

ADAM KAY SCRUBS UP WELL AT THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE

ISSUE 402 JUNE 2019

What's On

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BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET



BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME

DAVID BINTLEY'S

HOBSON'S CHOICE

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THE STAGE

CHOREOGRAPHY DAVID BINTLEY
MUSIC PAUL READE
DESIGNS HAYDEN GRIFFIN
LIGHTING JOHN B. READ
LIVE MUSIC ROYAL BALLET SINFONIA

19-22 JUNE 2019

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**JOIN US FOR THESE PERFORMANCES OF THIS JOYOUS BALLET THAT MARK THE
END OF DAVID BINTLEY'S DIRECTORSHIP OF BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET**



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Two-day 'extravaganza' in the city's Jewellery Quarter

Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter is this month once again hosting its annual two-day festival.

Featuring free family entertainment and a commemoration of the bicentenary of James Watt's death, the 2019 JQ Festival (Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 June) also includes an exhibition space and art gallery, live music, street food vendors and a brewery tour.

Commenting on the event, Luke Crane, Executive Director of the JQBID, said: "This year, we're bringing the Jewellery Quarter's history and heritage to the forefront, as well as celebrating the diversity of our vibrant community."

"There's so much to be proud of and shout about in the Quarter. The JQ Festival is our opportunity to do just that."

Disney to celebrate 100 years of magic in Brum



A show celebrating a centenary of Mouse House magic is visiting the Midlands this autumn.

Disney On Ice Celebrates 100 Years Of Magic will stop off at Arena Birmingham from 16 to 20 October and features characters from 14 classic and modern stories.

The production stars an international team of award-winning figure skaters, and will also boast Disney On Ice's usual impressive sets, colourful costumes and high-energy choreography.

Fashionable awards...

Organisers of the prestigious Midlands Fashion Awards (MFA) are calling on independent, emerging and creative talent from across Birmingham to enter the event's nine categories.

Now in its 12th year, the MFA is a catwalk, exhibition and networking event which culminates in an awards ceremony and showcases creative fashion talent from across the

Midlands.

The awards will be held at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Friday 11 October. To apply to take part, visit midlandsfashion-awards.co.uk. The deadline for entries is Friday 14 June.

Peaky Blinders escape rooms to launch in the city



The world's first official Peaky Blinders escape rooms are set to be unveiled after the BBC TV series' production company agreed a deal with a Midlands-based operator. Escape Live will be bringing the first experiences to Birmingham later this year, and have plans to expand across the UK on the back of the deal.

Commenting on the news, Escape Live's Managing Director, Jas Sodhi, said: "This is fantastic news for Peaky Blinders fans everywhere, and we're looking forward to reimagining this international drama phenomenon into a number of escape experiences. Peaky Blinders has been enjoyed by millions of viewers across the world, but it's

only right that these experiences are brought to Birmingham first." For more information, visit thsh.co.uk

Saturday sitar session

One of the UK's finest sitar players, Roopa Panesar, will be paying a visit to Birmingham Symphony Hall Cafe Bar on the morning of Saturday 22 June, to help youngsters explore 'the music of India, new instruments, expressive ragas and fantastic rhythms'.

A melodic and inventive improviser, Roopa has performed across the UK, Europe, America and India, whilst also leading education projects for hundreds of children throughout the Midlands.

Birmingham musicians look across the Channel

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group is this month teaming up with musicians from the Paris-based Ensemble Court-circuit to present a programme of work that crosses the Channel. The Friday 14 June concert takes place at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. For more information, visit bcmg.org.uk



An evening with Sir Bradley at Symphony Hall

Britain's most decorated Olympian is visiting Birmingham's Symphony Hall this autumn (Friday 20 September) with a brand new show.

Bradley Wiggins: An Evening With sees the Olympic Gold medallist and Tour de France winner sharing exclusive stories in a unique and intimate live setting.

Commenting on the show, Sir Bradley said: "I'm really excited to get back on the road again. Cycling has always been my passion, so to share my experiences, my journey and my own collection of memorabilia is fantastic."



A giant leap for mankind...

Birmingham Cathedral will next month host a musical event to mark the anniversary of the first moon landing - 50 years to the very day since it happened.

A half-century after Neil Armstrong made his 'giant leap for mankind', the cathedral will host a Limelight Orchestra concert of rock & pop classics, during which the 300-year-old building will be illuminated by spectacular lighting effects and state-of-the-art 3D holograms. For more information about the 20 July event, visit birmingham-cathedral.com



Programme announced for fifth Indian Film Festival

Birmingham Indian Film Festival is this month taking place for a fifth year.

Running at various venues from Friday 21 June till Monday 1 July, the event showcases a rich assortment of independent movies, including an entry from India's new wave of LGBTQ+ films. Commenting on the festival, Cary Rajinder

Sawhney, the event's executive & programming director, said: "Punching above our weight as always, this year is probably our strongest programme ever, with exciting Midlands premieres, rarely seen archival masterpieces, and some seriously cutting-edge dramas and documentaries."

Cube is alive with the sound of music



Musical theatre lovers should get themselves along to Level25 at The Cube in Birmingham on Sunday 9 June, when a cast of West End performers will be presenting an evening of singalong hits from some of the world's biggest stage shows.

An Evening At The Musicals will also include a three-course meal.

For information about ticket availability, visit design-mynight.com

Outgoing Roxana reveals her final-season line-up of shows at The REP

Birmingham Repertory Theatre's outgoing Artistic Director, Roxana Silbert, has announced her last programme of shows for the venue.

Roxana's autumn/winter line-up of productions at The REP includes Robert Lindsay (pictured) starring in Prism - Terry Johnson's witty and poignant play about the extraordinary life of Oscar-winning cinematographer Jack Cardiff - a Bryony Lavery adaptation of Alice Sebold's novel, The Lovely Bones, and a swashbuckling Christmas version of Peter Pan.

Commenting on the programme, Roxana said: "The REP is blessed with an audience that is both open-hearted and open-minded, and I hope that some of the spirit of the city and its people is reflected in a programme that's bursting with national and home-grown talent, alongside inventive new work across its three stages and beyond." To check out The REP's full season of shows, visit birmingham-rep.co.uk



Get dynamic...

Parents can get active with their toddlers and pre-schoolers this month and next at special midweek get-togethers in Birmingham. Dynamic Kids takes place every Wednesday afternoon from 5 June to 17 July at St Germain's CofE Church in the city's Edgbaston district. The event encourages children and their adults to get active through different types of physical activity, including dance, sport, exercise and obstacle courses... Check out the Dynamic Kids Facebook page for more information.

Nothing to laugh about at The Glee

One of the world's foremost experts on serial killers and sexual deviants visits Birmingham with a new show next month. Although Paul Harrison's work is no laughing matter, the criminal profiler turned crime writer will be presenting Inside The Mind Of The Serial Killer at a city centre venue best known for its comedy gigs - The Glee Club. Paul visits The Glee on Tuesday 2 July. For more information, visit glee.co.uk

Ex-Wolves star in Dragonboat Race charity appeal

Former England and Wolves footballer Geoff Thomas is asking businesses to get 'on board' with this year's Brindleyplace Dragonboat Race (Saturday 15 June) and help raise money for Cure Leukaemia. A blood cancer survivor himself and patron of the charity, Geoff is encouraging business professionals to act fast if they want to battle it out at this year's event. To register a team for the race, contact stacey.muir@avisonyoung.com



Sir Lenny Henry kicks off new tour at Birmingham theatre

Sir Lenny Henry will kickstart a brand new UK tour at Birmingham Hippodrome later this year. Following the autumn publication of his memoir, the Dudley-born actor and comedian will present An Evening With Lenny Henry - Who Am I Again? at the Hippodrome on Sunday 20 October. Commenting on the new tour, Sir Lenny said: "I can't wait to share more stories and fun about growing up in the Midlands, my early days in the clubs, pubs and discotheques, and of course working on Tiswas, Three Of A Kind and The Lenny Henry Show. My touring show promises to be an evening of memories, laughter and fun - I can't wait to get started." For more information and to book tickets, visit birminghamhippodrome.com

Make Believe summer fun at BOM

Birmingham Open Media (BOM) - the city's centre for art, technology & science - is providing summer visitors with the chance to get inside the playful minds of machines, courtesy of a brand new exhibition. A playful, interactive space for all ages to enjoy, Make Believe (7 June - 31 August) features four international artists who use the latest technologies to create 'colourful experiences that delight and entertain'. Highlights of the show include the chance for visitors to make 3D paintings, create virtual sculpture with augmented reality, and delve into the imaginations of artificial intelligence. The exhibition is accompanied by a week-long summer camp for children aged seven to 13. For more information, visit bom.org.uk

CBSO centenary celebrations

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) has announced its 2019/20 Concert Season at Birmingham's Symphony Hall. The orchestra will be 100 years old in 2020, and the new season launches the celebrations with a series of special events and premieres. Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla returns for her fourth season as the CBSO's Music Director and will lead over 40 concerts during the 2019/20 period... To check out the CBSO's Concert Season programme, visit cbso.co.uk

Community project to tell the story of legendary Birmingham night spot

The story of Birmingham music venue The Que Club is to be told through a new community heritage project. In The Que will celebrate the legendary nightclub 30 years on from its opening. In its time, the venue played host to major acts including David Bowie, Blur, Massive Attack and Daft Punk, as well as pioneering club nights and rave experiences. The Birmingham Music Archive project is being funded by a £42,000 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. To find out about participating in or contributing to In The Que, email jez@intheque.co.uk

In a Rush to enjoy trampoline fun

State-of-the-art Birmingham trampoline park Rush has extended its play offering with the addition of an interactive gaming zone and themed party packages. For more information, visit rushuk.com



A vulgar circus...

Organisers of a risqué over-18s circus show are hoping to get pulses racing in Birmingham this month. Cirque du Vulgar takes place in a traditional Big Top tent and visits Pelsall Common on Saturday 8 June. Promising an evening of raucous revelry, the adults-only circus features a fire-breathing pyromaniac, alluring hula hoops, sexy strong men, a 'drunken whore', nail-biting acrobatics and a high-flying Domina-trix. For more information, visit cirquevulgar.com



**QUADROPHENIA
 THE ALBUM - LIVE**
 WED 12 JUNE
 7:30PM
TOWN HALL



**REGINALD D HUNTER:
 FACING THE BEAST**
 WED 26 JUNE
 8PM
TOWN HALL



**BERNADETTE
 PETERS**
 FRI 14 JUNE
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



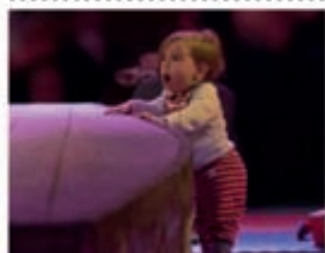
**JOHN BARROWMAN
 - FABULOUS**
 SUN 30 JUNE
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



**WOMAN TO WOMAN
 - JUDIE TZUKE,
 BEVERLEY CRAVEN
 & JULIA FORDHAM**
 SAT 15 JUNE
 7:30PM
TOWN HALL



LEA SALONGA
 THU 11 JULY
 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



**BRING YOUR OWN
 BABY COMEDY**
 THU 20 JUNE
 12PM
SYMPHONY HALL FOYER



**STEVIE WONDER
 - THE HITS
 PERFORMED
 BY 16-PIECE
 ORCHESTRA**
 SAT 27 JULY
 8PM
TOWN HALL



TAN FRANCE
 THU 20 JUNE
 7:30PM
TOWN HALL



TAPE FACE
 THU 19 SEPTEMBER
 7:30PM
TOWN HALL

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BE FESTIVAL

The splendidly quirky BE Festival is taking place in Birmingham for a 10th time. What's On spoke to co-director Miguel Oyarzun about the ever-evolving performing arts event.



The 10th Birmingham European Festival takes place at the city's Repertory Theatre this month. From its humble beginnings in 2010, BE Festival has grown exponentially into an event that places Birmingham firmly at the forefront of Europe's performing arts scene.

"The first BE Festival resulted from a conference with the Arts Council in Birmingham to discuss how to improve the arts scene in the Midlands," explains one of the festival's founders, Miguel Oyazrun. "One of the things the cultural sector was discussing was the fact that there wasn't a lot of international presence in the city. At the time, Isla Aguilar and I weren't living in Birmingham, so we came as outsiders to the region. We were baffled by the fact that the region didn't have an international theatre & arts festival, despite the fact that the arts scene in the Midlands was craving this international presence. There were music and dance festivals, but nothing for the wider scope of performing arts. We took that as our inspiration. That evening, we went for dinner at a curry house and we started mapping our ideas for a festival on the back of a napkin. So it really was through a response to the needs of the cultural sector of Birmingham that BE was born."

The festival is particularly focused on supporting upcoming performance artists...

"Giving a platform to emerging artists and performers from a range of countries across Europe is so important in our current social and political climate. The UK being an island already creates a bit of isolation from outside influences. The way funding for the arts works in the UK is already very different to the rest of Europe. It's more difficult to get performances from outside the UK into theatres here than it is on mainland Europe. Nevertheless, the UK is really craving the artistic work from mainland Europe, and people here really want to collaborate with those abroad. It's all about building bridges across the cultural sectors of different countries, which is now more important than ever. BE Festival is a platform for exchange and encounter between cultures, which can only better the performing arts scene for all. We focus on emerging artists in particular because they are the ones who will lead the arts scene in the future. We do that with help from both the Arts Council here in the UK and also the European Union. It's very important to give these upcoming performers a space to display their work, where they can thrive and become the artists of the future."

With the number of applications from artists wanting to perform at the BE Festival increasing every year, choosing who to include is a

challenging task: "When we started in 2010, we received 67 applications, which, at that time, we thought was enormous. Now, every year, we receive between 600 and 1,000 applications. Obviously it's an enormous amount of work to go through all of those applications and assess which pieces will end up in the programme. We do it by watching them all and trying to create a balance within the programme between countries and disciplines. We also have a theme each year - this year we're celebrating our 10th festival. There are pieces that look back on history or look into memory or into the concept of archiving. We've also commissioned works that relate to the theme."

The relationship between the festival, Birmingham and the rest of Europe is one of BE's defining qualities.

"Because BE Festival was born out of the desires of Birmingham, the whole thing was made possible by the generosity of the locals. This is a festival with limited resources, but with our ethos of collaborating, we have a fantastic team of volunteers. Supporting emerging artists is also evident in the way we work with our staff and volunteers. Our staff and volunteers are really young, and we're proud to know that people who work with us go on to lead other cultural organisations or produce more festivals. Apart from the volunteers who give their time, we also collaborate with hosts, who open their homes to visiting artists. This is also a way in which we try to connect people across Europe, so that the audiences can create a more in-depth relationship with the visiting artists, and the artists themselves can really get to know the city and its inhabitants. At most other festivals we've been to, the performers come to the city, perform, book into a hotel and then leave the next day. So BE Festival is all about the artist being in touch with the city of Birmingham and vice versa. We hear lots of beautiful stories about artists returning to Birmingham to see their host family, or the hosts travelling to other places in Europe to visit the person they opened their home to. One of the things we love is creating bonds beyond the boundaries of the festival itself. The festival is really a catalyst for continuing exchange within arts and culture across Europe."

So how much has BE Festival changed since its first year?

"The festival has grown massively over 10 events. We've grown in reputation across Europe and are perhaps even better known abroad than we are in the UK. Birmingham is now very much on the map of Europe. The artists who come from abroad, and audience

members who return to mainland Europe, talk positively about Birmingham, the UK and BE Festival; they're our best ambassadors. We've also grown in terms of rooting ourselves to Birmingham itself. We are now very much a continuing part of the annual calendar of events for the city, so we're part of a bigger network within the cultural sector here. Then, every year, we have more audiences, so have expanded into a touring model. We started by just doing the festival here in Birmingham. Now we take the format of the festival - in which we present three or four short pieces each night - and the companies who best represent us, out on tour. We tour for four weeks in the UK and four weeks in Spain. The work presented by the artists in Birmingham now reaches many more people.

"We've also grown in our work with visual artists. Now we're involved in a lot of bigger projects within the visual arts that run alongside the performing-arts side of the festival. Plus, this year is the first time we will have pieces on the main stage of The REP. Normally we have smaller-scale pieces in Centenary Square or in The Studio at The REP. This year, for the first time, we have a large show on The REP's main stage. It's a fantastic show called Deadtown, which has been created by the sons of the Oscar-winning director of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Miloš Forman. The Forman brothers have created a spectacular piece with dancers, singers and acrobats that mixes circus with a homage to silent movies. It's a show with no words, so it's accessible to anyone from any age. It's really great for families, as well as for adults who want to look back at the history of silent movies.

"We also have musicians from many different genres performing in the evenings - so there really is something for everyone to enjoy."

Birmingham will surely have its say in where BE Festival goes over the next decade...

"As always, we like to get feedback about the festival from the audiences, stakeholders and artists. The festival isn't ours, it's Birmingham's. So we will take it wherever Birmingham sees fit, as we feel we have to honour the way it was created and supported by the city itself. We have some ideas of where we want to go after these first 10 festivals, but first of all we need to figure out whether that's what everybody else wants too."



BE Festival takes place at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Thursday 27 June to Saturday 6 July. See the full programme online at befestival.org



REVIEW: Wing Wah

Relocated Chinatown restaurant offers authentic and adventurous cuisine

Birmingham's long-established Chinese restaurant, Wing Wah, has made the move to the city's bustling Chinatown after 21 years trading at the iconic Wing Yip Centre in Nechells.

Located in the heart of the city, just a short walk from Birmingham New Street Station and the main shopping area, Wing Wah has dropped its buffet menu and now offers dim sum and full a la carte.

The venue's smartly decorated ground-floor location - think dark walls and white tablecloths with the addition of authentic red and gold notes throughout - boasts more than 120 covers and an open-plan dim sum kitchen, allowing diners to watch the team of highly skilled chefs

prepare some beautifully crafted small dishes.

Prior to our visit, I'd heard from a reputable and trustworthy source that Wing Wah serves the best Chinese food in Birmingham.

Both my partner and I are huge fans of the cuisine, so needless to say we were beyond excited to sample the venue's new menu.

As with many Chinese restaurants, Wing Wah's dishes are more authentic and adventurous than those usually offered in local takeaways. We ordered every dish, bar one, that hadn't been adapted for the Western palate, so to speak.

Options included marinated jelly fish with spicy sesame oil, salt & pepper duck tongue, braised sea

cucumber with duck feet and mushroom in casserole, fish head and bean curd soup, and boneless chicken claws in Thai style, to name but a few.

We started with a crab meat soup and a seafood & dried scallop soup, as well as a mixed dim sum basket to share.

Wow! The soups, particularly the crab meat, were out-of-this-world good. I've eaten plenty of (what I considered to be) incredible soups over the years, but these really were another level of delicious. The crab soup, thicker in consistency than the seafood & scallop, was without question one of the tastiest dishes I've eaten in my life. It really couldn't have been further away from the 'crab & sweetcorn' soup on offer at your local takeaway.

The dim sum basket comprised two king prawn, two vegetable & prawn, two crystal scallop and two pork & prawn dumplings. Beautifully presented, they were certainly on a par with the best dumplings I've enjoyed anywhere. Large in size and all featuring a substantial amount of mouthwatering filling, they really should be a must-try option the next time you visit Wing Wah.

Three dishes in and we were seriously, seriously (it deserves the repetition) impressed with the quality of the food. Choosing what to have for our main courses was quite the deliberation. Some dishes that particularly caught our eye were Sichuan-style fresh lobster, lamb brisket with bean curd stick casserole, and stir-fried pork ribs with pineapple in sweet & sour sauce. In the end, we chose the triple roast from the roast meat section, which comprised roast duck, roast pork and roast crispy belly pork.

Each meat option was cooked to absolute perfection. The dish was so nice, in fact, that words can't do it justice - you really do

need to experience its magic for yourself. As with everything else we'd devoured beforehand, the duck was far superior to any I'd eaten at a Chinese restaurant before. The meat melted in the mouth - and as for the skin... divine!

We thought we'd also ordered the typhoon shelter-style fried blue crab, but there was a bit of confusion and we were instead brought a huge bowl of noodles with tofu, egg, pork, beef and prawn. Although not what we'd asked for, the dish was nonetheless stunning and fantastically flavoursome - the ultimate comfort food. The staff were incredibly apologetic, but the dish was so delicious that they really had nothing to be sorry for; far from it, in fact!

We added a side of stir-fried vegetables with minced salty fish, which helped bring a sense of freshness to our exemplary banquet. Regrettably, we couldn't quite finish it all, but we certainly gave it a good go! The portion sizes at Wing Wah are impressively large, which suited us perfectly.

Both my partner and I were absolutely blown away by the cuisine we tried on the evening we visited. The flavours at Wing Wah are truly outstanding and, certainly from our perspective, by far the nicest in Birmingham. And that's no easy feat to achieve considering the city's abundance of high-quality Chinese and Cantonese eateries.

Lauren Foster

Food:
 Service:
 Ambience:
 Overall value
OVERALL

Wing Wah
 8 Wrotesley Street
 Birmingham
 B5 4RT
 Tel: 0121 327 7879

COMING SOON TO THE ALEXANDRA



MON 3 – SAT 8 JUN



TUE 11 – SAT 15 JUN



WED 3 – SUN 7 JUL
R SUN 7 JUL 11AM



TUE 16 – SAT 20 JUL
AD THU 18 JUL 7.30PM



MON 22 – SAT 27 JUL



WED 21 – SAT 24 AUG



MON 26 – SAT 31 AUG



FRI 6 – SAT 14 SEP



TUE 17 – SAT 21 SEP

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MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Acclaimed chef Marco Pierre White chats to What's On about his new menus, experimenting with veganism, impressing potential employers and eating a cow's windpipe...

The youngest ever recipient of three Michelin stars and a man considered by many to be the greatest UK chef of all time, Marco Pierre White has trained a number of high-profile and hugely popular fellow 'kitchen creatives', including Gordon Ramsay, Mario Batali, Curtis Stone and Shannon Bennett.

Owning a staggering 42 restaurants in the UK alone, three of which are in Birmingham, he's recently launched a new menu at his Steakhouse Bar & Grill venue, located at the top of the city's iconic Cube.

Steak sits at the heart of the menu, with cuts including fillet, rib-eye and chateaubriand.

The starters menu features a classic eggs benedict with Woodall's ham and Mr White's Scotch egg with Colonel mustard sauce, which Marco himself singles out as a particular favourite.

His liking for diversity is in evidence throughout the menu. Stand-out plates include

Wheeler's haddock fish cake with poached hen's egg and Connaught's shrimp curry - both perfect for fish lovers - as well as a honey-roasted bacon chop and a classic chicken Kiev. Croustade of eggs Maintenon Maxim's and creamy polenta with wild mushrooms are ideal dishes for vegetarians.

"Everything's seasonal, really," says Marco, in talking about his new menu. "It rotates, but there are certain things that we keep. We'll never take off the French onion soup or, of course, the steaks. But also, you have to take into consideration vegans and vegetarians."

"I was a vegan for nine months because I was curious. I went pure vegan for nine months of my life and stopped absolutely everything - all carbs, alcohol, smoking. The first three weeks, it didn't impact on me at all; the next six weeks, I became very weak, introverted, quite faint, dizzy at times and suffered from headaches. Then I sort of went back to normal after that. I must confess, though, I slept better. I had more energy. Through that nine-month period, I lost five stone in weight; it just dropped off me. My sense of smell became incredibly acute - I could walk down the road and smell coffee 100 metres away. I could smell bread being baked."

Even with so many benefits to following a strict vegan diet, Marco decided it wasn't for him: "I found myself staring at roast chickens and roast beef. Cheese boards were staring at me, almost to the point where I thought they were moving. The brie was walking across the plate. I was never fulfilled. I was never full. I was always hungry. I was never comforted. For me, food has to be comforting. I thought, this is boring, and I missed all those delicious things so much, so I went back to them."

"That's why I prefer something in a pot rather than a pan. I like a great stew, I love dumplings, risotto, a big pan of pasta; I love a big roast. I see these chefs talking about veganism and vegetarianism, but you can't really talk about it unless you've tried it."

Marco has also just launched a new menu at his Bardolino restaurant on Wharfside Street at The Cube.

The menu is focused around his belief that good-quality food should be an experience that's shared and enjoyed with friends and family, whatever the occasion. Featured cuisine includes a number of classic Italian-inspired dishes such as: rigatoni ragu of Scottish beef bolognese with aged Italian cheese; baked Tuscan sausages with cannellini beans and pomodoro sauce; and

crispy butterfly prawns fritto misto.

"This is the way that restaurants are going, because this is how people are living nowadays. They like to eat out once, twice or even three times a week, even if it's just going to somewhere casual like a pizzeria. People want affordable glamour, and they want some fun. I like casual. I like affordable. And I like glamour. We live such fast lives that it's important to have some escapism, so going to your local pizzeria for something to eat or even just a coffee can be an escape."

Despite his love of glamour, Marco admits that if he's cooking a meal for himself, he likes to keep it simple: "Maybe I'll have an omelette for dinner, a cheese omelette - delicious. That's fine for me. Perhaps a ham sandwich with good English mustard. Maybe a Scotch egg if one of my boys has made them and I steal one. I like real simplicity."

So is there anything that Marco won't eat?

"Chicken's feet! I'm not looking for a soul-mate. I don't get sucking feet; it really confuses me. I accept they've had a manicure before they've come to me, but it doesn't do it for me. I'm really into strange food, don't get me wrong - I like eating. Eating is one of my great passions in life. I went to this restaurant in Singapore and she said, 'Marco, I've got something special for you tonight'. They're fascinated that I love tendons - they're so delicious; they're one of the most delicious things I've ever eaten. I asked what the special was and she told me it was a surprise. Cow throat! Not for me. Can you imagine eating windpipe?! I like a pig's trotter, I like pig's ears, I love pig's head, I love all of that, but when it comes to eating windpipe, no. I said, 'Look, it's not for me, please apologise to the chef'. It was horrific! The texture was disgusting and it doesn't taste of anything. Chicken's feet, they take some doing. Windpipe is another question."

From Hell's Kitchen to Masterchef Australia to White's Kitchen Wars, Marco has done a lot of TV work over the years. So does he have anything else in the windpipe - sorry, pipeline?

"How boring! I can't stand it, but, like yourself, I have to make a living. I've just finished filming a series now. I don't like it. It's the most boring thing. In all my contracts now, they're not allowed to tell me what to say. Nothing scripted. I've worked on TV shows when they're scripted. There's no emotion. Can you imagine being told what to write and how to write it? Boring. It's systematic and they've sucked the emotion out of it."

As our thoroughly enjoyable chat draws to a close, the charismatic and ever-so-charming Marco offers some advice to any working-class Brummie who fancies becoming a respected chef: "Well, firstly, the advice I would give is, if you go for a job, keep your fingers crossed and hope that you get it. By not asking 'How many hours?' or 'How much am I getting paid?', your chance of getting the job will increase enormously. There's nothing worse than conducting an interview with someone who's 19 years old and they ask you those questions. So actually, you're not coming in order to learn? How stupid! What I learnt in my life is that knowledge is your passport to freedom; it really is. My father gave me that advice as a young man. He also told me to never call in sick. Turn up for work if you're ill; the chef will see you're not well. The advice I would give is to conduct your interviews correctly. That's not just for chefs, that's for everything. I think what's really important is to always be punctual. Maybe I'm old-fashioned, but that's what I think you should do. I used to go to interviews and sit there with my fingers crossed, praying I got the job. I remember I went for an interview with Pierre Koffmann - we're great friends, Pierre and I, and have a business together and are working on a second deal - and he said to me, 'I have no position in my kitchen'. It was the first and only time I've been turned down. I said - even though I couldn't afford to - that I would work for nothing. I worked for three weeks for zero money, and I was really on the breadline. He called me and said, 'Marco, I want to put you on the payroll'. Prove yourself. We live in such a disposable world now. People go in and out of jobs. When I was a boy, people didn't walk out of jobs, people weren't late. If you started work at 8, you turned up at 8 or earlier. How much do we pay a year for people to stand around on their phone? It's a different generation."

So what does Marco think about Birmingham's ever-growing and truly impressive food scene?

"It's a beautiful jigsaw - a melting pot of all the cultures. Also, because it's the second city, it's got all these businesses which bring money in, and then it allows people to pay for that. Birmingham is one of Britain's great gastronomic cities."

.....

Marco Pierre White Steakhouse, Bar & Grill Birmingham is located at The Cube, 200 Wharfside Street, Birmingham, B1 1PR

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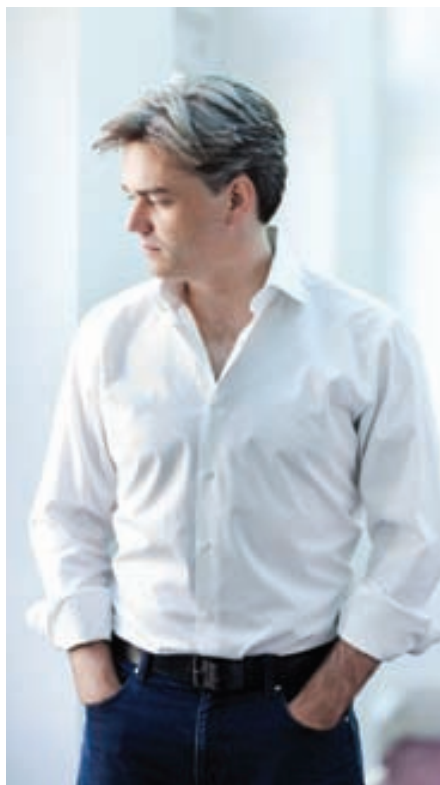
The Damnation Of Faust

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 26 June

Musical genius or madman was the question posed by Hector Berlioz's contemporaries as a result of his flamboyant use of sound and the curious instrumental effects he created. Perhaps not surprisingly given his unique style, the French composer's *Damnation Of Faust*, based on the dramatic poem by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, pretty much defies definition. Indeed, its halfway status between opera and cantata was probably one of the main reasons it bombed with audiences when first performed.

Its initial failure deeply affected Berlioz, who stated: "Nothing in my career as an artist wounded me more deeply than this unexpected indifference."

Nowadays, however, the work is viewed in a far more positive light. Hailed as one of romantic music's most fabulously sinful treats, it's here being performed by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Gloucestershire-born conductor Edward Gardner (pictured).



Ex Cathedra: Summer Music By Candlelight

Birmingham Cathedral, Tues 18 & Wed 19 June

Jeffrey Skidmore once again picks up the baton to conduct Birmingham's highly rated early music ensemble, on this occasion in a concert that Ex Cathedra promise will see people heading for home singing of summertime. The programmes for these annual get-togethers, presented by candlelight as dusk falls, move seamlessly from seasonal favourites to rare, re-discovered, contemporary and lighter repertoire.



International Piano Festival

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Sat 15 - Tues 18 June

Offering the perfect platform for star pianists of the future to evidence their exceptional potential, the International Piano Festival 2019 takes place across four days and features 17 hugely talented performers. The event includes an opening gala piano recital and numerous workshops and masterclasses. A young artists recital, featuring BBC Young Artist 2018 Lauren Zhang (pictured), closes the festival. Lauren is currently studying at the Conservatoire's Junior department.



B'ham Philharmonic Summer Prom Concert

Mitton Manor, Nr Penkridge, Staffordshire, Sat 29 June



One of the region's best known and most admired non-professional orchestras, the Birmingham Phil was voted 'best orchestra in the Midlands' in both the 2018 and 2019 What's On Readers' Awards. Their latest concert sees them getting to grips with a programme of traditional and familiar summer proms music, including William Tell, Finlandia, Pachelbel's Canon, Nimrod, Radetsky March, Barber Adagio, British Sea Songs, Pomp And Circumstance and Jerusalem.

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra: The Planets

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 21 June

Gustav Holst's seven-movement orchestral suite, each movement of which is named after a planet in the solar system, is one of the most famous and familiar works of classical music ever written, particularly the Mars and Jupiter movements. Earth is excluded from the work, the concept of the suite being astrological rather than astronomical.

The composer was still alive when Pluto was named as the ninth planet in 1930, but he opted out of writing an additional movement, believing that *The Planets* had already cast too significant a shadow over the rest of his work.







The classical quartet talk about their 15 years together ahead of their Birmingham show...

How's the new tour going?

Urs Bühler: We've started the first leg in Canada. It's a really beautiful show. I think it comes over great. We played castles and stately homes in the UK last July with our Timeless tour, which was based on the new album.

We played the whole repertoire, which was actually quite risky, but the album is very beautiful, so it went down really well. This is more back-to-basics - the four of us singing. We still do a few songs from the Timeless album but we do all our greatest hits as well. The audience seem to like it, so I'm very excited to bring it to the UK and play the arenas again.

David Miller: We started in Winnipeg, where it was 20 degrees below zero. We were bundled up that day for sure!

Sebastien Izambard: We decided to tweak the gig because it's our 15-year anniversary. What we realised was that people really want to see just the four of us. We had dancers, but now we're listening to what our audience wants, with some of our best songs ever alongside the Timeless album. In my opinion, it's a really good show. We're having a really good time.

When starting out, did you ever imagine that you'd be together for 15 years?

Seb: Never. It's hard enough to keep up a marriage, so imagine how it feels keeping a whole band together - especially when it was an arranged marriage! I still think sometimes, 'It's not real'. It's striking the amount of counties and cities we've been to. I find it amazing. I know more where a lounge is than where the forks and the cutlery are at home. I lived in England for almost 10 years, so it's always like coming back home.

Why did you decide to strip back the show this time?

Urs: When I go to concerts, I like to see shows with something happening on stage. We get excited and have lots of ideas - we could do this, we could do that. Then you play your show like this for a whole year all around the world. You ask people, 'What did you think about the video and the stage set?' And they go, 'We just came to see you guys sing'. So you know what, let's strip all the fuss away and just make a beautiful concert. We enjoy that the most, and the audience enjoys that.

It can sometimes be a distraction having lots of other things happening on stage...

Urs: It's not necessary, so why bother? The Il Divo music is very beautiful. We have a few things up our sleeves which I'm not going to give away, but it's a fun show.

Narrowing down the Greatest Hits set list must be a challenge...

Urs: It is, definitely. There are certain songs which have to be in there. Obviously Unbreak My Heart and My Way. We've done Greatest Hits shows before, but the repertoire was different. We do have a lot of songs and have done a lot of specials with other artists, like the football World Cup. It's all Greatest Hits. It's difficult. We get help from outside - we talk to management - and always size it down to a show length. I've been listening back to the first albums, and we've got such beautiful, original songs like I Believe In You, Isabel - which we're doing again - and others that we do in the show. I'd be very excited to do a show with only original Il Divo songs. We've done a lot of covers, and people know these songs, but I think we have a stunning original repertoire that would totally be worth building a show around. Maybe something for the future - the original Greatest Hits.



What's it like on your tour bus?

Urs: We're not travelling on a tour bus! I've done two north American tours on a tour bus, but not with the other boys. They don't like that. Sebastian and Carlos get quite easily car-sick. David would be okay. It becomes a financial thing. If you rent a whole tour bus, it's very expensive unless you fill it up - they normally have 10 or 12 bunks or up to 18. If you don't fill it up, it's going to be cheaper to fly the whole party around.

What are your favourite memories of performing in the UK?

Urs: Last year the tour was absolutely spectacular. You might remember the

weather we had in the UK in July. I'm big into medieval times and ancient properties. Playing in front of Edinburgh Castle and these beautiful properties - house keeping would give us a private tour - that was wonderful. I enjoyed last year's tour so much. It was almost like I was going sightseeing in the UK and we only had to perform a show in the evening on the side. The UK is where our career started - where we did the first record and had the first record company. It's where the audience embraced us from the beginning. It's like coming home when we come to the UK. We play the Royal Albert Hall in London again, which I'm very much looking forward to. It's a beautiful venue. It's a

very comfortable, homely, family feeling coming to the UK to play these shows.

David: I love the UK. It's one of my favourite places to spend time in. It's a compact area - we can drive from city to city or take the train. So much of what is challenging about our touring schedule is that we spend almost every day on a plane, as we're in a different city every day, sometimes a different country every day. There's no time to enjoy a boots-on-the-ground experience of a country. By contrast, here in the UK, driving across the countryside means we can take it all in. We now have such a great fan-base here. People show up to our concerts and have a great time. They let their hair

down, they let the music in, and there's no greater compliment to an artist than to feel received. That's what we really get from the UK.

You must recognise a lot of faces in the crowd after 15 years...

David: Not only do we see a lot of the same fans who've followed us around, we see a lot of our international fans in the UK as well, particularly from Japan and San Francisco. If ever we miss areas around Europe, they'll come over to the UK too. There is such a sense of familiarity, with people showing up who we've known for years.

Seb: I love when we come to the UK. We are spoiled. We have so many fans who actually somehow are always showing up for us. It feels like an extended family to me. I was always told when I moved to the UK that UK audiences were not very faithful to their bands. I don't know why people used to say that. I think they're really faithful. We are incredibly lucky that our fans are very loyal to us. We probably could name most of our fans. They've been there 15 years.

Will you put Simon Cowell on the guest list for the tour?

Urs: If he's interested in coming to see a show, he's invited. He's been to a few over the years, but he's a very busy man. Like us, he's travelling a lot, so you never know where to pin him down. It's wonderful to see his face down in the audience. I love having people in the audience who I recognise and know. Simon is always a very welcome guest if he can make it to a show.

Which home comforts do you travel with?

Urs: Nothing really. I'm so used to travelling and spending nights in hotels that I feel comfortable in whatever bed I lay down in, unless it's really bad quality and the pillows are bad. That's really annoying. I take clothes with me - two suitcases for two months. I wish I could take 10 because I like my wardrobe. I've got my wife with me, if that counts for home comforts? She's travelling with me all year. We got married two-and-a-half years ago under the premise that we're going to spend our life together, not that we're going to be married and I'm going to be gone 10 months out of the year. She's always with me, and we go through

these adventures together. Home is where my heart is, and that's right next to me.

Seb: I always travel with my own pillow because I think with hotel pillows you never know what you're going to get. I don't like hard pillows. I have a soft pillow I like travelling with and my own pillow cases. It reminds me of being in my own bed, and I like that a lot. I have photos of my kids that I put on my bedside table.

What do you like to have on your rider?

Urs: I don't even go to catering these days or have dinner before a show. I have still and sparkling water in my dressing room, rolled oats, a couple of protein bars, fruit or berries. That's what I live on for the shows. I have a cup of oatmeal with berries or fruit an hour before the show, and that gives me the energy I need to sing. If I'm hungry afterward, I have a protein bar. That's it.

Don't you feel hungry?

Urs: Our life rhythm is a bit strange. If I don't have to get up for travel or interviews, I very often sleep until 11 or later. Normally after the shows, it takes quite a while for you to go to sleep - to get the body and the mind to rest. Even without hanging out and partying in your hotel room, it can easily be 2am or 3am before you get to sleep. If you're in a nice city, you look for a place that does all-day breakfast and finishes breakfast at 2pm. It's a very different rhythm.

Which British traditions do you love?

David: Even though we can get it in other places, there's no substitute for the British version of fish & chips with mushy peas - I love it. Full English breakfast every morning. I gain a little bit of weight when I come to the UK. I really do relate to the sensibility of how life is conducted. We lived here for two years at the beginning of our career, in a cluster of apartments in south west London. We really got to spend time and absorb the sensibility of the English nature - the reserved way that everyone speaks to each other; the politeness. Whether that politeness is actually heartfelt or undertone-sarky, it's still there.

Seb: I love the countryside in the UK a lot. I've been glamping, when my kids were younger, in Hereford etc. I really like Somerset. I think the UK has the best countryside. I

love the people too. I remember living in Notting Hill, going to the market there and people going, 'Hello love, how you are?' So friendly and very positive. I love the tea and scones. I love your traditions. I think England has amazing traditions, just as much as France does.

Are there any British musicians you're friends with?

Seb: I've met quite a few. I live not far from Chris Martin in Malibu. If I see him, I say hello. I'm such a big fan of his. I love what he does, his music and what he stands for. I think he's an incredible artist. I know the guy from Muse too. I would've loved to have been friends with David Bowie, but he never returned my calls! Alfie Boe, I'm friends with him. I grew up listening to The Beatles as a kid. That was my source of inspiration. I've always been a big fan of English bands like The Verve. I think they're the best songwriters in the world. That comes from the culture. I really believe that. I do a lot of songwriting myself because that's one of my passions.

As a Beatles fan, Seb, you must get excited when you play shows in Liverpool...

Seb: "I love it. I'm like a kid. What an amazing time. I would've loved to have been born around that time and have a band then. The music industry has changed dramatically. Even video. Now it's streaming. Not to sound old-fashioned, but I don't think music is appreciated as much anymore.

What's next for Il Divo after the tour?

Seb: We're working on our next album, which is definitely a repertoire that I didn't imagine we were going to do. It was suggested by our management, Red Light. We're definitely going to work on something that isn't what people would expect from us. That, to me, is really exciting because I don't like to do the same thing. That's why I did a solo record last year. I'm excited. I know what we're recording is going to be challenging on our voices, but I'm excited to bring it to our audience. I think that's very important, otherwise our fans get bored and we get bored.



Il Divo play Arena Birmingham on Saturday 29 June.

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Cage The Elephant

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Tues 18 June

American indie band Cage The Elephant visit Birmingham this month in support of *Social Cues*, their fifth album since their inception back in 2006.

Hailing from Kentucky and influenced by bands including Pixies and Red Hot Chili Peppers, they won the 2017 Grammy Award for Best Rock Album with *Tell Me I'm Pretty*.



OSHUN

The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham, Thurs 18 June

Using digital and acoustic sounds, heavy drums and bass, and ambient harmonic textures, OSHUN are an independent hip-hop/soul duo from the US.

"We are the new goddess on the block," they say, "and we have travelled here from the centre of the Earth, the land of sweetness in the 10th dimension, the Oshuniverse. We are here to hydrate your souls and empower you on your trip upward. May your journey be full of sweetness and your experience one of healing!" Their debut album, *bittersweet vol. 1*, is out now.



Foals

Digbeth Arena, Birmingham, Sat 15 & Sun 16 June

After more than a decade in the game, Foals have become major festival headliners, won NME and Q Awards, achieved 1.7 million sales of their four gold certified albums and secured over half a billion streams on Spotify since 2015.

It's certainly all a far cry from their long-ago days spent playing chaotic house parties in

their home city of Oxford.

Embracing their love of the unconventional, the four-piece are releasing not one but two albums in 2019: *Everything Not Saved Will Be Lost Part 1* was released in March, with *Part 2* following in the autumn.

"They're two halves of the same locket," frontman Yannis Philippakis explains.

"They can be listened to and appreciated individually, but fundamentally they are companion pieces."

Gladys Knight

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 24 June

The Empress of Soul, Gladys Knight has recorded more than 40 albums and enjoyed number-one hits in the pop, gospel, R&B and contemporary charts.

The seven-time Grammy Award-winning icon is perhaps best known for her classic 1973 hit, *Midnight Train To Georgia*, which remains one of Motown Records' most famous and best-loved releases.

Eagles

Arena Birmingham, Fri 28 June

The best-selling American band of the 1970s and one of the top-selling acts of all time, Eagles have scored six number-one albums, topped the singles charts five times and sold a staggering 150 million-plus albums worldwide. Comprising Don Henley, Joe Walsh and Timothy B Schmit with Vince Gill and Deacon Frey, the band will here be performing classic numbers from across the decades, including *Life In The Fast Lane*, *Desperado*, *One Of These Nights* and, of course, the legendary *Hotel California*.

Hackney Colliery Band

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Fri 14 June

A favourite on the festival scene, Hackney Colliery Band provide an eclectic and unique mix of dancefloor-filling contemporary rock, jazz, soul and electronica. With a New Orleans-style line-up of trumpets, trombones, saxes, sousaphone and two drummers, expect a high-energy show featuring music from their latest offering, *Collaborations: Volume One* (due for release on 7 June), their critically acclaimed 2016 album, *Sharpener*, and highlights from previous releases.



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Download Festival Donington Park, Derby, Fri 14 - Sun 16 June

With top billing consistently taken by some of the biggest names in rock and metal, it's not hard to see why Download is one of the most popular and well-attended festivals in the UK.

Conceived as a follow-up to Donington Park's previous Monsters Of Rock Festival, Download partly owes its name to its pioneering

use of technology to connect with audiences and build a community around the event.

Line-up includes: Slipknot (pictured), Def Leppard, Tool, Slash featuring Myles Kennedy and The Conspirators, Die Antwoord, Smashing Pumpkins, Whitesnake, Trivium, Lamb Of God and Slayer.

Upton Jazz Festival

Upton-upon-Severn, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 June

Now in its 34th year, the Upton Jazz Festival boasts a star-studded international line-up - including bands from the US - and annually attracts thousands of jazz fans from across the country.

The festival has moved back into the city centre and takes place at various venues, including Upton Memorial Hall, the King's Head, The Swan, The Star Hotel, The Parish Church, The Boathouse, Under The Bridge and more.

The event has its own camping and caravan site, with free river mooring also available.

Line-up includes: Alan Barnes, Danzon, Fret and Fiddle, Hot Club 42, Jazz Connection, Livia King, Martin Wheatley, Rob Fowler, Something New And Exciting In September, Tad Newton's Jazz Friends, Vitality 5, Savannah Jazz Band, Sliphorn Summit and Dan Cassidy Swing Quartet.

Beardy Folk Festival

Hopton Court, Nr. Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, Fri 21 - Sun 23 June

Returning for a second year, Beardy Folk Festival is a beautifully crafted, midsummer weekend boasting a line-up of folk, roots and acoustic music as well as a small trade village, yoga classes, workshops in singing, morris dancing and spoken word, heaps of free children's entertainment and plenty more besides. Under-13s go free, and four camping zones are on offer with the purchase of a day or weekend ticket.

Line-up includes: Skerryvore, Martyn Joseph, 3 Daft Monkeys, Merry Hell, Holy Moly & The Crackers, Chris Helme, Mark Radcliff, Russell & Lee, Gregg Russell & Ciaran Algar, O'Hooley & Tidow, Blair Dunlop and Urban Folk Quartet (pictured).



Acoustic Festival of Great Britain

Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire, Fri 31 May - Sun 2 June

Standing out from the summertime crowd of ever-louder electronic get-togethers, the Acoustic Festival of Great Britain marks a welcome return to the basics of good-quality music.

Stripped back, unplugged performances are the focus of this relaxed, friendly event. Beyond that, it's open to music of all genres. With five-star-rated camping infrastructure, glamping options, seated food tents and kids' play areas, it's the perfect way to spend a lazy weekend with the family.

Line-up includes: Big Country, Eagle-Eye Cherry, Ian Prowse and Amsterdam (pictured), Chris Difford, 3 Daft Monkeys, Izzy and The Hot Heads, Gaz Brookfield, The Willows, Joshua Burnell Band, Fleetwood Bac, Candy Mountain and Gordon Haskell.

Tenbury Music Festival

The Burgage Recreation Ground, Tenbury Wells, Sat 15 June

Now in its fifth year, the one-day Tenbury Music Festival is a family-friendly event featuring multiple stages, renowned food & drink stalls, camping opportunities and (of course) plenty of live music. New for 2019 is The Thomas Telford Stage and The James Cranston Stage. Salty Dog, Pizza Heaven and Wye Valley Catering are amongst the food traders serving up some tasty cuisine.

Line-up includes: Rainbreakers, The Phonics (pictured), Arcadia Roots, Kings Of The Quarter Mile, Tom C Walker, Joncan Kavlakoglu, Sunset Service, Steve Ajao Band, Jack Brett, The Paul Garner Band, Blue Moon and Red Hot Riot.



MOSELEY MAGIC

What's On talks to Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival Manager John Fell ahead of the event celebrating its 10th anniversary in July...



Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul is a popular annual event which attracts visitors from all over the world and plays host to a weekend of blistering live music, both from contemporary breakthrough artists and international legends. And speaking of legends, this year's festival is headlined by The Jacksons, The Brand New Heavies and the incomparable Burt Bacharach.

Lauren Foster caught up with Festival Manager John Fell to discuss the 2019 edition of Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul and its sister event, Moseley Folk Festival.

How did it all start, John?

We began with Moseley Folk Festival, which is now in its 14th year. It was initially a gathering of a few hundred people, and has just grown and grown. As the folk festival got

more popular, we decided to bring our other musical interests into play and launch another festival. It started out as Mostly Jazz Festival, but everybody assumed it was just pure jazz, so we changed the name to Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul about eight years ago. People really bought into the new name because it sounds so much more like a party. It's amazing how it's grown.

Why Moseley Park?

It's just a beautiful location. I think even some people who live locally have never been there - you need a key to get access. Anyone can get the key, though; they can go over to the travel shop across the road and get the key for the day. We'd never move from Moseley now - we're so blessed to have that site. At times, when we have a big line-up, it's frustratingly small because we can't get more people in, but equally I think it's a blessing. We're very happy and proud to be able to put our festivals on there.

How did you get involved?

I used to run the office for a medical company, and whilst I was doing that, I was also playing music. I was in a band called Goodnight Lenin, and we got booked to play Moseley Festival - we headlined the second stage one of the nights. Carl from the festival got involved with the band and just asked me whether I knew anyone who wanted to be a festival assistant. I told him that I was bored of business life so I'd come and do it. Now I'm Festival Manager, so it's worked out really well. I've been here eight years.

What's been the highlight during your time with the festivals?

I think the one that everybody talks about is Chic. We all knew the Chic back-catalogue - all the tracks and artists that Nile Rodgers has been involved with - that's why we booked them. Between booking them and playing the festival, they released Get Lucky with Daft Punk, and it was the most in-sync thing that could've happened. A year after that, their fee was 10 times higher. We wouldn't be able to afford them now. Due to capacity, there's only so much that we can spend...

Public Enemy were brilliant. They stepped in a month before because Sugarhill Gang pulled out. No disrespect to Sugarhill, but it was definitely a case of burying bad news with some really good news, and it proved to be a really great atmosphere...

For the folk festival, I'd say Johnny Marr - I'm a massive Smiths fan. Generally speaking, I say hello and thank you for coming etc to the artists, but I try not to pester them. I leave them alone to do their thing, but I had to go and chat to Johnny. He was one of the nicest men ever. Billy Duffy came from The Cult, and they played I Fought The Law, which was really cool. Johnny came out and we sat by the lake and spoke for about half an hour. I had to keep reminding myself that it was him!

Is there an artist who you've continually tried to bring to the festival without so far been successful?

Erykah Badu. I haven't managed that one yet. Earth Wind And Fire. For the folk festival,

Seasick Steve I've tried a few times. Any of Crosby Stills & Nash would be mega. Our directors have definitely put in a few offers for Neil Young to play solo, but understandably he's not decided to come and play to a 3,000-capped festival in Moseley. We'll keep trying, though...

Of the three festivals that you produce - Moseley Folk, Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul and Lunar, which has the greatest appeal to you personally?

It's really difficult because when I started, I was an out-and-out folky/Americana kind of person - I love Simon & Garfunkel etc. But as I got involved with the jazz festival, it kind of changed. I think the folk this year is one of our more well-rounded line-ups. Lunar, for example, we've had Television on, but I could never put them on at the folk festival. Because we had two festivals, we tried to keep the line-ups quite separate - more folk and Americana for the folk, then more indie and psychedelic for Lunar, but now that that's not happening this year, we've kind of pulled that back into the folk. Last year, I feel that it lost a bit of its oomph and bands that punch it out a bit, so we've kind of combined them this year. Obviously it's Moseley Folk & Arts this year, for the first time, so we'll have loads of comedians and stuff. It just feels like the line-up is much more rounded.

What do you dread most in the lead-up to the festival?

Bands turning up is an obvious one, and missing things, I suppose. Going back a while, we were sent a tech spec from a band who were coming over from Canada, and I was double-checking everything and sending everything out to the artists to make sure that everything was correct. But no one got back to me until the night before the festival, and there was a keyboard missing. There were only three in the country, as it was a very specific keyboard, and they were all hired out. We managed to contact another festival that had hired the keyboard for that band on the Saturday, and we got my friend to drive down to the festival and pick up the keyboard for the Friday evening. A lot of it is about troubleshooting; things do go wrong constantly, and you get used to that. I suppose you're nervous anyway because you're responsible for more than 3,000 people - and not just in terms of safety; you're trying to make sure everyone's having a good time, too.

What piece of advice would you give to someone who was thinking about hosting a first-time festival?

Start small and don't do it for money. If you're doing it for money, it comes across. Have an identity and grow it organically. That's the only way to do it unless you've got billions of

pounds in the bank and you can afford to lose money for three years, because that's what happens unless you're very lucky.

You like to champion local talent, so which band/artist should be on our radar this year?

Someone who's underrated is Sam Redmore - he's a DJ from Birmingham. He does a lot of club nights and has started to play across the country now. He does a lot on Craig Charles' show, and his Soundcloud has 700,000 followers; he's really growing. I've never had a bad time at any night I've been to where he's been playing. I hope he gets the credit he deserves because he's a hardworking guy, too... Also, Young Pilgrims are really cool. A brass band, all former Conservatoire kids, they're really good. Boat To Row are in the middle of planning their album release, and they're headlining at the folk festival on the Sunday night. A new band I like is Saint Alto, who're playing the Friday of the folk festival.

Who are you most looking forward to seeing at this year's festivals?

Definitely Burt Bacharach. The Jacksons are going to be a lot of fun. At Moseley Folk, you've got The Zutons. Hearing Valerie at Moseley Park is going to be incredible. I guess Don McLean. We've tried to book him for a few years and have actually managed to get him this year. Vincent, American Pie, Castles In The Air are all massive songs to me, so I think that's a really nice way to end the festival season - on a high.

How do you see the festivals progressing in the next 10 years?

This year we've brought an arts element into Moseley Folk, so that's our first stepping stone. We're going to have a stage for comedy, talks, and eventually podcasts and film. Obviously it's a very small site, so we've got to see how that all flows. We'll look to do a similar thing with the jazz. The jazz is very music-focused, but there's also loads of great food to enjoy - Original Patty Men and all these really cool independent food traders will be there - so that's a step up this year. I'd like to see comedians and cabaret and film brought into the jazz, to give it another dimension. I think next year that's definitely what we'll be looking to do. I'm already looking forward to that!

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Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul takes place at Moseley Park from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 July.

Moseley Folk & Arts Festival takes place at Moseley Park from Friday 30 August to Sunday 1 September.



Reginald D Hunter

Oakengates Theatre, at The Place, Telford, Thurs 6 June; Birmingham Town Hall, Wed 26 June

"Start calling things what they are," says American funnyman Reginald D Hunter. "There's so much euphemistic language - things like 'war on terrorism' or 'perception management' - that's just a fancy way of saying lies. I think when we collectively in Western culture don't call things what they are, added to all the drugs - prescription and otherwise - and all the propaganda nonsense in the system, it's no wonder people are going f***ing crazy! If you

eliminate the euphemisms, I think you'll find that a lot of the mental health issues people are suffering will begin to clear up a bit, I really do."

One of the most popular comedians currently working the UK comedy circuit, Reginald's no-nonsense style and hugely amusing perspectives on the differences between the US and the UK have struck a real chord with his audiences.

The Muslims Are Coming

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 9 June; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 10 June



Shazia Mirza, who headlines this latest edition of The Muslims Are Coming, is not averse to treading a delicate line when it comes to her material. Examples of this include: "My name is Shazia Mirza - at least, that's what it says on my pilot's licence", and "My parents really want me to get married. But Muslim men don't want to marry me because... I speak." Shazia is joined for the show by different comedians on each night.

Hilarity Charity Gala

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Wed 5 June

This returning Central Youth Theatre (CYT) fundraiser is once again compered by Daniel Kitson. Comedians plying their trade at the 2019 edition of the event include David O'Doherty, Rose Matafeo, John Robins, Darren Harriot, Tom Parry and Bake Off star Tom Allen (pictured). This is the fifth edition of Hilarity Charity to be organised by CYT, Wolverhampton's leading youth theatre since 1983.



Jimmy Carr

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 22 June; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 27 June; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sat 20 July; Dudley Town Hall, Sat 14 September

Jimmy Carr's comedy is all about quickfire, deadpan one-liners - and so many of them, in fact, that he's not sure their content matters all that much: "People don't really remember the individual jokes I tell because I tell such a lot of them; what they *do* remember is how those jokes make them feel."

Jimmy is a comedian for whom no subject is off limits: "I'll talk about anything as long as I feel the joke justifies it. It may cause controversy, but my thing on that is that controversy's an easy story on a slow-news day. And I never apologise for jokes. After all, I'm not making a serious political statement, I'm just trying to make somebody laugh."



Sean McLoughlin

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Fri 28 June

Referred to by Time Out as 'the best comedian you haven't heard of yet', Sean McLoughlin is a man whose potential is well known on the comedy circuit. Witness the fact that he was recently handpicked to open for Bill Burr at the Royal Albert Hall and for the legendary Doug Stanhope. And not only that, he's also provided tour support for Ricky Gervais, and even bagged himself a part in Gervais's recent Netflix comedy series, After Life.

This latest show sees Sean undertaking the task of attempting to plot a course into the future for not only himself but also mankind...

Al Murray

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Thurs 20 June

Pub philosopher extraordinaire Al Murray certainly knows how to serve a pint or two of high-quality satire, and makes for a thoroughly nice drinking companion into the bargain. The much-loved Pub Landlord is using his new show to embark on a common-sense crusade to 're-Great' Britain, along the way looking at issues including the NHS, Europe, the Middle East and the gathering storm of fortnightly bin collections...



Harriet Dyer

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 18 June

Fascinating facts about Harriet Dyer include the revelation that she once asked her flatmate to use a mallet to try to break her arm for her - on account of the fact that she didn't fancy going into work that day... At the time, Harriet thought such behaviour was simply representative of an eccentric personality. It was only years later that she was diagnosed as bipolar, with anxiety and depression thrown in for good measure... Away from the issue of her mental health, Harriet names her favourite heckle as the sound generated by an electric wheelchair as its unhappy owner headed for the exit after deciding she'd had enough of the comedian's show.



Adam Kay

Dudley Town Hall, Fri 21 June; Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 29 June

After watching an Adam Kay performance, Stephen Fry declared, "This made me very, very happy." Numerous sell-out years at the Edinburgh Fringe and tens of millions of YouTube hits later, former obstetrician and gynaecologist Adam is this month visiting the Midlands with his latest tour, This Is

Going To Hurt: Secret Diaries Of A Junior Doctor. The show features one hour and one minute's-worth of humorous material based on his bestselling book of the same name. Expect splendidly silly spoof songs and some seriously shocking stories from the NHS frontline...



Ashley Blaker & Imran Yusef: Prophet Sharing

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Thursday 20 June

"As an overtly Jewish comedian," says Ashley Blaker, "I know my audience has an expectation that I'll cover certain topics in my show: Jeremy Corbyn, Labour, Israel, that dog that does the Nazi salute et al. And I do of course cover them all."

Ashley is here teaming up with Imran Yusef, who markets his own style of comedy as being for people who like to 'think and laugh'. "I once heard a joke by Sean Lock

that was so good, so clever, that I couldn't breathe because I was laughing so much," Imran recalls. "It was such a good gag that I studied it to try and understand what made it so brilliant. Making people laugh is a great way to earn respect, but only if it's done as a natural consequence of who you are. You can't just run around telling people jokes like some kind of weirdo!"



This is going to hurt...

Comedian and former obstetrician & gynaecologist Adam Kay is this month visiting the Midlands with his latest touring show, *This Is Going To Hurt: Secret Diaries Of A Junior Doctor*...

Adam, you've been interested in standup for a long time, performing whilst in medical school - but when you quit being a doctor, did you intend to work full-time in comedy and writing?

There's a long tradition of medical students putting on generally pretty terrible end-of-year shows, making fun of the consultants and professors, and I got involved with that sort of show a lot when I was at med school. I guess encouraging medical students to enjoy a bit of gallows humour is the closest thing we have to teaching them some kind of coping mechanism for the bad days at work. When I had my own extremely bad day at work and left medicine in 2010 - sorry, I've ruined the ending of the show - I realised that writing jokes and getting up on stage was the closest thing I had to any kind of skill set beyond working on the wards, so I thought I'd give it a go. I fully expected it would end up being a failed six-month experiment, but to my ongoing surprise it's still how I pay the gas bill.

Your book and tour describes the ups and downs of being a junior doctor. Was there ever such a thing as a mundane day at work?

I worked on the labour ward, and as anyone who's ever been on a labour ward in any capacity knows, the days there are never mundane. You end up with twice the number of patients you started with, which is unusual for any medical specialty. I guess on a mundane day you manage to leave within two hours of when you're meant to, no one threatens to kill you, and you only throw away one pair of boxers following a tsumani of blood

soaking through your scrubs.

Aside from the anecdotes, is there much about being a doctor that helps in being a standup comedian? Dealing with the pressure? Late nights?

I'm certainly very good at the late nights. I can stay up 48 hours writing a script that I've failed to do in time. My body is now just trained to get on with it. I don't get stressed or nervous these days either - my barometer for stress has been totally ruined by working on the wards. Obviously, the big difference on stage is that the stakes are zero.

You're not the only ex-medical comedian, with Harry Hill and Paul Sinha also former medical practitioners. Is there any particular reason why a number of you have made that journey, or is it the result of a secret comedy cabal?

Rather than recruiting people who are psychologically fit for the job, which you might think would be a sensible approach, medical schools choose people who have lots of extra-curricular activities. For example, I had a couple of grade VIIIs in music and worked on the school newspaper. If you look at the Wikipedia entry for any famous doctor, it's always been the case: 'He proved himself an accomplished rugby player in youth leagues. He excelled as a distance runner and in his final year at school was vice-captain of the athletics team'. And that's Harold Shipman, so it's potentially not a totally rock-solid system. As well as medics leaving for the stage, there are also huge numbers who've had incredibly successful careers in sport, such as Roger Bannister. If you recruit people with

outside interests, I guess some of them will pursue those interests after their degree.

Most of your material so far has been based around your medical experiences. Are you planning any shows in the future based on other experiences or ideas that you've had - possibly non-medical?

I spent quite a few years writing on various TV shows with no medical aspect to them at all. I guess when people get bored of hearing my diaries, I'll go back to that!

By the time this interview is published online, Brexit may or may not have happened. Who knows? How equipped is the NHS to deal with, well, any number of potential outcomes?

Make no mistake, Brexit is a disaster for the NHS. The NHS simply couldn't function without the staff who've come here from every country of the world, each one going far beyond the call of duty on a daily basis. The NHS is short of 100,000 members of staff across the UK, so making a single member of staff feel unwelcome would be an act of madness. Making tens of thousands of them feel unwelcome is an act of utter self-destruction. The fact that Brexit was sold on the basis of extra money for the NHS was utterly disingenuous - and you'll struggle to find a member of the NHS staff who thinks that Brexit is going to be anything other than a nightmare for them at work.

.....
Adam Kay - This is Going To Hurt: Secret Diaries Of A Junior Doctor visits Dudley Town Hall on Friday 21 June.



The Bodyguard

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 25 June - Sat 6 July;
Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 21 January - Sat 1 February 2020

This blockbusting West End musical is of course based on the similarly blockbusting 1990s Hollywood movie starring Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston.

When ex-secret service agent Frank Farmer is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker, sparks soon begin to fly

between the pair. Each expects to hold the whip-hand in the relationship; neither expects to fall in love...

Featuring classic numbers One Moment In Time, I Wanna Dance With Somebody and the legendary I Will Always Love You, the show received mixed reviews from the critics when it opened in 2012, but has since proved to be a real hit with its audiences.

The part of Rachel will be shared by Alexandra Burke and Jennie Shallow at both venues.

Visit the theatres' respective websites for more details about this.

The Strange Undoing Of Prudencia Hart

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Fri 28 June - Sat 13 July

Prudencia Hart is an uptight academic attending a conference in the Scottish Borders. As she heads back through the snow from a pub lock-in to her B&B, she suddenly finds herself not only in the company of a stranger, but also, rather more profoundly, standing on the threshold of reality...

David Greig's widely admired play has bagged numerous awards since debuting eight years ago, including the coveted Herald Angel gong at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Pamela's Palace

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Sat 15 June

Hairstylist Pamela Jones is the brash and strutting owner of a beauty salon that's seen better days. But Pam is convinced that her fortunes are about to change.

Love-sick Tiffany and bashful Bronwyn work at the salon too, and soon find themselves embroiled in a plan which involves a Greek-themed catwalk event that comes complete with pillars, ivy and grapes...

An interactive evening awash with great choreography, belly-laugh opportunities aplenty and no little amount of hairspray, Pamela's Palace scored a big hit at the Edinburgh Fringe last summer.

Boulder

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Wed 19 & Thurs 20 June

The Greek myth of Sisyphus is here reimagined by the ever-resourceful Half A String theatre company. Harmoniously fusing live action and digital, Boulder follows the ongoing struggles of an intricate puppet as he strains to move a giant boulder up a hill, only to find himself then watching it roll back down to the bottom each and every day...

Atmospheric voices, live cello, and fluid transformations of set and scale ensure an evening of theatre that keeps the senses well and truly stimulated.



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Educating Rita

What's On chats to Stephen Tompkinson, who stars as washed-up university lecturer Frank when a new version of Willy Russell's hit comedy, *Educating Rita*, visits Wolverhampton next month...

As the Open University marks its half century, Wolverhampton offers a warm welcome to perhaps its most celebrated fictional graduate. Willy Russell's *Educating Rita* stars Jessica Johnson as the Rita of the title, a working-class hairdresser who enrolls as a part-time English Literature student. Jessica is joined in the play by Stephen Tompkinson as Frank, the disillusioned university professor who's been assigned to tutor her on her journey towards graduation.

Whilst many people will be familiar with Lewis Gilbert's 1983 film version of the play, starring Michael Caine and Julie Walters, Stephen Tompkinson's interest in Russell's text stretches further back: "I'd read the play and I'd seen it on stage before I saw the film, in the very early '80s, and thought, 'One day I'd love to do it'.

"The lovely thing about the stage play over the film is that it's one set, in his office, and it's just the two characters. You follow this year of academia, this journey that they both go on together, and find out how these very disparate characters end up offering a lifeline to each other."

While Stephen had always harboured a wish to play Frank, it was his co-performer who reignited his interest in the role: "I first met Jess nearly two years ago at Live Theatre in Newcastle, when she was performing a play called *Goth Weekend*. I was rehearsing a Patrick Marber play called *The Red Lion*. I saw Jess's performance, and she was absolutely brilliant. She'd done *Educating Rita* at the Gala Theatre in Durham, said she'd love another opportunity for a longer run, and that I would make a brilliant Frank."

When the proposal for a revival of the play was put to Willy Russell, he not only gave his blessing to the pairing of Tompkinson and Johnson, he also agreed to help with the production.

"We've had Willy present every week of rehearsals, so he's led us through by the hand very beautifully and very patiently, and hasn't been at all fussy about the script.

"He knows that audiences have moved on, 40 years after he first wrote it, and that they don't need as much information as they used to be given, so he's been quite happy getting the scissors out to his much-loved play. He's let it be *our* production, and he's been delighted with the results, I'm happy to say. We knew that if we were making him happy, then hopefully that would transfer to the audience."

Since opening in Keswick in April, the play has attracted a wide range of theatregoers: "It's accessible to everyone. Although it's set in a university and the world of academia, with someone who's desperate to enter that world, it doesn't exclude. It's inclusive of everybody, and I think that's always been one of Willy's great strengths - being able to speak to everyone.

"The producers at Keswick said that the most rewarding thing was that 20 percent of the ticket sales were brand new theatregoers, so that was lovely. We met a guy whose only other experience of the theatre was panto with the kids at Christmas, and he said he was engaged within the first five minutes because he could associate with Rita, being working-class himself. He was absolutely lost in it and thought it was fantastic."

So how does Stephen view his character's relationship with Rita?

"Frank's desperate for her not to become just another student, but instead to try and see things his way. But then, by doing that, he's almost having too much of an influence on her, when he should be allowing her to think for herself. He's very aware that he's doing a sort of Frankenstein number on her and can see the changes in her. He's not particularly best pleased with what he sees, and his outlet is through drink, sadly.

"Rita tries to rescue him from himself and ends up finding *herself*, so she's very grateful to Frank. The decisions that she makes from then on will definitely be hers, and Frank has given her choice."

Over the years, the broad appeal of *Educating Rita* has ensured that the story is familiar to many people, but what can the audience expect to take away from this particular production?

"They get to see a great, unrequited love story about second chances and choice, and about the fact that it's never too late for anyone. Friends who've been to see it are dazzled by Willy's original script. They can't believe it's 40 years since it was written, because all the points are still very salient now."

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Educating Rita shows at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday 8 to Saturday 13 July & Malvern Festival Theatre, from Monday 5 to Saturday 10 August



Deadtown

The REP, Birmingham, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 June

The Forman Brothers, widely considered to be one of the most innovative theatre companies in Europe, are the creatives behind this critically acclaimed Wild West tale. The production cleverly uses a mixture of film, live action and magic to shift from illusion to reality, in the process making full use of a cast of 20 acrobats, dancers, singers and musicians.

"The performance takes place sometime around 1900, in an era of great discoveries such as phonographs, cameras and first films," says one of the brothers, Petr, the son of the late, great Oscar-winning movie director Milos Forman. "They are discoveries which fascinate us even in modern times. And all these things, these little details, they are an honour to the great men who laid the basis of the world we are living in today."

Hormonal Housewives

Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Thurs 6 June; Oakengates Theatre@The Place, Telford, Thurs 13 June; Lichfield Garrick, Sat 15 June; Malvern Theatres, Sun 16 June; Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Fri 21 June



This Julie Coombe play offers a humorous contemplation on what it means to be a 21st century girl at a challenging time of life. So if you can relate to subjects such as weight gain, weight loss, mood swings, wine, PMS, men, going to the gym, waxing, stretch marks, chocolate and upper-lip hair, this is the show for you!

Helena's sitting on the shelf, Titania and Oberon are up to no good, and Puck's got his finger in more pies than Mr Kipling. Add in a group of rude mechanicals and the recipe for success is guaranteed...



to demonstrate his allegiance by handing over his wife, Belvidera. One of the other conspirators threatens Belvidera, so she and Jaffier go on the run. They then have to work out whether to reveal the conspiracy to the senate, or to carry on with it, knowing how bloody the outcome will be..."

Velvet

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 12 & Thurs 13 June

"Just as I was starting to write Velvet, the #MeToo movement happened, and made my writing seem even more urgent."

So says Tom Ratcliffe, whose critically acclaimed play tells the story of a young gay actor experiencing sexual harassment. "Due to the fact that men are usually perpetrators, and because there's this perception that gay men are inherently linked to sex, it's almost assumed that they want it. I hope Velvet goes some way towards putting sexual harassment against a gay man in the same context as sexual harassment against a woman."



Venice Preserved

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 7 September



"Thomas Otway's Venice Preserved follows disaffected Venetian nobles," the show's director, Prasanna Puwanarajah, explains. "Out of the two main male characters, one is the son-in-law of a senator and the other is a war veteran. Both of them join a conspiracy against the senate of Venice, as they believe it to be oppressive and in need of change. In order to join the plot, one of them, Jaffier, has

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 18 - Thurs 20 June; Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 5 & Sat 6 July; Oakengates Theatre@The Place, Telford, Wed 17 July

Zany funsters Oddsocks celebrate their 30th anniversary with a high-energy production of one of Shakespeare's best-loved comedies. Lysander and Demetrius both fancy Hermia,

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*Normal price £250

WAKE UP

Renowned beatboxer Testament comes to the Midlands this month with his new show, Woke. What's On spoke to the hip-hop star about the production and its relationship to feminism...



World Record-holding beatboxer Testament uses his new show, *Woke*, to explore what happens when his hip-hop world collides with his newer role as the father to a young girl. Employing a mixture of comedy, spoken word, hip-hop and beatboxing, Testament unpicks the conflict between feminism and hip-hop in an attempt to understand how we can all become better feminists.

The word *Woke* is slang, defined as ‘to be aware of and actively attentive to important facts and issues - especially those connected to racial and social justice’.

“*Woke* was born out of a bit of frustration with myself,” Testament explains. “I suddenly realised that there were things about my own life and attitudes that just weren’t sitting right with me. I was almost afraid to examine these. The more I dug into them, the more I realised that even though my music and theatre really talks about the world and its current issues, there were still things within my own self that needed work. I realised that, as a man, I needed to be a better feminist, and that it could take some work to understand what that would mean. That’s a journey I’m still on now, but that’s essentially what catalysed *Woke*. People were asking me what my next show was going to be about after *Blake Remixed*, and I’d already decided that I wanted it to be about equality and sexism.”

Testament’s ideas provoked many different reactions within the communities that play an important role in his career and private life.

“I received a slight backlash from certain men in all parts of my life about this. In particular some from the hip-hop scene were telling me about how feminism is evil and a conspiracy to undermine men. A lot of the people in my Christian community were supportive, and agreed that feminism is part of loving your neighbour, but some others were also pretty scathing about it. Even some friends from school told me how feminism is undermining Western civilisation. So I got mixed reactions, and a lot of people weren’t happy about me exploring feminism through hip-hop. But at the same time, it was their reactions that affirmed to me how much of an issue it was, and how important it was for me to open up a conversation about this.”

The global sociopolitical climate was also an influence on the creation of *Woke*: “That guy Donald Trump got elected; someone with obvious problems with how to relate to and respect women. Seeing how some people I knew were really big fans of Donald Trump made me even more determined to get this

show on the road. We might not necessarily have laws in the UK that discriminate against women, but in everyday domestic, social and career settings there’s definitely still sexism towards women in particular. For example, hip-hop is my art form, and yet misogyny is almost written into it. So there’s a movement in *Woke* to try and unpick that and examine what’s going on. This is something that’s real and affects people’s lives on both small and bigger levels. I was angry at the state of the world and also at myself. So *Woke* is something I felt I really needed to get out now, and luckily there were a few theatres across the country that wanted to help me create the piece.”

Woke is not a show that seeks to preach. In his self-reflection, Testament extends the hand of community empowerment to the audience: “Mostly it’s a really funny show. It’s called *Woke*, which is kind of in inverted-commas, because when someone says they’re woke, that automatically implies that they think someone else isn’t. That’s a bit of a pretentious thing to say. So I think there’s a feeling of looking at myself and critiquing my own hip-hop work. Part of that is laughing at it. Singing and beatboxing about these sexism issues within the genre of hip-hop will hopefully put a new perspective out there. So I guess my biggest aim is for people to really have their preconceptions challenged. The show ends with a kind of figurative hug, so I really hope that people leave the theatre feeling empowered to look at and tackle these issues.”

So why did Testament decide to take his music into theatres across the country?

“One of the big turning points for me was when I was working with SK Shlomo at his shows on the Southbank. I was one of the beatboxers in his show. I saw how he turned that into a theatre show, and I loved how his vision was to unite the world through music. I thought about how combining theatre and hip-hop was actually really fantastic, but not done that often. It’s quite hard to convey a complex message at places like clubs and festivals, where people are there to have a good time rather than to listen to the story. With theatre, it’s more of a community, where you sit down and have a conversation between audience and performer.”

Storytelling has been a passion of Testament’s for many years and links directly to both his music career and his theatre shows.

“Well, I’m called Testament, which I guess links to stories. In every tradition, culture and religion in the world, stories are how we view

the world. Whether it’s an allegory, a parable or even a headline on a tabloid newspaper, narratives help us to order our souls and to think about things. So I’ve always been very keen on storytelling. My raps were always full of storytelling, and I really try to take care with my bars and rhymes because the lines are always there to serve a narrative, rather than just to sound cool. I mean, I hope they sound cool also, but the story is the most important thing. Theatres just seemed like the natural space to put my music into.”

Five years ago, Testament founded a workshop scheme called The Hip-Hop Clinic, where he uses hip-hop as an educational tool.

“I was working freelance as a hip-hop educator, which I still do now. So I use hip-hop as a tool to educate in schools, prisons and community centres. I use the word ‘clinic’ in there because I really hope it’s something that helps and heals. Hip-hop doesn’t always do that, but the founding principles of the clinic are to change that. I’m lucky enough to have got the blessing of DJ Kool Herc, one of the first progenitors of hip-hop back in the day in the Bronx, and he’s all about using music to heal, which is a legacy I want to carry on.”

Testament is clearly a man with many strings to his bow.

“I’m currently the writer-in-residence at the Royal Exchange Manchester, so I’m working on a play now, which is very exciting. I’m also working on an album. Life sometimes goes by different seasons, and I love being able to just be creative and go with it. I plan on taking whatever opportunities come my way and making sure I still pursue all my lines of work.”

He’s also positive that Midlands theatre-goers will enjoy *Woke*: “The feedback I’ve had from audiences so far has been really, really positive. Some people just find it really hilarious, others enjoy seeing a live beatboxer. I’ve heard men say they’ve been really challenged by the content of *Woke*. I’ve had women come to me and say that, for them, it was really healing. I think that’s been great for a random rapper guy to achieve with a spoken-word, beatboxing show where I spit some lyrics and jump around a bit. I’m glad that people leave having been entertained and feeling uplifted.”

.....

Testament brings his new show *Woke* to the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry on Saturday 15 June



The Mousetrap

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Thurs 27 - Sat 29 June;
Malvern Theatre, Mon 15 - Sat 20 July

Not only has everybody *heard* of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*, they've *seen* the show as well - haven't they?

Okay, maybe not, but as the production is fast approaching its 70th consecutive year in the West End, it's fair to say its capacity to put bums on seats is absolutely beyond question.

Not surprisingly it's the world's longest-running show, and has been performed well in excess of a staggering 25,000 times. Its touring version here makes a welcome return to the Midlands.

Avenue Q

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Tues 11 - Sat 15 June

This Tony Award-winning musical focuses on subjects including dating, racism, being gay and finding your purpose in life. At the centre of the story is Princeton, a bright-eyed college graduate with a tiny bank balance who, as he sets out on a voyage of self-discovery, finds himself being easily distracted by a busty blonde and a plethora of weird and wonderful friends.



We've Got Each Other: The Almost Entirely Imagined Bon Jovi Musical

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Sat 8 June

With Bon Jovi visiting the Midlands this very month, what better time to stage this modern jukebox musical? "It's the kind of show," says its performer, Paul O'Donnel, "that traditionally comes with a multi-talented cast, a live band - or orchestra, if you're lucky - opulent sets & decadent costumes, extravagant dance routines, dramatic key changes and the odd hydraulic lift or two. We've Got Each Other has got none of these

things because they cost a lot of money. But I will nonetheless attempt to create an all-singing all-dancing spectacle using the power of the audience's imagination!"

Roman Romp

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Thurs 6 June; Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock, Fri 7 June; Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Thurs 20 June; Crewe Lyceum, Wed 26 June

Described by its producers as 'an evening of farcical confusion and outrageous innuendo which may also contain mild audience participation', Roman Romp is presented by the company who annually perform an adult panto at the Prince of Wales Centre.

And just as one might therefore expect - judging by the show's title, description and the past record of the ensemble performing it - it's a wee bit on the rude side!

So brace yourself for an encounter with reluctant virgin Frigella the Fulfiller as she searches for a 'shagamus' - aided and abetted in her sadly-far-from-foolproof plans by her nice-but-dim pal, Bimbis...

Not surprisingly, the show has been deemed inappropriate for audience members younger than the age of 16.

The Lady Vanishes

Lichfield Garrick, Mon 17 - Sat 22 June

Taking a nap while travelling on a transcontinental train to London, Iris awakes to find the elderly governess who'd been sitting next to her is nowhere to be seen. On questioning her fellow passengers and the train's crew about the sweet old lady, she's dismayed to find that nobody recalls seeing her at all. But

how can somebody disappear from a moving train? Or is Iris suddenly losing her mind?...

The Lady Vanishes is best remembered in its Alfred Hitchcock-directed movie version, but packs a powerful punch on stage as well. This latest adaptation is presented by The Classic Thriller Theatre Company.



WNO: Don Pasquale

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham,
Sat 8 June; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Sun 16 June

A small Welsh National Opera cast bring to life Daisy Evans' new production of this Donizetti masterpiece.

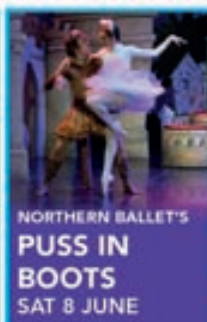
A classic comic opera - here updated to modern times and taking place in and around Pasquale's doner kebab van - the show tells the much-loved story of an old bachelor's romantic delusions and the young lovers who outwit him... The production follows on from Welsh National Opera's 2018 success with Elena Langer's Rhondda Rips It Up!.



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The Gruffalo

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 25 & Wed 26 June; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 11 - Tues 12 November

Summer's not summer in Birmingham without one of Julia Donaldson's delightful tales being vividly brought to life. And on this occasion, it's an adaptation of 1999 bestseller *The Gruffalo* which is taking to the stage. The production is presented by award-winning theatre company Tall Stories, who've garnered an excellent reputation in terms of performing Donaldson's work. Their imaginative retelling of the much-loved book comes complete with talented cast, catchy songs and magical characters.

Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 25 & Wed 26 June; 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, it 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. The two chums live in the tiny land of the Little Kingdom. In this particular show, they 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.

If All The World Were Paper

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 2 June

The fact that Big Window Theatre's latest show is a 'little homage' to Laurel & Hardy will, of course, be lost on its very young audience. But maybe the accompanying parents and guardians will enjoy the experience all

the more for understanding the source of its inspiration.

The production revolves around the friendship between two grandads, Fred and Ted, who've been best pals for a very long time. When they find themselves faced with a painting job, it soon becomes apparent that the two old chums have vastly different ways of going about things...

Ministry Of Science

Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Wed 19 June; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Thurs 20 June

From the creative team behind *Brainiac Live* comes an anarchic show that takes a look at the inventors and engineers who've shaped and inspired the modern world. Expect plenty of demonstrations - and a few loud bangs along the way...

Dinosaur World Live

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 June

Dinosaurs are once again roaming the earth this summer, thanks to this critically acclaimed interactive show for all the family to enjoy.

Youngsters get to meet a host of impressive prehistoric creatures - including, of course, every child's favourite flesh-eating giant, the *Tyrannosaurus Rex*.

In short, the show promises to be an absolute monster of an experience, leaving a T-Rex-size imprint on your child's memory for many a week to come.



Honk!

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 4 - Sat 8 June

Stiles & Drewe's hit musical has been performed in excess of 8,000 times at venues across the world. It's based on Hans Christian Andersen's *The Ugly Duckling* and tells the story of an odd-looking baby duck and his attempts to find his mother. While doing so, he encounters a beautiful swan, tangled in a fishing line, and subsequently falls in love... This quacker of a well-hatched tale is here presented by Dot By Dot Productions.



Milkshake Live!

Palace Theatre, Redditch, Sat 22 June

Milkshake Monkey's desire to put on a new musical has hit the skids due to a nasty bout of rampant stage fright - so thank heaven that Fireman Sam, Noddy, Shimmer & Shine and all their friends are on hand to help out...

If you've watched the TV series and/or been to a previous live production, you'll already know what to expect from this latest Milkshake! show. If not, get ready for an event that promises lots of laughter, bucket-loads of family fun, bags of audience participation and plenty of singing and dancing.


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Swan Theatre, Worcester (worcesterlive.co.uk) - 6th June
Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock (princeofwales.live) - 7th June
Brierley Hill Civic Hall (bhillicivic.co.uk) - 20th June
Crewe Lyceum (crewelyceum.co.uk) - 26th June



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"In the best satirical
tradition of TWS &
The Foot Report"
Musical Theatre Reviewer

★★★★★
"Pacy, witty, irreverent
and very funny"
Reviews Hub

★★★★★
"A hilarious evening
from a very talented cast"
Sheffield Star

★★★★★
"Boris and his Johnson
as full stars"
New Theatre Magazine

★★★★★
"Therapy for those sick
and tired of politics"
North West End

"Satire as it should be"
Cultured

"Genuinely funny"
Some random on Twitter

Boris

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Shakespeare at the castle

Stafford Festival Shakespeare returns to Stafford Castle at the end of this month with a production of *The Merchant Of Venice*. What's On recently caught up with this year's director, Oliver O'Shea, to talk about the show and his decision to set the action in 1950s New York...



Shakespeare's *The Merchant Of Venice* centres on a loan given to Bassanio and Antonio to subsidise the former's pursuit of wealthy heiress Portia. It's a tale of money, anti-Semitism and deception.

"Merchant is an incredible piece of writing," says Oliver O'Shea, who's directing the Stafford Festival Shakespeare (SFS) production of the play at Stafford Castle.

"Shakespeare's plays are so rich, and this particular one is complicated and challenging as well as being at times moving and funny.

But it feels particularly timely in our country to be doing *The Merchant Of Venice* because it is, in part, about divisions within a community in terms of wealth and religion. It feels like a play that is really perfect to stage now, as well as being a classic that hasn't yet been produced at Stafford Festival Shakespeare. In recent years SFS has done, for want of a better phrase, the 'blockbusters'. I think the producers were looking for something that took a different turn to those of recent years."

Oliver has set his version of the play in 1950s New York City.

"This is a fresh take on *The Merchant Of Venice* in lots of ways. We were looking for a 20th century parallel to how Shakespeare's contemporaries would have perceived Venice in their time. Shakespeare would have known about Venice as this major, global port, and it had a reputation for being somewhat liberal. Venice was also relatively multicultural and had this almost legendary status, even though Britons didn't necessarily know much about it in reality. In 1950s New York there were lots of different communities and a large number of Jewish people, as well as lots of different ethnicities and immigrants. So it seemed like an interesting parallel. We were interested in that idea of a place helping the audience to understand the Venice that Shakespeare was imagining when he wrote *Merchant*. So that's a distinctive element of our production.

"Another way this production is different is because of my work as a dramaturge, which means I help develop new plays with writers and provide support to people creating adaptations of novels. As such, I've lightly edited this production to shift the perspective on certain scenes. I think seeing Shakespeare outdoors always changes the play, too. Seeing it performed in natural daylight, like it would have been at The Globe originally, is a very different experience. Unlike many outdoor productions of Shakespeare, we're bringing

all the elements of modern theatrical production into the outdoor space. So rather than being like a museum piece or a replica, this is very much an original. We have a cast of 12 actors with gender parity and a really brilliant creative team. I think this production will be a really thrilling and exciting one that's full of playful moments. That's part of my approach as a director: I look for the most dramatic version of the dramatic art, but I also like to highlight the moments of levity and playfulness."

Oliver is a passionate advocate for diversity in British theatre: "I think Shakespeare is definitely one of our greatest playwrights, but because I'm also interested in new work and plays, I think it's important that we have a diverse offering on the theatre scene. What I would say is that Shakespeare being staged regionally is quite rare, outside of such places as the Royal Shakespeare Company. There are outdoor stagings of Shakespeare, but on a much smaller scale than Stafford Festival Shakespeare. The problem with classical plays in the staging of regional theatre is the cast sizes, which makes them expensive to put on. Obviously it's brilliant and important that people are finding the resources to stage Shakespeare. It's so important that theatre is for everyone and in every part of the country. I've chosen to be based outside London, which is relatively unusual for a theatre director, because I believe that everyone should be able to access great theatre performances in their local community. It's also really important that we do present our classics, but not just for the sake of it. We need to think about why we want to stage that classic play now: they need to still be relevant and to resonate with audiences."

Oliver believes making plays accessible is essential for directors of Shakespeare: "Schools' presentation of Shakespeare plays is part of the reason for some people seeing his work as inaccessible and not relatable. If you're still learning how to read contemporary English, and perhaps you're struggling because people all learn at different speeds, and then all of a sudden you encounter a text that seems a bit different in language and poetic form, it can put you off for life - especially when it's taught in such a dry way. I think that's part of the reason we've edited it the way we have and changed its setting. Also, with the way television and film work now, people expect their entertainment to be more streamlined and delivered quickly. There's also, perhaps, too much reverence surrounding Shakespeare as a figure.

Obviously he was an incredible writer, but I think if he could look back on his own plays from now, he would revise and modernise them too. I think actors and directors who stage Shakespeare today have to bring their own modern theatre-making principles to bear on the text.

"On a much simpler level, it's just about making the play really come alive. If there's a really obscure cultural reference that really doesn't exist at all today, then it should just be cut out. That's the approach we've taken - getting rid of the stuff where you really need an in-depth knowledge of the social workings and history of Shakespeare's period. Some people might see that as disrespectful, but we need to make Shakespeare interesting, exciting and understandable: that's the most important thing we can do to keep Shakespeare alive in the modern theatre world."

Oliver loves the variation that comes with directing theatre: "I'm directing *A Christmas Carol* at Derby Theatre, and it's a brilliant version because it has an ensemble approach with eight actor-musicians. The version we're doing intersperses carols throughout the production, which makes it a really lovely family show. The strange thing about being a director is that your head is often in more than two different stories at once, and you have to be able to put a play aside for one day and then come back to it the next. It can be difficult, but I like it because it makes my life so varied."

Returning to the subject of *The Merchant Of Venice*, why does Oliver think Midlands theatregoers should make the trip to Stafford Castle to see the show?

"I think if you live in the area and you've never been to Stafford Festival Shakespeare at the castle before, you should definitely give it a try. It's an extremely unique setting, and it's quite surprising that a fully resourced, big-scale Shakespeare production happens every single year on a hill in Stafford. To those who've been before, I'd say that the festival is reinventing itself year upon year. So don't miss our approach to *Merchant*, as it gives a different flavour to the very well-received production of *Macbeth* last year."

The Stafford Festival Shakespeare production of *The Merchant Of Venice* runs at Stafford Castle from Thursday 27 June to Saturday 13 July.

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Birmingham Royal Ballet: (Un)leashed

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 12 - Sat 15 June

Three ballets by three female choreographers are here presented by BRB, including the world premiere of the third Ballet Now commission by Didy Veldman (complete with a score by Sergei Prokofiev's grandson, Gabriel). The piece rounds off an evening of dance which also features the welcome return of Jessica Lang's Lyric Pieces - created for BRB as part of International Dance Festival Birmingham 2012 - and the first main-stage performance of Ruth Brill's contemporary version of Peter And The Wolf. "One of the main slants is that Peter is going to be played by a girl," explains Ruth. "It feels very current to have a strong heroine at the heart of the story. This production has dance, narration and music all rolled into one, which makes it very accessible because the story is explained. People don't expect spoken word as a major element when they go to a ballet. It breaks down the barriers, so no-one should feel apprehensive that they won't understand the story or know what's going on."

CANDY

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 21 June

Contemporary dance company Chrysalis London takes audiences on an energetic journey through a diverse wealth of genres, along the way presenting a soundtrack that segues from dubstep to classical.

The company draws its inspiration from the city, using urban culture to stimulate the production of raw, explosive and refreshingly edgy choreography.

This latest production includes a highly anticipated collaboration with world-renowned choreographer Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy MBE, and also features a specially created curtain-raiser from Birmingham's Timmins Academy of Dance.



Jazz Dance Company

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 12 June

Dancers from prestigious professional training school London Studio Centre here showcase a wide range of dance styles, from hip-hop, commercial and contemporary to music theatre, tap, technical and lyrical jazz. Described as serious, satirical and sassy, the ensemble's latest show is an exploration of current & historical movements, moments and figures, celebrating idols from Elvis to Michael Jackson, Dali to Da Vinci and Ginger Rogers to Gene Kelly.



Rhythm Of The Dance

Lichfield Garrick, Sat 8 & Sun 9 June; Swan Theatre, Worcester, Sat 13 July; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 3 August

This well-established production has been dancing its way across the globe for 20-plus years, stopping off in more than 50 countries and entertaining in excess of seven million people. A flamboyant festival of flailing feet and fiddles, the show presents dance, music, songs and culture from across the ages, from pre-Celtic times through to modern-day sounds. It also features a cast of world and Irish champion dancers and a host of strikingly talented traditional musicians.



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21 June
Opening Film - Article 15
19.00 | Cineworld Broad Street
(Red Carpet from 18.30)

1 July
Closing Film - Photograph
19.00 | MAC Birmingham

22 June
Satyajit Ray Short Film Award
14.00 | The Mockingbird

Urojahaj (The Flight)
16.30 | MAC Birmingham

Widow of Silence
18.00 | Cineworld Broad Street

23 June
Vivek (Reason)
16.30 | MAC Birmingham

Arishadvarga
19.00 | Cineworld Broad Street

24 June
Sir
18.30 | MAC Birmingham

25 June
My Home, India
18.30 | Centrala

#Gadhvi
20.30 | MAC Birmingham

26 June
Anurag Kashyap
in Conversation
19.00 | The Mockingbird

27 June
Bulbul Can Sing
18.00 | MAC Birmingham

28 June
Saturday Afternoon
18.15 | MAC Birmingham

29 June
Kattumaram (Catamaran)
13.30 | MAC Birmingham

Chuskit
16.00 | The Mockingbird

Ardaas Karaan
19.00 | Cineworld Broad Street



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Toy Story 4 CERT tbc (89 mins)

With the voices of **Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Joan Cusack, Wallace Shawn, Michael Keaton, Timothy Dalton, Tony Hale, Keanu Reeves, Christina Hendricks, Madeleine McGraw**
Directed by **Josh Cooley (USA)**

Children everywhere will learn what a 'spork' is when this film hits cinemas, the word describing a cross between a spoon and a fork. The sequel's new character is Forky, a spork that has been fashioned into a toy with the addition of pipe cleaner arms - but he really doesn't like being a plaything. Even so, he ends up on a road trip with Woody, Buzz Lightyear and the toys' new owner, Bonnie Anderson (Madeleine McGraw), who made Forky herself in an arts & crafts class. Then Forky escapes in the middle of nowhere and Woody heads off to rescue him.

Keanu Reeves makes his debut as a voice actor, playing a character called Duke Caboom, a stunt rider unable to live up to his maker's publicity. Available in IMAX and 3D.

Released Fri 21 June



EDITOR'S CHOICE

Film highlights released in June...

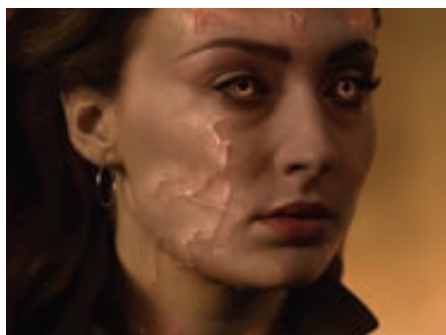
Dark Phoenix CERT 12a

Starring **James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Nicholas Hoult, Sophie Turner, Tye Sheridan, Jessica Chastain**
Directed by **Simon Kinberg (USA)**

The 12th instalment in the X-Men series sees our mutant heroes facing up to the all-powerful Dark Phoenix, an X-girl gone rogue. It's a tricky one, but they have to decide between the fate of the human race and one of their own, even if she is a bad egg.

We will see...

Released Wed 5 June



Gloria Bell CERT 15 (102 mins)

Starring **Julianne Moore, John Turturro, Michael Cera, Caren Pistorius, Brad Garrett, Jeanne Tripplehorn**
Directed by **Sebastián Lelio (USA/Chile)**



She may be in her 50s, but divorcee Gloria Bell (Julianne Moore) finds new life on the dance floors of Los Angeles.

Sebastián Lelio, the Chilean director of *A Fantastic Woman* and *Disobedience*, here re-imagines his own 2013 drama *Gloria*, which he shot in Santiago.

Released Thurs 6 June

Liam: As It Was CERT 15 (85 mins)

Directed by **Gavin Fitzgerald and Charlie Lightening (UK)**

That's Liam as in Liam Gallagher and this British documentary follows the singer as he attempts to forge a solo career post-Oasis. Expect some very naughty words.

Released Thurs 6 June



Eating Animals CERT PG (94 mins)

Directed by Christopher Dillon Quinn
(UK/India/Germany/China/USA)

The food on your plate may be cheaper than it's ever been, but what, pray, are the global consequences? This eye-opening documentary on industrialised farming and animal welfare is based on the bestselling book by Jonathan Safran Foer and is narrated by Natalie Portman and Foer himself.

Released Fri 7 June



Diego Maradona

CERT tbc (130 mins)
Directed by Asif Kapadia (UK)

Following his award-winning documentaries on Ayrton Senna and Amy Winehouse, the London-born Asif Kapadia now focuses his

attention on the Argentine footballer Maradona.

Released Fri 14 June

The Hummingbird Project

CERT 15 (111 mins)

Starring Jesse Eisenberg, Alexander Skarsgård, Salma Hayek, Michael Mando
Directed by Kim Nguyen (Canada/Belgium)

In this very modern thriller, two high-frequency salesmen operate in the world of ultra-low latency direct market access. Um, no doubt all will be explained in what looks likely to be a goofy, ultra high-tech ride.

Released Fri 14 June



Men In Black: International

CERT tbc

Starring Chris Hemsworth, Tessa Thompson, Liam Neeson, Rebecca Ferguson, Kumail Nanjiani, Rafe Spall, Emma Thompson
Directed by F. Gary Gray (USA)



For geeks, call it MIB: International, a spin-off of the MIB franchise that starred Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith. This edition kicks off in London and then follows Agent H (Hemsworth) and Agent M (Tessa Thompson) as they track alien imposters around the globe. Filmed in London, New York, Italy and Africa.

Released Fri 14 June

A Season In France CERT tbc

Starring Eriq Ebouaney, Sandrine Bonnaire, Aalayna Lys, Ibrahim Burama Darboe
Directed by Mahamat Saleh Haroun (France)

Sandrine Bonnaire plays a woman who finds herself involved with a high school teacher who has fled his war-torn home in Africa. The writer-director Haroun is himself from Chad.

Released Fri 14 June



Sometimes Always Never

CERT 12 (91 mins)

Starring Bill Nighy, Sam Riley, Jenny Agutter, Tim McInnerny, Alice Lowe
Directed by Carl Hunter (UK)

For Alan (Bill Nighy), it all went wrong when he lost his son over a game of Scrabble. Now, as he strives to complete a game online, he suspects the player may well be his prodigal offspring. There are no words for it.

Released Fri 14 June



Late Night CERT 15 (102 mins)

Starring Emma Thompson, Mindy Kaling, Hugh Dancy, Reid Scott, John Lithgow, Amy Ryan
Directed by Nisha Ganatra (USA)

In spite of a luminous career, late-night talk-show host Katherine Newbury (Emma Thompson) is in danger of losing her slot

because it is accused of being male-centric. So she hires Molly Patel, played by Mindy Kaling, to add some feminine zest. Kaling also wrote the screenplay to this comedy-drama.

Released Fri 7 June

Yesterday CERT 12a (112 mins)

Starring **Himesh Patel, Lily James, Kate McKinnon, Ed Sheeran, Ana de Armas, Lamorne Morris, James Corden, Sanjeev Bhaskar**
Directed by **Danny Boyle (UK)**

What if The Beatles had never existed? Well, after a global blackout, struggling singer-songwriter Jack Malik (Himesh Patel) discovers that nobody has ever come across John, Paul, George and Ringo, and his covers of their songs launches him into the commercial stratosphere.

However, his new-found fame could endanger the trust invested in him by his life-long sweetheart, Ellie (Lily James).

As potty as this premise sounds, it's no odder than the themes explored by its director in *Millions*, *Slumdog Millionaire* and *127 Hours*. And with our very own Danny Boyle working from a script by Richard Curtis, this comedy has every prospect of being a mammoth hit. Ed Sheeran plays Ed Sheeran, who really does exist.

Released Fri 28 June



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Brightburn CERT 15 (90 mins)

Starring **Elizabeth Banks, David Denman, Jackson A. Dunn, Matt Jones, Meredith Hagner**
Directed by **David Yarovesky (USA)**

A couple adopts a child from outer space which they try to raise to serve humanity. But the kid has other plans...

**Released
Fri 21 June**



Annabelle Comes Home CERT tbc

Starring **Mckenna Grace, Madison Iseman, Katie Sarife, Patrick Wilson, Vera Farmiga**
Directed by **Gary Dauberman (USA)**

That wretched doll - last seen in *Annabelle: Creation* (2017) - is now back in the safekeeping of the demonologists Ed and Lorraine Warren and is locked behind sacred glass. But we all know that Annabelle is no dummy... For those who really care, this is the seventh instalment in the *Conjuring Universe* franchise.

Released Fri 28 June



Child's Play CERT 15 (120 mins)

Starring **Aubrey Plaza, Gabriel Bateman, Brian Tyree Henry, Tim Matheson** and the voice of **Mark Hamill**
Directed by **Lars Klevberg (USA)**

Believe it or not, Chucky is back. This remake of the cult 1988 slasher pic introduces the very evil doll to a whole new generation. The first film produced six sequels and a TV series, long before *Annabelle* (cf.) wreaked her own reign of destruction.

Released Fri 21 June



In Fabric CERT 15 (120 mins)

Starring **Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Hayley Squires, Leo Bill, Gwendoline Christie, Julian Barratt, Steve Oram**
Directed by **Peter Strickland (UK)**

The cinema has dished up many a cursed thing, but never before a dress. Here, as a dress passes from one buyer to the next during a winter sale at a department store, mayhem ensues. From the critically acclaimed director of *Berberian Sound Studio* and *The Duke Of Burgundy*.

Released Fri 28 June

HOME OF METAL
PRESENTS



Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery this month welcomes a major exhibition exploring the legacy of Black Sabbath and their global fanbase...





Pictured (left to right): Black Sabbath fan Chris Hopkin; Morag Myerscough and Luke Morgan, the exhibition designers for Black Sabbath-50 Years at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery; and superfan Stephen Knowles.

From humble beginnings in 1960s Aston, Geezer Butler, Tony Iommi, Ozzy Osbourne and Bill Ward formed a band that would change the course of music history. Black Sabbath created a new sound, a new aesthetic and a new musical culture - Heavy Metal.

During a career spanning 50 years, the band enjoyed phenomenal global success, selling more than 75 million albums worldwide.

Their final tour, appropriately titled The End, saw them play 81 concerts in 25 different countries. They also recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Grammys.

This month sees the opening of the Black Sabbath - 50 Years exhibition at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Presented by Home of Metal, a project devoted to the Heavy Metal music that was born in and around Birmingham, the exhibition seeks to dissect the key ingredients that came together to create Black Sabbath. Along the way, it explores the music that turned up the volume, down-tuned the guitars and introduced a whole new meaning to the word 'heavy'.

Focusing on more than just the band and their Birmingham roots, Home of Metal has also captured more than 3,000 portraits of

“
It’s an honour to
be a part of the
Home of Metal.
I’m just a guy from
Birmingham who’s
been blessed to have
had such dedicated
fans throughout my
career. Like I’ve always
said, I am nothing
without them...
Ozzy Osbourne

”

Black Sabbath fans across the world, in the process brilliantly illustrating the diversity of their fanbase. The photo collection includes portraits of people in Botswana, Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, Egypt, Lebanon, Netherlands, Spain, US and from across the UK.

The exhibition also includes a recreation of superfan Stephen Knowles’ living room, a space that he’s turned into his own mini Sabbath museum.

Also featured are a number of key costumes loaned by the band, including an outfit worn by Geezer Butler at their Birmingham Town Hall concert and featured in the gatefold of the 1972 Vol 4 album. Other on-display items include Ozzy’s glasses, Tony Iommi’s home studio and a part of Bill Ward’s drum kit, used in the 1974 Cal Jam, where Black Sabbath performed in front of 250,000 people.

.....
Home of Metal’s Black Sabbath - 50 Years exhibition shows at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery from Wednesday 26 June to Sunday 29 September.

Visitors must pre-book their tickets at homeofmetal.com



Black Sabbath’s fanbase is global. Pictured are fans Yuriika and Akihiro from Japan and Ben and Liz from Birmingham. Photo credits: Home of Metal Fans Portrait Collection 2017/18 © Home of Metal



“It’s very exciting to stage the first exhibition in over 20 years to focus exclusively on Cassiano’s remarkable contribution to art and science,” says Robert Wenley, Barber Deputy Director & Head of Collection. “The Paper Museum considers his wide-ranging academic and personal interests in the subjects of natural and antiquarian history. It also investigates his fascination with creating visual ‘documents’, which will resonate with today’s media-savvy and connected generation that enjoys documenting almost every fascinate of everyday life.”

42 whatsonlive.co.uk



Ben Venom: All This Mayhem

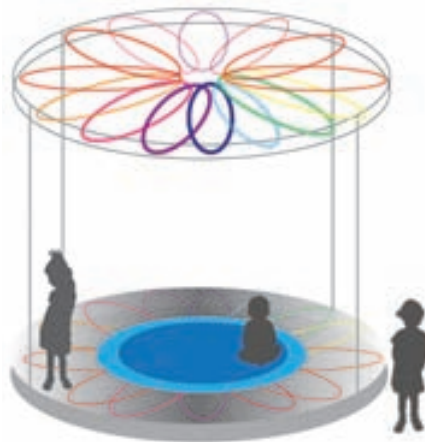
Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 22 June - Sun 8 September

Presented as part of Home Of Metal - a May to September celebration of Birmingham's history of metal music - All This Mayhem is an exploration of the San Francisco-based artist Ben Venom's interest in the DIY aspect of punk culture combined with the tradition of quilting. Ben's art sees him using reclaimed fabrics to create expansive patchwork designs which frequently incorporate skulls, tigers and heavy metal lyrics. Large-scale textile pieces, customised jean jackets and clothing all feature in the exhibition of new and recent work. Ben will be in residence at the gallery during the first week of the show.

Wonder

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, Wed 25 June - Sun 15 September

A light pavilion, urban landscapes, reimagined cartoon characters and creatures brought to life by augmented reality all feature in a show designed to take the visitor 'beyond gallery walls' to experience some 'unexpected and unimaginable wonders'. The exhibition brings together work by seven artists, all of whom are here focusing on producing pieces in which reality and the imaginary collide.



Comics: Explore And Create Comic Art

Enginuity, Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, Shropshire, until Sun 1 September

This free exhibition showcasing an eclectic mix of original and iconic comic book art, as well as work by current children's comic creators, has been originated by Seven Stories - the National Centre for Children's Books. Featuring interactive activities, playful props and original material, the show's highlights include images of Captain America, Wonder Woman, Superman and the Hulk as drawn by British artist Ian Churchill, who works for both Marvel and DC Comics.

Monster Chetwynd: Hell Mouth 3

Eastside Projects, Birmingham, until Sat 27 July

As with All This Mayhem (see left), Hell Mouth 3 is being presented as part of Birmingham's summertime Home Of Metal project.

The woman behind the show is Monster Chetwynd, a Glasgow-based artist previously known as Spartacus Chetwynd and Marvin Gaye Chetwynd, whose reputation is mainly based around her reworkings, via elaborate and evocative performances, of iconic moments from cultural history.

Explaining her exhibition, she says: "Hell Mouth 3 channels the decline of western civilisation and legacies of heavy metal through the mouth to hell of a 16th century engraving of a human-devouring monster."

The show takes inspiration from Penelope Spheeris' film series, The Decline Of Western Civilisation, a trilogy of movies which depicts life in Los Angeles at various points in time, along the way featuring some of the music industry's most influential and innovative performers.

Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Sun 2 June & Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sun 29 June - Sun 1 September

Wolverhampton Art Gallery this month welcomes back the prestigious Wildlife Photographer Of The Year show for a fourth time.

Now in its 54th year, the competition annually receives tens of thousands of submissions from amateur and professional photographers in around 100 countries.

Featuring awe-inspiring images capturing fascinating animal behaviour and breathtaking landscapes, the exhibition is visiting the Midlands after premiering in London.



1940S WEEKEND

EXPLORE THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF WARTIME BRITAIN



LIVE MUSIC

featuring the D-Day Darlings

WARTIME VEHICLES

RETRO HAIR SALON

RE-ENACTMENTS

RAF FLYPAST

VINTAGE CLOTHES

BARS & FOOD

13-14 JULY

10AM - 5PM

**BLACK COUNTRY
LIVING
MUSEUM**



BBC Good Food Show and Gardeners' World Live

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 June

Boasting seasonal produce, ideas for al-fresco dining, and hundreds of producers and brands, the BBC Good Food Show returns this month to provide four days of summertime dining inspiration.

Visitors can soak up expert masterclasses and enjoy live demos on the seasonal stages,

presented by a host of celebrity chefs including Mary Berry, Tom Kerridge, Michel Roux Jr, Nadiya Hussain and Raymond Blanc...

For green-fingered visitors, BBC Gardeners' World Live is running alongside the Good Food event. The show features a selection of stunning gardens, floral marquees, a plant village, hundreds of gardening exhibitors, and not-to-be-missed demonstrations by TV presenters Monty Don, Carol Klein, Adam Frost, Joe Swift and Alan Titchmarsh.

Under-5's Day

Himley Hall & Park, Dudley, Fri 28 June

One of the region's largest pre-school events, Himley Hall's Under-5's Day features a wide variety of activities and entertainment. This year's line-up includes an appearance by Peppa Pig and her brother, George, as well as a funfair, baby ballet, donkey rides and the return of the popular Himley Beach, complete with giant sandpit, buckets & spades and Punch & Judy shows.



Inspired Family Day

Birmingham City University, Sat 8 June



This year's Inspired Family Day celebrates World Oceans Day, providing an action-packed few hours of 'free and fun-filled' events and activities for visitors of all ages to enjoy.

From under-the-sea virtual reality and eco-friendly jewellery-making, to sustainable fashion and junk modelling, there'll be plenty for families to do, experience and learn.

Under-5's Day Picnic Party

Dudley Zoo,
Wed 26 & Thurs 27 June



A day (or two) of fun and games is in prospect for young visitors to Dudley Zoo late this month.

Not only can they enjoy the zoo itself, there's also a selection of activities and entertainment taking place in the grounds of Dudley Castle, including puppet shows, face painting and a sure-to-be-colourful fancy dress parade.

Step Back To The 1940s

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster, Sat 29 & Sun 30 June



The clock is turned back to wartime Britain this month as the Severn Valley Railway celebrates the 1940s.

Costumed reenactors will ensure that Winston Churchill, Field Marshal Bernard 'Monty' Montgomery and King George VI are all in attendance at the event, with highlights of the weekend including big band shows, vintage vehicle displays and vintage stalls.

So much more than a Flower Show!

Attractions for all ages including impressive displays of **vegetables, fruits and flowers** from our amateur exhibitors in the Severn Marquee, stunning **floral arrangements**, advice from our **celebrity gardener David Domoney**, exciting arena entertainment for all the family, food, crafts & trade stands, cookery demonstrations by **TV chef John Torode**; live music both evenings and all topped off with **world class fireworks**.

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Shrewsbury Flower Show

Friday 9th & Saturday 10th August 2019

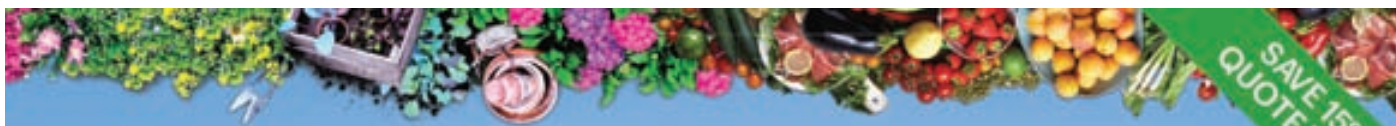


Call 01743 234058 or visit www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk



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132nd Show



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'The Town That Never Was' Steampunk Festival

Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge,
Sat 22 & Sun 23 June

The Ministry of Steampunk (MoS) is this month transforming Blists Hill into 'a magical, mysterious world of Martian invasion', complete with accompanying Steampunk sights and sounds.

The invaders-from-Mars storyline will be played out by MoS enthusiasts, with visitors at liberty to dip in and out as much or as little as they like.

Other attractions across the weekend include Cthulhu's Witnesses, Women's Suffrage, the Steam Wizards, traders throughout the town and a main stage in the ironworks hosting talks and entertainment.

Monster Jam

Ricoh Arena, Coventry, Sat 8 June

Hailed as one of the world's biggest live motorsport events, Monster Jam roars its way into Coventry this month.

Expert drivers will compete both in championship racing and gravity-defying freestyle competitions during the course of the evening. Standing at 12 feet-tall and weighing up to four-and-a-half tonnes, the participating trucks possess super-charged engines that generate more than 1,500 horsepower. The mammoth vehicles perform wheelies, donuts and big air stunts, with some having been known to reach an impressive height of 35 feet.



Fantabulosa!

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Sat 1 June

Open to anyone of whatever age who wants to experience the joys and freedom of self-expression, Fantabulosa! sees some of the UK's leading drag artists bringing to the museum 'a fantastical pop-up world of imagination and interactive storytelling, lipsync, performance, dress-up, games, songs and a lot of glitter'...

International Model Air Show

Weston Park, Shropshire,
Fri 14 - Sun 16 June



Model aircraft enthusiasts from all over the UK and Europe take to the skies to demonstrate their flying skills at this always-popular event.

Show highlights include a model boat regatta, slot car racing, a fun-fair for children, a Battle of Britain pyrotechnic display and the Swift Glider display team performing mid-air acrobatics.

Dating Show Live

NEC, Birmingham,
Sat 29 & Sun 30 June

Calling all singletons... If you're looking for love, it's time to check out the UK's first ever dating expo! Making its debut at the NEC, The Dating Show Live features a whole host of activities across five exploration zones.

Visitors can take part in speed-dating, try out a new look with a makeover from the experts, learn some moves in a dance class, or enjoy a drink or two at the prosecco bar.

TV stars Joey Essex, Melinda Messenger and Calum Best will all be in attendance.



Theatre in the Gardens

Join us and let your imagination run wild with our summer of spectacular theatre.

Treasure Island
10 July

Pride and Prejudice
17 July

A Midsummer Night's Dream
24 July

Alice in Wonderland
25 July

Chapterhouse/Immersion Theatre Company returns this summer. Tickets start from just £11 for concessions

Book tickets online:
www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk/whatson

For more information please contact reception
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Arts Council England The Wolfson Foundation Birmingham Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund



Shropshire Pub In The Park

QEII Arena, Telford Town Park, Fri 7 & Sat 8 June

This brand new event from the team behind the popular Shrewsbury Food Festival and Shropshire Oktoberfest brings all the best bits of going to the pub into the great outdoors. Event highlights include 150 real ales served up

by local brewers, a lager bar, cocktails, an extensive gin den, a wine bar, a Pimm's tent and 'some of the best street food the region has to offer'. And not only will visitors be well fed and watered, they'll be well entertained too, with live bands and comedians (including Tom Glover and Junior Simpson) also contributing to proceedings.

Kenilworth Show

Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Sat 8 June

Coventry & Warwickshire's biggest one-day agricultural show is celebrating its 76th year this month.

The 2019 edition of the event sees the return of the traditional country show livestock and homecraft competitions, as well as the countryside area, featuring challenges including archery and gundog scurry. The equine area also returns, with other attractions including displays of agricultural machinery, a vast array of trade stands and a programme of main-ring entertainment.



RAF Cosford Air Show

RAF Cosford, Sun 9 June

The Royal Air Force's only official air show is one of the largest events in the West Midlands. The annual show includes a packed flying schedule along with numerous static exhibits, stalls, trade stands, military demonstrations and a host of children's entertainments. The RAF Red Arrows will also be performing at the event, in what will be one of only a handful of opportunities to see them this summer.

Festival of Creativity & Wellbeing

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, Sat 15 June

As part of Creativity & Wellbeing Week, the Herbert is hosting a day of free workshops, performances and activities to encourage visitors to experience and connect with their inner creativity. Local artists, creatives and cultural organisations will also be in attendance, to demonstrate how creativity can be used to support wellbeing.

Royal Three Counties Show

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire, Fri 14 - Sun 16 June



A hearty celebration of regional food and farming, allied to plenty of family entertainment, is the tried-and-trusted recipe for success at this year's Royal Three Counties Show.

With a firm focus on 2019's host county of Herefordshire, the event provides visitors with plenty to keep them occupied, from sampling strawberries and sipping cider to discovering the region's rich cultural heritage. Some of the country's finest livestock will also be in attendance, competing for the title of Best In Show, while family entertainment includes dog agility, duck herding and a spectacular display from the ever-brilliant Red Devils.

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Your week-
by-week
listings guide
June 2019

the list



Sirens at Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham - Wed 19 June

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

What's On

Sat 1 to Sun 9 June



La Voix at
The Old Rep, Birmingham
Sat 1 June

Mon 10 to Sun 16 June



Pirates & Mermaids at
National Sea Life Centre
Sat 15 June - Sun 8 Sept

Mon 17 to Sun 23 June



Kiri Pritchard-McLean at
The Glee Club
Thurs 20 June

Mon 24 to Sun 30 June



CBSO Concerts In The Park at
Boldmere Recreation Ground
Sat 29 June

THROUGHOUT JUNE

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 1 Sept

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

NEW HOME OF METAL PRESENTS BLACK SABBATH - 50 YEARS Exhibition celebrating the impact and cultural legacy of Black Sabbath, Wed 26 June - Sun 29 Sept

Grand Union

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

Ikon Gallery

NEW THE AERODROME - AN EXHIBITION DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF MICHAEL STANLEY Exhibition presented in memory of Michael Stanley, curator at Ikon, who tragically died in 2012, Wed 12 June - Sun 8 Sept

MAC, Birmingham

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

MAC ARTIST TUTORS Exhibition of work by professional artist tutors, until Sun 9 June

MADE @ MAC: ARTIST PASS New exhibition showcasing work produced by Artist Pass holders who use the ceramic studio, until Sun 7 July

SHOW YOUR METAL Exhibition that connects metal the material and Metal the music, until Mon 26 Aug

NEW HOME OF METAL: HAND OF DOOM Collection of portraits of Black Sabbath fans wearing the ubiquitous battle jacket, Sat 8 June - Sun 1 Sept

RBSA Gallery

CARNIVAL Inspired by the extravagant carnivals of New Orleans and Brazil, this exhibition includes bright jewellery, vivid ceramics and luxurious textiles, until Sat 1 June

ART FROM MARS Exhibition of ceramics and glass by Mel Mars RBSA that

includes stoneware, raku-fired pots, sui pots and glass pieces, until Sat 8 June

RBSA PRIZE 2019 Artists from across the region and beyond compete for inclusion, producing a strong and vibrant show, until Sat 22 June

NEW URBAN JUNGLE Display featuring botanically inspired craft alongside graphic architectural jewellery, ceramics and textiles, Mon 3 June - Sat 14 Sept

NEW OLIVIA PEAKE NAWM WINNER Blurring the boundaries between painting, sculpture and architecture, Olivia presents a paused moment in her practice that unveils transitions between colour, paint and support, Mon 10 June - Sat 10 Aug

NEW RBSA FRIENDS 2019 Annual display of artwork, Wed 26 June - Sat 20 July

The Barber Institute

A TALE OF TWO EMPIRES: ROME AND PERSIA Exhibition exploring how the ancient superpowers of Rome and Persia spun humiliating defeats and promoted their bloody victories on the small pieces of art circulating in the pockets of the masses, until Sun 15 Mar 2020

Other VISUAL ARTS

MYSTERIES OF THE DEEP - 50 YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC OCEAN DRILLING Thousands of scientists, technical staff, drillers and crew have gathered critical data and samples to tell the story of 'our blue planet', until Mon 17 June, Birmingham City University

SUMMER EXHIBITION BY COVENTRY WATERCOLOUR SOCIETY Summer exhibition showcasing the work of members of the society, until Mon 3 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

NEW VAGUE BUT EXCITING Exhibition of 10 artists and collectives responding to the 30th anniversary of the World Wide Web, Fri 7 - Sat 22 June, Vivid Projects, Birmingham

NEW MAKE BELIEVE Interactive exhibition of works by international artists which plays with belief, childhood, technology and magic, Fri 7 June - Sat 31 Aug, BOM (Birmingham Open Media)

NEW PRZEMEK BRANAS - I IS SOMEBODY ELSE Polish artist Branas is inspired not only by impersonation strongly present in heavy metal culture, but also by the alternative culture that developed under the Communist regime in the State-controlled music scene, Sat 22 June - Sun 11 Aug, Centrala Gallery & Cafe, Birmingham

Gigs

LEO SAYER Sat 1 June, Birmingham Town Hall

JUNIOR WALKER'S ALL STAR BAND Sat 1 June, The Night Owl, B'ham

THE REAL PEOPLE PLUS THE TRAIN SET & SOLDIER Sat 1 June, The Flapper, Birmingham

KING OF THE SLUMS Sat 1 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MAJOR TOMS Sat 1 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CELESTIAL Sat 1 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE AMPS Sat 1 June, The World Bar, Resorts World, Birmingham

HATS OFF TO LED ZEPPELIN Sat 1 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

KELVIN JONES Sat 1 June, The Cuban Embassy, Birmingham

BRASS AGAINST Sat 1 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MEGAN MCKENNA Sat 1 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FAIRPORT CONVENTION Sun 2 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

NICK LOWE & LOS STRAITJACKETS Sun 2 June, Birmingham Town Hall

QUALITY REGGAE ROOTS Sun 2 June, The Actress and Bishop, Birmingham

RAHSAAN PATTERSON Sun 2 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



SANGRE DE MUERDAGO Sun 2 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ROBERT MIZZELL & THE COUNTRY KINGS Mon 3 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

SAARA AALTO Mon 3 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SNAIL MAIL Mon 3 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SPICE GIRLS Mon 3 - Tues 4 June, Ricoh Arena, Coventry

MALCOLM STENT'S SONGS OF PRAISE Tues 4 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

WY + SPECIAL GUESTS Tues 4 June, The Sunflower Lounge, B'ham

JULIA HOLTER Tues 4 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

WEDDING CRASHERS Tues 4 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

PIP BLOM Tues 4 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

HIGH VISIONS + WISHING WOLF Wed 5 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

BILLIE MARTEN Wed 5 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

1DELANEY Thurs 6 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DRAB MAJESTY, THIS BURNING AGE, OUTLANDER, FEMMEPOP Thurs 6 June, The Flapper, Birmingham

AN AUDIENCE WITH ASH SHEEHAN Thurs 6 June, The Actress and Bishop, Birmingham

METHYL ETHEL Thurs 6 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE KILKENNYS Fri 7 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE BOB DYLAN STORY Fri 7 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

MOTHER POPCORN Fri 7 June, The World Bar, Resorts World, B'ham

CHANTAE CANN Fri 7 June, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

COME TOGETHER WITH THE CURV3 Fri 7 June, The Night Owl, B'ham

LES FEMME D'ATTITUDE: VICE SQUAD/LOLA MONTEZ/FLOWERPOT Fri 7 June, Route 44, Birmingham

ALVIN GIBBS & THE DISOBEDIENT SERVANTS Fri 7 June, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham
CARNIVAL MAGNifico

2019 Fri 7 June, Digbeth Arena, B'ham

THE MIGHTY WAH! Fri 7 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MARTHA REEVES & THE VANDELLAS Fri 7 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

PHIL MADELEY + GEORGE PANNELL Sat 8 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SOPHIE ELLIS-BEXTOR Sat 8 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THREE TIMES SCARLET Sat 8 June, The World Bar, Resorts World, Birmingham

GIN ANNIE PLUS THE HOWLING TIDES & THE



HOT ONE TWO Sat 8 June, Route 44, B'ham

A WEIRD & WONDERFUL DAY OUT Sat 8 June, The Mill Digbeth, Birmingham

THE SOLID GOLD ROCK 'N' ROLL SHOW Sat 8 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE SUMMER OF LOVE Sat 8 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

A WEIRD AND WONDERFUL DAY OUT Sat 8 June, Digbeth Arena, Birmingham

STEVE NICHOL Sat 8 June, Pizza Express Live, Birmingham

HERITAGE: DOC SCOTT, ALLISTER WHITEHEAD, JON PLEASED, FREESTYLERS & DJSS Sat 8 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FEMI KUTI Sat 8 June, O2 Institute, B'ham



VILLAGERS Sun 9 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

Classical Music

THE SALVATION ARMY: SYMPHONY SOUNDS Sat 1 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: TRAVELS THROUGH TIME Featuring Michael Seal (conductor), Catherine Arledge (presenter) & the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Programme includes works by Grainer, Rimsky-Korsakov, Rameau, Anderson, Mozart, Shostakovich, Williams & Stravinsky, Sun 2 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT Featuring Thomas Trotter & Sally Stocks, Mon 3 June, Birmingham Town Hall

LUNCHTIME MUSIC Featuring Mark Lee (violin) & Jonathan French (piano) performing Delius' Violin Sonata No.3. Also Alex Lin Tianshun (piano) performing Medtner's Sonata in F minor, Op.5, Mon 3 June, The Lab, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

AURORA ORCHESTRA - MUSIC OF THE SPHERES Also featuring Nicholas Colon (conductor), Pekka Kuusisto (violin) & Samuel West (audio narration), Tues 4 June, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO: A SPRING SYMPHONY Featuring the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Kazuki Yamada (conductor) & Cédric Tiberghien (piano). Programme includes works by Mozart, Liszt & Schumann, Thurs 6 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: SONGS FROM THE 60S Featuring Richard Balcombe (conductor), Graham Bickley, Oliver Tompsett, Katie Birtill & Abbie Osmon (vocalists), Fri 7 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DVORAK'S PIANO QUINTET Featuring Robert Markham (piano), Philip Brett & Kate Oswin (violins), Catherine Bower (viola) & Kate Setterfield (cello). Programme includes works by Pärt & Dvorak, Fri 7 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

CBSO SONG FESTIVAL Featuring Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla & Simon Halsey (conductors), the CBSO Chorus & Tom Redmond (presenter). Programme includes works by Kutavičius, Peep Sarapik / Juhan Liiv, Jurjāns, Parry & Handel, Sun 9 June, University of Birmingham

COMMUNITY SPIRIT Evening of choral music from some of the best choirs & homegrown talent in the West Midlands, Sun 9 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Comedy

CARL DONNELLY, DANNY MCLOUGHLIN FEATURING THE RAYMOND & MR TIMPKINS REVUE & THOMAS GREEN Sat 1 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW LAWRENCE, PETER BRUSH, NOEL JAMES & PETE OTWAY Sat 1

June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

THE HILARITY CHARITY GALA Wed 5 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MAISIE ADAM & GEINS FAMILY GIFTSHOP Wed 5 June, Midlands Art Centre, Birmingham

ROBERT WHITE, ZOE LYONS, ADAM RILEY & HOWARD REED Thurs 6 June, The George Hotel, Lichfield

DALISO CHAPONDA, ROGER MONKHOUSE PLUS COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 6 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOSH PUGH, TOM HAM & DANNY CLIVES Thurs 6 June, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

DALISO CHAPONDA, ROGER MONKHOUSE, MAISE ADAM & GEORGE RIGDEN Fri 7 - Sat 8 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JOSH HOWIE, HAYLEY ELLIS, STEVE HARRIS & MATT REES Sat 8 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

ALL KILLA NO FILLA Sun 9 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TEZ ILYAS, SHAZIA MIRZA, PRINCE ABDI & ESHAAN AKBAR Sun 9 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

MOTOWN THE MUSICAL Based on Motown founder Berry Gordy's best-selling book and presenting a potted history of the famous record label, until Sat 1 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

AS YOU LIKE IT 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 its portrayal of hierarchy and power, until Sat 31 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE PROVOKED WIFE Outspoken Restoration romp, until Sat 7 Sept, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

VENICE PRESERVED Fast-paced version of Thomas Otway's restoration tragedy, until Sat 7 Sept, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

ROCK OF AGES Smash-hit musical featuring over 25 classic rock anthems. Casting includes Zoe Birkett, Kevin Kennedy & Antony Costa, Tues 28 May - Sat 1 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

CALENDAR GIRLS THE MUSICALS Tim Firth & Gary Barlow's award-winning production, Tues 28 May - Sat 8 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN Based on the bestselling novel by Louis de Bernières, Wed 29 May - Sat 15 June,

The REP, Birmingham

THE WORST LITTLE WAREHOUSE IN LONDON A 'mind-boggingly funny story of companionship, shared accommodation, and how to grin your teeth and bare it', Fri 31 May - Sat 1 June, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

RUBY WAX: HOW TO BE HUMAN Ruby is joined by monk Gelong Thubten & neuroscientist Ash Ranpura in a show that's said to 'help you upgrade your mind as much as you've upgraded your iPhone', Sat 1 June, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES Illyria present an outdoor performance of the much-loved story, Sat 1 June, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT A story about choices and consequences and a journey through time and place, Sat 1 June, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

THE WEST END BHANGRA MUSICAL Indian musical fusing live music, stage production and dancing, Sat 1 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

SPAMALOT The Crescent Theatre Company presents its version of the Monty Python musical, Sat 1 - Sat 8 June, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

56 EAST AVENUE Brand new comedy featuring Oliver Samuels, Volier 'Maffy' Johnson, Audrey Reid, Dennis Titus & Lakeisha Ellison, Sun 2 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL Musical parody featuring a host of one-liners about hot flushes, memory loss and pop classics. Cheryl Fergison, Maureen Nolan, Rebecca Wheatley & Katherine Lynch star, Mon 3 - Tues 4 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THRILLER LIVE Michael Jackson tribute show, Mon 3 - Sat 8 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW Richard O'Brien's timeless masterpiece returns, Mon 3 - Sat 8 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

MALCOLM STENT'S SONGS OF PRAISE Featuring songs, monologues and comedy, Tues 4 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

DANGEROUS CORNER Royal Birmingham Conservatoire presents its version of JB Priestley's tale of intrigue, Wed 5 - Sat 8 June, The Old Rep, Birmingham

RIOT ACT Hard-hitting and heartwarming exploration of the history of the LGBTQ rights movement, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

REP FOUNDRY NIGHT Featuring excerpts from Rep Foundry artists Omar Khan, Sam Cole, Ashlee Elizabeth Lolo & Sophia Griffin, Fri 7 June, The REP, Birmingham

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM The

Lord Chamberlain's Men perform this Shakespearean classic, Sat 8 June, Packwood House, Solihull

WNO: DON PASQUALE Welsh National Opera present Daisy Evans' 'riotous' new version of Donizetti's classic comic opera, Sat 8 June, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

WORK IN PROGRESS Light-hearted solo show about being scouse, dancing to Britney Spears and sharing stories of hope, Sat 8 June, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM The Crescent Theatre Company present a modern-dress production of one of Shakespeare's most enduring comedies, Sat 8 - Sat 15 June, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

STILL FREEZIN' Join the Fizzogs as they present a Black Country version of Disney blockbuster Frozen, Sun 9 June, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

GISELLE Vienna Festival Ballet present a tale of innocence, love, betrayal and madness, Sun 2 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

PUSS IN BOOTS Northern Ballet present a choreographed version of the much-loved fairytale, Fri 7 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

RHYTHM OF THE DANCE Live show celebrating Irish culture through music & dance and featuring world champion dancers, a traditional Irish band and singers, Sat 8 - Sun 9 June, Lichfield Garrick

Cabaret

LA VOIX: LIVE, LOUD AND FABULOUS Evening of frills, frocks & fun as the Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist impersonates female icons Cher, Tina Turner, Shirley Bassey and Liza Minnelli included, Sat 1 June, The Old Rep, Birmingham



CERI DUPREE IN THE LADIES I LOVE Wed 5 - Thurs 6 June, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

SOLIHULL

SUMMER FEST

2019

27TH - 28TH JULY 2019

TUDOR GRANGE PARK

SATURDAY 27TH JULY 2019

**EXCITING
ARTIST**
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**THE
VAMPS**

DYNAMITE

MITCHELL BRUNINGS

Sugar Hill
Gang

SUPPORTED BY
TRIBUTE ARTIST

JK ^{AS}
ROBBIE

SUNDAY 28TH JULY 2019

THE HUMAN

LEAGUE

THE PROCLAIMERS

GO WEST

BAD MANNERS

SUPPORTED BY
TRIBUTE ARTISTS

MERCURY
— QUEEN TRIBUTE —

GARRY PEASE AS

Rod Stewart

FOR TICKETS VISIT: **WWW.SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST.CO.UK**

Talks

HIT THE ODE Performance poetry night featuring Dani Piper, Remi Graves & Kofi Stone, Fri 7 June, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

HIGH LIFE (18) Drama/Horror. Starring Robert Pattinson, Juliette Binoche. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 31 May - Wed 5 June

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 3 - PARABELLUM (15) Action/Thriller. Starring Keanu Reeves, Asia Kate Dillon. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 31 May - Thurs 6 June

GRETA (15) Thriller. Starring Isabelle Huppert, Chloë Grace Moretz. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 31 May - Thurs 6 June

AMAZING GRACE (tbc) Documentary/Music. Starring Aretha Franklin. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 31 May - Thurs 6 June; Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 8, Tues 11 & Thurs 13 June

THE LAST WITNESS (15) History/Thriller. Starring Alex Pettyfer, Michael Gambon. The screening will be followed by a live onstage Q&A by director Piotr Szkopik, producer Carol Harding and cinematographer Edward Ames. Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham, Sat 1 June

BLUE NOTE RECORDS: BEYOND THE NOTES (15) Documentary/Jazz. Directed by Sophie Huber. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 1 June

STYX (12a) Drama. Starring Susanne Wolff. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Mon 3 & Wed 5 June

HANNAH (12a) Drama. Starring Charlotte Rampling, Jessica Fanhan. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Tues 4 - Thurs 6 June

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15) War/Drama. Starring Tom Hanks, Tom Sizemore. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Thurs 6 June

WOMAN AT WAR (12a) Drama/Thriller. Starring Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 7, Mon 10 & Wed 12 June

LIAM GALLAGHER: AS IT WAS (15) Documentary/Music. Starring Liam Gallagher. Mockingbird Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 7 - Thurs 13 June

GLORIA BELL (15) Drama/Comedy. Starring Julianne Moore, John Turturro. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 7 June

LATE NIGHT (15) Drama/Comedy. Starring Emma Thompson, Mindy Kaling.

Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Fri 7 June

DUNKIRK (12a) War/Drama. Starring Fionn Whitehead, Barry Keoghan. Highbury Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 8 June

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15) War/Drama. Starring Tom Hanks, Tom Sizemore. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Sun 9 June

DR. STRANGELOVE (PG) Comedy. Starring Peter Sellers, George C. Scott. Electric Cinema, Birmingham, from Sun 2 June

WOMAN AT WAR (12a) Drama/Thriller. Starring Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 7, Mon 10 & Wed 12 June

Events

LEGO SEA EXPLORERS Help the team unlock underwater secrets and draw, colour and create your new discoveries, until Sun 2 June, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

FREDDO'S TREASURE TROVE Ahoy, me hearties! Cadbury's Fredo has donned his captain's hat to show little ones what it takes to become a pirate on the seven seas, until Sun 2 June, Cadbury World, Bournville

MAY HALF TERM - DESIGNER WEEK Discover the fascinating stories behind the museum's most famous cars - then pop into the studio to design your own, until Sun 2 June, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

CASTLE QUEST A must-attend event for anybody who loves solving riddles and having a go at challenges, until Sun 2 June, Tamworth Castle

ESL ONE BIRMINGHAM Three days of intense Dota 2 action, as participants battle it out for a share of the \$300,000 prize pool, until Sun 2 June, Arena Birmingham

UK GAMES EXPO Three-day gaming extravaganza, open to anyone of any age wanting to play, learn to play, buy, experience or know more about table-top games, until Sun 2 June, NEC, Birmingham

LEGO CITY Enjoy character appearances and new building activities, until Sun 1 Sep, Legoland Discovery Centre, Birmingham

WHODUNNIT? A FAMILY-FRIENDLY MURDER-MYSTERY TRAIL Time-travelling murder-mystery trail, Sat 1 June, Aston Hall, Birmingham

FANTABULOSA! Pop-up world of imagination and storytelling, Sat 1 June, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

COLLECTORMANIA 26 Featuring well-known faces from the worlds of television, film and sport, Sat 1 - Sun 2 June, NEC, Birmingham



Lego Sea Explorers - National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

THERE AND BACK AGAIN: JRR TOLKIEN AND SAREHOLE GUIDED WALK Guided introduction to Tolkien, the area of Sarehole and its influence on The Hobbit and The Lord Of The Rings, Sun 2 June, Sarehole Mill, B'ham

WATT 2019: JAMES WATT TOURS Tours dedicated to the lives and works of James Watt and his longstanding friend and business partner, Matthew Boulton, Sun 2 - Thurs 27 June, Soho House, Birmingham

MINI MUSEUM ENGINEERS - BUILDING IT UP Playful sessions introducing STEM concepts (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), Wed 5 June, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

THE OLD GOLD CLUB LIVE Mikey Burrows and former Wolves star Chris Iwelumo induct three new Wolves legends into the Old Gold Club, Fri 7 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

PEAKY BLINDERS NIGHT Step back in time to the roaring 20s and discover the murky underground world of the Peaky Blinders, Fri 7 - Sat 8 June, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

THE GENEALOGY SHOW Great opportunity to network, learn and have fun, Fri 7 - Sat 8 June, NEC, Birmingham

MONSTER JAM Expert drivers compete

in both championship racing and gravity-defying freestyle competitions, Sat 8 June, Ricoh Arena, Coventry

RAINBOW SWING A 1940s night of dancing, with live music from the Rhythm Remedies and performances from the Suzy Qs, Sat 8 June, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

CLASSIC & VINTAGE COMMERCIAL SHOW Two-day show featuring more than 400 pre-1999 commercial vehicles, Sat 8 - Sun 9 June, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

TRAMPOLINE, TUMBLING AND DOUBLE-MINI TRAMPOLINE REGIONAL TEAM FINALS AND NDP SEMI-FINALS High-flying somersaults aplenty as some of the country's top gymnasts vie for glory, Sat 8 - Sun 9 June, Arena B'ham

For Foodies

THE SECRET GIN FESTIVAL 2019 Returning for their biggest festival to date, Sat 1 June, The Grain Store, Wolverhampton

BIRMINGHAM COFFEE FESTIVAL 3 days of celebrations honouring the UK's vibrant coffee culture, Fri 7 - Sun 9 June, The Custard Factory, Digbeth

Smiling Eyes Theatre Presents

DEEP BREATHS

A new play by Dawn Butler
Directed by Marcus Fernando

**THURS 20th - SAT 22nd
JUNE @ 7.30pm**

THE Highbury Inn
Dad's Lane, Moor Green, B13 8PQ

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£12 on the door

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Following James Hurn's sell out tour of 2018 he is back with his popular one-man, many voices, celebration of radio comedy classic *Hancock's Half Hour*.

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Magical Music
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A fun filled music class, with lots of singing, musical instruments, baby yoga and sensory.



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Get active through different types of physical activity, such as dance, sports, and obstacle courses.



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Stereolab - O2 Institute, Birmingham

Gigs

TINA - SIMPLY THE BEST Mon 10 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

WALLOWS Mon 10 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MAISHA Tues 11 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE LAST INTERNATIONAL Tues 11 June, O2 Academy, B'ham

JOE LONGTHORNE Wed 12 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

HANNAH BROWN + BAD BUG + THE NORTHERN RIOTS + WATERMARK Wed 12 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CANDLEBOX Wed 12 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

QUADROPHENIA - THE ALBUM LIVE Wed 12 June, Birmingham Town Hall

NINE DART FINISH, SPEAKEASY & THE COMMON Wed 12 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE GOOD LIFE - THE GREAT SONGS OF TONY BENNETT Wed 12 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MIGHTY MIGHTY Wed 12 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SCOTT LEVANE + THE NU Thurs 13 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

TAKING BACK SUNDAY - 20TH ANNIVERSARY

TOUR Thurs 13 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

BULSARA AND HIS QUEENIES Thurs 13 June, O2 Institute, B'ham

ST. PINEAPPLE ONE TRICK PONY UK TOUR Thurs 13 June, The Flapper, Birmingham

TEDE + SPECIAL GUESTS Fri 14 June, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

BONNY LOU BAND Fri 14 June, The World Bar, Resorts World, B'ham

BERNADETTE PETERS Fri 14 June, Birmingham Town Hall

ROCKET Fri 14 - Sat 15 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

HACKNEY COLLIERY BAND Fri 14 June, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

SKA SPECIAL FT. KIOKO DJS Fri 14 June, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

FELIX SHEPHERD + TORI CROSS + RHIANNA KEANE Sat 15 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

CITYLIGHTZ Sat 15 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ROADTRIP Sat 15 June, The Asylum, B'ham

BACKSTREET BOYS Sat 15 June, Arena Birmingham

ROCKET Sat 15 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

RUST FOR GLORY Sat 15 June, Route 44, Birmingham

FREEDOM!19 - GEORGE MICHAEL TRIBUTE Sat

15 June, The Bramall, Birmingham

BROKEN MINDS PRESENTS: LTJ BUKEM Sat 15 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TOO MANY MEN Sat 15 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

WAITING FOR SUSAN Sat 15 June, The World Bar, Resorts World, Birmingham

FOALS Sat 15 - Sun 16 June, Digbeth Arena, Birmingham

LET IT BEATLES Sat 15 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

WOMAN TO WOMAN: JUDIE TZUKE, BEVERLEY CRAVEN & JULIA FORDHAM Sat 15 June, Birmingham Town Hall

FROM THE JAM Sat 16 June, The Mill Digbeth, Birmingham



STEREOLAB Sun 16 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

CANAAN COX Sun 16 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GYPSYFINGERS Sun 16 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



Classical Music

LUNCHTIME MUSIC Featuring Risa Sekine (violin) & Jonathan French (piano). Programme includes Ravel's Sonata for Violin & Piano No.2 in G, M.77 & Roman Kosyakov (piano). Programme comprises Rachmaninov's 10 Preludes Op.23, Mon 10 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE SAXOPHONE ENSEMBLE Featuring Andy Tweed & Anna Brooks. Programme includes works by Stravinsky arr. Olaf Mühlenhardt, Bartók arr. Wood & Richard Ingham, Mon 10 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE CHAMBER CHOIR: IN PRAISE OF MARY Featuring Paul Spicer (director) & Callum Alger (organ). Programme includes works by Britten, Howells, Bingham, Bruckner & Roderick Williams... Mon 10 June, St Alban The Martyr, Highgate, Birmingham

AIDA Opera North present a new concert staging of Verdi's four act opera. Sir Richard Armstrong conducts, Tues 11 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DAVE MARIC & MILLENNIAL PERCUSSION Featuring Adrian Spillett (producer) & Dave Maric (director), Tues 11 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

LUNCHTIME MUSIC Featuring Lixin Liu (soprano) & Jonathan French (piano). Programme includes works by Handel, Mozart, Chaussou, Fauré, Schumann, Strauss, Ravel, Britten & Hu Yanjiang, Tues 11 June, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

RBS CHAMBER MUSIC SHOWCASE CONCERT An hour of music showcasing some of the best chamber music ensembles from across the Conservatoire: woodwind, brass, recorders, harps, strings, guitars and piano, Wed 12 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES Free lunchtime concert, Thurs 13 June, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

COMMUTER CONCERT: STRINGS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE Featuring Alicja Humeniuk & Hun-sik Lee (violins) & Mabon Rhyd (viola) - programme Dvorák's Terzetto Op.74. Also, Caroline Pether & Alicja Humeniuk (violins), Anna Bielecke & Toby Holden (violins) & Yuechen Zhao (cello) - programme Mozart's String Quintet in G minor, K516, Thurs 13 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: MIRGA CONDUCTS MAHLER'S SECOND Featuring Mirga Gražinyte-

Tyler (conductor), Lucy Crowe (soprano), Karen Cargill (mezzo soprano) & the CBSO Chorus, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BAX: IN MEMORIAM Featuring Katherine Thomas (harp), Rachael Pankhurst (oboe), Kirsty Lovie & Elizabeth Golding (violins), Michael Jenkinson (viola) & Helen Edgar (cello). Programme includes works by Pasculli, Ibert & Bax, Fri 14 June, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

DVORÁK PIANO QUINTET Featuring György Boglárka & Tomohiko Kimura (violins), Nicholas Fidler (viola), Flora McNicoll (cello) & Elizabeth Haughan (piano). Programme comprises Dvorak's Piano Quintet in A, Op.81, Fri 14 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CHINEKE! ORCHESTRA Featuring Wayne Marshall & Stewart Goodyear (piano). Programme includes works by Grieg, Stewart Goodyear & Dvorak, Sat 15 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE PEOPLE'S ORCHESTRA Sat 15 June, Halesowen Church, Halesowen B63

BIRMINGHAM GAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SUMMER FIESTA Featuring Jack Lovell (conductor), Sat 15 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire



RBC INTERNATIONAL PIANO FESTIVAL Sat 15 - Tues 18 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: MAHLER'S FIFTH Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor) & Ida Ränzlöw (mezzo-soprano). Programme comprises Mahler's Fifth Symphony & Rückert-Lieder, Sun 16 June, Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

Comedy

MILTON JONES Mon 10 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TOM STADE Wed 12 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SCOTT GIBSON, JIMMY MCGHIE FEATURING COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 13 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

AHIR SHAH & SOOZ KEMPNER Thurs 13 June, Midland Arts Centre, B'ham

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CLIVES & CHELSEA BIRKBY Fri 14 June, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

SCOTT GIBSON, JIMMY MCGHIE, SEAN MCLOUGHLIN & MAUREEN YOUNGER Fri 14 - Sat 15 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SCOTT BENNETT, HAYLEY ELLIS, EM-MANUEL SONUBI & CHRIS BETTS Sat 15 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Theatre

AVENUE Q Tony Award-winning musical that centres on a group of loveable yet hopeless characters on a downtown New York street, Tues 11 - Sat 15 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SWEET CHARITY Queensbridge Musical Theatre Society present an amateur staging of the Broadway classic, Tues 11 - Sat 15 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

HALF A SIXPENCE BMOS Musical Theatre Company present an amateur staging of the classic family musical, Tues 11 - Sat 15 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

VELVET Tom Ratcliffe's drama explores the complex realities of harassment within the acting industry, and how far a person is prepared to go to achieve their dreams, Wed 12 - Thurs 13 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

CANVAS Royal Birmingham Conservatoire presents its version of Michael Wynne's 'razor-sharp' comedy, Wed 12 - Sat 15 June, The Old Rep, Birmingham

THE SECRET LIVES OF HENRY & ALICE Gill Jordan - best known as Black Country legend Doreen - stars opposite Emmerdale & Doctors actor Tom Roberts in David Tristram's award-winning comedy, which centres on a married couple with apparently only a pet goldfish in common, Thurs 13 June, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

DAVID BLAINE The master of modern magic presents an interactive one-man show that promises to 'shock and amaze', Fri 14 June, Arena Birmingham



REP FOUNDRY NIGHT Featuring excerpts from Rep Foundry artists Grace Barrington, Siana Bangura, Rachael Mainwaring & Shane Shambhu, Fri 14 June, The REP, Birmingham

HORMONAL HOUSEWIVES 'Allo 'Allo actress Vicki Michelle stars in a no-holds-barred romp about the joys of being a 'fabulous 21st century woman, Sat 15 June, Lichfield Garrick

WUTHERING HEIGHTS Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of Emily Bronte's classic tale of love & revenge, Sat 15 June, Packwood House, Solihull

OLD HERBACEOUS An 'acute and sometimes hilarious' observation of relationships between the classes... Sat 15 June, Lichfield Garrick

PAMELA'S PALACE Original music & dance routines combine as Pamela and her girls take audiences through a whirlwind of female insecurities & shameless gossip... Sat 15 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE CHEF SHOW Part comedy play, part cookery demonstration, the show takes its audience behind the scenes on a busy Saturday night in the local curry house, where two actors play a cast of thousands... Sat 15 June, Thimblemill Library, Smethwick

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Quantum Theatre present an outdoor staging of Kenneth Grahame's riverside tale, Sun 16 June, Dotshill Park, Tamworth

THE CHEF SHOW Part comedy play, part cookery demonstration, the show takes its audience behind the scenes on a busy Saturday night in the local curry house, where two actors play a cast of thousands... Sun 16 June, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham



Kids Shows

DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE Interactive show for all the family, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

GANGSTA GRANNY Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of David Walliams' bestselling tale, Fri 14 June, Walsall Arboretum

GANGSTA GRANNY Heartbreak Productions present an outdoor staging of David Walliams' bestselling tale, Sat 15 June, Bewdley Museum QE11 Gardens, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

Dance

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: UN-LEASHED Triple bill of ballets by female choreographers, including the world premiere of the third Ballet Now commission by Didy Veldman, Wed 12 - Sat 15 June, Birmingham Hippodrome



BBC Gardeners' World Live - NEC, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

YULI - THE CARLOS ACOSTA STORY (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Carlos Acosta, Santiago Alfonso. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Thurs 13 June

DUMBO (U) Family/Fantasy. Starring Colin Farrell, Michael Keaton. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 14 June

AMAZING GRACE (tbc) Documentary/Music. Starring Aretha Franklin. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 14 & Sun 16 June

BIRDS OF PASSAGE (15) Drama. Starring José Acosta, Carmiña Martínez. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 14, Sun 16 - Mon 17 & Thurs 20 June

A DOG'S JOURNEY (PG) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Dennis Quaid, Abby Ryder Fortson. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 15 June

DR. STRANGELOVE (PG) Comedy. Starring Peter Sellers, George C. Scott. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 15 & Wed 19 June

SHARKWATER EXTINCTION Documentary. Directed by Rob Stewart. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 16 June

Events

BBC GARDENERS' WORLD LIVE Featuring stunning show gardens and beautiful borders packed with ideas to recreate in your own garden, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 June, NEC, Birmingham

BBC GOOD FOOD SHOW SUMMER Featuring seasonal produce, ideas for al-fresco dining and hundreds of producers and brands, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 June, NEC, Birmingham

THE MURDER OF PETER HANNIGAN Enjoy an evening of intrigue and mystery at the atmospheric Back to

Backs, Fri 14 June, Birmingham Back to Backs

INTERNATIONAL MODEL AIR SHOW Model aircraft enthusiasts take to the skies to demonstrate their flying skills, Fri 14 - Sun 16 June, Weston Park, Staffordshire

BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR Guided tour of Aston Hall, Sat 15 June, Aston Hall, Birmingham

LIVE YOUR LEGACY INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS The cheer & dance championships are back, Sat 15 June, Resorts World Arena, B'ham

PIRATES AND MERMAIDS Check out 'the ultimate underwater adventure', Sat 15 June - Sun 8 Sep, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham



'MORRIS GANG' DANCING The Blists Hill Morris Gang entertain the crowds with traditional dances, Sun 16 June, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire

FESTIVAL OF BLACK COUNTRY VEHICLES Commemorating the region's historical reputation as a major centre for vehicle manufacturing, Sun 16 June, Black Country Living Museum

RETRO SHOW Open to all retro vehicles from the 1950s through to 1995, Sun 16 June, Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough





1-8 June

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT

A new musical ripped off from the motion picture
MONTY PYTHON and the Holy Grail

Book and lyrics by **Eric Idle**. Music by **John Du Prez & Eric Idle**.

A new musical lovingly ripped off from the film Monty Python and the Holy Grail. From the original screenplay by Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin.

Spamalot is performed through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), 125-124 Avenue Louis, 3rd floor, London W1B 5SL, www.theatricalrights.co.uk

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Friday 14 June 2019, 7.30pm

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Ensemble Court-circuit joins BCMG and NEXT Musicians for a concert of music crossing the Channel.

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Sutton Coldfield

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Sutton Coldfield
B73 6AB

Box Office
0121 296 9543



FORTHCOMING EVENTS NOW BOOKING

TOP HAT by The Trinity Players
Tuesday 4 - Saturday 6 June,
7.30pm (Sat Mat. 2.30pm)
Tickets: £18/£15

KEITH SLATER'S 60'S CELEBRATION
Matinee Season: Music
Thursday 6 June, 2pm
Tickets: £12

SOUND CLASH
Northern soul vs Britpop!
Friday 14 June, 7.30pm
Tickets: £10/£5

BASIL BRUSH'S GREATEST SHOW
Friday 21 June, 4.30pm & 6.30pm
Tickets: £10, £35 family

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ELIZA GRAY
Matinee Season: Drama
Thursday 11 July, 2pm
Tickets: £8

KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS
Thursday 25 July
Tickets: £15

LIVE AT THE TOWN HALL* COMEDY NIGHT
ft. Jonathan Pie & Jo Enright
Friday 23rd August, 8pm
Tickets: £22 / £18

Rastamouse & Da Easy Crew LIVE!
Sunday 21 July
11am/1.15pm/3pm
Tickets £10 / £35 Family

*LIVE AT THE TOWN HALL BOOKINGS
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Confidence Man - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Gigs

VISTA KICKS + THE MUSTOES Mon 17 June, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

ODD SOUL Mon 17 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CAGE THE ELEPHANT Tues 18 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE LAFONTAINES Tues 18 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

OSHUN + SPECIAL GUESTS Tues 18 June, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

CONFIDENCE MAN Wed 19 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LUCAS D & THE GROOVE GHETTO Wed 19 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

HALFWAY TO PARADISE: THE BILLY FURY STORY Thurs 20 June, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH & THE REVOLUTIONARY MINDS Thurs 20 June, The Mill Digbeth, Birmingham

ingham

THE REVOLVERS Thurs 20 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

ENTER THE DRAGON Fri 21 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SKAM, BUILDING GIANTS, MOUTH IN THE SOUTH Fri 21 June, Route 44, Birmingham

STEVE KNIGHTLEY Fri 21 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SENSATERIA WITH THE JACK CADES & THE LEAKING MACHINE Fri 21 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

NANNA RADLEYS Fri 21 - Sat 22 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

WILD FRONT Fri 21 June, The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

FEEDBACC + ROUND IN CIRCLES + MARMA + SPECIAL GUESTS Fri 21 June, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

THE MAVERICKS Fri 21 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

WESTLIFE Fri 21 - Sun 23 June, Arena B'ham

WANNABE - THE SPICE GIRLS SHOW Sat 22 June, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

L'ORCHESTRE AFRISA INTERNATIONAL Sat 22 June, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

TROPICAL SOUNDCLASH Sat 22 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BLACK KNIGHT SATELLITE Sat 22 June, The Flapper, Birmingham

MOISHE'S BAGEL Sat 22 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

HEAVY SOL Sat 22 June, The Night Owl, Birmingham

LILLEBURN + EVERYTHING ASIDE Sat 22 June, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

JEFFREY LEWIS & LOS BOLTS Sun 23 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

STRAY CATS Sun 23 June, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BON JOVI PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS MANIC STREET PREACHERS Sun 23 June, Ricoh Arena, Coventry



The Mavericks - O2 Academy, Birmingham

Classical Music

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT Programme includes works by W. Russell, C. Pepusch, Handel, Franck & Coates, Mon 17 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA: SUMMER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Tues 18 & Wed 19 June, Birmingham Cathedral

PASCAL PASCALEFF PIANO CONCERT Programme includes works by Schumann & Chopin, Tues 18 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

LUNCHTIME MUSIC WITH XIZI ZHANG (PIANO) Tues 18 June, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

WIND BAND & SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Benedict Goodall & Sabrina Ko (wind band conductors) & Daniele Rosina (Symphony Orchestra conductor). Programme includes works by Tchaikovsky, Sparke, Holst, Coates & Hess, Wed 19 June, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: A CELEBRATION OF NEW TALENT Featuring Andrew Griffiths (conductor) & Luke Jones (piano). Programme includes works by Beethoven & Thea Musgrave, Wed 19 June, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: STEPHEN HOUGH PLAYS BEETHOVEN Featuring Edward Gardner (conductor) & Stephen Hough (piano). Programme includes works by Tippett, Beethoven & Schubert, Wed 19 - Thurs 20 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: THE PLANETS An HD Odyssey with NASA footage, Fri 21 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Jamie Phillips (conductor), Jacob Perry (clarinet), Tzu-Jo Huang (marimba) & Jacob Smith (trumpet). Programme includes works by George West, Weber, Pius Cheung, Arutiunian & Gershwin, Fri 21 June, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO CENTRE STAGE Featuring Kate Suthers & Charlotte Skinner (violins), Jessica Tickle (viola), Helen Edgar (cello) & Oliver Janes (clarinet). Programme comprises Françaix's Clarinet Quintet & Ravel's String Quartet, Fri 21 June, CBSO Centre, B'ham

SUMMER FESTIVAL VOICES Songs & Sonnets from Shakespeare & part-songs by Elgar, Holst & Vaughan Williams, Fri 21 June, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

2019 BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION: FIRST ROUND Sat 22 June, The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham

sity of Birmingham

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA: SPACE SPECTACULAR Featuring Pete Harrison (conductor), Sat 22 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM CHORAL UNION Featuring Colin Baines (conductor), Darren Hogg & Phil Ypres Smith (pianists). Programme comprises Brahms' Requiem, Sat 22 June, St. Francis Church, Bournville, Birmingham

SC CHOIRS SHOWCASE Sun 23 June, Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

Comedy

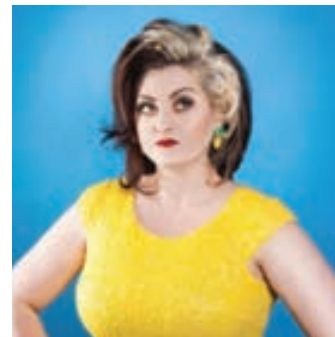
TOADALLY FREE COMEDY Mon 17 June, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

HARRIETT DYER AND LOU CONRAN Tues 18 June, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

AL MURRAY Wed 19 June, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

ASHLEY BLAKER & IMRAN YUSUF Thurs 20 June, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

KIRI PRICHARD-MCLEAN (PICTURED) WITH ANDY RICHARDSON & COMIC TBC Thurs 20 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham



TOM LUCY Fri 21 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

GAVIN WEBSTER, NIGEL NG, GLENN MOORE & COMIC TBC Fri 21 - Sat 22 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

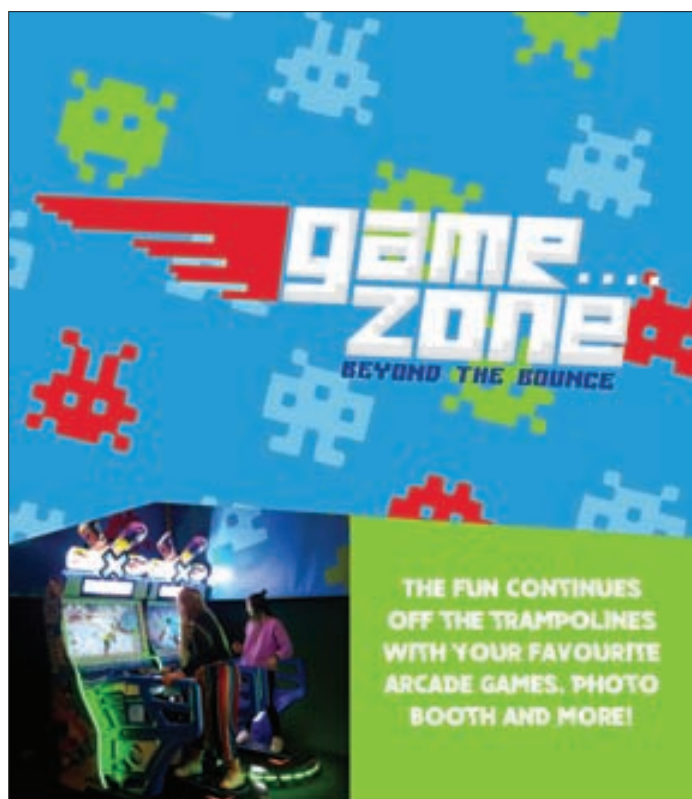
TIFF STEVENSON & JOHN KEARNS Fri 21 June, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

ROB ROUSE, JOSH PUGH, STEVE WILLIAMS & FREDDY QUINNE Sat 22 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Theatre

THE LADY VANISHES Juliet Mills & Maxwell Caulfield star in a stage adaptation of the Hitchcock classic, Mon 17 - Sat 22 June, Lichfield Garrick

OPEN DOOR - BRICK LANE '78 Murad Khan's exploration of the defining



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MEME DETROIT • ROB TAYLOR AND THE BAD DECISIONS
AMELIA HARRISON • GRECIAN BEE HUMMERS • CITYLIGHTZ
LEARN TO LIE • WILDFIRE FOLK • LICHFIELD GOSPEL CHOIR
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LETISHA GORDON • GLOBAL REGGAE BAND
NED DYLAN • BLEEDING HEARTS
A DIFFERENT THREAD • BLAST OFF
MARK FRASER IN HIS MAGICAL STORY TENT • FLOTSOM THE FOOL CIRCUS SKILLS
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moment when the British-Bangladeshi community stood up against far-right parties' propaganda and activities, Tues 18 June, The REP, Birmingham

HELLO, DOLLY! Amateur staging presented by Walsall Operatic Society, Tues 18 - Sat 22 June, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SIRENS Zoo Co's award-winning show sticks two fingers up at gender expectations and asks, when your voice is silenced, how do you stand up and shout out?, Wed 19 June, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING Outdoor staging of Shakespeare's comedy, Wed 19 - Sat 22 June, Maple Hayes School, Lichfield

MANSFIELD PARK The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire presents its version of Johnathan Dove's 19th century romantic opera, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 June, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

GUYS AND DOLLS Birmingham Youth Theatre present an amateur staging of Frank Loesser's celebrated musical comedy, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 June, The Old Rep, Birmingham

CROOKED DANCES New play by Robin French which examines music, time and attention in the modern digital age, Thurs 20 June - Sat 13 July, Studio Theatre @ The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

HORMONAL HOUSEWIVES 'Allo 'Allo actress Vicki Michelle stars in a no-holds-barred romp about the joys of being a 'fabulous 21st century woman', Fri 21 June, The Alexandra, Birmingham

MAD ABOUT THE MUSICALS Featuring some of musical theatre's most iconic numbers, Fri 21 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

MRS BROWN'S BOYS D'MUSICAL The promise of an 'exhilarating, side-splitting and musical adventure', Fri 21 - Sun 23 June, Resorts World Arena, B'ham

Kids Shows

THE FLYING BATH Little Angel Theatre bring Julia Donaldson & David Roberts' playful and adventurous story to life using catchy songs, quirky bath toys & everyday heroes, Sun 23 June, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

Dance

BEATS ON POINTE An 'electric fusion' of street dance & ballet featuring a cast of 16 dance athletes, Mon 17 June, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

HOBSON'S CHOICE Birmingham Royal Ballet present David Bintley's much-ac-

claimed comedy, which is based on Harold Brighouse's play of the same name, Wed 19 - Sat 22 June, Birmingham Hippodrome



CANDY Chrysalis London present a mixed bill of choreographed performances, Fri 21 June, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

Cabaret

TINA T'URNER TEA LADY'S STEAMY BINGO Join musical comedy domestic diva Tina for an evening celebrating bingo, music, tea and laughter, Thurs 20 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Talks

TAN FRANCE Join the Queer Eye star as he discusses his memoir, Naturally Tan, Thurs 20 June, Birmingham Town Hall

IAN MCKELLEN ON STAGE Join the legendary actor & activist as he celebrates his 80th year with a new solo show about his life in theatre, Fri 21 - Sat 22 June, The REP, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH HELEN SHARMAN Special event in which Britain's first astronaut speaks publicly about space and the wonders of science, Sat 22 June, Birmingham Town Hall

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

DEAD GOOD Documentary. Directed by Rehana Rose. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Wed 19 June

SCUM (18) Crime/Drama. Starring Ray Winstone, Mick Ford. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Thurs 20 June

LORDS OF CHAOS (18) Biography/Drama. Starring Rory Culklin, Jack Kilmer. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 21 June

ROMEO + JULIET (12a) Drama/Romance. Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Claire Danes. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 21 June

HALSTON Documentary. Directed by Frédéric Tcheng. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 21 - Sat 22, Tues 25 - Wed 26 June

GLORIA BELL (15) Drama/Comedy. Starring Julianne Moore, John Turturro. Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham, Fri 21 - Mon 24, Wed 26 - Thurs 27 June

THE FLIGHT (12a) Drama. Starring Chandan Roy Sanyal, Parno Mittra. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 22 June

THE GREAT GATSBY (12) Drama/Romance. Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Carey Mulligan. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 22 June

MOULIN ROUGE! (12a) Drama/Musical. Starring Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 22 June

VIVEK (15) Documentary. Directed by Anand Patwardhan. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sun 23 June

Events

DISCOVERY DAY Featuring free activities, workshops, tours and exclusive competitions, Sat 22 June, The REP, Birmingham

THE GREAT GET TOGETHER AT SAREHOLE MILL 'Big-hearted community get-together', Sat 22 June, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

STEAMPUNK FESTIVAL This year's theme is 'an apocalyptic Martian invasion of Earth and the fight back to ultimate victory', Sat 22 - Sun 23 June, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire

LEGENDARY JOUST Four legendary knights compete for honour and glory in the 'grand medieval joust', Sat 22 - Sun 23 June, Kenilworth Castle

OPEN COCKPITS WEEKEND Chance to learn about the museum's aircraft, Sat 22 - Sun 23 June, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

THE SUMMER NATIONALS 2019 National Drag Racing Championships featuring the MSA British Championship for Pro Mod, Sat 22 - Sun 23 June, Santa Pod Raceway, Wellingborough

MEET THE VICTORIANS: QUEEN VICTORIA'S VISIT Queen Victoria graces Aston Hall with her presence, Sun 23 June, Aston Hall, Birmingham

For Foodies

FOODIES FESTIVAL Featuring masterclasses with some of the country's top chefs, workshops, tastings & live music from Boyzlife & the Neville Staple Band, Fri 21 - Sun 23 June, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

THE GIN TRAIN Sip gin while travelling through the spectacular Severn Valley in a 1936-built luxurious first-class carriage once hauled by the Flying Scotsman, Sat 22 - Sun 23 June, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster



Sirens - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham



Carrie Underwood - Resorts World Arena, Birmingham

Gigs

TINA - SIMPLY THE BEST
Tues 25 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

CULT LEADERS & BIRDS IN ROW Tues 25 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LUNASA Tues 25 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ANGIE BROWN Wed 26 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

FEELS Thurs 27 June, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DEL CAMINO Thurs 27 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

BARRY STEELE & FRIENDS Thurs 27 June, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

DAGADANA Thurs 27 June, Artrix, Broms-

grove

THE MIGHTY MIGHTY BOSSTONES Fri 28 June, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BLAKK SABBATH Fri 28 June, The Asylum, Birmingham

EAGLES Fri 28 June, Arena Birmingham

SOLID SOUL Fri 28 - Sat 29 June, The Jam House, Birmingham

FRANKLY SINATRA Fri 28 June, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

ELLIE JONES & THE GIANTS Fri 28 June, The World Bar, Resorts World, Birmingham

PHILIP H. ANSELMO & THE ILLEGALS + KING PARROTS Fri 28 June, The Mill Digbeth, Birmingham

CARRIE UNDERWOOD Fri

28 June, Resorts World Arena, B'ham

GEORGIA BURGESS + PSALMS + CONOR COLEY Sat 29 June, The Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

UNDER THE COVERS Sat 29 June, The World Bar, Resorts World, Birmingham

KING OF POP: THE LEG- END CONTINUES Sat 29 June, Artrix, Broms-

grove

GOJIRA Sat 29 June, O2 Academy, B'ham

LYNRYD SKYNYRD Sun 30 June, Resorts World Arena, B'ham

COMBICHRIST Sun 30 June, The Mill Dig-

beth, Birmingham

GAYGIRL + SKETCH + MODERN COMFORTS

Sun 30 June, The Sun-

flower Lounge, B'ham



Combichrist - The Mill, Digbeth

Classical Music

AMATIS TRIO Featuring Lea Hausmann (violin), Samuel Shepherd (cello) & Mengjie Han (piano). Programme includes works by Haydn, Shostakovich, Andrea Tarrodi & Brahms, Tues 25 June, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO: THE DAMNATION OF FAUST Featuring Edward Gardner (conductor), Anna Stéphany (Margarite), Saimir Pirgu (Faust), Joshua Bloom (Méphistophélès) & Božidar Smiljani (Brander). Programme comprises Berlioz's The Damnation of Faust, 125', Wed 26 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GATECRASHER CLASSICAL Sat 29 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO CONCERTS IN THE PARK Featuring Micheal Seal (conductor) & a varied festival programme of popular classics, music from the movies and 'Last Night of the Proms' favourites, Sat 29 June, Boldmere Recreation Field, Sutton Coldfield

2019 BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION: THE FINAL Sat 29 June, Birmingham Town Hall

IL DIVO Sat 29 June, Arena B'ham

REDDITCH ORCHESTRA: LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS Sun 30 June, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Comedy

REGINALD D HUNTER Wed 26 June, Birmingham Town Hall

MANDY KNIGHT & KEITH FARNAN PLUS COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINS Thurs 27 June The Glee Club, Birmingham

CATHERINE BOHART & NICK DOODY Thurs 27 June, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

RHOD GILBERT Fri 28 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SEAN MCLOUGHLIN Fri 28 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MANDY KNIGHT, KEITH FARNAN, BOBBY MAIR & JAKE LAMBERT Fri 28 - Sat 29 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ADAM KAY Sat 29 June, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

PETE OTWAY, NICK DIXON, JULIAN DEANE & DARIUS DAVIES Sat 29 June, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

CURTIS WALKER, WHITE YARDIE, WILL E DO & ANNETTE FAGON (PICTURED) Sun 30 June, The Glee Club, Birmingham



Theatre

THE FULL MONTY Amateur staging presented by Lichfield Operatic Society, Tues 25 - Sat 29 June, Lichfield Garrick

THE BODYGUARD Alexandra Burke & Jennlee Shallow share the role of Rachel Marron in this much-acclaimed romantic thriller based on the film of the same name, Tues 25 June - Sat 6 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

YEAR 12 MUSICAL THEATRE: DECADES BOA Year 12 students take audiences on a musical journey from the turn of the 20th century onwards, Wed 26 - Thurs 27 June, The Old Rep, Birmingham

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's iconic thriller. Gwyneth Strong stars... Thurs 27 - Sat 29 June, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

HARPER REGAN Royal Birmingham Conservatoire present a tale of family, love & delusion, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 June, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

DEADTOWN Film, live action and magic combine to present the Wild West in a completely new way, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 June, The REP, Birmingham



THE MERCHANT OF VENICE Shakespeare's controversial masterpiece is transported to 1950s' New York, a city where communities are divided by wealth and religion, Thurs 27 June - Sat 13 July, Stafford Castle

STILL FREEZIN' Join the Fizzogs as they present a Black Country version of Disney blockbuster Frozen, Fri 28 June, Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Dudley

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM The Lord Chamberlain's Men perform this Shakespearean classic, Fri 28 June, Winterbourne House & Gardens, Birmingham

MEASURE FOR MEASURE Gregory Doran directs a new version of Shakespeare's 'problem play', Fri 28 June - Thurs 29 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

PLAYHOUSE PROJECT A series of specially commissioned plays by leading playwrights directed by local primary school teachers and youth theatre directors, Fri 28 - Sat 29 June, The REP, Birmingham

ROBIN & THE SHERWOOD HOODIES Theatretrain Solihull present an all-singing all-dancing romp through the medieval mayhem of Merry England, Sat 29 June, The Core Theatre, Solihull

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM The Crescent Theatre Company present a modern-dress production of one of Shakespeare's best loved and most

Monday 24 - Sunday 30 June

enduring comedies, Sat 29 - Sun 30 June, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Solihull

THE M.M.O.R.P.G. SHOW - SCRUFFY LOOKING NERD-HERDER Three brave volunteers play characters in a story made entirely from audience participation, with this year's show focusing on cults and group mentality, Sat 29 - Sun 30 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

JOHN BARROWMAN: FABULOUS Sun 30 June, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Kids Shows

THE GRUFFALO Tall Stories' musical adaptation of the classic picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, Tues 25 - Wed 26 June, Birmingham Hippodrome

Dance

THE BALLROOM BOYS Strictly Come Dancing favourites Ian Waite and Vincent Simone join forces in this brand new production, Thurs 27 June, Dudley Town Hall

LC PRESENTS COLLABORATION Show containing a variety of dance styles and music, Sat 29 - Sun 30 June, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

HERE COME THE GIRLS Dianne Buswell, Chloe Hewitt & Amy Dowden showcase a mix of ballroom and Latin routines choreographed by Patrick Helm, Sun 30 June, Lichfield Garrick

Cabaret

TINA T'URNER TEA LADY & FREAKS! Fantasy, obsession & loss come to the fore in this celebration of showbiz and the surreal, Thurs 27 - Fri 28 June, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Talks

GYLES BRANDRETH: BREAK A LEG! Join the actor, author and ex-MP for an hour of 'wit, wisdom, high drama, low comedy, and hilarious name-dropping,' Sat 29 June, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham



Tina T'urner Tea Lady & Freaks! - The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

SIR (12a) Drama. Starring Sanjay Mishra, Rasika Dugal. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Mon 24 June

WOMAN AT WAR (tbc) Drama/Thriller. Starring Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 24 June

CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME? (15) Biography/Comedy. Starring Melissa McCarthy, Richard E. Grant. Stourbridge

Town Hall, Mon 24 June

ROCKETMAN (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Taron Egerton, Bryce Dallas Howard. Number 8, Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 28 June

#GADHVI (12a) Drama. Starring Tillotama Shome, Vivek Gumber. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Tues 25 June

BULBUL CAN SING (12a) Drama. Starring Arnali Das, Manoranjan Das. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Thurs 27

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22/23 JUNE 2019

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June

SOMETIMES ALWAYS NEVER (12) Comedy/Drama. Starring Bill Nighy, Alice Lowe. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 28 - Sun 30 June

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Patton Oswalt, Eric Stonestreet. Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 29 June

KATTUMURAM (tbc) Drama. Foreign language, subtitled. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 29 June

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE (18) Drama/Sci-Fi. Starring Malcolm McDowell, Patrick Magee. Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 29 June

Events

THE BIG EVENT The UK's largest display of vehicles for disabled people, Fri 28 - Sat 29 June, NEC, B'ham

THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW SUMMER A 'haven for knitting, cross stitch, paper crafting, jewellery & dressmaking and stitching enthusiasts', Fri 28 - Sun 30 June, NEC, Birmingham

VINTAGE MOTORSPORT FESTIVAL Celebration of Donington Park's rich pre-

war Grand Prix heritage, Sat 29 June, Donington Park Racing Circuit, Derby

THE DATING SHOW The world's first consumer dating event, Sat 29 - Sun 30 June, NEC, Birmingham

ARMED FORCES WEEKEND Celebrate Armed Forces Day with a weekend of nostalgic activities for the whole family to enjoy, Sat 29 - Sun 30 June, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

DOG'S TRUST FUN DAY Featuring doggy demonstrations, a grand raffle and an opportunity to meet some of the dogs from the Trust, Sun 30 June, Ragley Hall, Alcester

For Foodies

SHREWSBURY FOOD FESTIVAL Featuring 200 exhibitors, demos, chef school, kids activities and a bigger, better BBQ area, Sat 29 - Sun 30 June, The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury

BIRMINGHAM RUM FESTIVAL Chat to experts and discover new rums, sip cocktails, enjoy live music and feast on delicious street food, Sat 29 - Sun 30 June, The Cuban Embassy, B'ham



CBSO Concerts In The Park

Boldmere Recreation Ground, Sutton Coldfield, Sat 29 June

"We're thrilled that we will be taking part in this concert again this year," says City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Chief Executive Stephen Maddock in talking about the CBSO's Concert In The Park appearance. "The orchestra really enjoys the opportunity to perform outside of a concert hall. We are looking forward to sharing more wonderful music in the beautiful surroundings of Sutton Park."

As on previous occasions, the orchestra will be performing a varied festival programme of popular classics, music from the movies and Last Night of the Proms favourites. Also contributing to the concert are UK jive act The Jive Aces.

A 10-piece mini-orchestra from the CBSO will then take part in the Family Day event on the Sunday, which is taking the theme of Alice In Wonderland.

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NEW SHOWS ON SALE



17 – 21 Sept

from £31.50*



2 – 12 Oct

from £10* ★



15 – 19 Oct

from £17.50* ★



29 Oct – 2 Nov

from £10* ★



7 – 9 Nov

from £29.25* ★



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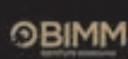
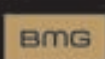


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