018 BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL TATT00 Britain's biggest event of its kind, featuring more than 1,000 performers and culminating in a 'spectacular grand finale', Sat 24 - Sun 25 Nov, Arena Birmingham

CHRISTMAS MARKET Crafts, gifts and food from local producers, Sat 24 -Sun 25 Nov, Apley Farm Shop, Norton, Shropshire

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR Featuring more than 70 local artists, food producers and craftspeople, Sat 24 -Sun 25 Nov, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

MEET SANTA Visit the North Pole of the city in the Antarctic Ice Cave, meet the man himself and check out the cheeky Gentoo penguins in the Ice Adventure area, Sat 24 Nov - Sun 23 Dec, National Sea Life Centre, B'ham

WINTER WONDERLAND Visit Santa in his snow-capped log cabin, walk through ice mountain, take a spin on the winter carousel and enjoy a sleigh ride, Sat 24 Nov - Sun 23 Dec, Wonderland. Telford. Shropshire

SANTA TRAINS Visit Santa's home at the North Pole, meet his elves and reindeer, decorate gingerbread men with Mrs Claus and then say hi to the big man himself in his grotto, Sat 24 Nov - Sun 23 Dec, Statfold Barn Railway, Tamworth

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY TRAIL Follow the stars and visit the live Nativity scene in the farmyard barns, Sat 24 Nov -Tues 1 Jan, Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster

SANTA'S SLEEPOVERS Experience a magical festive sleepover at one Alton Tower's themed hotels, Sun 25 Nov, Alton Towers, Stoke-on-Trent





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#### Monday 26 - Friday 30 November

#### Gigs

**CLEAN CUT KID** Mon 26 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CHRISTINE AND THE QUEENS Mon 26 Nov, O2 Academy, B'ham

JAMIE ISAAC Mon 26 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

**LAZULI** Mon 26 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

RALEIGH RITCHIE Mon 26 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CHILDREN OF ZEUS
Tues 27 Nov, Hare &
Hounds, Birmingham

**BERNIE TORME** Tues 27 Nov, The Robin, Bilston

MILES KANE Tues 27 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

**PAUL SMITH** Tues 27 Nov, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

**HUDSON TAYLOR** Tues 27 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MS. LAURYN HILL Tues 27 Nov, Arena B'ham MAGNUM Wed 28 Nov.

The Robin, Bilston
PAUL WALKER & KAREN

PAUL WALKER & KAREN PFEIFFER Wed 28 Nov, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

**ARKELLS** Wed 28 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PETE TONG & THE HER-ITAGE ORCHESTRA PER-FORM IBIZA CLASSICS Wed 28 Nov, Arena Birmingham

SHAME Wed 28 Nov,



LTJ Bukem - The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

O2 Institute, B'ham KI0K0 Wed 28 Nov, O2 Institute, Birmingham

WAYWARD SONS + DOOMSDAY OUTLAW Wed 28 Nov, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

DAMANEK AND SOUTH-ERN EMPIRE Thurs 29 Nov, The Robin, Bil-

**RED HOT CHILLI PIPERS** Thurs 29 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

THEA GILMORE: ACOUSTIC CHRISTMAS PARTY
Thurs 29 Nov, MAC,
Birmingham

THE BURNING HELL,
GROTBAGS & NINE DART

FINISH Thurs 29 Nov, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham KIRAN LEONARD Thurs

KIRAN LEONARD Thurs 29 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KINDRED THE FAMILY SOUL & CONYA DOSS Thurs 29 Nov, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

AS IT IS Thurs 29 Nov,

O2 Institute, B'ham

**DAVE ONIONS** Thurs 29 Nov, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

YEARS & YEARS Fri 30 Nov. Arena B'ham

RÜFÜS DU SOL + ICARUS + ZOLA BLOOD Fri 30 Nov, The Mill Digbeth, Birmingham

KATIE MELUA & GORI WOMEN'S CHOIR Fri 30 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**UB40 - LABOUR OF LOVE** Fri 30 Nov, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**TESSERACT** Fri 30 Nov, O2 Institute, B'ham

CAPTAIN STINGRAY Fri 30 Nov, Albert's Shed Bar, Shrewsbury

LTJ BUKEM Fri 30 Nov, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE LITTLE UNSAID Fri 30 Nov, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Staffordshire SCRUFFYFEST 2018! Fri

30 Nov, Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham



Years And Years - Arena Birmingham

#### Classical Music

QUATOUR AROD Featuring Jordan Victoria & Alexandre Vu (violins), Tanguy Parisot (viola) & Samy Rachid (cello). Programme includes Haydn, Webern, Benjamin Attahir & Schumann, Mon 26 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

#### **CBSO: BUCHBINDER PLAYS BRAHMS**

Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor) & Rudolf Buchbinder (piano). Programme includes works by Brahms & Tchaikovsky, Tues 27 Nov, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CASTALIAN QUARTET Featuring Sini Simonen & Daniel Roberts (violin), Charlotte Bonneton (viola) & Christopher Graves (cello), Wed 28 Nov, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE WIND & BRASS ENSEMBLES Programme includes works by Stravinsky, Ruth Ginns, Anna Meredith &

gramme includes works by Stravinsky, Ruth Gipps, Anna Meredith & Michael Daugherty, Thurs 29 Nov, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE SYMPHONIC BRASS & BRASS BAND Feeturing Ames Miller & Jon Bort

Featuring Amos Miller & Ian Porthouse (conductors). Programme includes works by Rautavaara, Janacek & Tchaikovsky, Fri 30 Nov, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

#### Comedy

JASPER CARROTT & ALISTAIR MC-GOWAN Mon 26 - Tues 27 Nov New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme JOE LYCETT Tues 27 Nov, Symphony Hall. Birmingham

**TOM ALLEN** Wed 28 Nov, Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford, Shropshire



MIKE WILMOT & JIMMY MCGHIE PLUS COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBIN-SON Thurs 29 Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CHRISTIAN REILY & KEITH CARTER
Thurs 29 Nov, Station Hotel, Dudley
JOSH JONES, CRAIG MURRAY, SARAH
CALLAGHAN & MIKE WILMOT Fri 30
Nov, The Glee Club, Birmingham
CHARLIE BAKER, ROGER MONKHOUSE,

**EMANUEL SONUBI** Fri 30 Nov, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

#### **Theatre**

WEST SIDE STORY A West Bromwich Operatic Society production, presented to celebrate their 80th anniversary and Leonard Bernstein's centenary, Tues 27 Nov - Sat 1 Dec, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Patrick Barlow's adaptation of Dickens' festive ghost story, Tues 27 Nov - Sat 1 Dec, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE MOUNTAINTOP Award-winning play taking an intimate look at the quieter moments in Dr Martin Luther King's life, Tues 27 Nov - Sat 1 Dec, The REP, Birmingham



INTO THE WOODS Little Theatre Company presents its version of Stephen Sondheim's classic musical, Tues 27 Nov - Sat 1 Dec, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

A KICK IN THE BAUBLES Tower Players presents its version of Gordon Steel's Christmas comedy, Wed 28 -Fri 30 Nov, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

THE EXPLODED CIRCUS All-female contemporary circus company Mimbre blend physicality and narrative to tell intimate stories about human connections, Wed 28 - Fri 30 Nov, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

CINDERELLA Festive rags-to-riches tale starring Wally Wombat & Andy Monk, Wed 28 - Fri 30 Nov, Stourbridge Town Hall

MOTHER GOOSE Brad Fitt returns to Damehood in what promises to be another egg-cellent production, Wed 28 Nov - Sun 6 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MID WALES OPERA: A SPANISH HOUR Ravel's exhilarating one-act bed-

room farce, Thurs 29 Nov, SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, Shropshire SHERLOCK HOLMES: SIGN OF FOUR

Blackeyed Theatre world-premiere their version of Arthur Conan Doyle's famous tale, Thurs 29 Nov - Sat 1 Dec, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

OH! WHAT A LOVELY WAR Community production of Joan Littlewood's famous musical, presented by Stoke Creative Learning, Thurs 29 Nov -Sat 1 Dec, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

## LICHFIELD GARRICK

#### **OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS**













BOX OFFICE: 01543 412 121 www.lichfieldgarrick.com Lichfield Garrick, Castle Dyke, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 6HR

#### Monday 26 - Friday 30 November

DICK WHITTINGTON Garrick panto favourites Sam Rabone and Ben Thornton are joined by CBeebies starr Katrina Bryan, Thurs 29 Nov-Sat 5 Jan. Lichfield Garrick

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES Nostalgic evening of Christmas songs & carols from Neil Sands and his West End cast, Fri 30 Nov, The Place@Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL Physical comedy, live music and visual storytelling combine in a retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale, Fri 30 Nov, The Talbot Theatre, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

CASTLE PLAYER'S CHRISTMAS EXTRAV-AGANZA 'Sketches, skits, song, dance, silliness, merriment and a truckload of Christmas spirit!', Fri 30 Nov, SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

#### **Kids Show**

**AWFUL AUNTIE** David Walliams' tale of frights, fights and friendship, Tues 27 Nov - Sat 1 Dec, Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

#### Talks

AN EVENING SHARED WITH JASPER CARROTT & ALISTAIR MCGOWAN Mon 26 - Tues 27 Nov, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

BENEDICT ALLEN The adventurer/explorer tells of his recent adventure - a solo expedition to Papua New Guinea, Tues 27 Nov, Birmingham Town Hall

#### **Dance**

HANSEL & GRETEL Uchenna Dance present a contemporary retelling of the classic fairytale, combining New York club styles of house, waacking and vogue with African and contemporary dance, Fri 30 Nov - Sat 1 Dec, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

## Film INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

FIRST MAN (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Ryan Gosling, Claire Foy. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 26 Nov; Wem Town Hall, North Shrops, Mon 26 - Tues 27 Nov; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shrops, Fri 30 Nov

BEAST (15) Drama/Mystery. Starring



#### **Mimbre: The Exploded Circus**

The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent, Wed 28 - Fri 30 Nov

If you fancy seeing a theatre work that's more than a little unusual, look no further than The Exploded Circus. A wordless presentation featuring an all-female cast of six, the remnants of a big-top tent caught in mid-air, and impressive displays of acrobatics, aerial feats and masterful juggling, the production is set in a moment where an explosion has been frozen in time, with everything from circus ring to fairground horses suspended above ground. The show is presented by London-based acrobatic company Mimbre and visits the Midlands as part of a tour to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the circus.

Johnny Flynn, Jessie Buckley. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Mon 26 Nov

**TOGETHER (12a)** Drama. Starring Sylvia Syms, Peter Bowles. Number 8, Pershore, Worcs, Mon 26 - Tues 27 Nov

UTOYA: JULY 22 (15) Drama/Thriller. Starring Andrea Berntzen, Aleksander Holmen. Foreign language, subtitled. MAC, Birmingham, Mon 26 & Wed 28 Nov

MONTY PYTHON & THE HOLY GRAIL (12a) Comedy/Fantasy. Starring Graham Chapman, John Cleese. MAC, Birmingham, Tues 27 Nov

**SWEET COUNTRY (15)** Crime/Drama. Starring Bryan Brown, Luka Magdeline Cole. Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs, Tues 27 Nov

JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN (PG) Comedy. Starring Rowan Atkinson, Emma Thompson. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shrops, Tues 27 Nov

THE TROUBLE WITH HARRY (PG) Comedy/Mystery. Starring John Forsythe, Shirley MacLaine. Mitchell Arts Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 27 Nov

DISTANT VOICES, STILL LIVES (15)
Drama/Music. Starring Pete
Postlethwaite, Freda Dowie. Number 8, Pershore, Worcs, Wed 28 Nov

**WIDOWS (15)** Drama/Thriller. Starring Viola Davis, Michelle Rodriguez.

MAC, Birmingham, Fri 30 Nov

THE APPARITION (12a) Drama. Starring Vincent Lindon, Galatéa Bellugi. Foreign language, subtitled. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Shrops, Fri 30 Nov

THE FLORIDA PROJECT (15) Drama. Starring Brooklynn Prince, Bria Vinaite. The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 30 Nov

#### **Events**

MEET SANTA Visit the North Pole of the city in the Antarctic Ice Cave, meet the man himself and check out the cheeky Gentoo penguins in the Ice Adventure area, until Sun 23 Dec. National Sea Life Centre

CERAMIC ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS
Brand new workshops for adults,
Wed 28 Nov, Coalport China Museum, Telford, Shropshire

REINDEER BY NIGHT Experience the magic of Blithbury Reindeer Lodge in the nighttime, Thurs 29 - Fri 30 Nov, Blithbury Reindeer Lodge, Rugeley, Staffs

BBC GOOD FOOD SHOW WINTER Samples to try and products to buy as the BBC Good Food Show makes a welcome return, Thurs 29 Nov - Sun 2 Dec, NEC, Birmingham

## ENTERTAINMENT CANNOCK CHASE

at the PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE

#### **NOVEMBER**

#### YOU WIN AGAIN

Wednesday 21 November 7.30pm • £25 • Conc. £23

#### FOREVER JACKSON

Friday 23 November 7.30pm • £21

#### A KICK IN THE BAUBLES

Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 November 7.30pm • £12



#### DECEMBER

#### PUPPETRY OF The Penis

Saturday 1 December 8pm • £21.50

#### SANTA IN LOVE

Sunday 9 December 11.30am • £9

#### SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK

Thursday 13 December 7.30pm • £22

#### THE ROY ORBISON Story

Friday 14 December 7.30pm • £22

#### DICK WHITTINGTON

Saturday 22 to Sunday 30 December £18 Conc. £16 Family £60





Box Office 01543 578 762 tickets.princeofwales.live





Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Eastgate Street, Stafford, ST16 2LT



### JEN BRISTER

FRI 2 NOVEMBER 8PM ALLTICKETS: £12.00









for more information visit: www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk



#### www.LichfieldWinterWonderland.co.uk

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