Your FREE essential entertainment guide for the Midlands

DEMETRI MARTIN AT THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE

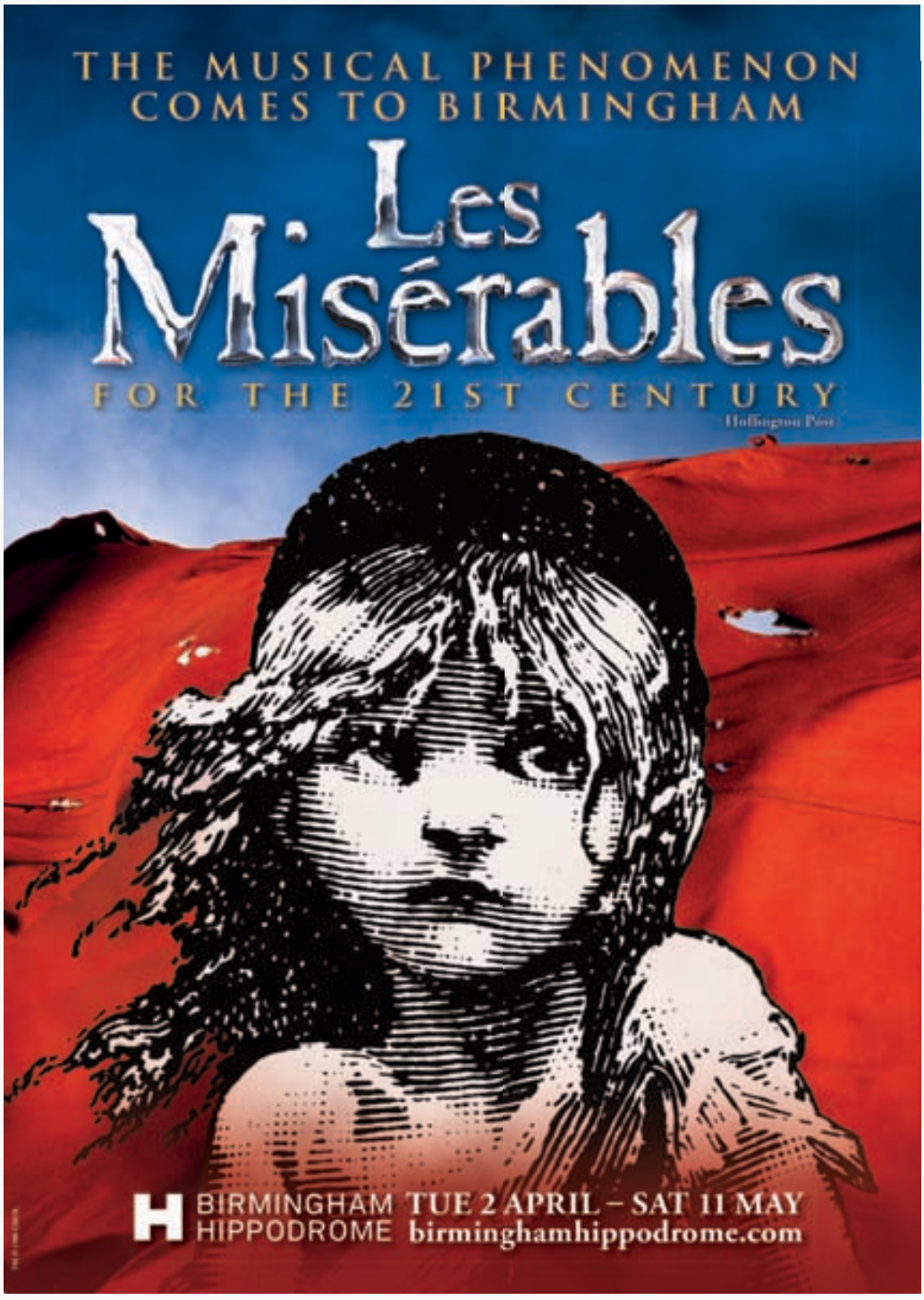


Birmingham

ISSUE 400 APRIL 2019

What's On

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inside:

thelist

Your 16-page week by week listings guide

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April 2019

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State-of-the-art marine rescue facility opens at the National Sea Life Centre

The National Sea Life Centre in Birmingham is this month opening a state-of-the-art marine rescue facility following multi-million pound investment and an extensive remodelling of the popular visitor attraction.

Rescued mammals will take up residency in a newly engineered open-to-the-public environment which will span two floors of the venue. The new facility has been carefully designed and constructed to emulate the natural ocean habitat that mammals are accustomed to. Atmospheric effects in the themed area will help in creating a replica environment to further enhance the experience.

Commenting on the new attraction, Amy Langham, General Manager at the venue, said: "We're really proud and passionate about the new facility, and the investment ploughed into the development is testament to the core values of the business. With the current global environmental situation, animals now need support more than ever before to protect their welfare, and the opening of our new facility will allow us to support those in need with expert care."

For further information or to book tickets, visit sealife.co.uk/birmingham

Kitty Café to open at Grand Central Station

Feline like a cuppa? Birmingham cat lovers can enjoy the purr-fect tea & coffee-drinking experience from next month, when Kitty Cafe opens its new premises at the city's Grand Central Station.

Commenting on the news, Kitty Café said: "We've been embraced with open arms by the people of Nottingham and Leeds, and hope the lovely people of Birmingham will do the same. Our opening is expected for the middle of May, with lots of exciting announcements coming soon!"



Aussie soap opera comes to the Old Joint Stock...

A new show celebrating the 1990s heyday of Australian television soap operas is stopping off at Birmingham's Old Joint Stock (OJS) Theatre next month. Focusing on the attempts of four Aussie soap stars to resurrect their careers, Summer Street - The Hilarious Aussie Soap Opera Musical! is promising 'sun, songs and plenty of nostalgia'.

The show runs at the OJS from Friday 10 to Sunday 12 May.

Handmaid's Tale author Margaret to visit the city

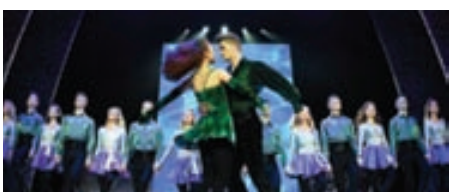
The author of The Handmaid's Tale, novelist Margaret Atwood, will stop off at Birmingham's Symphony Hall in the autumn as part of a promotional tour for the book's eagerly anticipated sequel, The Testaments.

During her second-city visit, Margaret will talk about her career, her range of works, and why she's returned to the handmaid's story 34 years after her seminal novel was published... Atwood visits Birmingham on 28 October. The Testaments is published by Vintage on 10 September.



Riverdance back in Brum

A reinvention of Riverdance described by its producers as 'powerful and stirring' is stopping off in Birmingham next year as part of the Grammy Award-winning show's 25th anniversary celebration. Riverdance - The New 25th Anniversary Show runs at the Alexandra Theatre from 6 to 9 April 2020. Tickets are now on sale at atgtickets.com



New all-male youth company set to launch

Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre is this month hosting the launch of an all-male youth performance initiative.

Man Made Youth Company aims to inspire and empower local young men (aged between 14 and 21) via a programme of high-quality dance training, choreography workshops, performance opportunities, digital arts and films. The launch event takes place on Friday 26 April and features dance performances, screenings of short dance films and the opportunity to sign up for the pilot programme, which runs from next month until July... For more information, visit macbirmingham.co.uk

Lichfield Festival announces shows

A concert celebrating Ivor Novello, choral music from Voces 8 and a performance by Kathryn Tickell's new folk supergroup, The Darkening (pictured), all feature in Lichfield Festival's 2019 line-up.
The event gives a nod to Brexit as well, courtesy of a 'farewell to Europe' theme, and also celebrates the 50th anniversary of the moon landing.
The festival takes place at various venues across the city and beyond from 5 to 13 July.
For further details, visit lichfieldfestival.org



Large-scale dance show at the Hipp

Birmingham Hippodrome and Rosie Kay Dance Company will present a large-scale public performance at the theatre on Tuesday 21 May.
The show will mark the premiere of Rosie Kay's 10 Soldiers production, a show designed to build a greater understanding between the public and the Army.
"I'm thrilled to be able to present an opportunity for people from all backgrounds to come together and create a public performance," says Rosie.
"The West Midlands has such strong enthusiasm for dance, but to keep this scene fresh and engaging, we need to continually open it up for different communities to get involved."
For more information, visit birminghamhippodrome.com



At the double! Iconic musicals return to the Hippodrome

Tickets will this month go on sale for blockbuster musicals Mamma Mia! (pictured) and We Will Rock You, both of which will be visiting Birmingham Hippodrome next year.
"The arrival of these two major musical juggernauts in 2020 continues Birmingham Hippodrome's reputation for bringing the very best in live entertainment to Midlands audiences," said Fiona Allan, the theatre's artistic director & chief executive. "Both We Will Rock You and Mamma Mia! have enjoyed sell-out success here in previous years, and I have no doubt that returning audience members, or those visiting for the very first time, will be up on their feet at the conclusion of these two blockbuster productions." For more information, visit birminghamhippodrome.com

BCMG appoints executive director

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG) has appointed Seb Huckle as its executive director.
Reporting to Artistic Director Stephan Meier, Seb will have overall responsibility for the production and delivery of BCMG's artistic and business plans.
Commenting on his appointment, Seb said: "BCMG is an energetic and forward-looking ensemble, commissioning, promoting and above all performing the outstanding music created in our times. I am looking forward to taking on new challenges in the role of executive director, working alongside my colleagues to realise the ambitious plans that will continue to drive forward new music to new destinations."

A film festival with a difference...

Birmingham's ever-popular Flatpack Festival makes a welcome return to city venues at the end of this month.
Described as 'a film festival with a difference', the event runs from Tuesday 30 April to Monday 6 May and features screenings, events, installations, walks and parties.
Highlights of the 2019 festival include King Rocker - an exclusive taste of a new documentary about post-punk legends The Nightingales - and A Moment Of Madness - an immersive theatre piece in which the viewer is an operative commissioned to stake out a car park. Interactive family playground Colour Box and new archive strand Time Machine also feature.
For more information, visit flatpackfestival.org.uk



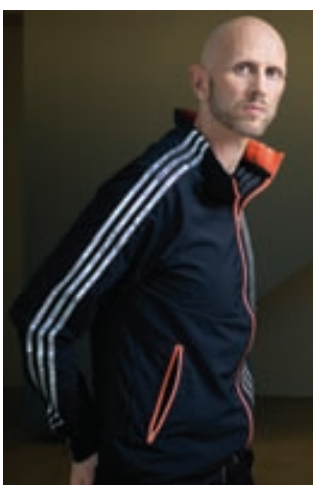


Igglepiggle and friends back in Brum

Igglepiggle, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends are heading back to Birmingham this summer to star in brand new In The Night Garden... Live! show, Igglepiggle's Busy Day!. Now in its 10th year, In The Night Garden... Live! has been seen by more than one million people across the UK. The show is based on the top-rated CBeebies television series of the same name and stops off at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from 31 July to 4 August.
For more information and to book tickets, visit birmingham-rep.co.uk

New partnership for city dance school

Resident Choreographer of the Royal Ballet, Wayne McGregor CBE, has become the vice president of Birmingham's Elmhurst Ballet School.
Commenting on the appointment, the school's Principal, Jessica Wheeler, said: "We are thrilled to welcome Wayne as vice president. Our students will benefit immeasurably from the opportunity to work with him and his company. Wayne is widely regarded as one of the foremost choreographers working today, and this partnership marks an extraordinarily exciting time in Elmhurst's history."



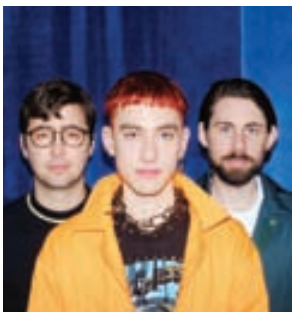
Birmingham arts venue to host season of controversial films & TV shows



Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre will next month host a series of screenings and special events focusing on some of the most controversial films and television programmes ever created.
Down With This Sort Of Thing: Film & Television Beyond The Pale will feature movies and shows which have provoked debate, challenged attitudes, been significantly cut or even banned outright.
Comprising selected material from the last 90-plus years, the event features screenings of Stanley Kubrick's self-banned movie, A Clockwork Orange, and the Channel Four series Queer As Folk, episodes of which will be presented alongside a Q&A with the show's writer/producer Russell T Davies (pictured).
For more information, including dates and times of screenings, visit macbirmingham.co.uk

Years & Years to headline Brum Pride

Organisers of Birmingham Pride have announced that Years & Years will headline next month's two-day festival.
The synth-pop trio, which consists of Olly Alexander, Mikey Goldsworthy and Emre Türkmen, have a string of hit singles to their name, including Eyes Shut, Desire, Sunlight, Sanctify and the chart-topping King.
They will perform at Pride (which takes place in Birmingham's Gay Village across the Spring Bank Holiday weekend) on Saturday 25 May.
Tickets are available from birminghampride.com



The Big Lunch

The Big Lunch, a nationwide annual event that provides people with the opportunity to come together, share food and get to know their local community better, is once again taking place this year (Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 June).
Commenting on the event, its ambassador, comedian Jo Brand, said: "Lots of vulnerable members of our society can go weeks without seeing or talking to another person, so anything that encourages a bit of human contact gets a thumbs-up from me."

Fun in the mud

Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity is teaming up with Mud Kids - 'the ultimate children's playground' - to help raise vital funds for the sick youngsters being cared for at the hospital.
Taking place at Umberslade Farm Park, just outside Birmingham, on 18 and 19 May, Mud Kids features a 3km course of climbing walls, crawling stations, slides and hay bales, all of which participants will tackle while slushing their way through plenty of mud!
The event is open to children aged four and older, as well as parents and guardians... To find out more, visit bch.org.uk/mud-kids, mud-kids.co.uk or call 0121 333 8506.

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STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN: LED ZEPPELIN MASTERS
SAT 13 APRIL 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



SHAKE THAT THING!
THE GREAT BRITISH SWING DANCE SHOW
SUN 28 APRIL 3PM
TOWN HALL



RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC
WED 17– THU 18 APRIL 8PM
TOWN HALL



WET WET WET
SUN 5 MAY 7:30PM
TOWN HALL



PIXAR IN CONCERT
THU 18 APRIL 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



PROPELLOR // LOOM
WED 8 MAY 7:30PM
TOWN HALL



FRECKLE PRODUCTIONS AND ROSE THEATRE KINGSTON PRESENT

ZOG
BY JULIA DONALDSON & AXEL SCHEFFLER
FRI 19 – MON 22 APRIL
VARIOUS TIMES
TOWN HALL



SPACE SPECTACULAR
SAT 22 JUNE 3PM
SYMPHONY HALL



ON STAGE WITH:
CARA DILLON
WED 24 APRIL 8PM
SYMPHONY HALL STAGE



HERE COME THE BOYS
SAT 20 JULY 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL

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What's On Readers' Awards

WINNERS announced...

With over 60,000 votes cast in the **What's On Readers' Awards 2019** - we are delighted to announce your winners...

Best Midlands Large Theatre



WINNER Birmingham Hippodrome
RUNNER-UP Wolverhampton Grand

Best Touring Musical

WINNER Matilda
RUNNER-UP Mamma Mia

Best Touring Play

WINNER War Horse
RUNNER-UP Blood Brothers

Best Home-Produced Show In The Midlands



WINNER The Wizard of Oz - Birmingham Repertory Theatre
RUNNER-UP A Christmas Carol - RSC

Best Kids Show

WINNER The Snowman
RUNNER-UP Elf: A Christmas Spectacular

Best Festive Show

WINNER A Christmas Carol - The RSC
RUNNER-UP The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe - Crescent Theatre

Best Pantomime In The Midlands 2018/19

WINNER Peter Pan - Birmingham Hippodrome
RUNNER-UP Sleeping Beauty - Wolverhampton Grand

Best Amateur Production

WINNER Birmingham & Midland Operatic Society: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
RUNNER-UP Get Your Wigle On: Grease

Best Classical Production inc Opera

WINNER CBSO Spectacular Classics
RUNNER-UP City Of Birmingham Choir: Handel's Messiah

Best Orchestra/Choir



WINNER Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra
RUNNER-UP CBSO

Best Dance Production

WINNER Birmingham Royal Ballet's The Nutcracker
RUNNER-UP Matthew Bourne's Cinderella

Best Midlands Arts/ Cultural Festival



WINNER Birmingham Comedy Festival
RUNNER-UP Lichfield Arts' Fuse Festival

Best Exhibition

WINNER Dippy The Dinosaur - Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
RUNNER-UP LEGO: Brick History - Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

Best Midlands Live Music Venue



WINNER Symphony Hall, Birmingham
RUNNER-UP O2 Academy, Birmingham

Best Midlands Music Festival

WINNER Moseley Folk Festival
RUNNER-UP Download Festival

Best Midlands Chef

WINNER Glynn Purnell (Purnell's, Bham)
RUNNER-UP Josh Crouch (CSONS, Shrewsbury)

Best Midlands Street Food Vendor



WINNER Dick's Smokehouse
RUNNER-UP Urban Cheesecake

Best Midlands Comedy Night

WINNER Comedy Carousel at The Glee Club, Birmingham
RUNNER-UP Laugh Out Loud Comedy Club

Best Midlands Food Festival



WINNER Shrewsbury Food Festival
RUNNER-UP Ludlow Food Festival

Best Market in the Midlands



WINNER Shrewsbury Market Hall
RUNNER-UP Bullring Indoor Market, Birmingham

and the winners in your region...

Birmingham

Best Arts/Theatre Venue

WINNER Birmingham Repertory Theatre
RUNNER-UP Midlands Arts Centre

Best Live Music Venue



WINNER Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
RUNNER-UP The Jam House

Best Visitor Attraction



WINNER Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
RUNNER-UP Cadbury World

Best Music Festival

WINNER Moseley Folk Festival
RUNNER-UP Birmingham Pride

Best Arts Festival

WINNER Birmingham Comedy Festival
RUNNER-UP Birmingham International Dance Festival

Best Food Festival/Event



WINNER Digbeth Dining Club
RUNNER-UP BBC Good Food Show

Best Independent Bar/Pub

WINNER The Old Joint Stock, Temple Row
RUNNER-UP The Plough, Harborne

Best Independent Restaurant



WINNER Purnell's in Cornwall Street
RUNNER-UP The Meat Shack

Best Independent Coffee Shop



WINNER Cherry Red's Cafe Bar
RUNNER-UP Damascena Coffee House

Best Outdoor Event



WINNER Frankfurt Christmas Markets
RUNNER-UP Magical Lantern Festival

Best Indoor Event

WINNER British Athletics Indoor Championships
RUNNER-UP Crufts

Best Gallery Exhibition Venue

WINNER Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
RUNNER-UP Midlands Arts Centre

You can find a full list of winners at whatsonlive.co.uk



REVIEW: Tattu
Contemporary Chinese cuisine in a city centre restaurant with a real 'wow' factor

Modern Chinese restaurant Tattu opened in Birmingham in January this year.

Already operating in Manchester and Leeds, the prestigious brand delivers contemporary Chinese cuisine by fusing traditional flavours with modern cooking methods to create 'a unique and exciting dining experience'.

Occupying a charming space within Birmingham city centre's historic Grand Hotel development, the 150-cover split-level restaurant boasts award-winning interior design and astute attention to detail - think low lighting, dark walls, marble-look flooring, and a large, pink cherry blossom tree. The decor is simply stunning, making Tattu one of the most 'Instagrammable' restaurants I've ever visited. Fortunately, there's no phone or internet signal in the venue, so bar the odd picture, phone use is kept to an absolute minimum - just as it should be.

Tattu's signature dishes include beef fillet and caramel soy with shiitake and asparagus, and saffron black cod served with miso, Chinese sausage and razor clam. The a la carte menu is made up of multiple sections: bites, dim sum and small plates, ranging from £7 to £15; mains, ranging from £14 to £70; and a selection of set menus which cost from £40 to £75 per head.

To kick off proceedings, we ordered a mixed dim sum basket - featuring two Thai chicken, two Har Gau XO and two Szechuan pork - lobster and prawn toast with sweet & sour chilli sauce, Peking duck buns with hoisin, spring onion and cucumber, and, on recommendation from our waitress, sticky beef short rib with soy, chilli and crispy shallots.

Although there was absolutely nothing wrong with either the buns - which impressively featured Tattu branding - or the dim sum, if you want outstanding versions of these delectable items, head down to China Town, as you'll find a vast selection of more flavoursome options at a fraction of the price. They were, however, quickly devoured and enjoyed by both of us.

The lobster and prawn toast was palatable - the addition of the lobster was very much in the spirit of the upmarket brand - and the short rib was truly delicious - a fantastic recommendation from our knowledgable waitress.

For our mains, we chose from a selection of meat, seafood and vegetable dishes, including: Thai-style crispy monkfish with lime, shallots and lemongrass; red pepper lamb chops with hot & sour pumpkin; and king oyster mushroom hotpot with baby spinach, silken tofu and yuzu truffle soy (a dish suitable for vegetarians, vegans and those who follow a gluten-free diet). We decided to push the boat out and order the sirloin of wagyu beef with Nikka-marinated foie gras, green bean and truffle sesame soy (at a staggering £70) and a whole lobster with wasabi gratin, lemon and lime (£55).

The latter was, without a shadow of a doubt, the nicest lobster dish I've ever had the pleasure of eating. The creamy and subtly flavoured wasabi gratin and the citrus flavours perfectly complemented the sweet, succulent lobster chunks. It was truly heavenly.

The sirloin of wagyu beef wasn't the nicest cut of meat I've ever eaten in my life, which, at a price of £70, was what I would expect it to be, but there were certainly no complaints - it was delicious. The steak was seasoned nicely and cooked perfectly, resulting in a melt-in-the-mouth sensation, and the truffle sesame soy sauce was rich, thick and magically flavoursome. Widely regarded as a luxury food, the addition of the foie gras was spot on. I'm not a huge fan of whisky, so fortunately for me, the taste from the Nikka wasn't in any way overpowering.

To accompany the main courses, we shared a duck egg and sausage fried rice at £5 and Singapore noodles with prawn, chicken and pork at £11. They certainly weren't a necessity - we had definitely ordered more than enough food - but were very tasty all the same.

Our 'banquet' left us suitably full - too full, in fact, for dessert, which is a rarity. The dessert plates we saw on neighbouring tables looked like works of art - the most aesthetically pleasing I've seen in quite a while. Options included: Asian pear crumble; chocolate, Szechuan strawberry and banana caramel dessert wontons; and White Chocolate Igloos featuring blood orange, vanilla biscuit and coconut snow.

Throughout the evening, our waitress, Hannah, was polite, attentive and informative - an all-round gem. She absolutely made our night and is a real credit to the Tattu brand.

Tattu successfully boasts a contemporary take on a much-loved style of food. On the whole, you can find better Asian-inspired cuisine elsewhere, but the presentation is exquisite, the decor is divine and the dining experience is a thoroughly enjoyable one. It *is* pricey, so it's maybe one to save for a special occasion. However, I do recommend a visit at least once - it's certainly got the 'wow' factor.

Lauren Foster

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

Tattu
18 Barwick Street
Birmingham
B3 2NT
Tel: 0121 236 5556

COMING SOON TO THE ALEXANDRA



TUE 9 – SAT 13 APR



MON 29 APR – SAT 4 MAY
AD WED 1 MAY 7.30PM



MON 6 – SAT 11 MAY
AD WED 8 MAY 2.30PM



MON 13 – SAT 25 MAY



MON 3 – SAT 8 JUN



TUE 11 – SAT 15 JUN



WED 3 – SUN 7 JUL
R SUN 7 JUL 11AM



MON 15 – SAT 20 JUL
AD THU 18 JUL 7.30PM



MON 22 – SAT 27 JUL

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Love in a time of war



by Lauren Cole

Rollercoaster love story Captain Corelli's Mandolin arrives in Birmingham next month... What's On spoke to distinguished Scottish playwright Rona Munro, who has adapted Louis de Bernières' popular novel for the stage...

The stage production of Captain Corelli's Mandolin begins its UK tour this month, 25 years after the publication of the Louis de Bernières novel on which the show is based. Set on Cephalonia during the German/Italian World War Two occupation of the picturesque Greek island, the book tells the story of local woman Pelagia and her lover - the Italian captain, Antonio Corelli.

"I think it's a wonderful love story, and people always love a good love story," says Rona Munro, who's adapted the novel for the stage. "The book really evokes the landscape and culture of Greece, so I think that, particularly for people in the rest of Europe who love going to Greece, it encapsulates everything that we love about the country. But it's also telling quite a difficult and potentially tragic story about some of the events of World War Two. Ultimately, though, the story comes out in a place of hope, without being too sentimental. I think that's why it's appealed to so many people for so long."

Rona was thrilled to be approached by producer Neil Laidlaw and director Melly Still to adapt the novel: "The opportunity to work with Melly was a huge draw, as I'd worked with her on an adaptation of Watership Down a few years ago. Then I read Captain Corelli properly and really absorbed it. The scale of the book really caught me.

"The elements of the story that are so difficult to adapt for stage, which are perhaps the more violent parts, was part of the appeal of taking on the challenge. Melly is a director who does the most extraordinary things with actors, movement and music. We've just got the most wonderful music from composer Harry Blake as well. All I have to do is put in a very simple stage direction like, 'At this point, 40 German Panzers appear over the ridge and obliterate the Greek army', and then that goes over to Melly. She always does something incredible that allows the audience to experience scenes that many would think couldn't be done justice to on stage."

Rona believes the story still has resonances today: 'I think the themes of Captain Corelli's Mandolin definitely apply to the concerns of 2019. A peaceful, idyllic community, albeit with its flaws, is exposed to the very worst of human nature. This community is also exposed to the very, very best of human nature. It's the interplay between the best and the worst that humans are capable of which I think is so relevant to this point in history."

So how does Rona feel the climate for UK playwrights has changed during the course of her extensive career?

"I'm a Scottish playwright, and I would actually say that the climate for playwrights is different north and south of the border. North of the border, what's been really interesting is the upsurge in new writing by Scottish playwrights; writing that's found an audience on a large scale. I think this new situation is also quite fragile, though, and I think there's a danger that it will evaporate again.

"Elsewhere in the UK, I think the industry has become increasingly risk-averse to new work on a large scale. For example, something like an adaptation of a very famous novel, which is obviously a wonderful project to work on, is a safe option with an existing market, whereas a new play, by whoever, is less of a safe bet. I think the route to the larger venues for contemporary playwrights with their original work is quite difficult, which I think is a shame because theatre is one of the most exciting artforms around.'

Rona's extensive CV includes working with Ian Rankin to put Rebus: Long Shadows on stage. The show premiered at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, and the venue has also co-produced Captain Corelli's Mandolin.

"While working with them repeatedly has not been decided by me, I think The REP was very much on the front foot with Rebus and so was very happy to be involved when approached about Captain Corelli's Mandolin, which is wonderful. I think what's great about Birmingham Rep over the last few years is that they've built up an amazingly diverse programme of theatre. Rebus and Corelli are quite different! Looking at the work they've initiated themselves, both on the big stage and the smaller stage, I think one of the things they've done is produce a really exciting programme, so there's always room for a bit of everything in it."

Alongside theatre adaptations like Corelli and her own plays, Rona has also written for Doctor Who, both the 20th century series and the 21st century reboot. She has some interesting theories as to why her writing repertoire includes so many different genres: "I think it's partly because of the typical writer's terror that if I don't say yes to everything, I'll probably starve! Anytime anyone comes to me with a project, I'm not going to say no - I've got bills to pay! But mainly because I've been around for a number of years now, I'm lucky enough to be able to pick and choose the stuff I'll really enjoy. I think the reason I've worked with so many different genres is simply because I enjoy so many different things, so sci-fi is definitely up there with doing something like The James Plays. I love a diverse range of theatre!"

So what's been the highlight of her career up to this point?

"The James Plays, for sure. They were commissioned by the National Theatre of Scotland and ended up being a co-production with Edinburgh International Festival and the National Theatre of Great Britain. They were a trilogy of history plays about the three Stewart Kings, James I, James II and James III. They were rehearsed and produced at the same time, which we discovered no one had actually ever done before. People have done trilogies where they do one, then the next the year after and so on, but we were just plonking them all out there at the same time, working with one ensemble of actors from March to October. It was just huge and seemingly impossible to do, yet we managed it. I think the scale of the project and working with that amazing group of people was just the best experience I've ever had.

"I'm trying to get another James Play out there at the moment. Then I'm doing a wee bit of telly and film and a couple more theatre projects. I'm doing more authored pieces for the stage, rather than adaptations, which is actually quite exciting - it's really nice to shift from one to the other. They work different sets of writing muscles!"

Rona is confident that Captain Corelli's Mandolin will be a terrific production, and has some final summarising words to encourage Birmingham theatre-goers to get along to the show: "What audiences are going to see is 15 actors creating the most amazing, exciting, terrifying, heart-wrenching spectacle that they could possibly imagine. I've been in the rehearsal room, and they really are doing the most extraordinary things. You will definitely have the most incredible emotional experience if you get a ticket!"

Captain Corelli's Mandolin shows at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Wednesday 29 May to Saturday 15 June.

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Wed 24 Apr



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Franco Fagioli - Vinci And Handel

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 7 April

Combining superb technical agility, incredible tonal variety and impressive vocal range, Franco Fagioli is the brightest of stars in the countertenor constellation. The 38-year-old Argentinian is also one of modern-day music's finest performers of Handel's arias - several of which are featured in this not-to-be-missed concert, alongside works by the composer's lesser-known contemporary, Leonardo Vinci. Franco is joined for the performance, his first ever in Birmingham, by prize-winning orchestra Il Pomo d'Oro.

City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra: Belshazzar's Feast

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 6 April

When the often controversial and ever-dynamic William Walton was commissioned to tell the Biblical story of the downfall of Babylon, he knew he'd been offered a not-to-be-missed opportunity to go for broke and produce something both brazen and stupendous. The resulting composition, premiered in 1931, was exactly that - although it didn't meet with universal approval, the Synod of the Church of England considering its text inappropriate for performance in cathedrals. As a result, it was more than two decades before the piece was performed at the Three Choirs Festival. The Worcester Music Festival, meanwhile, lifted its ban on the work only as recently as 1975.
John Wilson conducts a concert that also features Copeland's Appalachian Spring, Barber's Violin Concerto, and contributions from violinist James Ehnes (pictured) and baritone Božidar Smiljanić.



Collegium Vocale München

St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, Fri 26 April



Late Romantic, 20th century and contemporary a cappella choral works are the stock-in-trade of the Collegium Vocale München chamber choir. Formed in 1994, the choir is here performing a free concert that includes a retiring collection in aid of St Chad's Sanctuary, to generate funds for its ongoing work providing practical and welfare support for asylum seekers and refugees.

Ex Cathedra: Bach's St Matthew Passion

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 19 April

A favourite at Eastertide, Bach's moving retelling of Christ's betrayal and death continues to be one of classical music's most profound experiences.
Sung in German with English surtitles, St Matthew Passion is here performed by Ex Cathedra's choir & Baroque orchestra and Academy of Vocal Music, performing together under the direction of conductor Jeffrey Skidmore.



Piatti String Quartet

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 5 April

These ever-rising stars of the classical music scene have caused a significant stir over the last few years, providing passionate interpretations of music from across the spectrum of quartet writing.
Prize winners in the 2015 London International String Quartet Competition, the ensemble take their name from 19th century cellist Alfredo Piatti, a leading professor and exponent of quartet playing at the Royal Academy of Music.
Their Bromsgrove stop-off sees them performing works by Haydn, Schubert, and Joseph Phibbs.





by Stephen Taylor

IAN HUNTER

What's On catches up with the Mott The Hoople frontman ahead of the band's Birmingham gig

While Shropshire may not be a hotbed of music, it *is* the birthplace of one of rock-'n'roll's most distinctive performers - Ian Hunter.

Born in Oswestry but now living in Connecticut, Ian is looking forward to returning to the UK this month with Mott The Hoople, the legendary band that left an indelible mark on the rock world between 1969 and 1974.

While the original Mott line-up has reformed twice in the last decade, this tour will see a change in personnel...

"There were two halves to Mott The Hoople," says Ian. "The first half finished in '73, and '74 to '75 is the second half. This is with Ariel Bender [aka Luther Grosvenor] and Morgan Fisher."

While Ian isn't planning to reform Mott on a permanent basis - "We don't want to run it into the ground" - he sees this tour of the UK and US as a chance to reward the patience of his bandmates from the latter Mott line-up.

"In the first two get-togethers, with the original band, Morgan and Luther weren't involved. They came to the gigs and were great sports about it, and I thought, 'If I ever get a shot, we'll do Morgan and Luther so that they get their shot too. That's basically why we're doing it."

With Fisher now a resident of Tokyo (Bender lives in Worcester), Ian admits it's been "a bit of a drag when it comes to visas and all that kind of thing," but he's nonetheless looking forward to revisiting the final two Mott albums with his old muckers: "The Mott The Hoople Live album came out in 1974. Half of it was done in London, the other half in New York. It's a good live album. Also, The Hoople album was released, but there'll be a couple of chestnuts in there from before."

One such chestnut will almost certainly be All The Young Dudes, the 1972 single that became the band's first hit, donated by David Bowie on hearing that they were planning to split up.

"Bowie offered us a couple of tunes which were okay, but we were writing okay stuff. All The Young Dudes came along and it was like, 'Good god, why do you want us to do this? What an incredible song! Why are you giving it away?' At the time, it saved our lives, but unfortunately it was also the beginning of the end for us. The band got a little disenchanted because now we were a pop band. I wouldn't say we were glam, because we were too average-looking, but we were flash, and it took off that way.

"We lost either way. If we'd carried on as we were, it wouldn't have gone on much longer. But we had the hit, then we had a few more hits after that, so we were suddenly a pop band. People were upset either way."

Following the demise of Mott, Ian's solo career took off, with Once Bitten, Twice Shy becoming a top-20 hit in the UK and Cleveland Rocks earning him the key to the city of Cleveland in 1979.

Forty years on, it appears that his creative juices are a long way from drying up: "Lyrically, you can only go to the well so many times, but somehow, right now, I'm coming up with stuff, and I'll keep doing it for as long as it keeps coming."

In the 1970s, Ian's 'lyrical well' included teenage memories of his childhood in Shropshire, with the song 23a Swan Hill recalling the address in Shrewsbury where he lived in the first half of the 1950s. Irene Wild, meanwhile, referenced the town's former bus station.

"My father was a policeman, and one of the good things about policing was you got free housing, so my dad had 23a Swan Hill. Barker Street was the bus station, and the girls would come in from the Priory Girls School, which was then outside of town, so it was a big hangout for boys from the Priory Boys School, which was just around the corner from Barker Street."

As for the inspiration for Irene Wild, the song's tale of unrequited love was based on Ian's experiences with a real person: "Yeah, she was absolutely gorgeous, and I never actually got to go out with her. She was going out with a friend of mine. His family owned a fruit & veg company in Shrewsbury, and I was the go-between. I would send messages from Pete to her and her to Pete, so I would be miserable in vain."

While that experience ultimately proved frustrating, another connection during Ian's teenage years had a major influence on his burgeoning musical development.

"There was this kid called Tony Wardle, who worked in an electrical shop and had a harmonica band. That's how I started, on a harmonica with Tony! Gradually I persuaded him that we could do a couple of guitar numbers during our harmonica show!"

Alongside music, Ian also enjoys football and is probably Shrewsbury Town Football Club's most prestigious celebrity fan. When asked which of his tunes he'd like to hear belting out before home games at Montgomery Waters Meadow, the 79-year-old had a lighthearted message for the club's current manager, Sam Ricketts: "I'd change Cleveland Rocks. Maybe we should do a Shrewsbury Rocks? Ask old Ricketts if he wants me to do a Shrewsbury Rocks!"

Mott The Hoople appear at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Sunday 21 April.

The band are also performing a pre-tour warm-up show at The Assembly, Leamington Spa, on the 17th of this month, for which they're making a limited number of tickets available.



Vök

The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham, Sun 14 April

Icelandic electronic dream-pop trio Vök released their sophomore full-length LP, In The Dark, on the first of this month.
Commenting on new single Spend The Love, frontwoman Margrét Rán said: "Originally written to be a 'gay' anthem song, Spend The Love is our new dance song, which tackles the theme of anti-consumerism. There's a humour in it and a hypocrisy."
Recorded in early 2018 in Vök's home studio in Reykjavîk, and in London's Notting Hill, each of In The Dark's songs has its own definable character or theme.

The Specials

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Fri 26 April

This year is the 40th anniversary not only of Coventry's legendary Two-Tone record label but also of The Specials.
Widely considered to be one of the most electrifying, influential and important bands of all time, the group recently released new album Encore - featuring their first new music in 37 years - to great critical acclaim. Within a week of its release, it had reached the number one spot on the official albums chart.
"Recording the album has been one of the most amazing trips of our lives," The Specials told OfficialCharts.com. "It couldn't have been better timing. A real thanks to the fans who have stayed with us for all this time. We all share in this, so thank you."



Cara Dillon

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 24 April

Once Cara Dillon had decided she was happiest singing the traditional Irish songs with which she'd grown up, there was simply no stopping her. Setting off on a journey that saw her become one of the UK's finest female vocalists, she developed a style of singing that allowed her to blend the traditional with the contemporary, ensuring not only that her sound evolved but that her fanbase did too.
As well as a selection of favourites from her previous releases, Cara here performs material from new album Wanderer.

Daryl Hall & John Oates

Resorts World Arena, Birmingham, Wed 24 April

Daryl Hall & John Oates were signed to Atlantic by Ahmet Ertegun in the 1970s and have sold more albums than any other duo in music history. Among the most sampled artists of the modern day, their impact can be heard everywhere, from boy band harmonies to neo-soul to rap-rock fusion.
KT Tunstall supports them on their first UK tour in five years.

Sundara Karma

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Wed 10 April

English indie rock band Sundara Karma's songs are personal reactions to art, literature and culture. They tackle topics from online self-obsession to consumer capitalism, the smokescreen of the nuclear family and the lies at the heart of the teenage dream.
Frontman Oscar Pollock says: "It's like there's this weird, creepy clown who's controlling everything and getting a real kick out of these bizarre things we humans are doing, and he's saying to himself, 'Oh my god, look what I can make them do now!'"



Apre

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Tues 2 April

Apre are an English alternative pop duo formed in Canterbury in 2017 and featuring Charlie Brown and Jules Konieczny.
The duo have released two successful EPs - The Movement Of Time and Drum Machines Killed Music - and return to the Hare & Hounds this month following recent support slots with Sea Girls, Sam Fender and Fickle Friends.



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by Dave Freak

Sean McLoughlin

The comedian chats about podcasts, the Bible, touring with Ricky Gervais and losing a job to a YouTuber with the same name...

After more than a decade of writing well-received shows, Sean McLoughlin's latest, Hail Mary, sees the comedian on the verge of a breakthrough.

Sean recently opened for Ricky Gervais on tour, makes a cameo in Gervais's hit Netflix series, After Life, and has picked up unilateral rave reviews for Hail Mary. His podcast, Sean And Eliot Read The Bible, with Eliot J Fallows, continues to attract more listeners than its Chortle Award-nominated predecessor, Heal Your Wounds.

The only blip in Sean's ascent seems to be getting booked to appear in a new teenage comedy movie, only to have his appearance cancelled just days before he was due to start filming. The cancellation came after the movie's producers realised that they'd accidentally booked 'rising comedian Sean McLoughlin' rather than 'YouTube superstar with 22 million subscribers Sean McLoughlin', aka JackSepticEye.

As Sean (the comedian, not the YouTuber) says prior to appearing at the Glee Club in Birmingham, that was "a remarkable kick in the balls".

Great story about the JackSepticEye confusion. Was there any fallout/sackings?

Yeah, it was what we in the entertainment industry call 'a massive f*** up'. To my knowledge there were no sackings or fallout - apart from my poor bank account - but it did emerge that the other/real Sean McLoughlin's agent used to be mine! The whole thing felt like an episode of The Twilight Zone.

You're currently on tour with your sixth show, Hail Mary. Can you tell us a bit about it?

It's a standup show with me telling a bunch of jokes about all the things that have happened in my life recently. As I was writing it, I turned 30, fell in love and got repeatedly mistaken for a YouTube gamer with my name! So I talk a fair bit about all of those things, as well as broader subjects like technology and religion. I was raised pretty Catholic and talk a bit about that as well.

How was supporting Ricky Gervais on his Humanity tour?

I had a blast. I got to travel around Europe playing ludicrously large venues and staying in significantly less shit hotels than I was used to. Ultimately, I got to play to the same brilliant crowds as Ricky without the hassle of actually becoming successful. Isn't that the dream?

Any backstage gossip you can share from that tour?

I can tell you that Ricky usually has two types of peanuts in his dressing room.

You replaced your Heal Your Wounds podcast with Sean And Eliot Read The Bible last year. Had Heal Your Wounds run its course?

Yeah, I think it had. Heal Your Wounds was a great little podcast, but it was a slog having to organise guests, let alone actually hosting and making an episode. It was also, surprisingly, a hard show for some acts to get their heads around. A few comedians didn't understand that it wasn't an interview show, it was sort of a high-concept conversation led by a man who didn't want to do a podcast. Maybe I found it so exhausting because the idea was too complicated, but I still think the 25 episodes we did were really funny. Strangely enough, the show got nominated for a Chortle Award about two months after packing the whole thing in, so after that it probably would've all felt a bit easier. However, by this point, myself and Eliot (my 84-year-old co-host) had moved on and started an even more ridiculous endeavour....

Which leads us directly to Sean And Eliot Read The Bible. How did that come about?

The short answer is, I re-read parts of the Bible in a hotel room about a year ago and was reminded of what an objectively weird and cool book it is. I knew I wanted to keep working with Eliot, so I suggested we try and take the book and turn it into a comedy podcast, with one of the positives being that the show, by its nature, would have a clear endpoint. The main thing we try to stress is that it's not a show about religion at all, it's more like a review show that only ever covers the same book. The podcast has actually had much higher numbers than the last one, which is surprising because I assumed fans of the Bible would likely be put off by all the toilet humour, and fans of the last podcast would be put off by the fact that we're reading the ******* Bible! I guess we're catering to the strange cross-section of society that's interested in both.

Is there much humour in the Bible?

It really differs from book to book, but in general the high death count and the amount of incest that's taking place usually means there are a few things to bounce off.

Do you have a favourite book in the Bible?

The Book of Job. It's the story of a rich man having his fortune and his family taken away by God as a test, and the existential despair this throws him into. The vast majority of the story is just a transcript of a conversation Job has with his friends about his faith, the futility of existence and the pain of being a human. It's a really haunting and powerful piece of writing which absolutely makes up for a lot of the plodding crap that surrounds it.

Sean McLoughlin's Hail Mary visits the Glee Club, Birmingham, on Tuesday 9 April. For tickets and more information, visit glee.co.uk

Sean And Eliot Read The Bible is available via all major platforms now, including Spotify, iTunes and AudioBoom. For details, visit twitter.com/biblepod

Demetri Martin

The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 17 April



American comedian Demetri Martin has an interesting way of delivering his deadpan one-liners; he likes to accompany them with music, reaching for all manner of instruments (including the harmonica, glockenspiel, toy bells, ukulele and tambourine) as he pumps out gag after glorious gag.
Heavily influenced by Steven Wright, another master of the deadpan delivery, Demetri is nowadays looking to connect with his audience in a different way: "I love one-liners, but I'd also like to be able to talk about how I feel. I've gotta dig deeper to be able to do that kind of below-the-neck stuff, though, because I find it hard to get comedy out of it."
Jokes include: "When you have a fat friend, there are no see-saws, only catapults," and "I got some new pyjamas with pockets in them, which is great because, before that, I used to have to hold stuff when I slept."

Jess Robinson

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 13 April; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 26 April



As one of the voices behind Dead Ringers, Spitting Image and Horrible Histories, as well as numerous radio and TV ads, Jess Robinson has secured herself a fine reputation as a brilliant impressionist.
But there's a professional downside to being so successful: "Sometimes I wish I wasn't an impressionist, as I've often had difficulty getting seen for sitcoms and things like that because everybody thinks that I just do impressions. That said, there's a real joy in having the versatility to be able to do all of those shows and commercials. "Every day is different, even if some of those days are spent sitting on the sofa waiting for the phone to ring!"

Ladies Of Laughter

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 8 April

"We're still in a country where white men dominate many industries," says BBC Asian Network's Noreen Khan, who hosts this touring show, "so it's very important to have visible, diverse role models to help inspire others and to reflect the world we live in." Ladies Of Laughter certainly does that, providing a showcase for three hugely talented female comedians in Esther Manito (pictured), Glenda Jaxson and Sukhb Ojla. The show lineup has been known to change at the last minute, but whoever turns up, an evening of high-quality comedy is pretty much a guarantee.



Stewart Francis

Oakengates Theatre@The Place, Telford, Fri 12 April

Appearances on TV shows like The Comedy Store, Mock The Week and 8 Out Of 10 Cats have ensured that Canadian funnyman Stewart Francis has become one of the most recognisable faces on the UK comedy circuit. When he's not behind the microphone casting his comic pearls of wisdom, he's likely to be found pursuing one of his other careers as an actor and writer.
Oh, and he's not to be confused with Stu Francis, who used to present Crackerjack and wasn't very funny.

Tommy Tiernan

Birmingham Town Hall, Tues 9 April



With sold-out shows across the world, it's fair to say Tommy Tiernan is a hugely successful Irish export - albeit an often controversial one. Most notably he once found himself in hot water for comments he made about the Holocaust, Jews and the death of Christ. And he's not always been the comedian of choice with parents of children with Down Syndrome either...
With his gag-bag also including jokes which take as their subject matter a methadone user, eastern European immigrant accents and a film idea about gay traveller spacemen seeking a cure for homosexuality, an evening in his company certainly has the potential to be a bit challenging.
That said, Tiernan's not one of Ireland's top comedians without very good reason...

Angela Barnes

The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent, Fri 5 April

When Angela Barnes's inspirational father died, it proved to be the catalyst for her finally to follow his advice and hurl herself into the rough, tough world of standup comedy. And if her early-career success is anything to go by, she's certainly made the right decision. A BBC New Comedy Awards winner, Angela is a self-confessed 'Radio Four nerd' whose star is most definitely in the ascendant. Check her out...

Lou Sanders

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 13 April

'Stabby stepmothers, alcohol issues and an unusual sexual encounter in Los Angeles' all feature in Lou Sanders' latest show, Shame Pig. A huge and regular success at the Edinburgh Fringe, Lou has appeared on all manner of television comedy series, co-hosts the improvised podcast, Why Is Your Bottom So Dirty?, and was recently confirmed as a contestant on series eight of the Greg Davies/Alex Horne-presented panel game, Taskmaster.

Jokes include: "I waited an hour for my starter, so I complained: 'It's not rocket salad,'" and "I was the prettiest, cleverest girl in my class. I was home-schooled."



Bilal Zafar

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 5 April; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 24 April

A word of warning if you're in a couple and intending to catch up with Bilal Zafar this month: do not, under any circumstances, loudly explain or discuss between yourselves what he's talking about during the show, as it really pisses him off. As do people who don't wait for everyone to get off a train before they get on themselves. And people who, in a social situation, find out he's a comedian and then expect him to tell them a joke.

Not that Bilal's a particularly cranky guy - although he does confess to being somewhat insecure and rather weird: "So it was great when I found out that pretty much every other comic feels exactly the same as I do!"



Bilal visits the Midlands with his latest critically acclaimed show, Lovebots.

Shappi Khorsandi

The Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 6 April; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 5 May; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 9 June

Iranian-born comedian Shappi found herself being moved to the UK some 40-plus years ago, after her father - the poet and satirist Hadi Khorsandi - wrote a poem that was perceived as being critical of Iran's revolutionary regime. "Obviously there's free speech in Iran," says Shappi, "but little freedom after you've spoken."

A regular contributor to radio and television programmes, with credits including Loose Ends, Just A Minute and Have I Got News For You, Shappi describes herself as a 'spit and sawdust' standup, happily pulling on her wellies and trudging through muddy fields to perform at any and every music festival that boasts a comedy tent.

Away from the microphone, she's the author of the bestselling A Beginners Guide To Acting English and coming-of-age novel Nina Is Not OK. She's also paid her dues eating insects in the jungle on I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!.

Shappi visits Birmingham this month with new show Skittish Warrior...Confessions Of A Club Comic.



Micky P Kerr

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Thurs 4 April; Glee Club, Birmingham, Wed 10 April



The number of selfies Micky P Kerr finds himself doing has rocketed since last year, when he reached the final of Britain's Got Talent. And that's not the only change he's noticed as a result of his success on the hit ITV1 talent show: "Being on BGT really got my name out there," says Micky. "All of a sudden, I'm getting better gigs and headlining shows, which is absolutely fantastic."

Micky's new-found success is a far cry from his worst ever gig: "Early on in my career, I did this five-minute set in front of a crowd of over-60s and didn't get a single laugh because I hadn't developed any material for older people. It was a huge wake-up call for me, but in the long run it made me a better comedian."

Stuart Goldsmith

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Fri 12 April; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 19 April

"Whether cheering up a distressed child, helping prevent a riot, or genuinely saving another human's actual life, I'm excellent in a crisis," says Stuart Goldsmith. "When the chips *aren't* down, however, it's a very different story."

The host of the hugely successful Comedians Comedian podcast - in which he interviews fellow comics about the craft of writing and performing standup - Stuart describes his latest show, End Of, as being "intelligent standup comedy for everybody, but of particular interest to people over 30 who've lost touch with all their old friends and can't eat just one pain au chocolat..."





We're still fighting racism. We're still fighting for gay rights. We're still fighting against wars. Everything is still so relevant

by Lauren Cole

Age of Aquarius

The 50th anniversary production of legendary rock musical Hair stops off in the Midlands this month... What's On spoke to its stars, Jake Quickenden, Daisy Woods-Davis and Marcus Collins, to find out more...

Hair heads out on its UK tour straight off the back of a sell-out run in London. Although it's set in New York in 1967, the show nonetheless explores a number of subjects that remain relevant in the 21st century.

Inspired by the late-1960s sexual revolution, very much a product of the hippie counter-culture of the time, and unfolding against the backdrop of the Vietnam War and widespread anti-war protests, the show follows a group of rebellious youngsters as they chase their dreams of living a bohemian existence and avoiding conscription.

The show's Grammy Award-winning score features numerous songs that became anthems of the anti-Vietnam War peace movement, not least among which is opening number Aquarius.

Premiering off-Broadway in autumn '67, Hair immediately caused controversy. Its nude scene, use of profanity, depiction of illegal drug use, lack of respect for the American flag and deployment of a racially integrated cast marked it out as a show that was seemingly sticking up two fingers to the conservative establishment.
Not surprisingly, the conservative establishment was less than impressed.

"We play a group of hippies who love getting high and don't want to go to war," explains former X Factor star Jake Quickenden, who stars as ringleader Berger in the new touring version of the show. "The Vietnam War is raging and we're all rebelling against that. The show is full of important messages about free love and things we're still fighting for today. We're still fighting for everything that they were fighting for back then. We're still fighting racism. We're still fighting for gay rights. We're still fighting against wars. Everything is still so relevant. Conformity is a massive part of the show, too. People don't always want to conform. I think it's really important to be individual."

Fifty-plus years after its debut, Hair remains best known for its brief nude scene at the end of act one. So how does Jake's co-star and former Hollyoaks actress, Daisy Woods-Davis (who plays university student and political activist Sheila), feel about nakedness on stage?

"As an actor, something like this is going to happen, whether it's a naked scene on stage or a sex scene in a TV show. With theatre, it's a really intimate, respectful space. I think it's also important from a body-confidence point of view. We're all just real people. It's kind of crazy that we're all confined to this view that bodies shouldn't be seen. I hope it's a liberating experience."

X Factor finalist Marcus Collins also takes a leading role in the show, playing the character of Hud. Marcus was particularly drawn to the musical's engagement with the problem of racism in late-1960s America: "One of the main points that touched me was the era in which it's set. Civil rights had just come in, but racism was still so heavy. In this show, I use words that I wouldn't even use to refer to my worst enemy; words that have been used to me and which made me cry my eyes out when I was young. As I've grown up into the black man I am today, I've taken ownership of those words and I understand them. Those words are not to be ignored and pushed aside. The 'N' word was the last word that so many people heard before they were hanged, before they died, before they lost their lives due to the fact that they were born black. I'm mixed race and I still find it difficult to hear that word. It's going to be fascinating to watch the dynamics of that, and how different audiences react."

Marcus also believes that many of Hair's themes continue to resonate today: "Nothing has changed. Presidents throughout time have gone to war. People are still being forced into not being who they really are because of the status quo. You're not seen as enough if you don't have a full-time job. You're not enough unless you have the flashy car, the wife and children. You can't be sexually fluid, you can't be gender fluid, and you can't grow your hair out. There are still too many rules. People need to be more understanding about what other people choose."

For Jake Quickenden, the chance to play Berger is a dream come true: "He's mental, which is perfect for me! He's the one they all expect will play up the most and be the most rebellious, so I get to be a bit of a loose cannon. Everyone thinks that I'm in character the whole time, but I'm just being myself!"

Hair marks Jake's musical theatre debut, and it's one he's been looking forward to immensely: "The world is run by technology. Everybody's on their phones or watching Netflix, so it's great to see actual talent perform live on stage in a production where everyone is working hard. It's a fantastic excuse to get dressed up, have a few glasses of prosecco, come watch an amazing show and get lost in theatre. Also, not everyone can afford to get to London. Not everyone can afford to stop over in a hotel there. It's massively important to give each city a chance to see amazing productions."

While Jake's enthusiastically looking to the future and his tour with Hair, he's not averse to reflecting on the past - and in particular his appearances on three of television's most popular reality shows: "I appreciate The X Factor because it landed me where I am now, but I just wish I'd done a better job there because I don't feel that I did myself justice. Then there was Dancing On Ice, which is much harder than people think. I trained for eight hours a day on that show. It was tough but it paid off. And I'm A Celebrity was just fun. Seriously, I've been on worse holidays. I just chilled in a hammock and ate rice and beans. I felt like Bear Grylls!"

Hair The Musical shows at The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from Monday 29 April to Saturday 4 May and Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 23 - Saturday 27 July.



Les Misérables

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 2 April - Sat 11 May

Les Misérables is lavish, magnificent and awesome in its power, an epic saga that grips from start to finish as it presents a heartrending story of struggle and survival.

Based on Victor Hugo's classic 1862 novel, the show focuses on the character of fugitive Jean Valjean as he's pitted against the tenacious Inspector Javert in a lifelong struggle to evade capture. Their high-stakes conflict is a deeply personal one, brought to vivid life against a historical backdrop of unparalleled scale.

For all the show's drama, though, it's the majestic music composed by Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil for which Les Mis is best known and most loved. Blockbuster musical numbers include I Dreamed A Dream, Bring Him Home, On My Own and One Day More.

Seen by more than 120 million people worldwide in 45 countries and 22 languages, Les Misérables is returning to Birmingham for the first time in 10 years.

The production comes complete with brand new staging and the promise to be 'a Les Mis for the 21st century'.

Jekyll & Hyde

The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 18 - Sat 27 April



Robert Louis Stevenson's gothic novella takes a twisted turn or two, as Harriet Jekyll, investigating her husband's mysterious death, finds herself entering a dark and dangerous world of warped science and unashamed misogyny... This clever reimagining of a classic story has been written by the award-winning Evan Placey and is here presented by the Young Rep.

Dirty Dancing

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 1 - Sat 6 April

Seen by millions across the globe, Eleanor Bergstein's smash-hit musical tells the classic story of Baby and Johnny, two fiercely independent young spirits from different worlds who come together for what will prove to be the most challenging and triumphant summer of their lives. Hit numbers include Hungry Eyes, Hey Baby, Do You Love Me? and I've Had The Time Of My Life.



Rita, Sue & Bob Too

Lichfield Garrick, Tues 2 - Sat 6 April



By the time Andrea Dunbar was 20, she had written two critically acclaimed plays - The Arbor, at the age of 15, and the wickedly funny Rita, Sue And Bob Too, four years later. Hailed a genius straight from the slums, Dunbar spent time in a Women's Aid refuge, had three children by three men, developed a serious addiction to alcohol and died of a brain haemorrhage at the age of 29. Both of her plays, but particularly Rita..., are shining examples of an extraordinary talent that burned brightly for all too short a time... When best friends Rita and Sue are given a lift home by married-man Bob after they've spent the evening babysitting his kids, they find themselves embarking on a sexual adventure that swiftly spirals out of control...

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by Lauren Cole

OUT AND PROUD

Olivier Award-winning play Rotterdam is coming to the Midlands this month. What's On caught up with returning cast member Ellie Morris to find out more about the show...

Engaging with a multitude of issues relevant to the LGBTQ+ community, Jon Brittain's heartwarming comedy features a majority cast of non-binary, transgender and queer actors.

'Rotterdam is a fantastic comedy with lots of heart," says cast member Ellie Morris, who plays out-and-proud Dutch party-girl Lelani. "It's about a lesbian couple - Alice and Fiona - who live in Rotterdam, and Fiona comes out as transgender at the start of the play. The remainder of the play follows his journey from being Fiona to becoming Adrian, and looks at how that affects his relationship with Alice, his own identity and the people around him."

Ellie believes Rotterdam's narrative is an important one to present in 2019.

"Since this play was written, I think there's actually been a massive amount of progression - certainly in the last five years. I feel like a lot more people know a lot more about the trans community and about what it means to be trans. But I do think there's still a lot further to go with that. I think telling these stories, and just making people aware that being transgender is normal, is really important. Other than that, I think it's just simply a really entertaining story.

"My character, Lelani, is kind of the odd one out, in the sense that she doesn't interact with all the other characters; she only really talks to Alice. Lelani is a 21-year-old Dutch girl who's recently moved to Rotterdam, and she really opens up Alice in a way that Alice has never been opened up before. I think Alice is quite stuck in her ways and isn't 'out' to her family. Alice is hiding a lot of herself, and Lelani is this fresh, young thing who comes in and breaks her open. Lelani just shows Alice a different way of living as a gay woman, and then ends up getting a little bit too attached to Alice..."

Ellie is returning to the role of Lelani, having previously played her during Rotterdam's run at the Arts Centre in London.

"I honestly just adore this play. I think I've maybe performed it, like, 100 times, and every single time it's just as good as the last. It's just beautiful writing. The part I play is so interesting, and the play as a whole is just such a fantastic project - and one that really matters. It's a very important story to tell for the LGBTQ+ community, especially now that it's being made all the more poignant by the fact that a lot of the parts are played by trans or non-binary performers."

Ellie is far from alone in adoring Rotterdam. Theatre critics and audiences alike have been equally enthusiastic about the play: 'I think in the writing of Rotterdam there's a really carefully told human story, and all the characters are so well-rounded yet flawed. They all have such valid experiences, and the audiences really get invested in their journey. That's what's really engaging about the story. There's honestly something in there for everyone to relate to, from the breakdown of a relationship after being with someone for a long time, to the first heartbreak that Lelani goes through. Also, I have to add, Rotterdam has such a great soundtrack!"

Ellie hopes audiences up and down the country take in Rotterdam's messages and learn something about the LGBTQ+ community: "When I began my journey with the show, I thought I knew a fair bit about what trans was and meant, but since then I've definitely learnt much, much more. I really hope that when people come to see the show, as well as enjoying it, their watching of it helps to normalise for them trans issues and experiences.

What happens in Rotterdam isn't some taboo subject. I think it's so important that everybody be educated on something they may not personally have encountered, so that the realities for trans people aren't viewed as strange or uncommon. The more stories there are like Rotterdam getting out into the public domain and making it into popular culture, the better. It's the best possible way to tackle taboos and, perhaps, prejudices surrounding the LGBTQ+ community.

"I would encourage anyone and everyone to come along and see Rotterdam. There's so much in the show. It's every bit as funny as it is dramatic, and there are lots of light moments alongside the more serious ones. If you want fireworks, balloons and a seriously good soundtrack, then this is the play for you!"

Rotterdam shows at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday 22 to Wednesday 24 April and Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Monday 20 to Wednesday 22 May.



American Idiot

The Alexandra Theatre, Tues 9 - Sat 13 April

While Green Day may not be the most obvious choice of band to inspire a musical, there's little doubting American Idiot's popularity following its success on Broadway.

The show's coming-of-age story concerns three dissatisfied friends whose lives take very different courses in post-9/11 America. While central character Johnny heads to the city and becomes high on love and drugs before his addiction turns sour, Tunny enrols in the army, only to lose a leg. Will, meanwhile, remains trapped in suburbia, raising a young family and sinking into alcoholism.

As you'd expect, the show is packed to the rafters with Green Day hits - a real treat for their fans - and visits Birmingham to mark the 10th anniversary of its premiere and the 15th anniversary of the Grammy Award-winning original album.

Prison Game

The Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 27 April

Marcus Hercules stars in this one-man show that takes its audience on a journey from a young boy's school years through to his adulthood. Presented from a semi-autobiographical standpoint, the performance sees Marcus exploring the social and psychological problems experienced by the collection of characters he creates. In the process he examines the ways in which the experience of prison can define a man.

Prison Game visits Birmingham five years after debuting at Talawa Firsts, a festival dedicated to the development and showcasing of work by Black British writers.

We Need To Talk About Bobby (Off EastEnders)

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 9 - Thurs 11 April



Taking a look at the bizarre, challenging and stressful world of the child actor, George Attwell Gerhards' hard-hitting drama focuses on the tragic demise of 13-year-old Annie, for whom the opportunity to play the disturbed character of Amy in a late-night television drama proves to be anything but the chance of a lifetime.

The play's title was inspired by the EastEnders advert in which Bobby Beale was about to kill his mother - an example, Attwell Gerhards felt, of a violent child being used to titillate audiences without the actual causes of the child's violence ever being explored.

Revealed

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 19 April

Red Earth Collective and Rites of Passage Productions' new show is the first to be presented under the banner of Menologues, a series of events that explores the emotional world of Black men and how they express their feelings through thought-provoking drama and other artistic media forms.

Menopause The Musical

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 23 & Wed 24 April; William Aston Hall, Wrexham, Sun 5 May; Malvern Theatres, Wed 15 May; Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Tues 28 May; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 3 & Tues 4 June; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 10 - Wed 12 June

Female TV stars 'of a certain age' are much in evidence in this well-reviewed show, with Maureen Nolan, EastEnders' Cheryl Fergison, Casualty's Rebecca Wheatley and Copy Cats' Hilary O'Neil taking top billing.

When four menopausal women meet in a department store, conversation quickly turns to the one thing they all have in common - the menopause. Cue innumerable one-liners on subjects including forgetfulness, mood swings, wrinkles, night sweats and uncontrollable chocolate binges...



The Trials Of Oscar Wilde

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Fri 12 & Sat 13 April; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 11 May

Three months can be a long time. For Oscar Wilde, it was the difference between basking in the glory of the triumphant opening night of The Importance Of Being Earnest, and finding himself in court, charged with 'unnatural acts' with other men...

Written with the assistance of Merlin Holland, Wilde's grandson and the author of The Real Trial Of Oscar Wilde, the play is based on the original words spoken in court, and is here performed by European Arts Company.

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KUNENE AND THE KING

What's on chats to John Kani and Sir Antony Sher, who appear in Kani's new play...

Kunene And The King follows the story of Jack Morris (Antony Sher), a terminally ill 65-year-old white actor living a relatively comfortable life in the suburbs of Johannesburg, and Lunga Kunene (John Kani), a 69-year-old black retired male nurse. Having suffered innumerable losses during apartheid, Lunga must learn to deal with the tension that more than 50 years of that policy has created, whilst Jack's health deteriorates at an unsustainable rate.

The idea for this play first came about in 2009 - could you tell us a little more about where the inspiration came from, and how the play has developed over the last 10 years?

Antony: Maybe you don't remember this, John, but when we were doing The Tempest in 2009, we had coffee together one day and you did mention that you were thinking of a play. I don't remember any details, apart from that you were thinking of a two-hander for you and me. And yes, of course I wanted to do that with you.

John: As a writer, I have these little stories in my mind, but each one of them is pushed out by the one that seems most urgent. And I remember putting Kunene And The King aside to do so many other things - I did three movies and four plays, travelled the world and came back. It was only recently that I had time to sit down, and suddenly the story began to make sense. And I thought that there was a friend of mine - Antony - who, at that particular time, was doing King Lear, which is integral to my play.

Antony: It was so interesting because we spoke about it in 2009 and then not a word until, as you say, very recently. Suddenly you email me and say, "Would you like to have a look at the script?" And I thought, "Good God, is that the same thing you mentioned in 2009?" It was a long gestation that turned out very well!

John: I sent the script to Tony, just to help me understand whether I had weaved the story of King Lear within the story of Lunga and Jack (the characters in Kunene And The King). And to my shock, I got this email from Tony saying he was excited by it and had given it to Gregory Doran, the RSC's artistic director! By that point, Tony was already saying, "I think this would work well with Janice," (Janice Honeyman, director of Kunene And The King) to which I was saying, "Tony, I'm not at that point yet!" The idea was to celebrate our democracy and to test this 'non-racial' South Africa.

Can you tell us a little bit more about the relationship between the play's characters, Jack Morris and Lunga Kunene?

A: I think what's really terrific in the writing is that John has created these conflicts. You've got this old white man, who we find out is quite reactionary in his political views - he has some problems relating to a black person, particularly one who's going to be living in his house.

J: You don't think of Jack as a white racist, though - you think of him as someone who grew up normally in this country but in another area. It's almost like there are two types of South Africa, that know of each other but don't know about each other. The play was a kind of exercise where I wanted to push how happy, reconciled and accepting Lunga is of the new democratic order. To live with a white man is an incredible, brand new experience for him.

A: The terrific conflict is that Jack is very ill, and Lunga is a nurse - a carer. So as much as Jack has these racial enmities, he needs the man. And I think that's very interesting. And then, in the opposite way, you've got this man who's a carer, and he's got to look after someone who's politically quite reactionary. So there's a conflict there, and also in the way that the two men have to negotiate their true feelings and their professional relationship.

Turning to your own lives, what was your first encounter with Shakespeare growing up under apartheid, and how did your early experiences of his work differ?

J: Mine was very simple. It was through my secondary school education in 1959. My teacher walked in very proud and said we were doing a new book: William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. It was incredible. He made us stand up to read. He didn't lecture about the play, you just read one or two lines and then it would go to the next student, who would also read. The teacher would stand behind you and say, "Speak with volume, speak with power, speak with love, speak with pain."

A: For me, my journey to becoming a classical actor at the RSC was a very, very huge journey because I really didn't grow up taught or inspired by Shakespeare. We were taught Shakespeare at our school - Seapoint Boys' High - just as something they had to teach. There was no spark to it, and so like a lot of boys I found it boring and difficult. In a lot of British schools, it's simply not taught well - which is why the RSC encourages schools to take young people to actually see a production before reading it for the first time. One of our set books was Henry V, and my only real memory was, like John, that we had to read around the class. I read the speech that involved saying 'the Earl of Warwick', and instead of pronouncing it War-rick, I said War-wick. The whole class laughed at me, so my memory is of humiliation.



John, you won a Tony for your work on the double bill of The Island and Sizwe Banzi Is Dead, but this also led to your arrest on your return to South Africa. How did these plays change the way South Africa was perceived by the wider world?

J: No one knows what's going to be the impact of a complete project. It was nice to do a play about a man who is tossed out because past laws have restricted the movement of black people in South Africa (Sizwe Banzi Is Dead), and also a play that paid tribute to those men and women in the Maximum Security Prison, Robben Island (The Island).

A: Those two plays were funny and sad and passionate. It was remarkable. I can't think of other plays in theatre history that might have done what those two plays did politically.

J: We were amazed by the reactions of people, especially in England. People were asking, "What the hell is this? How did you write this? Where did it come from? What school did you go to? What philosophy is behind it?" Ah, man, it was just a play about a guy with the wrong passbook! It's got nothing to do with any of the things you're saying. I think other people made much, much more about it. Even political exiles called it the most powerful statement for the liberation of South Africa.
Still, when we arrived back in South Africa, we got arrested - and you know, it's fine, because it made us more popular, and it also made us relevant for the liberation struggle. We were not naïve - we knew we were trampling on the toes of the system and were a threat to the system. But there was absolutely support for the work we were doing. It almost gave everyone a sense, a visual, of what was happening in South Africa. I remember Oliver Tambo, the then-president of the ANC, saying, "You explained to the British the evil of apartheid. Something we've been trying to do in speeches for 20 to 30 years, you just did in one night."

A: There are so many people who see political theatre as a weak form because it's preaching to the converted, but as you've just demonstrated by that story, you were preaching to the unconverted. In that sense, it wasn't preachy at all.

Can you tell us a little more about your routes into acting, and some of the obstacles you faced when starting out in your careers?

J: When you grow up in the township, you go to the cinema and you watch these movies with 10,000 Red Indians charging at 10 people and John Wayne - and John Wayne kills them all. But we used to root for the Indians - they were the stories we wanted to tell. There were plays done in the township, of course, but they focused on things like the country bumpkin going to the big city to buy drugs and prostitutes, becoming a thug and dying. So even that was discouraging because you felt that if you went to the big city you were going to become a criminal and die.
And then of course there were our parents, who didn't want us leaving their nest. There were 11 of us at home, and our father wished at least one of us would be successful. My dad came to see Swizu Banzi Is Dead at the St Stephen's Church - 300 chairs, 750 people - and afterwards he said to me, "I'll never see that rubbish you do. That was not a play - that was a political meeting. I don't know why you don't find a job."

A: The challenges for me were a bit different. From a young age, I had the impression that I was good, having won awards at the City Hall, where kids did little speeches. But when I moved to London and tried to get into the two top drama schools at the time, I didn't manage to. Central turned me down flat, and RADA sent a letter saying, "Not only have you failed the audition, and not only do we not want you to try again, we really urge you to think about a different career." But luckily I had a very ambitious Jewish mother and she bullied me through it. Thank god for her.

How was it as a black South African touring South Africa under apartheid?

J: We couldn't tour. We moved from township to township instead. In our theatre, we used to do one-night performances and move on to the next place - and move and move and move. Many times, the play would be stopped. Many times, some of us would be detained. I remember when we did The Terrorists, I was immediately detained because we changed the assassination of the Duke to the President of the Party of South Africa, which made the entire script political. By the time we got to plays like Swizu Banzu Is Dead, the police knew exactly where to get us. Sometimes they didn't even stop the play,

they just put police in front of the door and people stopped coming because they could see they'd be arrested.
When we came to England in 1973, it was the first time I'd ever performed and not thought, "How do I keep out of backstage to avoid security?" The problem came with some English critics reviewing the play as extremely political, because what they wrote became evidence for when the police interrogated us back in South Africa. The worst for me was after we won the Tony Award. I said thank you and Winston Ntshona (who appeared in the play with me) said thank you and we walked out. Jesus, all the papers in America said that that was the most political statement made on behalf of all those who aren't even recognised as human beings. We kept on saying that the play is not about that, it's just the opinion of the person who's writing it.

John, you made history playing Othello opposite a white actress in the Market Theatre in 1987 at the height of apartheid. What do you remember about the play's reception at the time - and what made you take on the role knowing the risks involved?

J: I'd just done a play at the Market Theatre when Janet Suzman came to me and said she felt it was time to do Othello, to which I said, "Oh no! I carry 11 stab wounds on my body, have been detained and have to be careful even walking the street because everybody wants me dead. So thank you, but I am not going to do that play."
But then I went home and thought about it, and then told Janet I'd do it, but that I had one condition. I said I would only do it if I was the only black actor. And then we started rehearsals.
It was after I was cast that the police came to my house. They wanted to know whose idea it was to do the play because Othello kisses, on stage, Desdemona, who, in this case, was a white woman. So I just said, "Well, the Market Theatre wanted me to play Othello. I'm just an actor."
The police would go through the play with me - "this woman comes in and you hold her hand and you kiss her. And on page 16, it says that just before you leave, you kiss her. And then, in the part where you arrive in the other place, you kiss her for more than 14 seconds. And we can see your tongue moving in her mouth - that's not in the play." So I'm just sitting there thinking, "Oh my god, the policeman has read the play!" And then I said, "You know, sir, when Sir Laurence Olivier played the role, he put a lot of black stuff and polish all over the face, and each time Desdemona tried to kiss him, she left a black smudge on the beautiful white makeup - I don't have the problem." And he said to me "Shut up!" and went to the next page.

Antony, you famously returned to the South African stage in 1994 - months after the first elections - in Gregory Doran's Titus Andronicus. Can you talk more about the decision to set the play in contemporary South Africa, and its relevance at that moment in time?

A: It was born out of the National Theatre Studio's cultural visit to the Market Theatre. We did several weeks of workshops, and one thing which Greg and I were investigating was what Shakespeare sounded like in different South African accents, rather than in RP. So out of that came the idea of doing Titus Andronicus with a South African cast and South African accents. Greg chose Titus precisely because of the violence in the play, and because we'd be doing it in a country with such phenomenal violence, which, to a British audience, might have seemed excessive. These things were not as extraordinary in South Africa, and that's how the concept was born and how it became a co-production with the National Theatre.
We played at the Market, took it back to the National, and did a little tour to the West Yorkshire Playhouse. And that, of course, was a really rich experience - although we did get a bit slapped for it in South Africa, as they wanted Shakespeare to be grand and posh rather than in South African accents.

There's a school of thought that says Shakespeare shouldn't be taught in South African schools and universities. How would you respond to those trying to decolonise the curriculum in this way?

A: The arts are our spiritual health as human beings. If you're going to cut away Shakespeare, it's like you're cutting away penicillin or the most important factor within our own spiritual health. Shakespeare is obviously the greatest, and any society who removes it is just committing a bit of a spiritual suicide.

J: Shakespeare deals with right versus wrong, dark versus light, emotions, love and evil. There is nothing we have written after the 37 plays of Shakespeare that we could claim is brand new thought. Shakespeare has been here since the learning of the settlers of this country. So how can you extract it, sort of like a rotten tooth, out of African culture? It is impossible.

As seasoned actors with over 50 years' experience on stage and screen, what draws you back to the intimate atmosphere of the Swan Theatre?

A: The Swan is the best theatre in the world for audiences and actors. It's a brilliantly designed theatre. I absolutely can't wait to get back into it.

J: When you stand on the stage of the Swan, you think, "This is why I wanted to be an actor." What daunted me the most when I first came to England was the silence of the audiences. I'm used to the interfering township audience, but in England the thunderous appreciation comes at the end and you think, "My god, they were listening, they wanted every word."

Do you still relish the challenge of a two-hander, and, as actors, do you ever stop learning from one another?

J: You can't come from South Africa and not know about Antony Sher. The Tempest in 2009 was a brilliant production, and ever since testing the ground in the intense relationship between Caliban and Prospero, I've always wondered what else I could do with Tony. And when he said he'd play Jack in Kunene And The King, my wish was fulfilled.

A: Yes. I have to say, because John was involved in those famous two-handers with Winston, I did feel a special little shiver up the spine when the two-hander started. Of course, I'm not comparing myself with Winston Ntshona - I just have a special thrill from that sense of now being John's acting partner.

J: We need each other to tell this story, and fortunately we've known each other all our lives. It's also great to be working with director Janice Honeyman again - this is the fourth production I've been in directed by Janice. It's difficult when it's a two-hander, as there are no other people entertaining the audience. It's just the two of us. And Tony's a bloody good actor. I'm 75! I've really got to work hard - this guy is good.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the first post-apartheid vote in South Africa. Looking back at a quarter-century of change in your home nation, what are your hopes for the future of the country?

J: As we celebrate 25 years of democracy, we need to actually sit down and analyse what we did do, didn't do and what still needs to be done. We didn't know the state of the nation in 1994. The majority of black people were so far removed from the reality of the economy or management or the legal system. All we knew was running and fighting. And in 1994, we were suddenly in the ruling party with no experience whatsoever, to the point that I remember one guy saying, "How can Mandela run a country? He's never even run a shop! What does he know about it?" Which was true. Whilst we made incredible strides ahead, we also tripped on our own shoelaces. It's been 25 years, and yes, we have a country and a government. We have institutions, and we have all the pillars that hold us together, but inside that crowd there are a lot of things we still need to do. And I think we realise it now more than ever.

Kuene And The King plays at The Swan Theatre, Stratfor-upon-Avon until Tuesday 23rd April



Wise Children

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 2 - Sat 6 April

Showbusiness, sex, scandal and family drama lie at the heart of Wise Children, a new play based on the late Angela Carter's final novel, which closely follows the trials, tribulations and triumphs of theatrical twins Nora and Dora Chance.

"They're not completely identical twins," explains the show's director, Emma Rice. "Dora has got secrets in her past and is much more guarded and sharp than Nora, while Nora is very emotional. With the Chance twins, we really go through their history in its entirety - their loves, their losses and the abuses that they suffer. Yet throughout, they're such good fun and are never victims. They're always joyful, irreverent and, actually, very sexy. We initially meet them when they're 75, and they're still sexy and full of sauciness!"

Fame The Musical

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 15 - Sat 20 April; Malvern Theatres, Mon 8 - Sat 13 July



The original mega-hit film and its spin-off TV series are now both so old that the once-nimble dancers who appeared in them might soon be reaching for zimmer frames!

By contrast, Fame The Musical continues to get up a sweat on a regular basis. And as high-octane, choreographed-to-the-rafters stage musicals go, it hits the Midlands this month with a reputation second to none.

Set in New York's High School for the Performing Arts, the show focuses on the highs and lows of the students who're desperately seeking success, in the process providing a dazzling evening of foot-tapping music and breathtaking dance. Keith Jack, Mica Paris and Jorgie Porter star.

Marilyn

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Fri 5 & Sat 6 April

Marilyn Monroe was widely considered to be the sexiest female movie star of the 20th century - except maybe by Tony Curtis, who once said that making love to her was like 'kissing Hitler'. The woman who began life as Norma Jeane Mortenson courted controversy throughout her Hollywood career, her troubled life coming to an end at the tragically young age of 36.

Breakthrough Theatre's new production aims to take a peek behind the glitz and glamour of the Marilyn phenomenon, presenting the Some Like It Hot star as she sits alone in her dressing room 'stripped back and bare - just an ordinary girl telling her story'.

Intemperance

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Fri 5 - Sat 20 April

Intemperance was premiered in 2007, takes place in 1854, and tells the moving story of Millie, a woman with a new Norwegian husband, another child on the way and a desperate desire to escape the cellar-slums in which they live.

Dark, moralistic and likened in style to the works of Henrik Ibsen, the play was written by Liverpudlian 'Renaissance woman' Lizzie Nunnery and is set to a backdrop of evocative Irish music.

Club Tropicana

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 29 April - Sat 4 May; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 7 - Sat 11 May

X-Factor winner Joe McElderry tops the bill in this 'ultimate holiday musical' celebrating the chart-topping hits of the 1980s. Expect the much-loved sounds of ABC, Cyndi Lauper, Frankie Goes To Hollywood, A-Ha, Culture Club, Bucks Fizz and Depeche Mode, as well as a supporting cast including Dinnerladies' Kate Robbins, Wicked star Emily Tierney and former Sugababe Amelle Berrabah.

The Taming Of The Shrew

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 31 August

"I didn't want to make a Shrew in the way it's been done many times before," explains director Justin Audibert in talking about his new production. "I'm really interested in seeing what happens when you get female actors to play traditionally powerful male roles, and vice versa. So for example, the role of Petruchio, which we've renamed Petruchia, is being played by a woman in a woman's costume, but with the same character motivations and social status as Petruchio in any other production. Likewise Katherine is being played by a male actor as a man and wearing a man's costume, but will have the same social restrictions that a woman in 1590s England would've had. The actors are playing their own gender, but we've flipped which gender holds power."



MITTON MANOR



CHERRY TREE WALK

Sunday 5th May, 2019

See our Cherry Tree Walk in full bloom. Enjoy the beauty that Spring brings to Mitton Manor Gardens. Treat yourself to Afternoon Tea and a glass of beer or champagne to celebrate the Bank Holiday weekend.



LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

Saturday 29th June, 2019

We are thrilled to be hosting the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra at Mitton Manor Gardens. This spectacular classical concert promises to be a night to remember for the whole family.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2019

SPRING – CHERRY BLOSSOM PAINTING IN ACRYLIC Saturday 11th May, 2019
Following our Cherry Tree Walk, come along to a Painting Workshop in association with local artist, Debbie Chatfield.

PRIDE & PREJUDICE Thursday 4th July, 2019
Garden Theatre production of Pride & Prejudice, in association with Chapterhouse Theatre Company.

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME OPEN DAY Sunday 7th July, 2019

AUTUMN – FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE PAINTING IN ACRYLIC Saturday 14th September, 2019
As the Autumn foliage starts to turn into fiery colours, join us for another Painting Workshop with local artist Debbie Chatfield.

AUTUMN TOUR & TALK Sunday 29th September, 2019
Our annual Autumn Tour & Talk with Elizabeth Gooch MBE and guests, with an optional three-course Autumn lunch.

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The Wonderful World Of Disney On Ice

Resorts World Arena, Birmingham, Wed 3 - Sunday 7 April

Get your skates on for the return of Disney's ever-popular ice spectacular, complete with high-energy music, glittering sets and dramatic choreography.
This particular theatrical extravaganza features a host of the Mouse House's most popular stars, including: Frozen's Anna, Elsa and Olaf; Disney/Pixar favourites from Finding Dory; Toy Story's Buzz & Woody; Simba, Timon and Pumbaa from The Lion King; Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs; and Aladdin, Jasmine and the Genie of the Lamp. Mickey and Minnie Mouse also take a spin or several on the ice, in a show that pays homage to a century's-worth of magical storytelling.

Dear Zoo Live!

The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 11 - Sun 14 April; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sun 28 & Mon 29 April

First published in 1982, Rod Campbell's lift-the-flap book has delighted generations of youngsters and accumulated in excess of eight million sales worldwide.
This highly acclaimed 55-minute stage version of the story features child-friendly puppets, plenty of music and lots of audience participation. The show is suitable for children aged two and older.



The Boy And The Mermaid

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Mon 15 April

Original songs and traditional sea shanties enliven this well-reviewed nautical story that finds a trio of fishermen weaving a whale of a tale about 'musical merfolk, menacing monsters and spectacularly bad town planning'. Live music, puppetry, and even a rapping octopus all play their part in creating a 50-minute show that promises to keep youngsters aged five and older well and truly entertained.



There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly

The Core, Solihull, Tues 23 April; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 25 May; Stourport Civic, Tues 28 May



The People's Theatre Company - the highly rated creators of the fabulous Don't Dribble On The Dragon - bring one of the world's best-loved nursery rhymes to life, complete with colourful animal characters and singalong songs including If You're Happy And You Know It and Incy Wincy Spider...
People's Theatre Co advise that their show is suitable for audience members aged two to 102!

Elmer The Patchwork Elephant

Lichfield Garrick, Thurs 25 April

This lively stage version of David McKee's much-loved creation tells the story of a patchwork elephant who determines to hide his 'true colours' in an effort to blend in, only to find that he feels happiest when he's simply being himself.

Exciting Science

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 6 April

Designed to enlighten, educate and entertain children aged four and older, Exciting Science promises plenty of 'wiz, bang, pop and splurt', as the show's scientists carry out all manner of fun and fact-filled live experiments. So if you think your kids would enjoy seeing some boffins create a volcanic eruption, turn a vacuum cleaner into a missile launcher and take aim with a smoke blaster, then this is definitely the show to check out.



The Worst Witch

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 24 - Sat 27 April; Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 22 - Sun 26 May

Step aside, Harry Potter, Mildred Hubble is visiting town - and she's ready to unleash some family-friendly magic and mayhem! Many a year before Harry's Hogwarts hocus-pocus took the world by storm, Jill Murphy wrote a series of books about ordinary-girl Mildred and her adventures at a school for witches. The Worst Witch, first published in 1974, spawned seven sequels, a movie and a television series, with worldwide book sales reaching the five million mark.
This brand new show is directed by Theresa Heskins and comes complete with original songs, music, magic and a healthy dose of Mildred-created pandemonium.



Aliens Love Underpants

The Old Rep, Birmingham, Fri 19 & Sat 20 April; Oakengates Theatre @ThePlace, Telford, Shropshire, Thurs 30 May

Given its title, it's perhaps not surprising that the producers of Aliens In Underpants are selling the show as one that's so funny 'you'll laugh your pants off'. And they may well be right about that. Based on the bestselling children's book by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort, the production features 'stunning effects, madcap action and original music'. And if that little lot isn't enough to tempt you, the promise of a close encounter with 'lots of aliens' surely is...



Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Fri 19 & Sat 20 April; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 25 & Wed 26 June; The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 10 & Thurs 11 July

The team behind Peppa Pig here present a stage version of another of their splendid creations. Originally a BAFTA Award-winning television animation, the show focuses on the adventures of fairy princess Holly and her best pal Ben, a wingless elf who flies on the back of Gaston the Ladybird. In this particular show, the two chums help Gaston clean up his messy cave, go on a trip into The Big World with tooth-fairy Nanny Plum, and plan a surprise birthday party for King Thistle. Expect plenty of games, songs and laughter...



Zog

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 19 - Mon 22 April; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 8 & Thurs 9 May; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 24 - Sun 26 May; Malvern Theatres, Wed 5 & Thurs 6 June



With previous shows including Tiddler And Other Terrific Tales and Tabby McTat, it's fair to say that Freckle Productions know a thing or two about presenting stage adaptations of Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler stories...

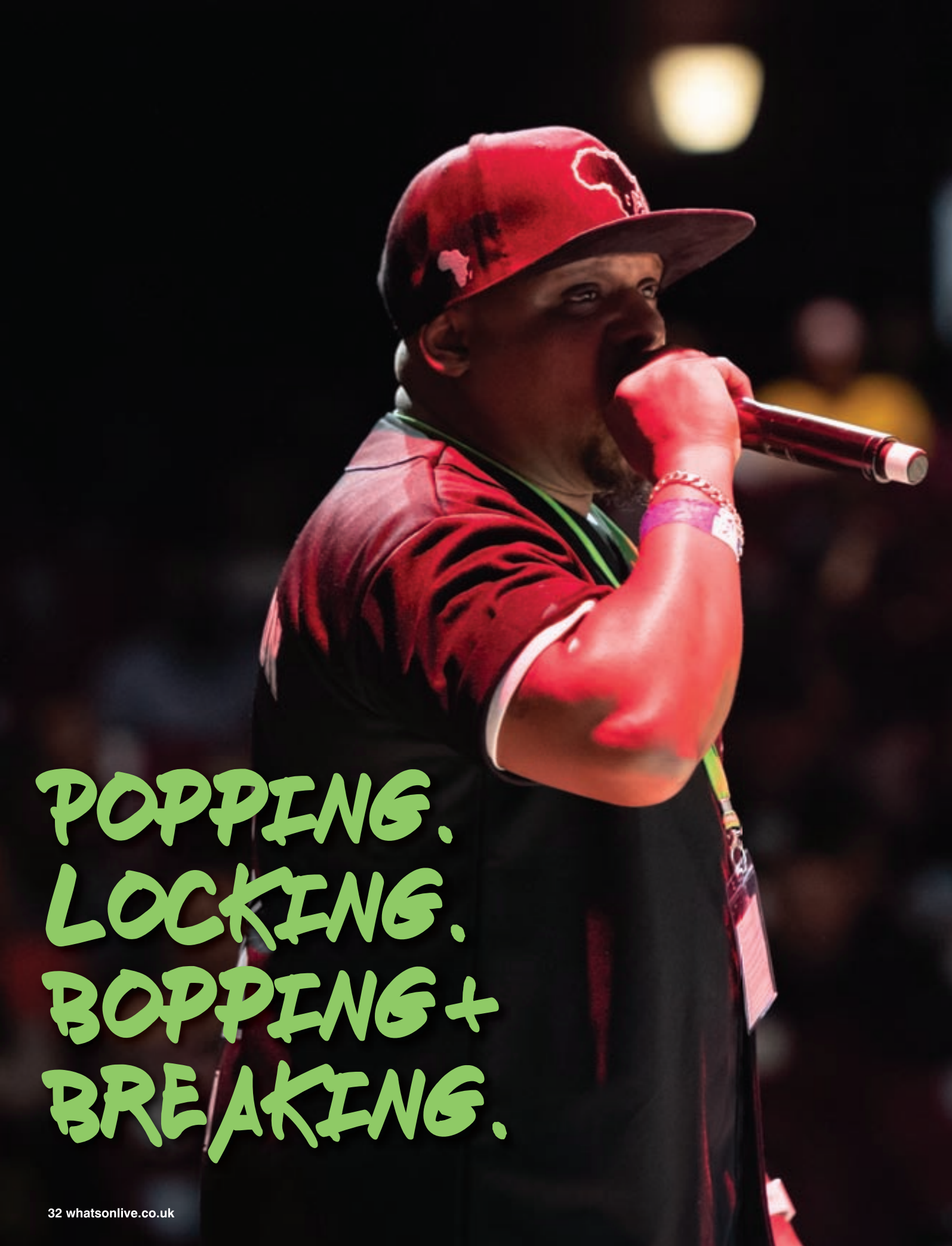
Zog is at Madam Dragon's school, and is determined to win himself a gold star. He's *so* determined, in fact, that he tries a little bit too hard and finds himself bumping, burning and roaring his way through years one, two and three.

Madagascar The Musical

Malvern Theatres, Tues 2 - Sat 6 April; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 7 - Sat 11 May

The smell of the greasepaint and roar of the crowd has tempted the furry cast of Madagascar the movie to forsake New York's Central Park Zoo in favour of treading the boards on a UK tour.
The blockbuster DreamWorks film comes to life in Birmingham when Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe and Gloria the hip hip Hippo stampede into summer with a great big jungle roar.
Imaginative sets and costumes are very much present and correct, in a show that the producers are confident will send your kids home positively wild (which may or may not be a good thing!). Matt Terry stars.




POPPING.
LOCKING.
BOPPING+
BREAKING.

B-SIDE IS BACK IN BRUM...

Dance battles, high-energy workshops, live music and DJ sets from legendary names in hip-hop will all feature in the 2019 B-Side Hip-Hop Festival.

Curated by Birmingham Hippodrome, the 10-day get-together is a highlight on the city's calendar of annual dance events.

The 2019 edition of the show features - alongside some of the city's finest homegrown talent - international artists Karl 'Dyzee' Alba (Canada), Roxy (UK), ChryBaby (New York) and Youth Olympic Bronze medal winner B-Boy Shigekix (Japan).

Dance Hub Birmingham has commissioned several new pieces for the festival, including Break Mission's Dance Of Death. Zoo Nation Youth Company Birmingham - one of the Hippodrome's Young Companies - will showcase a piece of contemporary hip-hop theatre.

Commenting on the festival, Graham Callister, Associate Director of Community Engagement & Festivals at Birmingham Hippodrome, said: "B-Side is fast becoming the UK's number one hip-hop festival for international and national artists alongside the amazing talents we have in the city.

"We've expanded both the length of the festival, from five to 10 days, and the number of locations for our events, as we stretch ourselves from Southside to Bullring, Grand Central and, for the first time, into Digbeth.

"Each of our festival partners brings a different energy and take on what contemporary hip-hop culture is, enabling us to offer a truly diverse festival and attract a wider audience year on year. We're really hyped about this year's programme and are already planning the party for our fifth anniversary next year in 2020, so don't miss it!"

As stated by Graham, in addition to a programme of events at the Hippodrome, B-Side this year extends into the Bullring and Grand Central, with DJs, dance and rap battles, live performances and a hip-hop-inspired party for kids and parents all featuring among the festival's highlights.

On Sunday 5 May, High-Vis Festival will lead a graffiti trail from the Hippodrome to Digbeth, a part of Birmingham famous for its street art.

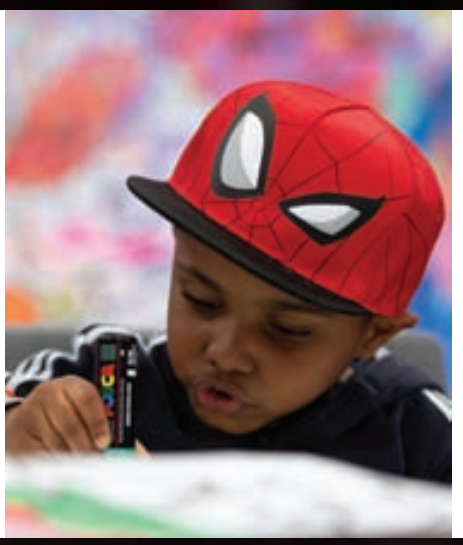
Elsewhere, a special screening of Bombin' takes place at The Mocking Bird as part of Flatpack Festival. Taking a behind-the-scenes look at UK hip-hop and graffiti culture, the documentary features some recognisable locations in Birmingham.

The festival culminates in Southside on Sunday 12 May with the B-SIDE and Break Mission International Dance Championship, an epic clash featuring talented dancers from across the world.

B-Side Festival takes place at Birmingham Hippodrome and other city centre locations from Fri 3 to Sun 12 May.

For further information and to keep up to date with what's happening at B-Side, visit birminghamhippodrome.com/bside







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Motionhouse: Charge

Malvern Theatres, Tues 9 April; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 8 & Thurs 9 May

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

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

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

Swan Lake

Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Tues 2 April; Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 25 April; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 28 April; The Core, Solihull, Fri 31 May

The highly regarded Ballet Theatre visits the Midlands with its production of this timeless favourite, set to Tchaikovsky's mesmerising score.

Swan Lake tells the story of Odette, a beautiful princess who, caught under the spell of the evil Von Rothbart, must spend the daytime hours as a swan, returning to human form only when night falls... A sumptuous visual feast, the production offers an evening of ballet which is ideal for the first-time trier as well as the more seasoned dance-goer.



Silent Lines

DanceXchange, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 9 April

Having last month world premiered The Thread - his much-publicised collaboration with Oscar-winning composer Vangelis - at London's Sadlers Wells, Russell Maliphant now sends the eagerly awaited Silent Lines out on tour.

Citing Rodin and Nijinsky among his major influences, Maliphant has garnered an impressive reputation since bursting onto the scene in the 1990s, producing choreography that seeks to investigate the changing forms of traditional and contemporary dance.

With Silent Lines, he uses a clever mix of projection and lighting 'to celebrate the range of poetic possibilities in movement', in so doing making full use of his studies and explorations not only in dance but also anatomy.



Burn The Floor

The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Sun 21 April; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 29 April; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 12 May

"Burn The Floor is the show that ignited a spark in me and changed me forever as a performer," says Kevin Clifton, who's starring in the production with 'new Italian heartthrob' Graziano Di Prima. "Through Broadway, West End and touring all over the world, this show has ripped apart the rule book, revolutionised our genre and inspired and shaped me as the dancer I am today. In 2019 I'm delighted to say I'm coming 'home' to Burn The Floor."





FREE ENTRY

COMICS SALOPIA 2019

1st & 2nd June 2019

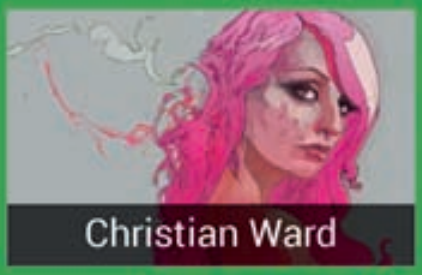
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Avengers: Endgame CERT tbc

Starring **Robert Downey Jr, Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Benedict Cumberbatch, Don Cheadle, Tom Holland, Chadwick Boseman, Chris Pratt, Paul Rudd, Brie Larson** and loads more big stars... Directed by **Anthony Russo** and **Joe Russo (USA)**



In the UK, Avengers: Infinity War was the highest grossing film of 2018. And it was only really half a movie. Now comes the second bit, the finale, or in Marvel-speak, the endgame. Following the mega-massacre at the end of Infinity War, the few remaining Avengers must re-assemble to combat the awful Thanos (Josh Brolin) and save the multi-verse. What drama. And for those who care, this is the 22nd entry in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Available in IMAX and 3D.

Released Thurs 25 April

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Film highlights released in April...

Pet Sematary CERT tbc

Starring **Jason Clarke, Amy Seimetz, John Lithgow, Jeté Laurence** Directed by **Kevin Kölsch** and **Dennis Widmyer (USA)**



Based on the novel by Stephen King, this misspelt horror film focuses on an eerie burial-ground in the woods that contains a terrible secret. Let's hope it's better than the 1989 version, which King scripted himself. Expect mutilated moggies.

Released Thurs 4 April

Holy Lands CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring **James Caan, Tom Hollander, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Efrat Dor, Rosanna Arquette, Patrick Bruel** Directed by **Amanda Sthers (France/Belgium)**

James Caan plays Harry Rosenmerck, an Ashkenazi Jewish American, who leaves his job as a successful cardiologist to pursue a new life as a pig farmer in Israel. From the director of the 2017 French farce Madame.

Released Fri 5 April



The Keeper CERT 15 (120 mins)

Starring **David Kross, Freya Mavor, John Henshaw, Dervla Kirwan, Dave Johns, Gary Lewis** Directed by **Marcus H Rosenmüller (Germany/UK)**



Bert Trautmann was the goalkeeper for Manchester City (1949 to 1964), but before then he was a Nazi. This is the remarkable true story of a German PoW whose life is transformed by the love of an English woman.

Released Fri 5 April

Missing Link CERT PG (95 mins)

With the voices of **Hugh Jackman, Zoe Saldana, Timothy Olyphant, Emma Thompson, Zach Galifianakis, Matt Lucas**
Directed by **Chris Butler (USA/Canada)**

From the company that brought us Coraline, ParaNorman and Kubo And The Two Strings, this stop-motion animated comedy follows the adventures of Sir Lionel Frost (Jackman), an investigator of myths and monsters. Determined to prove his credentials, he sets off for the Pacific Northwest to discover mankind's missing relative, Link.

Released Fri 5 April



Shazam! CERT 12a (132 mins)

Starring **Zachary Levi, Mark Strong, Asher Angel, Jack Dylan Grazer, Djimon Hounsou**
Directed by **David F. Sandberg (USA)**

The seventh instalment in the DC Extended Universe, Shazam! is not unlike a superhero version of Tom Hanks' Big (1988). Billy Batson (Angel) is a 14-year-old orphan who, when he utters the eponymous acronym (of six immortal elders: Solomon, Hercules, Atlas, Zeus, Achilles, and Mercury), is transformed into an adult superhero.

Released Fri 5 April



Wonder Park CERT PG (85 mins)

With the voices of **Jennifer Garner, Matthew Broderick, John Oliver, Mila Kunis, Brianna Denski, Tom Baker**

The park, hidden deep in the woods, is full of fantastical rides and engaging animals, but is under threat when its creator, the 10-year-old June (Denski), starts to grow up. From Paramount Animation, the company that brought us Sherlock Gnomes. Incidentally, the director Dylan Brown was fired from the production (and had his credit removed) after accusations of inappropriate behaviour.

Released Mon 8 April

Hellboy CERT tbc (84 mins)

Starring **David Harbour, Milla Jovovich, Ian McShane, Sasha Lane, Daniel Dae Kim, Thomas Haden Church**
Directed by **Neil Marshall (USA)**

A reboot of the Hellboy franchise originally created by Guillermo del Toro, itself based on the graphic novel, the new film was originally meant to be a sequel to Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008). But things change. Here, our devilish superhero (Harbour) puts his best cloven foot forward to fight the ancient sorcerer Nimue, the Queen of Blood (Jovovich). As they say, even demons have their demons.

Released Thurs 11 April



Little CERT tbc

Starring **Regina Hall, Issa Rae, Marsai Martin, Justin Hartley** Directed by **Tina Gordon (USA)**

In direct contrast to Shazam! (q.v.), Tina Gordon's Little tells of a stressed-out tech mogul (Regina Hall) who is transformed into her younger self (Marsai Martin), when she was, er, little. The film was the inspiration of Martin when she was just 10 years old and, now 14, her credit here as executive producer makes her the youngest person to hold that title on a major Hollywood film.

Released Fri 12 April



Wild Rose CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring **Jessie Buckley, Julie Walters, Sophie Okonedo, Jamie Sives, Craig Parkinson**
Directed by **Tom Harper (UK)**

Jessie Buckley is the Next Big Thing, and deservedly so. She has played a variety of roles, notably Marya in TV's War And Peace and the deranged Jersey tour guide in the award-winning Beast (2017). Here, she portrays a Glaswegian ex-con who puts her dreams of becoming a Nashville country singer above her maternal responsibilities. The word is good.

Released Fri 12 April

Greta CERT 15 (98 mins)

Starring **Isabelle Huppert, Chloë Grace Moretz, Maika Monroe, Colm Feore, Stephen Rea, Zawe Ashton**
Directed by **Neil Jordan (USA/Ireland)**

Beware the inscrutable piano teacher. And nobody can play inscrutable piano teachers like Isabelle Huppert. Here, she is befriended by an American waitress (Moretz) after the latter finds her handbag on the New York subway... Big mistake. A psychological thriller from the director of Mona Lisa and The Crying Game.

Released Fri 19 April



Head Full Of Honey

CERT tbc (139 mins)

Starring **Nick Nolte, Matt Dillon, Emily Mortimer, Sophia Lane Nolte, Jacqueline Bisset, Eric Roberts**
Directed by **Til Schweiger (Germany/USA)**

Following Still Alice (2014) and What They Had (2018), we now have another drama about Alzheimer's, this time with Nick Nolte as an old widower taken on a road trip by his granddaughter (played by Nolte's real-life daughter, Sophia Lane). Based on the German film Honig im Kopf (2014), also directed by Til Schweiger.

Released Fri 19 April



Loro CERT 18

Starring **Toni Servillo, Elena Sofia Ricci, Riccardo Scamarcio**
Directed by **Paolo Sorrentino (Italy/France)**

A two-part drama, Loro focuses on the politicians and businessmen (the 'loro' of the title) who surround the media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi (Servillo). From the director of such masterpieces as The Consequences Of Love, This Must Be The Place and the Oscar-winning The Great Beauty.

Released Fri 19 April



Read Joan CERT 12a (101 mins)

Starring **Sophie Cookson, Stephen Campbell Moore, Tom Hughes, Judi Dench**
Directed by **Trevor Nunn (UK)**

This biography of Joan Stanley, inspired by the life of the KGB spy Melita Norwood, follows her early days at Cambridge, right up to her fight with dementia in her 80s.

Released Fri 19 April

Bel Canto CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring **Julianne Moore, Ken Watanabe, Sebastian Koch, Christopher Lambert, Ryo Kase, Olek Krupa, Elsa Zylberstein**
Directed by **Paul Weitz (USA)**

When a world-class soprano (Julianne Moore) agrees to perform for a Japanese industrialist (Ken Watanabe) in South Africa, she finds herself in the middle of a hostage crisis. Paul Weitz directs his own adaptation of the novel by Ann Patchett.

Released Fri 26 April





CRITIC'S CHOICE

The Sisters Brothers

CERT **15 (122 mins)**

Starring **John C Reilly, Joaquin Phoenix, Jake Gyllenhaal, Riz Ahmed, Rutger Hauer, Rebecca Root, Allison Tolman, Carol Kane**
Directed by **Jacques Audiard (USA/France)**

John C Reilly and Joaquin Phoenix play Eli and Charlie Sisters, siblings who make a living killing. But when they are hired to eliminate the gold prospector Hermann Kermit Warm (Riz Ahmed), Eli starts to suffer a crisis of conscience. Set in 1850, the film is a Western with a dark comic twist, which one might expect from the brilliant French filmmaker Jacques Audiard, whose first English-language film this is. And there aren't many Westerns directed by Frenchmen. Audiard and his regular collaborator Thomas Bidegain forged their screenplay from the 2011 novel by Patrick deWitt and the film won Audiard the Silver Lion award at the Venice Film Festival, along with glowing reviews.

Released Fri 5 April

Eighth Grade CERT 15 (93 mins)

Starring **Elsie Fisher, Josh Hamilton, Emily Robinson, Jake Ryan**
Directed by **Bo Burnham (USA)**



As her transition to high school approaches, eighth-grader Kayla Day (Fisher) struggles with issues of social anxiety. Even so, she posts motivational videos on YouTube, which is a bit rich. The comedy-drama, the first from Bo Burnham, received raves and numerous prizes in the US.

Released Fri 26 April

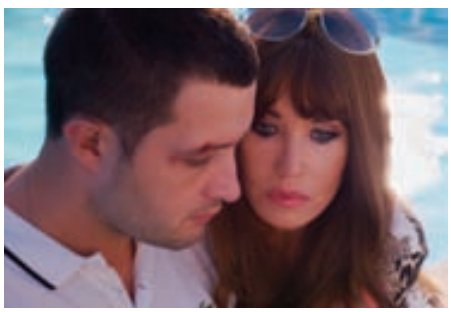
The World Is Yours

CERT **15 (96 mins)**

Starring **Gabby Rose, Karim Leklou, Vincent Cassel, Isabelle Adjani, François Damiens**
Directed by **Romain Gavras (France)**

A drug dealer is desperate to change his life, so his next job, he swears, will be his last. And we've all heard that before. The French comedy was shot in France and in Benidorm in Spain.

Released Fri 26 April





Freya Dooley: Somewhere In The Crowd There's You

Eastside Projects, Birmingham, until Sat 27 April

"I work with writing, moving image, sound and performance," explains Gloucestershire-born artist Freya Dooley. "In my work, I create fragmented monologues, dialogues, soundtracks and auto/biographical semi-fictions, often by combining literary and pop-culture references."

The most obvious pop-culture reference in Freya's latest solo project is the title itself, a lyric from the 1980 Abba song, Super Trouper. A multi-channel sound installation, the show layers collected vocals, earworm hooks, choral fragments and field recordings, oscillating between synchronisation and discord. Freya's aim is to explore both the potential and the limitations of the live and recorded voice, in order to investigate the shared experience of listening and the effort required to listen.







Brave: The Girls Of South Sudan

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, until Sun 19 May

Global children's charity Plan International UK is the organisation behind this thought-provoking exhibition by photojournalist Kate Holt, who travelled to war-torn South Sudan to document the experiences of some of the country's teenage girls.
"I was married in January last year when I was 14," says Akujang, one of the girls featured in the exhibition. "My husband is 18 years old. I'm his first wife. I'm the eldest girl, so it was my job to cook and work in the garden, so I never went to school. I was married off - I did not have a choice. When I was pregnant, there were some days I had no food. It was difficult being pregnant with no food. Now I'm breast-feeding, but sometimes I have no milk and it is hard because my baby cries... If I eat enough, I have milk for a day, but if I don't eat, there isn't enough..."

Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

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

The Natural History Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition makes a welcome return to the Herbert this month in the form of 100 stunning images.
The on-show pics were selected by expert judges and drawn from a staggering 45,000-plus entries, the images being rated for their creativity, originality and technical excellence.
Open both to professional and amateur snappers, the competition celebrates biodiversity, promotes conservation and champions ethical photography. In the process, it also provides visitors with the opportunity to view dramatic landscapes and endangered habitats, as well as to come face-to-face with some of the world's most bizarre species.





Hew Locke: Here's The Thing

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, until Sun 2 June

This exploration of the languages of colonial and post-colonial power, and the symbols through which different cultures assume and assert identity, marks the most comprehensive exhibition to date of work by Hew Locke.
The Edinburgh-born sculptor and contemporary visual artist uses a range of media including painting, drawing, photography and installation to fuse historical source material with his keen interest in current affairs.
"I hope that the viewer will initially be visually attracted to a piece," explains Hew, "but that they will then become aware that complex histories have been woven into the work; histories that are there for them to unpick."



Apollo 50

The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, until Sun 3 November



A half-century ago this July the 21st, Neil Armstrong took one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind when he became the first person ever to set foot on the surface of the moon. This special exhibition commemorates that historic occasion, bringing together 50 models and memorabilia in a multimedia display which recounts the epic story of the Apollo programme. The show also traces the history of rocketry, as well as featuring a selection of models of science-fiction spacecraft.

EGG-CITING EASTER

13 - 28 APRIL
10AM - 5PM



BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

CHARACTERS • STREET GAMES • CRAFTS

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Egg-Citing Easter Celebrations

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sat 13 - Sun 28 April

Experience the weird and wonderful Easter practices of years gone by at the Black Country Living Museum this Easter. Take part in traditional street games, including egg dancing and egg tapping, or get hands-on with 'crafty' activities such as egg painting and card writing.

The museum's holiday-entertainment line-up also features a reenactment of a springtime wedding and the not-so-romantic antics of numerous costumed characters performing street theatre!

Great Easter offer! Enjoy Birmingham's National Sea Life Centre and Legoland Discovery Centre with a fabulous combi ticket!

Midlands families can enjoy two of Birmingham city centre's top visitor attractions for only £25 per person this Easter.

National Sea Life Centre Birmingham and Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham are offering a fantastic combined experience courtesy of a special combi ticket offer.

The National Sea Life Centre is home to more than 2,000 creatures (including a colony of gentoo penguins, black-tip reef sharks and a giant green sea turtle), many of which have been rescued or successfully bred as part of the global Sea Life breeding initiative...

Having opened in summer 2018, Legoland Discovery Centre is the ultimate indoor Lego playground - a world of colour, creativity and fun for children of all ages. The popular attraction features a Lego creative workshop, two rides, a 4D cinema, a Lego Friends building zone, a Lego City soft play area and plenty more...

The combi ticket is valid for 90 days - meaning that you don't need to visit both attractions on the same day! - and can be purchased by visiting either: visitsealife.com/birmingham or birmingham.legolanddiscoverycentre.co.uk





The Great Easter Dragon Egg Hunt

Ludlow Castle, Sat 13 - Sun 28 April

The chance to explore medieval ruins while hunting for dragon's eggs is the Easter holiday family day out on offer at Ludlow Castle this month. Youngsters are urged to get on the hunt asap before the eggs hatch and the town finds itself overrun with baby dragons. There are small prizes up for grabs too, so make sure your egg-finding antennae is up and running in readiness for the challenge!

Easter Adventure Quest

Kenilworth Castle and Witley Court & Gardens, Sat 13 - Sun 28 April

Join a sure-to-be-fun hunt for dragon eggs at two of the Midands' most popular visitor attractions this Easter holiday.
Crack the clues as you and your family follow the trail around the grounds of either Kenilworth Castle or Witley Court (or both!).
Intrepid adventurers who track down the dragon eggs will not only be given a certificate to mark their achievement but will also receive a delicious chocolate treat!



Easter Family Craft Activities

Coventry Transport Museum, Sat 13 - Sat 27 April

Coventry Transport Museum is running some 'eggs'tra-special craft activities this month, offering families the opportunity to let their imaginations run wild as they set about the challenge of inventing some eggstremely marvellous egg-related machines.
Sounds like a, er, cracking day out to us...


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Easter at Birmingham Museums

Visit birminghammuseums.org.uk for specific dates, times and costs of individual events

Birmingham Museums is providing a whole host of fun ways in which families can enjoy themselves this Easter holiday...

At Thinktank science museum - as well as the opening of its brand new 4K Planetarium, the only one in the West Midlands - there's also Smethwick Engine Steaming Day taking place on Wednesday the 17th, an event that allows visitors to see first hand the power of the world's oldest working steam engine...

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is presenting numerous Easter activities inspired by two of its current exhibitions - Leonardo da Vinci: A Life In Drawing and Too Cute! Sweet Is About To Get Sinister...

Celebrate National Tea Day on Sunday the 21st in the splendid surroundings of Aston Hall, as the Grade I listed Jacobean house transforms into 'Aston in Wonderland'. Youngsters can meet their favourite Lewis Carroll characters over a nice cup of tea or two, with the Mad Hatter, the ever-so-grumpy Queen of Hearts and Alice herself among those in attendance...

The Trust's other sites of Blakesley Hall, the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Soho House, Weoley Castle and Sarehole Mill are also getting into the Easter spirit by holding a variety of craft activities and workshops across the holiday period.

Easter Crafts at Ironbridge Gorge Museums

Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Fri 12 - Fri 26 April, Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge, Sat 13 - Sun 28 April

Young artists can enjoy some spring-inspired 'crafty' fun in Ironbridge this Easter. The Jackfield Tile Museum is hosting drop-in tile-decorating workshops, where youngsters can try their hand at producing floral-themed designs using the Victorian tube lining technique.

Over at Coalport China Museum, meanwhile, there are daily sessions in which children can use quick-drying paint to decorate a money box, fridge magnet or paper plate with spring flowers including daffodils, tulips and bluebells.



St George At Easter

The Commandery, Worcester, Mon 22 April

This family-friendly Easter Monday celebration of England's patron saint features a range of entertainment to enjoy, including storytelling sessions, performances by reenactors, mummers play and plenty of craft activities for kids of all ages and abilities.



Animal Easter Trail

RAF Museum, Cosford, Sat 13 - Sun 28 April

New for 2019, the RAF Museum is hosting this suitable-for-all-ages animal Easter trail around its hangars. The Easter Bunny is looking for his animal friends and wants visitors to help him find them. Provide him with some much-needed assistance, complete the trail and pick up a much-deserved chocolatey prize!

Easter Eggstravaganza

Cadbury World, Bournville, Fri 19 - Mon 22 April

What better place to start your Easter celebrations than at the home of one of the world's biggest chocolate brands!

Cadbury World has once again cracked out the fun with its annual Easter Eggstravaganza event, this time featuring an exclusive stage show starring Mr Cadbury's parrot.

An Easter egg trail and an Easter bonnet competition also feature in the line-up of entertainment.



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Kidtropolis

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 13 - Mon 15 April

Not sure where to take the kids during the Easter holiday? Fear not, for popular children's event Kidtropolis is returning to Birmingham's NEC for a second year.

Attractions at the 2019 edition of the event include a Baby Shark live mini show - in which Pinkfong and his best friend get dancing - and appearances by TV royalty Sam and Mark, who'll be hosting their very own live show on the Saturday and Sunday.

Also announced for this year is a 200ft-long inflatable assault course that allows children to venture through a number of different and imaginative zones, including the Arctic and a jungle.

Ice Age: The Lost Kingdom

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Sat 6 - Sun 28 April

Now here's a brand new attraction designed to leave your youngsters well and truly awestruck...

Featuring more than 40 impressive installations of animated life-sized beasts, Ice Age: The Lost Kingdom provides visitors with the chance to come face to face with (among other impressive creatures) a woolly mammoth, sabre toothed tiger, woolly rhinoceros, giant sloth and short-faced bear.

The first outdoor experience of its kind in the UK, the show takes families on a walkthrough journey that sees the Ice Age cleverly recreated with scenery and props.

The attraction also features a mini cinema, street food & drink stalls, a fossil excavation pit and a merchandise shop from which to purchase an Ice Age memento to take home.



Shakespeare's Birthday Celebrations

Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 27 April

If living so long were possible, William Shakespeare would've been 455 this month - and his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon is set to celebrate the occasion! Highlights of the day include a colourful parade through the town centre - complete with an appearance by the man himself! - a Knights & Nymphs children's garden party and a mass-movement dance piece performed by local and regional community groups.



Into The Wild

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, Sat 13 - Sat 27 April

Children visiting Herbert Art Gallery this Easter can get creative through a wide range of wildlife-themed activities.

Drop-in sessions during the first week, exploring the theme of 'under the sea', feature sea-scene printing workshops, the chance to make whale-inspired sun catchers and the opportunity to create tropical fish out of clay.

The second week's workshops - taking the theme of 'wild beasts' - provide youngsters with the chance to marble paint their own tiger, build a wild clay creature and design a roaring rag lion.

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132nd Show



St George's Day Celebrations

Tamworth Castle, Sat 20 April

Tamworth Castle is holding a truly medieval experience for this month's St George's Day.
Visitors can get hands-on with the castle's living-history experiences by having a go at doing the laundry, learning about medieval weaponry & armour, and trying out some traditional games in the company of the castle's very own Lady Freville.
Out in the grounds, families can sample the pleasures of archery, enjoy watching a spectacular medieval joust, walk around a medieval encampment, chat to numerous street entertainers and steer the kids in the direction of a host of children's activities.

Mini Madness

British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Sat 6 - Sun 28 April

British Motor Museum is kickstarting Mini's 60th birthday celebrations with a host of themed family activities taking place throughout the month.
Visitors can enjoy informative family tours with a Mini-mad mechanic character, follow a Mini Trail and make their very own Mini using air dry clay.
Over the Easter Bank Holiday Weekend, kids can enjoy a traditional Easter Egg hunt but with a special Mini twist, collecting eggs around the museum to claim their Mini Egg reward.





Motorfest

Chetwynd Deer Park, Newport, Sun 21 & Mon 22 April

Up to 1,000 classic cars from the 1930s to the 1990s will be in evidence at this two-day motor show, which is being held at Chetwynd Deer Park for the first time.
Other event attractions include more than 30 local car clubs, trader & autojumble stalls, live arena parades, live music, face painting, a disco and plenty of party games.

Kapow!

West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury, Sat 27 April

Raising funds for local charity Severn Hospice, Kapow! sees West Mid Showground turned into a giant inflatable obstacle course for the day.
As the name of the event would suggest (well, at least to anyone who remembers the kitsch and classic Batman TV series from the 1960s), 'superheroes' is very much a theme of the event. Participants are encouraged to grab a cape, make a cowl or wear a magic bracelet to help channel their inner Superman or Wonder Woman.



Explorasaurus Evening

Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust, Fri 12 April

Dudley goes dino-crazy for a day this month.
Visiting families can get involved in dinosaur-themed craft activities, head out on a treasure hunt to complete a special 'dino directory', grab a pith helmet for a photo opportunity and have a go at excavating fossils like a real palaeontologist.
And if you think you're the biggest dinosaur fan around, there's a not-to-be-missed Triassic trivia quiz to test your knowledge of all things big & prehistoric.



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thelist

Your week-by-week listings guide
April 2019



Nina Nesbitt plays O2 Institute, Birmingham - Tuesday 16 April

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

What's On

Mon 1 to Sun 7 April



The Wonderful World Of Disney On Ice at Resorts World Arena

Wed 3 - Sun 7 April

Mon 8 to Sun 14 April



Easter Egg Hunt at Blakesley Hall

Sat 13 - Mon 22 April

Mon 15 to Sun 21 April



Trump The Musical at the Old Joint Stock Theatre

Wed 17 - Mon 22 April

Mon 22 to Tues 30 April



Rufus Wainwright at Symphony Hall

Mon 22 April

THROUGHOUT APRIL

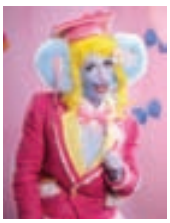
Visual Arts

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

WITHIN AND WITHOUT: BODY IMAGE AND THE SELF Exhibition examining how social, historical and cultural factors affect body image, and how this is expressed through objects and artworks, until Sun 5 May

LEONARDO DA VINCI: A LIFE IN DRAWING To mark the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci, 12 of the Renaissance master's drawings from the Royal Collection are displayed as part of 12 simultaneous exhibitions across the UK, until Mon 6 May

TOO CUTE!: SWEET IS ABOUT TO GET SINISTER A range of artworks that show different takes on cuteness, from contemporary-based issues to 19th century oil paintings, until Sun 12 May



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

Eastside Projects

THE RANGE New works by Hashim Ali (Hawkchild DIY), Ain Bailey, Beverley Bennett, Adam Farah, Seema Mattu and Zarina Muhammad. Curated by Rehana Zaman, until Sat 27 Apr

SOMEWHERE IN THE CROWD THERE'S YOU Cardiff-based artist Freya Dooley works with writing, moving image, sound and performance, until Sat 27 Apr

Grand Union

LAUREN GAULT: DRYE EYES A series of sculptural moments, through objects and sound, until Sat 13 Apr

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

Ikon Gallery

NEW FORWARD: NEW ART FROM BIRMINGHAM Showcase offering an accessible alternative to Forward: New Art From Birmingham, an offsite exhibition presented earlier this year at Medicine Bakery & Gallery. The artists showcased all live and work in this city, Tues 9 - Sun 14 Apr

MAC, Birmingham

MADE AT MAC: NEW MAC TUTORS Exhibition to celebrate and recognise the creative talents of both the artist-tutors who teach the courses and the hundreds of people who take part, until Sun 7 Apr

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY: INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION IPE 161 Comprising 100 images by 54 contemporary photographers, Sat 30 Mar - Sun 12 May

HANDSWORTH SELF-PORTRAIT Exhibition featuring images from a 1979 'selfie' photographic project, until Sun 2 June

RBSA Gallery

NEW JAIN MCKAY - IN POSTERUM Jain's new show looks at 'the advent of the technological singularity and the day that artificial intelligence becomes sentient', Mon 1 Apr - Sat 25 May

NEW ART FROM MARS Exhibition of ceramics and glass by Mel Mars RBSA that includes stoneware, raku-fired pots, sui pots and glass pieces, Mon 8 Apr - Sat 8 June

NEW RBSA CANDIDATES 2019 Annual showcase of artwork by artists applying to be Associates, and Associates applying to be Members, Mon 15 - Sat 27 Apr

The Barber Institute

THE LAST ROMAN Emperor Justinian I (527 - 565 AD), the so-called 'last Roman emperor', rose from peasant beginnings in Serbia to become the most powerful man on earth, until Sun 14 Apr

FROM OUTSIDE: TESS JARAY The Art Deco architecture of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts provides the inspiration for this exhibition, until Sun 12 May

DRAWING OUT THE SOUND Featuring artists ranging from Dürer to Renoir, this print display brings together works that reflect on the changing meanings of music in society, until Sun 19 May

Other VISUAL ARTS

NEW 'I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE' BY SOLIHULL COLLEGE Exhibition of work by HND Photography students at Solihull College & University Centre, Wed 3 - Mon 15 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull

NEW 'ATMOSPHERE' BY LINDEN ROAD ARTISTS A selection of recent paintings from a diverse group of Midland artists responding to one central theme, Wed 17 Apr - Mon 6 May, The Core Theatre, Solihul



Lady Bird - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Gigs

WARD THOMAS Mon 1 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

VENTENNER Mon 1 Apr, The Flapper, B'ham

DENNIS BOVELL Mon 1 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GIORGIO MORODER Mon 1 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

APRE Tues 2 Apr, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

DAY, CORBETT & TAMS Tues 2 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

ETTA BOND Tues 2 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

PAUL GILBERT MASTERCLASS Tues 2 Apr, Mama Roux's, B'ham

KEYWEST Wed 3 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

LADY BIRD Wed 3 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

KESTON COBBLERS CLUB Wed 3 Apr, The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham

MARSICANS + CHILD / IVORY WAVE Wed 3 Apr, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

BOB LOG III Wed 3 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

STAND ATLANTIC Wed 3 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

KNOXVILLE HIGHWAY Wed 3 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

NIGHT FLOWERS + HOMECOMINGS + THE SUNSET BEACH HUT Wed 3 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

DMA'S Thurs 4 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

EASY LIFE Thurs 4 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

COSMIC PSYCHOS Thurs 4 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FOLK DEVILS Thurs 4 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DREAM STATE UK Thurs 4 Apr, The Flapper, Birmingham

SOUL SURVIVORS Thurs 4 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

BLOXX Thurs 4 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

ANGHARAD DAVIES SOLO AND XHOSA COLE'S GREEK SUITE Thurs 4 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

AN AUDIENCE WITH ASH SHEEHAN Thurs 4 Apr, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

BOYZ II MEN Fri 5 Apr, O2 Academy, B'ham

GLAMOUR OF THE KILL Fri 5 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BENEATH MY SINS Fri 5 Apr, Scruffy Murphy's, Birmingham

SMOOVE & TURRELL Fri 5 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BRYAN CORBETT BAND Fri 5 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BURNING RAIN Fri 5 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

BOO HERWERDINE Fri 5 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ANAAL NATHRAKH + AKERCOCKE Fri 5 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

MAX & HARVEY Sat 6 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE AC/DC EXPERIENCE Sat 6 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

DRENGE Sat 6 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ICONIC EYE + BLOOD RED & DEVIL IN DORIAN Sat 6 Apr, Route 44, Birmingham

MOHO: STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON Sat 6 Apr, Mama Roux's, B'ham

LEFT FOR RED Sat 6 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

STEVE GUNN Sat 6 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE COUNTERFEIT SEVENTIES Sat 6 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

DEBBIE GRAVITTE 'BIG BAND BROADWAY' Sat 6 Apr, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

THE GRIND LIVE! Sat 6 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

GIRLI + ASHNIKKO Sat 6 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

FRANKO FRAIZE Sat 6 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

GET STONED Sat 6 Apr, The Night Owl, Birmingham

ERADIKATOR, INCINERY, FORGED IN BLACK, THE MIGHTY WRAITH Sat 6 Apr, Scruffy Murphy's, Birmingham

RARE AMERICANS Sat 6 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

NORMAN JAY MBE Sat 6 - Sun 7 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HENGE Sun 7 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE CATWALK VILLIANS AND THE INDEPENDENT COUNTRY Sun 7 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MO AMER & GUZ KHAN Sun 7 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

IAN MCNABB Sun 7 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Classical Music

ANAIS GAUDEMARD IN RECITAL Featuring Anaïs Gaudemard (harp). Programme includes works by Debussy, Fauré, Pépin, Prokofiev, Glinka and Smetna, Tues 2 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

DECIBEL PLAY ED BENNETT Featuring Ed Bennett (composer/Artistic Director/Electronics) & Daniele Rosina (conductor), Tues 2 Apr, The Lab, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

AN EVENING WITH ALFIE BOE Tues 2 - Wed 3 Apr, Symphony Hall, B'ham



CBSO & JOHN WILSON: A PASTORAL SYMPHONY Featuring John Wilson (conductor), James Ehnes (violin) and James Way (tenor). Programme includes works by Copland, Barber and Vaughan Williams, Thurs 4 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO CENTRE STAGE: BARBER & KORNGOLD Featuring Colette Overdijk & Charlotte Skinner (violins); Jessica Tickle & Amy Thomas (violas), Miguel Fernandes & Helen Edgar (cellos). Programme comprises Barber's String Quartet & Korngold's String Sextet, Fri 5 Apr, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

PIATTI QUARTET Featuring Nathaniel Anderson-Frank & Michael Trainor (violins), Tetsuumi Nagata (violin) & Jessie Ann Richardson (cello). Programme includes works by Haydn, Joseph Phibbs & Schubert, Fri 5 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THALLEIN ENSEMBLE & THUMB CONTEMPORARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE Featuring Dan Watson (conductor). Programme comprises Stuart Stevens' Inner Ring & All About and to a Female Artist, Fri 5 Apr, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

FRANCO FAGIOLI: VINCI AND HANDEL Featuring Il Pomo d'Oro and Franco Fagioli (countertenor). Programme includes works by Durante, Vinci, Hasse, Handel and Fiorenza, Sun 7 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

THE PEOPLE'S ORCHESTRA The People's Orchestra celebrate their seventh anniversary with an evening of video game pieces and original compositions, including themes from World of Warcraft, Zelda, Skyrim & Tetris, Sun 7 Apr, West Bromwich Town Hall

DOUBLE BASS DAY Featuring masterclasses with Thomas Martin, Anthony Alcock, Damian Rubido Gonzales, Julian Atkinson and Jeremy Watt, Sun 7 Apr, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Comedy

TEZ ILYAS, ALLAN HAVEY & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 4 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW LAWRENCE Fri 5 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BILAL ZAFAR Fri 5 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

TEZ ILYAS, ALLAN HAVEY, TOM WRIGGLESWORTH & GARY MEIKLE Fri 5 - Sat 6 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ALISTAIR BARRIE, JACK GLEADOW, BARRY CASTAGNOLA & BARRY DODDS Sat 6 Apr, The Comedy Loft, B'ham

HARRIET KEMSLEY Sat 6 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Theatre

WAR HORSE Acclaimed West End drama based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo, until Sat 6 Apr, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

KUNENE AND THE KING World premiere of John Kani's 'moving and funny' play, which sees two men from contrasting walks of life thrust together to reflect on a quarter-century of change in South Africa. Sir Antony Sher stars alongside Kani; Janice Honeyman directs, until Tues 23 Apr, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

AS YOU LIKE IT Kimberley Sykes directs a riotous version of Shakespeare's romantic comedy, until Sat 31 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW Shakespeare's comedy of gender and materialism is turned on its head to offer a fresh perspective on his portrayal of hierarchy and power, until Sat 31 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THEY CAME FROM MARS AND LANDED OUTSIDE THE FARNDALE AVENUE CHURCH HALL Amateur staging of David McGillivray & Walter Zerlin Jnr's sci-fi thriller, Fri 29 Mar - Sat 6 Apr, Hall Green Little Theatre, B'ham

COLLABORATION The Crescent Theatre Company presents its version of Ronald Harwood's powerful play, which explores the relationship between composer Richard Strauss & his librettist, Stephan Zweig, Sat 30 Mar - Sat 6 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

DIRTY DANCING The classic story of Baby & Johnny returns... Mon 1 - Sat 6 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



Jinkx Monsoon & Major Scales - Stafford Gatehouse Theatre & Birmingham Town Hall

WISE CHILDREN Emma Rice stars in and directs a new staging of Angela Carter's celebration of showbusiness, family, forgiveness and hope, Tues 2 - Sat 6 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

LEGALLY BLONDE Amateur staging presented by Peterbrook Players, Tues 2 - Sat 6 Apr, The Core, Solihull

RITA, SUE & BOB TOO New production of Andrea Dunbar's semi-autobiographical play, Tues 2 - Sat 6 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

FROM SHORE TO SHORE Tales of love and loss, struggle and survival, inspired by the stories of migrant Chinese communities living in the UK, Tues 2 - Sat 6 Apr, The REP, B'ham

LES MISÉRABLES Cameron Mackintosh's acclaimed Broadway production of Boublil and Schönberg's legendary musical, Tues 2 Apr - Sat 11 May, Birmingham Hippodrome

TIMPSON: THE MUSICAL Gigglemug Theatre's debut musical, explaining the origins of the high-street cobbler, Wed 3 - Sat 6 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

MARILYN Breakthrough Theatre presents a one-woman show following the dark and thrill-filled life of Marilyn Monroe, Fri 5 - Sat 6 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE SOUNDS OF RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN Marilyn Hill Smith (Mother Abbess in the recent national tour of The Sound Of Music) heads the cast as they sing their way through classic musical theatre shows, Sun 7 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Cabaret

JINKX MONSOON & MAJOR SCALES: THE GINGER SNAPPED Music & mental health collide in this witty look at the dark side of Drag fame, Mon 1 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

JINKX MONSOON & MAJOR SCALES: THE GINGER SNAPPED Music & mental health collide in this witty look at the dark side of Drag fame, Wed 3 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

AN EVENING WITH KATYA ZAMOLODCHIKOVA RuPaul's Drag Race, Miss Congeniality and All Stars S2 finalist Katya presents her new standup show, Help Me I'm Dying, Sun 7 Apr, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

MUSIC HALL TAVERN Comedy drag show featuring Paul Carroll as Mrs T, Lee Sanderson as Peggy Lee, and the Showcase International Dancers, Sun 7 Apr, Crescent Theatre, B'ham

Kids Shows

THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA Join the tea-guzzling tiger in this stage show for younger audiences. Based on Nancy Kerr's much-loved book of the same name, Fri 5 - Sat 6 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

BING LIVE! Join Bing, Sula, Coco and Pando as they learn how to tell stories by pretending, dressing up and singing songs. A perfect introduction to theatre for young children, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

Dance

THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE Midland Theatre Ballet presents a choreographed version of CS Lewis' fantastical tale, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

DORRIDGE MUSIC SCHOOL: A FUSION OF MUSIC AND DANCE More than 300 performers from DMS Heart of England Music Academy - plus dance schools, choirs and celebrity guests - present a concert featuring rock, pop and classical music, Sun 7 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Lichfield Arts Blues & Jazz Festival 2019

Thursday 30th May to Sunday 2nd June

Lichfield Guildhall
Cathedral Hotel
and other Lichfield venues

SOFT MACHINE
Chris Bevington Organisation
Climax Blues Band
Remi Harris with Tom Moore
Alison Rayner Quintet
Nick Dewhurst Band with special guest Derek Nash
The Oxley-Meier Guitar Project
Steve 'Big Man' Clayton
Tom Hill's 70's Jazz Funk Machine
Fret and Fiddle
The Escape Committee
The Sleaze Brothers
South Staffordshire Youth Jazz Orchestra (East)
The Eagle Jazz Band
Robert Jackson

For all the latest festival information visit:
www.lichfield-jazz.co.uk



lichfieldarts.org.uk Box office: 01543 262223
Donegal House Bore Street Lichfield Staffordshire WS13 6LU info@lichfieldarts.org.uk

THE OLD REP THEATRE

COMEDY



Shappi Khorsandi
Saturday 6 April, 7.30pm
"Has the crowd in the palm of her hand"
The List



Evening of Eric & Ern
Wednesday 17 April, 7.30pm
"Bring sunshine, it does. Bring laughter, most definately"
The Reviews Hub



Mark Watson
Sunday 5 May, 7.30pm
"Witty, warm, perfectly judged"
★★★★★ Telegraph



Sofie Hagen
Friday 31 May, 7.30pm
"Hilarious... clever, funny and touching"
★★★★★ The Mirror



La Voix
Saturday 1 June, 7.30pm
"Better than Bassey, Camp my dear"
Sir Ian McKellen



Hancock & Co
Saturday 27 July, 7.30pm
"Utterly masterful and quite, quite superb"
★★★★★ Jon Culshaw

TheOldRepTheatre @TheOldRep TheOldRepTheatre



DONINGTON HISTORIC FESTIVAL
2019
3-5 MAY
FRI QUALIFYING // SAT-SUN RACING
THREE EXHILARATING DAYS

DUNLOP HISTORIC PROMOTIONS LEGENDS

DoningtonPark

WEEKEND ADMISSION*	£40
SAT or SUN ADMISSION*	£25
CHILDREN (UNDER 13)	FREE

FULL EVENT INFO: doningtonhistoric.com
TO BOOK TICKETS: donington-park.co.uk / 0843 453 9000*

*Advance tickets available until midday Wednesday 1 May. Postage fee applies. Calls cost 7 pence per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Talks

DAVID GOWER: ON THE FRONT DOOR An evening with the former England cricket captain, Fri 5 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

DEEDS NOT WORDS: THE STORY OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, THEN AND NOW Participatory and wide-ranging discussion on women's lives, reflecting on the changes in the UK since the right to a parliamentary vote was first granted to some women in 1918. Led by Helen Pankhurst, Fri 5 Apr, Enginuity Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

CAPTAIN MARVEL (12a) Adventure/Sci-Fi. Starring Brie Larson, Gemma Chan. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, until Thurs 4 Apr

EVERYBODY KNOWS (15) Crime/Drama. Starring Penélope Cruz, Javier Bardem. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, until Thurs 4 Apr

PIERCING (18) Horror/Thriller. Starring Christopher Abbott, Mia Wasikowska. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, until Thurs 4 Apr

OF LOVE & LAW (15) Documentary. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Mon 1 Apr

WILD ROSE (15) Drama/Music. Starring Julie Walters, Jessie Buckley. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Mon 1 Apr

DUMBO (U) Family/Fantasy. Starring Colin Farrell, Michael Keaton. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Mon 1 Apr



ALL IS TRUE (12A) Biography/Drama. Starring Kenneth Branagh, Lolita Chakrabarti. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Mon 1 & Thurs 4 Apr

LORDS OF CHAOS (18) Biography/Horror. Starring Rory Culkin, Emory Cohen. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 5 Apr

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS (12A) Comedy/Drama. Starring James Purefoy, Tuppence Middleton. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 5 - Tues 9 Apr

ROSIE (12A) Drama. Starring Sarah Greene, Moe Dunford. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 5 - Sat 6 & Wed 10 Apr

US (18) Horror/Thriller. Starring Lupita Nyong'o, Winston Duke. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 5 - Sat 6, Mon 8 - Thurs 11 Apr

NOTTING HILL (18) Comedy/Drama. Starring Hugh Grant, Julia Roberts. This showing is with brunch. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 6 Apr

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE (18) Drama/Sci-Fi. Starring Malcolm McDowell, Patrick Magee. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Apr

THE MALTESE FALCON (PG) Film-Noir/Mystery. Starring Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Sun 7 Apr

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Thurs 4 Apr, showing at selected cinemas

PET SEMATARY (tbc)

HOLY LANDS (tbc)

MISSING LINK (PG)

SHAZAM! (tbc)

THE KEEPER (15)

THE SISTERS BROTHERS (15)

Events

THE LEGO MOVIE DAYS Join Emmet, Wyldstyle and the gang with exclusive building activities, out-of-this-world character experiences, interactive photo opportunities and more, until Sun 28 Apr, Legoland Discovery Centre, Birmingham



THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY ON ICE! Enter a dazzling world of adventure! Wed 3 - Sun 7 Apr, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

MR CADBURY'S PARROT AND THE MISSING MINI-EGGS Featuring Cadbury's very own loveable parrot, Sat 6 - Sun 28 Apr, Cadbury World, Birmingham

THE FALCONER'S QUEST Up to 70 birds of prey take to the skies in a display of aerial acrobatics, Sat 6 Apr - Thurs 31 Oct, Warwick Castle

OPEN ASTON Wander around the grand old mansion, Sun 7 Apr, Aston Hall, Birmingham

SUNDAY LOCAL HISTORY TALK Talk by local archaeologist Mike Hodder entitled 'Fired clay: pottery, brick and tile manufacture in Birmingham', Sun 7 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

EASTER SPRING WREATH CRAFT WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS Artist Gilly Page shows visitors how to design and create their own spring wreath for Easter, Sun 7 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

THE FAST SHOW Featuring huge club stand displays, Run What Ya Brung, FWD drag racing, drifting, stunt displays, jet car, a trade village, caterers, funfair rides and more, Sun 7 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough



The Wonderful World Of Disney On Ice - Resorts World, Birmingham



THE OLD REP THEATRE

CHILDREN'S THEATRE



Treasure Island

Saturday 13 April, 11.30am & 2.30pm

Jump aboard as we set sail for pirates, mermaids, monkeys and more blummin' pirates. Grab your pirate hats and don't miss the boat!

Adults £13 & Concessions £11



Aliens Love Underpants

Friday 19 April, 1.30pm and Saturday 20 April, 11am & 2pm

This zany and hilarious tale based on the best-selling children's book is wonderfully brought to life on stage for the very first time.

All tickets £13



The Jungle Book

Monday 27 May, 1pm & 5.30pm

The classic tale follows Mowgli, a young boy raised in the jungle by wolves. When Shere Khan the tiger threatens Mowgli's safety, Baloo the Bear and Bagheera the Panther, agree to take the boy to the man village.

Adults £19.50 & Concessions £17.50

EASTER WORKSHOPS

Monday 15 April - Puppetry Workshop
Tuesday 16 April - Circus Skills Workshop
Wednesday 17 April - Musical Theatre Workshop
Thursday 18 April - Play In A Day



Prices
£30 per workshop,
£75 for three **or**
£100 for all four

Ages
8 - 16 years

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Sutton Coldfield

Upper Clifton Road
Sutton Coldfield
B73 6AB

Box Office
0121 296 9543

EASTER PANTO



ALICE IN WONDERLAND
Friday 19th - Monday 22nd April
1pm & 5pm
Tickets £12 / £10

FORTHCOMING EVENTS
NOW BOOKING

SORTED (90'S NOSTALGIA NIGHT)
Saturday 6th April, 7.30pm
Tickets: £17
18+

AN EVENING WITH WILLARD WIGAN
(ENTRY TO HIS BRAND NEW EXHIBITION)
Thursday 11th April, 7pm
Tickets: £12

THE GIRL FROM TIGER BAY
(THE DAME SHIRLEY BASSEY STORY)
Friday 12th April, 7.30pm
Tickets: £17

GARY POWNDLAND AND FRIENDS
Friday 3rd May, 8pm
Tickets: £12

THE UPBEAT BEATLES
(FREE AFTER SHOW PARTY)
Saturday 4th May, 8pm
Tickets: £20

...AND THIS IS MY FRIEND MR LAUREL
Thursday 16 May, 7pm
Tickets: £14

THE JAMES TAYLOR STORY
Thursday 23 May, 7.30pm
Tickets: £17

Gigs

CHRIS YOUNG Mon 8 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ORLA GARTLAND Mon 8 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE HUNNA Mon 8 - Tues 9 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SHAWN MENDES Tues 9 Apr, Arena B'ham

JAMES TW Tues 9 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

ART SCHOOL GIRLFRIEND Tues 9 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TVAM Tues 9 Apr, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

BEN DRUMMOND Tues 9 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

LONG BEACH DUB ALLSTARS Tues 9 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

ABC: THE LEXICON OF LOVE Tues 9 Apr, Symphony Hall, B'ham

MAVERICK SABRE Wed 10 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SUNDARA KARMA Wed 10 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE TRIALS OF CATO Wed 10 Apr, The Red Lion Folk Club, B'ham

IRMA VEP Wed 10 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

AUTHOR + PUNISHER Wed 10 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ANTEROS, REDFACES Thurs 11 Apr, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

HOLY MOLY AND THE CRACKERS Thurs 11 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

NILÜFER YANYA Thurs 11 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ALEX REX Thurs 11 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BRIAN MCFADDEN Thurs 11 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

THE LINDISFARNE STORY Thurs 11 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LEAH MCFALL Thurs 11 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

THE XCERTS Thurs 11 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham



Shawn Mendes - Arena Birmingham

LEGENDS LIVE Fri 12 Apr, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

BILLY LOCKETT Fri 12 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JEREMY SASSOON Fri 12 Apr, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

60S INVASION Fri 12 Apr, The Old Rep, Birmingham

BON GIOVI Fri 12 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

TRIBUTE TO EDDIE VEDDER Fri 12 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SPREADING THE DISEASE EP LAUNCH Fri 12 Apr, Scruffy Murphy's, Birmingham

THE SIXTIES INVASION TOUR Fri 12 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

MASSIVE WAGONS Fri 12 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

CATAPULT CLUB FEAT. POLARY Fri 12 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CIVIL WRONGS Fri 12 - Sat 13 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

GENESIS CONNECTED Fri 12 - Sat 13 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SHAKKA Sat 13 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ATHENS Sat 13 Apr, The Flapper, B'ham

THE ORB Sat 13 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE SMITHS TRIBUTE Sat 13 Apr, The Flapper, Birmingham

THE MEN THAT WILL NOT BE BLAMED FOR NOTHING + LOUISE DISTRAS + YEAR ZERO Sat 13 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

E3UK LIVE Sat 13 Apr, Arena Birmingham

THE PAGANS SOH + THE MOODS Sat 13 Apr, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

HOSTILE Sat 13 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MEADOWLARK Sat 13 Apr, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

ZACK KNIGHT Sat 13 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN: LED ZEPPELIN MASTERS Sat 13 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CATAPULT CLUB FEAT. ESTATE Sat 13 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

REBEL REBEL - DAVID BOWIE TRIBUTE Sat 13 Apr, Route 44, B'ham

CARIBBEAN ROCKS 2019 FT. DEXTA DAPS, SHENSEEA, MOTTO, MARZVILLE, DJ NATE Sat 13 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JETSKI BABYLON Sat 13 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

BRIGADE WITH SPECIAL GUESTS FALLEN MAFIA Sat 13 Apr, Scruffy Murphy's, Birmingham

WALK RIGHT BACK - THE STORY OF THE EVERLY BROTHERS Sun 14 Apr, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

TOM WILLIAMS Sun 14 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JIM JONES AND THE RIGHTEOUS MIND Sun 14 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT: TALKING ITALIAN Programme includes works by Bach, Frescobaldi, Corelli, Morandi, Ponchielli, Yon & Bossi, Mon 8 Apr, Symphony Hall, B'ham

LUNCHTIME MUSIC WITH JENNIFER PIKE (VIOLIN) & MAHAN ESFAHANI (HARPSICHORD) Programme includes works by Bach & Piston, Tues 9 Apr, The Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: SIBELIUS AND NIELSEN Featuring Michael Seal (conductor) and Christopher Maltman (baritone). Programme includes works by Sibelius, Mahler and Nielsen, Wed 10 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FRONTIERS SERIES; BIRMINGHAM NEW MUSIC Concert of new works by Royal Birmingham Conservatoire composers, featuring a wide range of styles utilising the flexible layout of the Lab in a creative and inventive way, Wed 10 Apr, The Lab. Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

BEHN QUARTET & EMANUIL IVANOV (PIANO) Programme comprises Franck's Piano Quintet, Wed 10 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE OPERA BOYS Thurs 11 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

SCHUBERT'S STRING QUARTET Featuring Jonathan Martindale & Jane Wright (violins); Michael Jenkinson (viola) & Kate Setterfield & Catherine Ardagh-Walter (cellos). Programme comprises Schubert's String Quintet in C, Thurs 11 Apr, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

CBSO: CLASSIC FM'S MOVIE CLASSICS Featuring Michael Seal (conductor), Andrew Collins (presenter), Oliver Janes (clarinet) and Martin James Bartlett (piano). Programme includes works by Strauss, Handel, Mozart, Wagner, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and more, Fri 12 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN Featuring Carlos Miguel Prieto (conductor) and Xiayin Wang (piano). Programme includes works by Carlos Chávez, Gershwin, Copland and Revueltas, Sun 14 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



Comedy

MARC MARON Mon 8 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

TOMMY TIERNAN Tues 9 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

DAZ BLACK Tues 9 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SEAN MCLOUGHLIN Tues 9 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

IVO GRAHAM Wed 10 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MICKY P. KERR Wed 10 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

EMILY ATACK Thurs 11 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON & COMEDIAN TBC Thurs 11 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL MCCAFFREY, MIKE WILMOT, MICKEY SHARMA & SEAN PERCIVAL Fri 12 - Sat 13 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RICH WILSON, JOE SUTHERLAND, GEORGE EGG & FREDDY QUINN Sat 13 Apr, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

LOU SANDERS Sat 13 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

Theatre

THE TRICK A magic show about getting older and coming to terms with loss, Mon 8 - Tues 9 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

MEMORY LANE Rollercoaster journey through some of the greatest songs of the 1950s, '60s and '70s, Mon 8 - Tues 9 Apr, The Core, Solihull

THE LONG ROAD Amateur staging of Shelagh Stephenson's powerful play, Mon 8 - Sat 13 Apr, Oldbury Rep

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT BOBBY Darkly comic drama that pulls apart the life of a child actor, exploring society's uneasy fascination with violent children, Tues 9 - Thurs 11 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

AMERICAN IDIOT Green Day's explosive rock musical returns to mark the show's 10th anniversary and the 15th anniversary of the Grammy Award-winning original album, Tues 9 - Sat 13 Apr, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

A BRAVE FACE Worcestershire-based full mask theatre company Vamos explore the subject of post-traumatic stress, Wed 10 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

OUT LOUD Stage production raising awareness of climate change, Wed 10 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

SPARKPLUG Box Of Tricks presents a



Jennifer Pike & Mahan Esfahani

Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Tues 9 April

A former BBC Young Musician of the Year - winning the title at the tender age of 12 - highly rated English violinist Jennifer Pike here joins harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani to play two sonatas by Bach and American composer Walter Piston's neo-classical Sonatina, written in 1945. "I view myself as being a vessel for the composer's intentions," explains Jennifer in talking about her approach to musicmaking. "It isn't the performer who everyone should be coming to enjoy, it's the composer's music."

'punchy & poetic' exploration of family, race, identity and love, Wed 10 - Sat 13 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

TINA T'URNER TEA LADY'S STEAMY BINGO An evening celebrating bingo, music, tea and laughter, as Tina spins her cage of balls to a high-energy '80s soundtrack, Thurs 11 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM'S NIGHT OF STARS John Lodge of the Moody Blues and Carl Palmer of Emerson, Lake and Palmer will front an evening of music and laughter with fellow musical artistes, friends and colleagues in aid of The Birmingham Children's Hospital, Thurs 11 Apr, Symphony Hall, B'ham

OUR TOWN Newman University Drama Department present Thornton Wilder's play, which questions 'how much we really appreciate what we have while we still have it', Thurs 11 - Fri 12 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

FORGET ME NOT: THE ALZHEIMER'S WHODUNNIT Comic, poet and psychiatric nurse Rob Gee presents a murder-mystery set on an Alzheimer's ward, Fri 12 - Sat 13 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SCOTTISH FALSETTO SOCK PUPPET THEATRE: SUPERHEROES New show of songs, sketches, socks & violence from the award-winning comedy duo, Sat 13 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

YOU CHOOSE! Brand new interactive family show where a picture book and a series of games are used to create a unique storyline for each performance, Sat 13 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

THE HALF GOD OF RAINFALL Inua Ellams' contemporary saga weaves poetry with storytelling in 'a majestic, chaotic journey across mythologies that transports audiences from a tiny village in Southern Nigeria to the further reaches of our galaxy and beyond', Sat 13 - Sat 20 Apr, The REP, Birmingham



Kids Shows

DEAR ZOO LIVE! Puppetry and audience participation feature in a show based on Rod Campbell's children's book, Thurs 11 - Sun 14 Apr, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

TREASURE ISLAND Swashbuckling story of the seven seas - suitable for children aged three-plus, Sat 13 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

SILENT LINES Russell Maliphant Company presents a groundbreaking new dance production with video artist Panagiotis Tomaras and a new team of dancers, Tues 9 Apr, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

Talks

CONRAD AKER - HOLD FAST: YOSEMITE TO EVEREST TO MERU One of the world's greatest climbers talks all things mountaineering, including the 1924 Mallory & Irvine Everest expedition, Thurs 11 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

SOMETHING LEFT BEHIND (15) Documentary. Starring The Wedding Present. Followed by Q&A with director Andrew Jezard. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Thurs 11 Apr

THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER (15) Drama/Mystery. Starring Maggie Gyllenhaal, Gael García Bernal. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 12 - Tues 16 Apr

THE WHITE CROW (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Oleg Ivenko, Ralph Fiennes. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 12 - Thurs 18 Apr

THE WIZARD OF OZ (U) Musical/Fantasy. Starring Judy Garland, Ray Bolger. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 14 Apr

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Mon 8 Apr, showing at selected cinemas

WONDER PARK (PG)

HELLBOY (tbc)

LITTLE (tbc)

WILD ROSE (15)

Events

MINI MUSEUM ENGINEERS - TOOL SKILLS Use your skills with hammers, nuts and bolts, screws and screwdrivers to make engineering masterpieces, Wed 10 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

FLORAL TILE DECORATING Create your own floral-themed designs at family drop-in tile decorating workshops on weekdays over the Easter break, Fri 12 Apr, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire



EXPLORASAURUS EVENING Get stuck in to all things dino-tastic, Fri 12 Apr, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

THE VINTAGE NATIONALS Get-together of traditional hot rods and customs, Fri 12 - Sat 13 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough

PLANT HUNTERS' FAIR Traditionally grown plants for every type of garden, Sat 13 Apr, Sandwell Valley Country Park, West Bromwich

CREATE AN EASTER RAG WREATH Embrace the traditional art of rag rug making with an Easter twist on one of the workshops, Sat 13 Apr, Birmingham Back to Backs

AUDIO DESCRIPTIVE TOUR - A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DANNY THE HORSE Meet Danny in Carter's Yard and discover the contributions of horse transport in the 19th century, Sat 13 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM BREAKFAST CLUB An opportunity for vehicle owners to share stories and expertise, as well as to see a range of on-display vehicles, Sat 13 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

EASTER HOLIDAY FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITIES - SATURDAY ENGINEERS Can families create a chain of reactions to get an 'egg' from one point to another? Sat 13 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

RAF DEFFORD AIRFIELD GUIDED WALK Find out about the top-secret airbase which was home to airborne radar testing and development during the Second World War and early years of the Cold War, Sat 13 Apr, Croome Park, Worcester

THE BIG ONE FISHING SHOW The world's biggest and best tackle manufacturers present their new gear for 2019, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Apr, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth

KIDTROPOLIS Packed with live shows, children's characters, popular brands and numerous activities, Sat 13 - Mon 15 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

EASTER EGG HUNT Find all the eggs in the garden to complete the hunt, Sat 13 - Mon 22 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham



EASTER HOLIDAYS Superheroes are heading to the Severn Valley Railway to save the day during the Easter holidays, Sat 13 - Fri 26 Apr, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

EASTER DINO EGG HUNT The Easter Bunny doesn't visit Thinktank, but the Easter dinosaurs do, and they've left large dino eggs hidden around the museum, Sat 13 - Sun 28 Apr, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

EASTER EGG HUNT Help Ruby the Castle Dragon find her eggs, Sat 13 - Sun 28 Apr, Tamworth Castle

EGG-CITING EASTER CELEBRATIONS Find out about the weird and wonderful practices of the past, from egg dancing to hot cross buns, Sat 13 - Sun 28 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

BUNNY BOATS Hop on a boat and head into the caverns, the home at Easter of the Easter Bunny's warren. Keep an eye out for evidence of the big bunny himself, and spot the giant coloured eggs he's been keeping safe, Sat 13 - Sun 28 Apr, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

EASTER EGG QUEST Find all the hidden eggs to get a chocolatey prize, Sat 13 - Sun 28 Apr, Hawkstone Park & Follies, Shrewsbury

ANIMAL EASTER TRAIL Help the Easter Bunny find all his animal friends, Sat 13 - Sun 28 Apr, RAF Cosford, Shifnal

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA Take along your little eggsplorers and help the onsite Easter Bunny follow the trail of gigantic Easter eggs around the park and earn a chocolatey treat, Sat 13 - Sun 28 Apr, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

EASTER HOLIDAY FUN Enjoy a whole host of activities across Shakespeare's family homes, Sat 13 - Sun 28 Apr, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-Upon-Avon

EASTER ADVENTURE QUEST Join the hunt for dragon eggs, Sat 13 - Sun 28 Apr, Kenilworth Castle

EASTER ADVENTURE QUEST Crack the clues as you and your family follow the trail around the site, Sat 13 - Sun 28 Apr, Witley Court, Great Witley, Worcestershire

TOY COLLECTORS FAIR Explore over 500 stalls packed with all kinds of collectable toys, trains and models for sale, Sun 14 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

POHELA BOISHAKH Join members of Birmingham's Bangladeshi community in a colourful celebration of Pohela Boishakh, the Bangla New Year, Sun 14 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

MYTHICAL BEASTS & FANTASTIC CREATURES Event 'taking inspiration from the mythical beasts and fantastic creatures depicted around the grand old mansion', Sun 14 Apr, Aston Hall, Birmingham



Pohela Boishakh - Birmingham Town Hall





thelist

Gigs

THE DRIFTERS Mon 15 Apr, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

INDOOR PETS + GENDER ROLES Mon 15 Apr, The Flapper, B'ham

NINA NESBITT Tues 16 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CAROL BREWSTER Tues 16 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

LONA + THE COLLIER Tues 16 Apr, The Flapper, Birmingham

SILENT RIVAL Tues 16 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MIKE TRAMP & HIS BAND Tues 16 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

FETTY WAP Tues 16 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ONE ACEN Tues 16 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

SET IT OFF Wed 17 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

STEFFLON DON Wed 17 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

GET THE BLESSING Wed 17 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

VANT WED 17 Apr, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

BIG WOLF BAND Wed 17 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

ART GARFUNKEL: AN EVENING OF SONG AND STORIES Wed 17 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SAINT VITUS Wed 17 Apr, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

THE SHEE Wed 17 Apr, The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

LOWKEY Wed 17 Apr, The Glee Club, B'ham

ONLY SUN Wed 17 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC Wed 17 - Thurs 18 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

GEKO Thurs 18 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MERCURY Thurs 18 Apr, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

JOE JACKSON Thurs 18 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JOYCE MANOR Thurs 18 Apr, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

THE COLLECTIVE Thurs 18 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

GLASS CEILINGS Thurs 18 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

EDEN'S CURSE Thurs 18 Apr, The Robin, Bilston

FROG LEAP Thurs 18 Apr, The Asylum, Birmingham

VICTORIES AT SEA Thurs 18 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

YOUNG MARCO Thurs 18 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CHRIS DIFFORD Thurs 18 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BELIEVE: THE CHER SONGBOOK Fri 19 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

THE WEST COAST EAGLES Fri 19 Apr, Lichfield Guildhall

TOM LUMLEY & THE BRAVE LIAISONO Fri 19 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

MONSTER TRUCK Fri 19 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MIDGE URE Fri 19 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE URBAN FOLK QUARTET Fri 19 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PUPPY/GREEN LUNG Fri 19 Apr, The Flapper, Birmingham

SHOWHAWK DUO Fri 19 Apr, The Mill Digbeth, Birmingham

THE TIN TINS REUNION Fri 19 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LIVE IN THE LIVING ROOM'S LITTLE PIZZAEXPRESS TOUR Fri 19 Apr, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

MANOWAR Fri 19 - Sat 20 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

SOLID SOUL Fri 19 - Sat 20 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham



Nina Nesbitt - O2 Institute, Birmingham

Classical Music

COLLABRO Mon 15 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham



LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH DAVID HARDIE Mon 15 Apr, Birmingham Cathedral

COLLABRO Tues 16 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

CZECH NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: BACK TO THE FUTURE Tues 18 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

PIXAR IN CONCERT A brand-new version of Pixar In Concert will come to three cities in the UK celebrating the most memorable moments from Pixar films, with a full orchestra performing the stunning score's, Thurs 18 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE TETRA TRIO Programme includes works by J.S Bach, Dohnanyi & Beethoven, Thurs 18 Apr, St Mary's, Lichfield

GOOD FRIDAY ST MATTHEW PASSION Featuring Ex Cathedra Choir and Baroque Orchestra and Jeffrey Skidmore (Conductor). Programme includes Bach, Fri 19 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY Mon 15 Apr, The Blue Orange Theatre, B'ham

DEMETRI MARTIN Wed 17 Apr, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

SUSIE MCCABE, TOM WARD & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 18 Apr, The Glee Club, B'ham

STUART GOLDSMITH Fri 19 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SUSIE MCCABE, TOM WARD, BEN NORRIS & RICH WILSON Fri 19 - Sat 20 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

HAYLEY ELLIS, KEITH FARNAN, JENNY COLLIER & TUDUR OWEN Sat 20 Apr, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

BOX OF FROGS Sun 21 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOMMY SANDHU, ESHAN AKBAR, HYDE PANASER & WILL E ROBO Sun 21 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

FAME THE MUSICAL Jorgie Porter, Keith Jack & Mica Paris star in the 30th anniversary production of the hit show, Mon 15 - Sat 20 Apr, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

AN EVENING WITH ERIC AND ERN Homage to British comedy's best-loved double act, Wed 17 Apr, The Old Rep, Birmingham

ART GARFUNKEL: AN EVENING OF SONG AND STORIES Featuring Simon & Garfunkel classics and solo hits, plus extracts from Art's new autobiography, Wed 17 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

TRUMP THE MUSICAL Join Blowfish Theatre for an evening of 'raucous comedy, original music and one truly awful wig', Wed 17 - Mon 22 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE LONG WALK BACK The epic story of cricketer Chris Lewis' catastrophic fall from grace, Thurs 18 Apr, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

WIFI WARS World-record-breaking live comedy gameshow with which the entire audience play along, Thurs 18 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

TINA T'URNER TEA LADY'S STEAMY BINGO An evening celebrating bingo, music, tea and laughter, as Tina spins her cage of balls to a high-energy '80s soundtrack, Thurs 18 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

JEKYLL & HYDE Evan Placey's reimagining of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic horror, Thurs 18 - Sat 27 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

REVEALED: A MENOLOGUES PRODUCTION New play from The Red Earth Collective and Rites of Passage Productions, written by Daniel Anderson and directed by Jay Crutchley, Fri 19 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

CONGREGATION Bewdley Town Criers present Freddy Just's new play about bigotry and exploitation in a contemporary church setting, Fri 19 Apr, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

Cabaret

WILDVIXEN'S LEGENDS CHALLENGE EXTRAVAGANZA! Celebration of the world of burlesque & cabaret, Sat 20 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

Kids Shows

THE BOY AND THE MERMAID Join three shanty-singing fishermen as they weave a fishy tale of musical merfolk, menacing monsters and spec-

tacularly bad town planning, Mon 15 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

TOM THUMB Lyngo Theatre brings this Brothers Grimm tale to life with feathery spinning birds, a flying house and a portable forest, Thurs 18 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

DIZZY O'DARE'S GIANT BALLOON SHOW Featuring 'balloon sculptures, high-energy comic performance and, of course, the all-important giant snowball balloon!', Fri 19 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

BEN AND HOLLY'S LITTLE KINGDOM 'Magical musical adventure packed full of songs, games & laughter', Fri 19 - Sat 20 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

ALIENS LOVE UNDERPANTS Expect madcap action, original music and plenty of laughs, Fri 19 - Sat 20 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

ZOG Based on Julia Donaldson & Axel Schefler's larger-than-life creation, Fri 19 - Mon 22 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

ANIMALCOLM THE MUSICAL David Baddiel's new musical comedy for younger audiences, fusing physical theatre, puppetry & storytelling, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

Dance

BURN THE FLOOR Combining 'jaw-dropping choreography & ground breaking moves'. Strictly winner Kevin Clifton stars, Sun 21 Apr, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

MY NEIGHBOUR TOTORO (U) Animation/Fantasy. English, dubbed. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Mon 15 - Thurs 18 Apr

THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING (PG) Adventure/Family. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Mon 15 - Thurs 18 Apr

PONYO (U) Animation/Comedy. English, dubbed. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Tues 16 Apr

KIKI'S DELIVERY SERVICE (U) Animation/Drama. English, dubbed. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Wed 17 Apr

YULI - THE CARLOS ACOSTA STORY (tbc) Biography/Drama. Starring Carlos Acosta, Santiago Alfonso. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Wed 17 Apr

OLIVER! (U) Family/Musical. Starring Mark Lester, Ron Moody. Lichfield Garrick, Wed 17 Apr

LIFE OF BRIAN (15) Comedy. Starring Graham Chapman, John Cleese. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Thurs 18 Apr

BORDER (15) Drama/Fantasy. Starring Eva Melander, Eero Milonoff. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 19 Apr

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE (18) Drama/Sci-Fi. Starring Malcolm McDowell, Patrick Magee. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 19 & Sun 21 Apr

FOXTROT (15) Drama. Starring Lior Ashkenazi, Sarah Adler. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 19 - Sun 21 & Tues 23 Apr

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD (PG) Family/Fantasy. With the voices of Gerard Butler, Cate Blanchett. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 19, Mon 22 - Thurs 25 Apr

THE LEGO MOVIE 2: THE SECOND PART (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Chris Pratt, Alison Brie. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 19 - Thurs 25 Apr



Animalcom The Musical - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham



Trump The Musical

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 17 - Mon 22 April

Like him or loathe him, there's no denying Donald Trump is big box office, a fact which explains Blowfish Theatre's very sensible decision to construct a whole show around him.

Making a welcome return to the Old Joint Stock, the highly regarded ensemble present what they describe as an evening of raucous comedy, original music and one truly awful wig: "Our show proves that just because the world's being run by a power-crazed narcissist who will bomb us all to hell, it doesn't mean we can't enjoy it while it lasts!"

Blowfish have form when it comes to producing musicals about eccentric characters with crazy hair - their previous show was an all-singing all-dancing 'homage' to wannabe Tory prime minister Boris Johnson.

THE PASSENGER (15) Drama. Starring Jack Nicholson, Maria Schneider. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 20 Apr

PURPLE RAIN (15) Drama/Music. Starring Prince, Apollonia Kotero. The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 20 Apr

GIRL (15) Drama. Starring Victor Polster, Arieh Worthalter. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 20 Apr

HARRY POTTER MARATHON (12) Adventure/Family. Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint. All eight films! The Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Sat 20 Apr

DREAMS (PG) Drama/Fantasy. Starring Akira Terao, Mitsuko Baisho. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 21 Apr

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 19 Apr, showing at selected cinemas

GRETA (15)

HEAD FULL OF HONEY (tbc)

LORO (18)

RED JOAN (12a)

Events

MINI MOTORISTS Activity morning for under-fives, allowing them to discover, through play, the world's largest collection of historic British cars, Mon 15 Apr, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire



FLORAL TILE DECORATING Create your own floral-themed designs at these family drop-in tile workshops, Mon 15 - Fri 19 Apr, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

EASTER HOLIDAY FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITIES - EASTER MACHINES Make some eggstremely marvellous machines, Mon 15 - Fri 19 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

NIMROD TOURS Step on board the







Easter Holidays

Get creative and inspired this Easter.

We have a great line-up of courses, workshops, theatre and films for the whole family to enjoy!

Highlights

David Baddiel's ANiMALCOLM THE MUSICAL
MAC Creative Camps Make A Robopet
Drawalot Studio Ghibli Films You Choose!

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND | Birmingham City Council

macbirmingham.co.uk
0121 446 3232
Midlands Arts Centre
Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham , B12 9QH

Registered Company no. 718349 | Registered Charity no. 528979

Nimrod XV249 and learn about its intelligence-gathering role in the Royal Air Force, Mon 15 - Sun 28 Apr, RAF Cosford, Shifnal



RAF DEFFORD AIRFIELD GUIDED WALK Find out about the top-secret airbase which was home to airborne radar testing and development during the Second World War and early years of the Cold War, Tues 16 Apr, Croome Park, Worcester

POTTING SHED SUNFLOWERS CRAFT ACTIVITY Decorate and make your own plant pot, fill it with some Blakesley garden soil and plant a seed in it, Tues 16 Apr, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

ZOO CLUB Featuring activities suitable for children aged between eight and 14, all themed around animals, wildlife, nature and zoos, Tues 16 - Thurs 18 Apr, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

PUPPET & MAGIC SHOW Treasure Trove Puppet Company present traditional Easter tales using hand-carved puppets, Tues 16 - Wed 24 Apr, The British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

LITTLE SKIPPERS - EASTER FUN Featuring activities and a boat trip, Tues 16 - Thurs 18 Apr, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

PANORAMA TOWER OPEN DAY Enjoy fantastic panoramic views of Worcester from the top of the tower, Wed 17 Apr, Croome Park, Worcester

YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS' AND CURATORS' CLUB Find out how the cast iron houses will be dismantled and rebuilt in a different location on the museum site, Wed 17 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

THE COALBROOKDALE ARCHIVES LECTURE 2019 A talk by the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage's Dr Roger White about the excavations of a Saxon wooden palace, Wed 17 Apr, Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, Ironbridge, Shropshire

EASTER BUNNY GROTTO Walk through the enchanted wood and hunt for golden eggs to exchange for chocolatey treats in the Easter Bunny's burrow, Wed 17 - Fri 19 Apr, The British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

EASTER CROWN CRAFT ACTIVITY AT BLAKESLEY HALL Make your own unique Easter crown covered with animals, Thurs 18 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

EASTER EGG DECORATION - FAMILY WORKSHOP Traditional Easter crafts, including egg-decoration, Thurs 18 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley



NATURE EXPLORERS Explore the great outdoors and learn about the natural world, Fri 19 Apr, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

FESTIVAL OF POWER Action-packed Easter weekend including drag racing, monster trucks, stunt displays and more, Fri 19 - Sun 21 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough



Insomnia64 - NEC, Birmingham

INSOMNIA64 Weekend of non-stop gaming including a cosplay masquerade, Fri 19 - Mon 22 Apr, NEC, Birmingham

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA Featuring an exclusive stage show starring Mr Cadbury's Parrot, Fri 19 - Mon 22 Apr, Cadbury World, Birmingham

THE GREAT EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANA! Find the Birds of Arley's eggs, Fri 19 - Sun 28 Apr, Arley Arboretum, Upper Arley, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

PLANT HUNTERS' FAIR Traditionally grown plants for every type of garden, Sat 20 Apr, Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster

ST. GEORGE'S DAY Medieval experience to celebrate the patron saint of England, Sat 20 Apr, Tamworth Castle

EASTER HOLIDAY FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITIES - SATURDAY ENGINEERS Make some eggstremely marvellous machines, Sat 20 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

EASTER EGG HUNT Meet the Easter Bunny and award-winning clown Bibbledy Bob, Sun 21 Apr, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

ASTON IN WONDERLAND: CELEBRATING NATIONAL TEA DAY Meet lots of your favourite storybook characters, including Alice, the Mad Hatter and the angry Queen, Sun 21 Apr, Aston Hall, Birmingham



PLANT HUNTERS' FAIR Traditionally grown plants for every type of garden, Sun 21 - Mon 22 Apr, The Dorothy Clive Garden, Willoughbridge

EASTER MOTOR SHOW Featuring a display of vintage, classic and modern classic vehicles, Sun 21 - Mon 22 Apr, Weston Park, Staffordshire



Cadbury Easter Egg Hunts

Packwood House, Solihull, Fri 19 - Mon 22 April; Birmingham Back to Backs, Fri 19 - Mon 22 April; Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton; Fri 19 - Mon 22 April; Coughton Court, Alcester, Fri 19 - Mon 22 April

Who better to organise an Easter egg hunt (or several) than those lovely people at Cadbury? The chocolate-making Birmingham company are this Easter coordinating more than 250 hunts at National Trust properties across the UK.

And there's plenty more for families to enjoy on their fun-filled day out, with many of the venues offering 'games and craft activities galore'.

What's more, all participants will be rewarded with a sure-to-be-delicious Cadbury treat at the end of each completed hunt.



Rufus Wainwright - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Gigs

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT Mon 22 Apr, Symphony Hall, B'ham

DAVE Mon 22 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

CIRCA WAVES Tues 23 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

INDIE, IDOL & INFAMOUS – JAPANESE IDOL TRIPLE BILL Tues 23 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

TOM SPEIGHT Tues 23 Apr, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

CARA DILLON Wed 24 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CISSY STONE AND HER BAND Wed 24 Apr, The Jam House, B'ham

POP DIVAS LIVE Wed 24 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull

DARYL HALL & JOHN OATES Wed 24 Apr, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

YUNG FUME Wed 24 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

LITTLE THIEF + KROOKED TONGUE Wed 24 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

ELKIE BROOKS IN CONCERT Thurs 25 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

TOKEN Thurs 25 Apr, O2 Academy, B'ham

SIMONE FELICE Thurs 25 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DEL CAMINO Thurs 25 Apr, The Jam House, Birmingham

TOM PAXTON & THE DONJUANS Thurs 25 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

THE CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS Fri 26 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

THE GEORGE MICHAEL STORY Fri 26 Apr, Crescent Theatre, B'ham

THE SPECIALS Fri 26 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

NEWTON FAULKNER Fri 26 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE BLINDERS Fri 26 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE SOUND OF SPRINGSTEEN Fri 26 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ANDY ABRAHAM'S NAT KING COLE SONGBOOK Fri 26 Apr, The Core Theatre, Solihull

ELIZABETH FIELDS Fri 26 Apr, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

PEARL JAMM Fri 26 Apr, The Asylum, B'ham

JOEL BAKER Fri 26 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

T8PES Fri 26 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

FRAUDS/RAT THE MAGNIFICENT/FID/WMN Fri 26 Apr, The Flapper, B'ham

MICHAEL ENGLISH WITH SPECIAL GUEST BRENDAN SHINE Fri 26 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

JUDGE JULES Fri 26 Apr, The Mill, Digbeth, Birmingham

DANNI NICHOLLS Fri 26 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

WAKENING THE HOLLOW EP RELEASE Fri 26 Apr, Scruffy Murphy's, Birmingham

UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE Fri 26 - Sat 27 Apr, The Jam House, B'ham

RICHARD ASHCROFT Sat 27 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

NICK PRIDE & THE PIMPTONES Sat 27 Apr, The Night Owl, B'ham

UNDER THE APPLE TREE-LIVE ON TOUR WITH WILDWOOD KIN Sat 27 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JAWS Sat 27 Apr, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FRANKIE'S GUYS Sat 27 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MIKE FLETCHER JAZZ ORCHESTRA Sat 27 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

DEAN FRIEDMAN Sat 27 Apr, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

C DUNCAN Sat 27 Apr, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

KADIALY KOUYATE BAND Sat 27 Apr, Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

KATHERINE JENKINS Sat 27 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE Sun 28 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MARTHA Sun 28 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GREATEST HITS OF MOTOWN Sun 28 Apr, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

MAISIE PETERS Sun 28 Apr, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

M HUNCHO Sun 28 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

IDLEWILD Sun 28 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

PAPA ROACH Mon 29 Apr, O2 Academy, Birmingham

DEVIN TOWNSEND Tues 30 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KID INK Tues 30 Apr, O2 Institute, B'ham

JOSEFIN ÖHRN Tues 30 Apr, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Classical Music

ALUMNI CHOIR Sun 22 Apr, Lichfield Cathedral

A CELEBRATION OF BRITISH FOLK SONGS WITH TRINITY BOYS CHOIR Wed 24 Apr, Lichfield Cathedral

CBSO: MAHLER'S NINTH Featuring Ilan Volkov (conductor) and CBSO. Programme includes Klein & Mahler, Thurs 25 Apr, Symphony Hall, B'ham

BRUCKNER'S STRING QUINTET Featuring Philip Brett & Charlotte Skinner (vocals); Christopher Yates & Catherine Bower (violas) & Eduardo Vassallo (cello). Programme comprises Bruckner's String Quintet in F, Thurs 25 Apr, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

CBSO: BEST OF BOND Featuring Stephen Bell (conductor) and Lance Ellington & Anna-Jane Casey (vocalists), Fri 26 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE MIDLAND CHAMBER PLAYERS Programme includes works by Mozart & Mendelssohn, Fri 26 Apr, Birmingham Midland Institute

COLLEGIUM VOCALE MÜNCHEN Programme of cappella choral music, Fri 26 Apr, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT Programme includes works by W. H. Harris, J. Stanley, O. Messiaen, R. Binge and M. Durufle, Mon 29 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

NICHOLAS MCCARTHY IN RECITAL Featuring Nicholas McCarthy (piano). Programme includes Bach, Scriabi and Rachmaninoff, Tues 30 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall



Comedy

GEOFF NORCOTT, DAVE FULTON & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 25 Apr, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MORGAN AND WEST'S PARLOUR TRICKS Thurs 25 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

JETHRO Fri 26 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

GEOFF NORCOTT & SUZI RUFFELL, DANIAN CLARK & DAVE FULTON Fri 26 - Sat 27 Apr, The Glee Club, B'ham

TROY HAWKE, MANDY KNIGHT, SEAN PERCIVAL & FREDDY QUINNE Sat 27 Apr, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT Sat 27 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Theatre

ROTTERDAM Jon Brittain's bittersweet comedy about gender, sexuality and being a long way from home, Mon 22 - Wed 24 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER 'The almost entirely imagined Bon Jovi musical', Tues 23 - Sat 27 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

JOCK NIGHT Adam Zane's new play follows five men as they search for love and friendship in a world of sex and drugs. An honest look at the popularity of chemsex, online dating apps and HIV stigma, Wed 24 - Sat 27 Apr, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



MORGAN & WEST: PARLOUR TRICKS Join time-travelling magic duo Morgan & West for an evening 'chock full of jaw-dropping, brain-bursting, gasp-eliciting feats of magic', Thurs 25 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LE GATEAU CHOCOLAT: ICONS Walking the tightrope between his public and private personas, Le Gateau Chocolat explores 'the people, the moments, the relationships and the art that have come to shape us and the ideals to which we aspire', Fri 26 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

PAINTING CLOUDS Theatre that challenges perceptions of different cultures and questions how fear brings out the worst in people, Fri 26 - Sun 28 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

PRISON GAME One-man physical theatre performance that shows how prison can define a man, Sat 27 Apr, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

SHEILA'S MHS 6 'CONTROL' Sheila McMahon combines humour and the subject of mental health to show her audience why life is too serious to be taken seriously... Sat 27 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

MONOLOGUESLAM MASTERCLASS

Workshop for anyone considering auditioning for MonologueSlam UK, Sat 27 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

DES O'CONNOR & JIMMY TARBUCK Two iconic performers on one stage, Sat 27 Apr, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

HOW SWEET IT IS - THE GREATEST HITS OF MOTOWN Sun 28 Apr, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

HAIR Fiftieth anniversary production of the legendary rock musical, starring Jake Quickenden, Daisy Wood-Davis & Marcus Collins, Mon 29 Apr - Sat 4 May, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham



Kids Shows

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY People's Theatre Company host an afternoon of family entertainment based on the classic nursery rhyme, Tues 23 Apr, The Core, Solihull

GRANDAD'S ISLAND Heartwarming theatrical adventure based on Benji Davies' award-winning book. Suitable for children aged four-plus, Wed 24 - Sat 27 Apr, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

ELMER THE PATCHWORK ELEPHANT Colourful show for younger audiences celebrating individuality and the power of laughter, Thurs 25 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

MORGAN & WEST'S UTTERLY SPIFFING SPECTACULAR MAGIC SHOW FOR KIDS (AND CHILDISH GROWN-UPS) Family show fusing brain-boggling illusion and good old-fashioned tomfoolery, Thurs 25 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE Science show that comes complete 'with a bang, a whoosh and a hovercraft-built on stage!', Sat 27 Apr, Lichfield Garrick

DEAR ZOO LIVE! Puppetry and audience participation in a show based on Rod Campbell's children's book, Sun 28 - Mon 29 Apr, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Cabaret

TRES TRES CABARET Evening of cheeky decadence, Sat 27 Apr, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

Dance

SWAN LAKE Presented by Ballet Theatre UK, Thurs 25 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

BALLET CENTRAL Sat 27 Apr, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SHAKE THAT THING: THE GREAT BRITISH SWING DANCE SHOW Dance show featuring music, song and dance from the Roaring '20s and Fabulous '30s, including the charleston, the lindy-hop, the black bottom and more, Sun 28 Apr, Birmingham Town Hall

SWAN LAKE Presented by Ballet Theatre UK, Sun 28 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BURN THE FLOOR Combining 'jaw-dropping choreography & ground breaking moves'. Strictly winner Kevin Clifton stars, Mon 29 Apr, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

Talks

ANT MIDDLETON: MIND OVER MUSCLE Television presenter, adventurer and former soldier Ant takes his audience on a motivational journey of self-help and self-discovery, Tues 23 Apr, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

AN AUDIENCE WITH JOANNA TROLLOPE The award-winning author discusses her long career and most recent book, An Unsuitable Match, Thurs 25 Apr, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

AN EVENING WITH CHRIS EUBANK Fri 26 Apr, Rialto Reborn, Coventry

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE FIGHT (15) Drama/Sport. Starring Jessica Hynes, Alice Lowe. Showing on Wed is followed by Q&A with writer and director Jessica Hynes. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Mon 22 & Wed 24 Apr

GIRL (15) Drama. Starring Victor Polster, Arieh Worthalter. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Tues 23 - Wed 24 Apr



St George And The Dragon Egg Hunt - Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

BORDER (15) Drama/Fantasy. Starring Eva Melander, Eero Milonoff. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Thurs 25 Apr

ON THE BASIS OF SEX (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Felicity Jones, Armie Hammer. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 26 Apr

AVENGERS: ENDGAME (12a) Adventure/Fantasy. Starring Bradley Cooper, Brie Larson. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 26 Apr

AT ETERNITY'S GATE (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Willem Dafoe, Mads Mikkelsen. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 26 - Sat 27 Apr

HAPPY AS LAZZARO (15) Drama. Starring Adriano Tardiolo, Agnese Grazian. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 26 - Mon 29 Apr

LAST BREATH (15) Documentary. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 27 & Mon 29 Apr

3 FACES (12a) Drama. Starring Behnaz Jafari, Jafar Panahi. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 28 & Tues 30 Apr

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 26 Apr, showing at selected cinemas

AVENGERS: ENDGAME (tbc)

BEL CANTO (tbc)

EIGHTH GRADE (15)

THE WORLD IS YOURS (15)

Events

ST GEORGE AND THE DRAGON EGG HUNT Help St George track down the dragon's eggs, Mon 22 Apr, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

EASTER HALF TERM Featuring an Easter bonnet parade, arts & crafts, a bouncy castle and award-winning clown Bibbledy Bob, Mon 22 - Fri 26 Apr, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

FLORAL TILE DECORATING Create your own floral-themed designs at these drop-in family workshops, Mon 22 - Fri 26 Apr, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge

EASTER HOLIDAY FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITIES - EASTER MACHINES Make some eggstremely marvellous machines, Mon 22 - Fri 26 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

CREATURE KITES CRAFT ACTIVITY AT BLAKESLEY HALL Craft your own fairy and dragon kite, Tues 23 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

LITTLE SKIPPERS - EASTER FUN Featuring activities and a boat trip, Tues 23 - Thurs 25 Apr, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

PETER RABBIT STORY TIME The Birmingham Botanical Gardens has a very special visitor this Easter... Wed 24 Apr, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS' AND CURATORS' CLUB Find out how the cast iron houses will be dismantled and rebuilt in a different location on the museum site, Wed 24 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

EASTER BUNNY GROTTO Walk through the enchanted wood and hunt for golden eggs to exchange for chocolatey treats in the Easter Bunny's burrow, Wed 24 - Fri 26 Apr, The British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry

PREMIER LEAGUE DARTS 2019 The world number one and the current world champion do battle on the oche, Thurs 25 Apr, Arena B'ham

TUNNEL TEDS Bear-themed fun on and around the canal, Fri 26 Apr, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

MADE IN THE MIDLANDS - GIN EVENING WITH THE GINTLEMAN The Midlands' leading Gin Raconteur provides 'educational and fun' themed tasting, Fri 26 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

NATURE EXPLORERS Explore the great outdoors and learn about the natural world, Fri 26 Apr, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

MEDIEVAL BANQUET Immersive evening of medieval entertainment, Sat 27 Apr, Warwick Castle



ZOO CLUB Featuring activities suitable for children aged between eight and 14, all themed around animals, wildlife, nature and zoos, Sat 27 Apr, Drayton Manor Theme Park, Tamworth

MONOLOGUESLAM MASTERCLASS Workshop open to all those who are auditioning or considering auditioning for MonologueSlam UK, Sat 27 Apr, The REP, Birmingham

EASTER HOLIDAY FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITIES - SATURDAY ENGINEERS Make some eggstremely marvellous machines, Sat 27 Apr, Coventry Transport Museum

EDWARDIAN COOKING EXPERIENCE A day of traditional cookery by the warmth of the range, Sat 27 Apr, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY: KNIGHTS & NYMPHS GARDEN PARTY Dress up as a knight or nymph, get your face painted and enjoy family-friendly garden games, Sat 27 Apr, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon

SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS A day of live performances, crafts and cake, Sat 27 Apr, Stratford Town Centre

KAPOW! Become a super hero for the day and take on ten giant inflatable obstacles around a 5km course, Sat 27 Apr, West Midland Showground, Shrewsbury

THE KWIK FIT BRITISH TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP Triple-header of races, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Apr, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

PJ MASKS VISIT Ride on a heritage train into the countryside and see PJ Masks' Catboy & Luna Girl, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Apr, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley



The Vauxhall Show - Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

BLAKESLEY HALL PLAY DAY Build your own den and have fun with parachutes, Sun 28 Apr, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

ST GEORGE'S DAY Featuring medieval reenactment, children's entertainers, face painting, crafts and a walkabout with Smoked! the Dragon, Sun 28 Apr, Dudley Zoological Gardens

SPRING CRAFT FAIR Outdoor market featuring a variety of crafts to buy, Sun 28 Apr, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

THE VAUXHALL SHOW Featuring Vauxhall-only RWYB, club displays, show & shine, jet car, FWD drag series and more, Sun 28 Apr, Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough

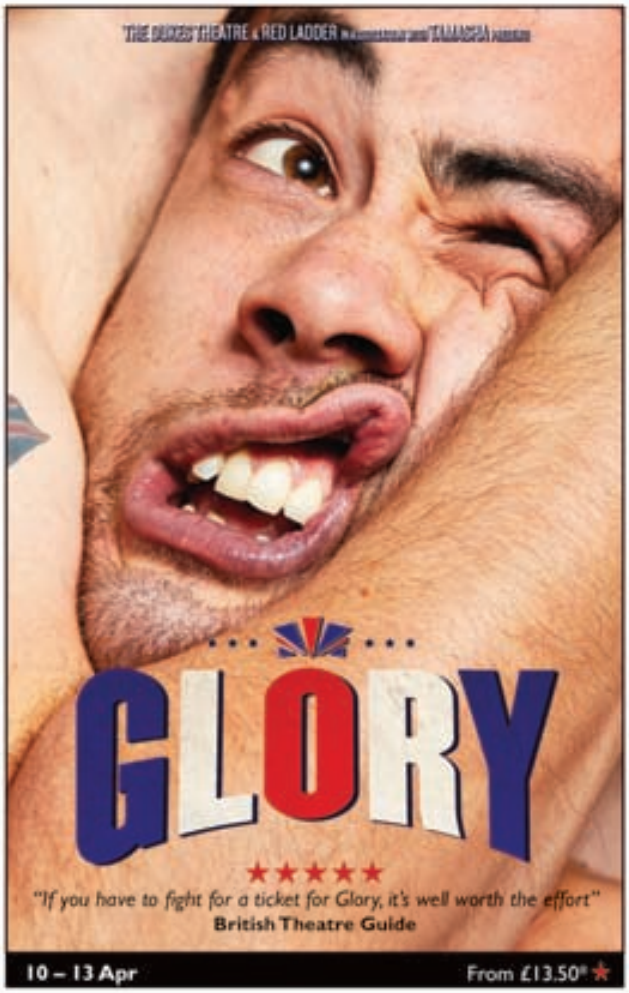
POETS AND STORY TELLERS ASSEMBLE Evening of poetry, storytelling and spoken word presented by local performers, Tues 30 Apr, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton



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24 – 27 Apr — Kids From £18.25*



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Look for the ★ to save 20% off the cost of your full price tickets when you book equivalent amounts for two or more participating shows at the same time. See website for further information on ticket prices and other concessions.

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