

Staffordshire

ISSUE 403 JULY 2019

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thelist

Your 16-page week by week listings guide

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children's favourite in Stoke...



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the 'Taylor Swift of the comedy scene' plays Lichfield Festival



SUMMER FUN...

thrills aplenty at Drayton Manor Theme Park



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Rock out to Queen tribute at Shrewsbury Flower Show

Queen tribute band Gary Mullen & The Works are set to 'rock you' next month when they take the Friday night headline slot at the Shrewsbury Flower Show.

One of the country's premier horticultural festivals, the two-day event delivers a diverse programme of entertainment for the whole family to enjoy. Highlights of the 2019 show (9 & 10 August) include guest appearances by celebrity chefs and gardeners, arena acts, competitions, numerous workshops, a children's area, impressive floral displays, a Saturday night performance by acclaimed pop band Scouting For Girls and a sky-lighting fireworks display on both evenings.

For more information about the event, visit shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk

Glass Biennale returns

Next month's International Festival of Glass will once again feature the British Glass Biennale at The Glasshouse in Stourbridge. Running from 23 August to 28 September, the flagship exhibition of contemporary glass features brand new work by 74 artists and includes large installations, interactive artworks, films and 'exquisite' vessels. Curator Matt Durran offers two collectors tours, complete with a chance to meet some of the artists and discuss their work. Visitors can also vote for their favourite piece in the People's Prize, whilst children have a chance to win a bespoke artwork to start their own collection.

Four-day masterclass sessions with a world-class artist are available prior to the festival, taking place from 19 to 22 August.



Fiesta of fun on offer in the Black Country

Wolverhampton Fiesta funfair is back for a fourth year running, taking place at West Park on Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 July. Previously known as the City Show, the event is being organised by Harry Jones, who com-

ments: "Over the past four years, we have become a summer staple for so many families in the city, and as a Black Country born-and-bred business, it's great to see the community come together for a weekend of fun. This will always be an event close to our hearts, and we can't wait to welcome everyone for another fabulous Fiesta!"



Nigel Planer to star as Grandpa in stage version of David Walliams classic

Nigel Planer will take the lead role in the first ever stage adaptation of David Walliams' children's book, *Grandpa's Great Escape*, when it visits Birmingham Arena this Christmas.

Best known for starring as hippie Neil in the cult 1980s sitcom *The Young Ones*, Nigel commented: "It's a great honour to be asked to play Grandpa in the live version of this amazing and cockle-warming story by David Walliams. It's set to be such an amazing spectacular, and I can't wait to drive a tank and fly a lifesize Spitfire over audiences around the country!"

The production shows in Birmingham on 23, 24 & 26 December.

Celebrating creativity at Lichfield Garrick

Lichfield Garrick Theatre is next month hosting a week of drama, poetry, song, music and dance for creative artists interested in 'developing their performance toolkit'.

Presented by Emily Summers, the project is focused around the idea of reimagining fairytales, 'twisting well-known stories beyond recognition and bringing them into a whole new light'. The event runs from Monday 19 to Friday 23 August and is suitable for children aged between eight and 16.

Flicks at the Cathedral...

Fancy watching your favourite films while 'sitting on the moon'? Well, Lichfield Cathedral is offering visitors the chance to do just that when they attend its film festival.

Taking place on selected dates next month, the festival features screenings of much-loved movies including *First Man*, *Apollo 13*, *Jurassic Park* and a sing-along version of *The Greatest Showman*.

For more information, including dates and times, visit lichfield-cathedral.org



John Partridge to star in Cabaret at the Grand Theatre

Former EastEnders favourite John Partridge will take on the role of Emcee when hit musical Cabaret visits the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in the autumn.

The show, which features iconic songs including Money Makes The World Go Round, Maybe This Time and the title track itself, is helmed by the National Theatre's Artistic Director, Rufus Norris, and visits the Grand from Tuesday 3 to Saturday 7 September. Tickets for the production are now on sale and can be bought online at grandtheatre.co.uk or by calling 01902 429212.



Birmingham arts venue gets a major boost

A £4.5million Arts Council investment of National Lottery money is set to finance a transformation of Birmingham's Symphony Hall. The cash will be used to update the venue's foyers, create new learning & participation spaces and enhance the experience for visitors of all ages. Alongside flexible spaces that can host workshops, pre-show talks and corporate guests, opportunities will also be made available for artists with limited mobility, sensory and cognitive disabilities.



Wolverhampton Grand announces its spring 2020 shows

Productions of The History Boys and The Kite Runner feature among the highlights of Wolverhampton Grand Theatre's spring/summer 2020 line-up of entertainment.

Other shows to watch out for include Broadway comedy Boeing-Boeing, Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap and the Gloria Estefan musical, On Your Feet.

Great British Bake Off presenter Sandi Toksvig brings her one-woman comedy production to the venue and Derren Brown is a summertime visitor with his brand new show.

To check out the whole season and book tickets, visit grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

DisOrder on the menu at new arts festival

A group of international artists working collectively to support live art practice through the production of events and exhibitions are visiting Wolverhampton this month. Taking place at multiple venues, the artists' Disorder Live Art Festival is presenting a programme of performances, installations and community workshops across the long weekend of Friday 5 to Sunday 7 July. The event gets under way with a talk by Nigel Rolfe, a pioneer in the field of performance. This is followed by a presentation of live works made in the moment by Masters graduates from the Royal College of Art. For more information, visit disorderliveart.com

Outdoor fun at Stafford Castle

There's plenty of opportunity to enjoy entertainment in the great outdoors at Stafford Castle this month. As well as the Stafford Shakespeare production of The Merchant Of Venice, showing in the grounds until Saturday 13 July, the castle is also hosting the Swingtime Big Band on Thursday the 18th, a beneath-the-stars screening of Jurassic Park on Friday the 19th and Charles Court Opera performing HMS Pinafore on Saturday the 20th... For more information, visit staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk



First Word

£10 Tuesdays at Shugborough

If you're looking for an enjoyable and relatively cheap day out this summer, Shugborough Estate in Staffordshire could well be the place to head for - with adult tickets to the National Trust property costing just £10 every Tuesday until 27 August (kids tickets are £5, with under-fives going free).

Commenting on the offer, Hayley Mival, Shugborough's General Manager, said: "This is a great opportunity to try something new with your week. There's so much to do here at Shugborough, you will be able to spend the whole day here with your friends and family."



David Baddiel vs internet trolls...



Comedian David Baddiel is returning to the Midlands next year with a new show based around his battles with internet trolls.

Trolls: Not The Dolls follows on from his previous and most recent touring show, My Family: Not The Sitcom, which was nominated for an Olivier Award. A list of venues and dates for Trolls, including its numerous Midlands stop-offs, is available at uktwt.co.uk



Top comedy line-up in Wolverhampton

EastEnders and Dancing On Ice star Richard Blackwood joins Birmingham funny ladies Barbara Nice and Shazia Mirza for an evening of comedy at Wolverhampton's Diamond Suite this month (Saturday 6 July).

Laugh Out Louder also features, among others, Britain's Got Talent Golden Buzzer winner Kojo and The Real McCoy's Curtis Walker. Gogglebox star Sandra is the host for the evening.

New family show for Shrewsbury

Shropshire residents are getting a brand new event to enjoy this summer.

Presenting a 'packed programme' throughout the day, Shrewsbury Live will take place at the Greenhous West Mid Showground on Sunday 4 August. Attractions include a full main-ring programme, a funfair, trade stalls, musicians and food & drink vendors. Commenting on the event, Ian Bebbington, Chief Executive of the Shrewsbury & West Midlands Agricultural Society, which is organising the show, said: "Monster trucks are making a return to the showground after a hugely successful appearance during last year's Shropshire County Show. Other main-ring entertainment includes the Guido Louis Equestrian Stunt Team and the Extreme Mountain Bike Show."

Designers commissioned to develop brand for historic Shropshire building

Multi-disciplinary designers HemingwayDesign have been commissioned to develop a new brand for Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings in Shropshire - one of the most important buildings in England's industrial past.

The Flaxmill embodies over two centuries of setting new standards in engineering, construction and industry, and is gradually being brought back to life through a careful restoration and refurbishment programme.

HemingwayDesign has been commissioned to create a visionary brand that reflects the revolutionary spirit of the site and its history of groundbreaking innovation.



New space-themed maze marks moon landing anniversary

The National Forest Adventure Farm in Tatenhill is hosting a space-themed maze, made completely from maize plants, to mark the 50th anniversary of the historic moon landing.

Opening on 13 July (until 2 September), the new attraction offers families the chance to find and solve space-themed puzzles and assist a lunar crew in fixing their spacecraft in order to return safely to Earth.

The maze is accompanied by brand new indoor family activity Space Rangers: Alien Rescue, an interactive experience that sees children train to become Space Rangers and help save aliens. To find out more, including information about when you can see Crumpet the Cow fly into space(!), visit adventurefarm.co.uk

Folklore festival at Acton Scott Farm

A new one-day festival celebrating Shropshire's legacy of folklore, music and traditions is being launched at Acton Scott Historic Working Farm this month.

Folk At The Farm takes place on Saturday 20 July and features poetry & song, talks & tall tales, art & craft demonstrations, activities for youngsters, numerous workshops, locally made products and plenty of food and beer.

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EXPEDITION WITH STEVE BACKSHALL - IN PURSUIT OF WORLD FIRSTS
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TOWN HALL



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SYMPHONY HALL



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 12PM
TOWN HALL



STEVIE WONDER - THE HITS PERFORMED BY 16-PIECE ORCHESTRA
 SAT 27 JULY
 7:30PM
TOWN HALL



BRUM CRAIC - BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL SPECIAL
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 8:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL STAGE



TABBY MCTAT
 TUE 20 - SUN 25 AUGUST
 TIMES VARY
TOWN HALL



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 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL



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COOKING UP A TREAT

Chef Marcus Bean talks about his latest venture working with the Ironbridge Museums Trust on its soon-to-open eatery...



Visitors to Coalbrookdale Museums at the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site will soon be able to make even more of their visit by dropping into a brand new café restaurant.

The Furnace, operating under the expert eye of executive chef Marcus Bean, will be open during the daytime for museum visitors and passers-by, as well as on selected evenings.

“It’s going to be an all-day dining affair,” explains Marcus. “It’ll be open museum hours - 10am to 4pm, seven days a week. From a visitor point of view, it’ll be a really nice mix. We’ll be doing some evening trading as well, starting slowly and building our way up, so that the venue is open as a destination and not just for visitors to the site. There’s not a great deal in Telford town centre in terms of destination dining.”

The 50-seater venue, which also features an outdoor area seating an extra 30 people, is built within one of the historic former warehouses of the world famous Coalbrookdale Company and will serve an exciting mix of modern British cuisine and European classics, all hand-made in the eatery’s state-of-the-art kitchen by a hand-picked team of chefs.

“Daytime options on the menu will include barista-made coffee, home-made cakes and tasty light bites such as salads, sandwiches and slow-cooked dishes, making the best of local and national produce. The Furnace also has an on-site pizza oven, so we’ll be serving fresh, oven-roasted pizzas and a great selection of other dishes to suit all dietary requirements. We’ll have a kids menu, too - we are going to be family-orientated.

“The Ironbridge Trust is always looking further forward to how we can be more energy-efficient and how we can reduce waste. I’ve been working with them to make the functionality of the kitchen very efficient. We’ve got induction cookers in there, as well as the new pizza oven. There’s higher-rating refrigeration units too, which, of course, produce a

lot less gas, and we also have a dishwasher that cycles back its steam so it can regenerate its heat. There are a lot of clever things we’ve done within that space to design it, so it’s very high-end in terms of its technology.

“But although we’ve got all that high-end technology, we wanted to understand the history of where we are. One of the key things that myself and the Trust wanted to do was to create something that matches the site and the history of it. There’s a lot of open brickwork, exposed concrete and wood. We’ve used tiles from the tile centre and Jackfield Tile Museum. We’ve tied in local tradesman and have translated that into the menu too. It’s been an exciting project to work on - I’ve loved it! I’ve been working with them a day a week over the last year, and I’ll be overseeing it as executive chef when it opens.”

Although playing a huge part in both the creation and the running of The Furnace Eatery, Brompton Cookery School and Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast will remain Marcus’ full-time focus.

“I decided to go on a programme called Iron Chef on Channel Four and ended up beating a two-Michelin-star chef. Things developed for me from that, really. It naturally progressed into teaching, and I taught at Brompton Cookery School. I decided to purchase the school in 2010, and my wife and I have been running it ever since. We do a selection of three different courses per week and teach everything from Asian, Indian, Italian and French to butchery, curing and baking; basically, we do everything. Over the years, I worked out that I’ve taught something like 16,000 people. We’ve got a B&B on-site and grow a lot of our own produce.

“I also do about six shows a year for the BBC Good Food Show. I go around the country and do all their Big Kitchens and Super Theatres, hosting and working with Michel Roux Jr, Paul Hollywood, Tom Kerridge, Mary Berry and more. We can be in theatres of up to 2,500 people and do five or six shows a day over a

four or five-day period. They’re held in Belfast, London, the Tower Of London, Birmingham NEC, and I do a lot of catering events too. There’s lots going on, put it that way!”

Despite now rubbing shoulders with the UK’s top chefs, Marcus reveals that becoming a chef himself hadn’t been on the cards when he was a young boy: “I lived in pubs from the age of five. My mum is a chef, but she never taught me to cook because we didn’t have our own kitchen as such - we’d just have a commercial kitchen downstairs and we’d live in a flat above. If my mum asked what I wanted for dinner, it was like, ‘There’s a menu, there’s the specials board, tell me what you want and put an order in’. She was busy cooking seven days a week. At that point, I never wanted to be in the kitchen and never needed to be. I ate exceptionally well, as you can imagine, but it was only when my wife and I took on our first pub that I learnt to cook. I employed a chef and we had a bit of a nightmare, so one of us had to learn to cook.”

So who are Marcus’ biggest influences and where does he like to eat?

“I used to love watching Rick Stein on TV and I’ve always been a big fan of Tom Kerridge. I used to live down in Oxfordshire, so I used to go to the Hand And Flowers before it had any Michelin stars. It was always a lovely place to eat. It’s still one of my favourite restaurants. It’s a two-Michelin-star pub and high end, but at the same time you’re still sitting in a pub! It has pub twists.

“I get inspiration from everywhere, whether I’m travelling on holiday, eating food off a food trader or sitting down and trying a dish in a fine-dining restaurant. I’m always thinking about food. It’s an incredible industry to be in. Food is very exciting! If you love to eat, you can’t really go wrong.”

The Furnace is set to open this summer at Coalbrookdale Museums, Ironbridge

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FRI 5 JUL
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GARY MEIKLE
THU 11 JUL
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**MADAGASCAR
THE MUSICAL**
WED 25 SEP – SUN 29 SEP
REGENT THEATRE



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THE EXORCIST
TUE 1 OCT – SAT 5 OCT
REGENT THEATRE

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THE SPICE GIRLS SHOW
FRI 28 JUN **VH**

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES
SUN 30 JUN **VH**

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THU 15 AUG **VH**

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FRI 16 AUG **VH**

PAUL SMITH
SAT 24 AUG **VH**

HELLO AGAIN: THE STORY OF NEIL DIAMOND
FRI 27 SEP **VH**

ABBA MANIA
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SUN 6 OCT **VH**



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REVIEW: Blanc NRI

A unique and relaxed Indian dining experience to stimulate the senses

Brought to Staffordshire's ever-expanding culinary scene by the owner of the award-winning James Dahl restaurant in The Arcadian, Birmingham, new kid on the block Blanc NRI is located on the A34 and specialises in serving kebabs and curries originating in the north west, south and Awadh region of India and on the streets of Delhi.

On arrival at the venue, we were immediately made to feel welcome by the friendly staff.

Perusing the menu, over a cold Cobra, my partner and I discovered that Blanc NRI was more of a fine dining Indian restaurant than a regular balti house.

Varied yet not too extensive, the menu featured such mouthwatering options as: monkfish fillets in a spicy coconut sauce flavoured with ginger and molgapodi mash; venison fillet in almond, yoghurt sauce and Awadhi spices; and lamb shank in lamb stock, yoghurt and potli masala.

We tucked into popadoms and pickles. The mango chutney - which was served alongside a mint sauce and a spicy sweet chilli sauce - was infused with pineapple; a nice change from the usual offering. Minor touches like this certainly help set the venue out from the crowd.

It was apparent from the word go that Blanc NRI was going to be impressive.

On recommendation from the restaurant owner, we opted for the Tiger Prawn Malabar Style and the Kali Mirch Tikka to start. The prawn dish, which featured two beautifully meaty tiger prawns fried in a Yercaud pepper masala, was simply stunning. The tiger prawns were larger than any I'd ever eaten before; the Yercaud pepper masala batter was soft and flavoursome without being overpowering.

The Kali Mirch Tikka, which featured cubes of soft and succulent boneless chicken cooked in a marinade of black pepper,

cream and cheddar, was equally delicious and flavoursome. The cheddar, an unusual offering in Indian cuisine, added a subtle taste and married perfectly with the creamy pepper flavours. Both were served alongside a mango sauce, a chilli sauce, a relish of onion, coriander & tomato and some colourful edible flowers, all of which not only added a sense of freshness to the dishes but also ensured both plates of food were elegantly presented.

The owner explained that all the dishes he recommended we ordered - the two starters and the two mains that were to follow - were created by a Michelin-trained chef. This was certainly apparent in the complexity of the flavour combinations, the choice of ingredients and the presentation. Every dish presented to us was, quite simply, a work of art. Even the heavenly dal.

To say our main courses of Lobster Moilee and Railway Lamb Curry had a lot to live up to would be an understatement, but Blanc NRI successfully rose to the challenge.

The eagerly awaited lobster dish featured perfectly cooked, juicy meat in a rich ginger-infused coconut sauce, served in the shell. Sat on a bed of smooth and silky molgapodi mash, and boasting a strong yet not too overpowering coconut flavour, it was simply wonderful.

The lamb option, which stuck closer to contemporary Indian cuisine, was another perfectly executed dish. Hotter than our other selections and packed full of aromatic flavours, it featured a delectable 37 in-house spice mix and a generous helping of melt-in-the-mouth lamb.

To accompany the main courses, we ordered an incredibly tasty chilli & cheese naan, a pulao rice and the most outstanding dal I've ever tasted. Boasting soft and creamy pigeon peas tempered with a rich blend of garlic and chilli, every mouthful

was pure delight.

Although suitably full, we couldn't leave without sampling dessert. The hot gulab jamun - an exotic, soft, fried milk dumpling soaked in rose-flavoured syrup - was stunning. And the Husn-E Ara was even better! Featuring crispy fried bread (mouthwatering enough on its own!) stuffed with Kesari pineapple compote and topped with nutty rabri (a sweet condensed milk which boasts a rice pudding texture and flavour), it was unquestionably the nicest dessert I've been lucky enough to experience in an Indian restaurant. Definitely not one to order if you're counting the calories, though...

Blanc NRI is a unique and relaxed dining experience that stimulates the senses courtesy of some utterly beautiful food. The owner's desire for perfection and subsequent meticulous attention to detail has resulted in a truly outstanding restaurant - one that I'd happily recommend to anyone and everyone.

I can't help but feel, however, that the bizarre location could prove to be a problem. This restaurant needs to be in a bustling town or city, not set back off an A road.

That said, my partner and I visited midweek and it wasn't empty. I wish the owner all the best in his venture here, and I truly hope that Blanc NRI gains both the recognition and popularity that it deserves. It really is something special.

Lauren Foster

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

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Cosford Food Festival aiming to fly high at RAF Museum

More than 100 local producers take centre stage at this year's Cosford Food Festival.

Held in the grounds of the RAF Museum Cosford on Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 July, the event features an impressive selection of cuisine, numerous cooking demonstrations, kids cookery classes, face painting, circus skills and (new for 2019) gin flight masterclass sessions on the VC10.



New pizzeria opens in Staffordshire town

A new independent restaurant & bar serving Neapolitan-style pizza has opened in Stone.

800 Degrees Pizzeria, located on Newcastle Road, has been launched by husband-and-wife team Chris and Caroline Perkins.

Each pizza is cooked for just 60 seconds in a 800° oven. Options include Porky Pear - double cream, gorgonzola, prosciutto di Parma, scorched pear; Bacon 'N' Eggs - San Marzano, smoked pancetta, Nduja, oregano and garlic oil, topped with a freshly cracked free range egg; and From The Garden - San Marzano, baby spinach, bell peppers, red onion, garlic oil and artichokes.

Burger joint relocates

Popular Shrewsbury burger restaurant Brooklyn Craft has moved from one part of town to another - from Castle Gates to a larger venue in Shoplatch. The venue's burgers are made from 100% Angus beef with no fillers or preservatives.

Food & drink festival returns to the city for a third year

After hugely successful events in 2017 and '18, City Of Wolverhampton Food & Drink Festival is this month returning for a third year.

The free event, taking place on Wulfruna Street on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July, is expected to attract more than 30,000 visitors.

The festival will feature the city's largest ever selection of independent F&B producers, brewers and tastemakers. Street food curators Digbeth Dining Club return with traders including Beef On The Block, The Brownie Boss, Grill

Brazil, Naughty Lil' Tings and Tash N' Dash. Alongside the food stalls will be a thirst-quenching selection of bars and pop-up cafes, as well as a champagne and prosecco terrace hosted by Wolverhampton's own Word Of Mouth.

The family area features a face-painting parlour, open-air cinema, theatre performances and a helter skelter, with live music and entertainment taking place throughout the day.

Popular Ludlow venue reopens after major refurbishment



The Ludlow venue previously known as The Clive Restaurant With Rooms has reopened following an extensive refurbishment. Now called The Clive Arms, the venue boasts new open-plan dining & bar areas, an additional three bedrooms for hotel guests and an impressive al fresco eating terrace.

The menus feature food which predominantly comes from the estate's own farms and walled garden.

The new bedrooms join 14 other rooms, all of which have been completely refurbished. The Clive Arms is just five minutes from the train station and centre of Ludlow.

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BBC National Orchestra Of Wales

Lichfield Cathedral, Sat 13 July

To continue its three-year Lichfield Festival residency, BBC National Orchestra of Wales presents two major works featuring 'codes' in music.

The theme for Shostakovich's Cello Concerto no1 is taken from a musical cryptogram of the composer's initials, while Elgar's Enigma Variations features Last Night Of The Proms favourite Nimrod.

The programme also features a second quintessentially British work by the Worcestershire-born composer - his sumptuous song cycle, Sea Pictures.

The orchestra is joined by conductor Ainars Rubikis, cellist Andrei Ioniță (BBC New Generation Artist) and 2019 artist-in-residence Polly Leech (mezzo-soprano).

National Youth Orchestra

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 25 July

One hundred-and-sixty-four of the country's most talented teenage stars are here brought together under the National Youth Orchestra banner.

Described by The Times as 'the most uplifting orchestra in the world' and this year marking its 70th anniversary, the NYO is here performing as part of the Stoke-on-Trent Festival 50th Birthday Celebration Concert. The event also features a performance by Nicola Benedetti (pictured), one of the most sought-after violinists of her generation. Mark Wigglesworth conducts.



Padmore And Lewis: Dichterliebe

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 21 July

"The most important thing is to communicate," says tenor Mark Padmore (pictured) in talking about his concert performances.

"To hold an engaged and interesting

conversation that includes the composer, the performer and the audience."

Mark and pianist Paul Lewis visit Birmingham on the crest of a seemingly never-breaking wave, having garnered great praise from across the globe and been hailed by the New York Times as the art song 'dream team'.

The duo here turn their attention to Schumann, performing his glorious song cycle, Dichterliebe, alongside music by Brahms and Mahler.



Ensemble 360: Music In The Round

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Mon 8 July

With a well-established reputation for successfully engaging with different audiences and age groups, Ensemble 360 comprise 11 musicians of international standing who share the belief that concerts should be informal, friendly, relaxed and, where possible, performed 'in the round'.

Their early-month New Vic performance sees them presenting Mozart's Divertimento for string trio in E flat K563 and Beethoven's String Trio Op3. The concert features Benjamin Nabarro (pictured - on violin), Ruth Gibson (viola) & Gemma Rosefield (cello).



The Mozartists

Lichfield Cathedral, Tues 9 July

Specialising in the historically informed performance of music by Mozart, The Mozartists here explore the composer's travels across Europe via works composed in London, The Hague, Paris, Munich, Vienna, Prague and Rome.

They are joined by harpist Oliver Wass, horn player Gavin Edwards and the 2017 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition winner, soprano Louise Alder (pictured).



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Let's Rock Shrewsbury

Quarry Park, Shrewsbury, Sat 13 July

Take a trip back in time with some of the biggest acts of the 1980s.

Leading the way in terms of quality family-friendly festivals since 2009, this blast from the past is suitable for all ages, whether you're looking to re-live your youth or hearing old pop classics for the very first time. The 2019 line-up includes: The Human League, Sister Sledge (pictured), Thompson Twins' Tom Bailey, Belinda Carlisle, Roland Gift, Kim Appleby, Chesney Hawkes, Betty Boo, Johnny Hates Jazz, Jaki Graham, Captain Sensible, Sonia, Belouis Some, Owen Paul, Jennie 'Belle Star' Matthias, Musical Youth, Westworld and Black Lace's Conga Party.



Jess Glynne

Cannock Chase Forest, Staffordshire, Fri 5 July

Jess Glynne rose to prominence in 2014 following a guest spot on Clean Bandit's smash hit, Rather Be.

Her powerhouse vocal and fearless delivery have earned her the record for the most number one UK singles scored by a British female solo artist. She's also had two number one albums - I Cry When I Laugh and Always In Between.

Jess here plays Cannock Chase Forest as part of Forest Live - a major series of live, outdoor music concerts held every summer by Forestry Commission England in seven beautiful wooded locations across the UK.



KT Tunstall

Lichfield Cathedral, Fri 5 July

Since the release of her 2004 debut album, Eye To The Telescope - which sold five million copies worldwide and featured such hits as Other Side Of The World and Black Horse & The Cherry Tree - Scottish musician KT Tunstall has been among the UK's most

revered singer-songwriters.

Amongst her many accolades is a Brit Award for 'best British female solo artist', the Ivor Novello 'best song' award for her huge self-penned hit, Suddenly I See, and a Q Award for 'track of the year'.

She performs at Lichfield Festival as part of a three-piece band.

Sugarhill Gang

The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury, Fri 12 July

American hip-hop group Sugarhill Gang are the collective responsible for 1979's Rapper's Delight - the first rap single to become a top-40 hit on the Billboard Hot 100.

This month bringing their 40th anniversary tour to Shrewsbury, they're accompanied by Grandmaster Melle Mel and Scorpio Furious Five.

Kiss

Arena Birmingham, Tues 9 July

The Rock & Roll Hall of Famers, who've sold more than 100 million albums worldwide, are bringing their 45-year career to a close with this current End Of The Road World Tour.

Fronted by the iconic Gene Simmons, widely admired for their larger-than-life performances and boasting a back-catalogue including I Was Made For Lovin' You, Love Gun, Rock And Roll All Nite and Crazy Crazy Nights, the much-loved four-piece have dedicated this 'last hurrah' to their millions of fans around the world.

John Newman

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 11 July

"I've really missed being in smaller venues," says John Newman. "Real, honest up-close gigs like the ones I used to play when I first started out. Thinking back to those days, I decided to strip everything back to the core - voice, guitar and songs.

"The big festival appearances and arena shows are amazing and I love doing them, but there's something incredible about performing in a small room where you can actually look the audience in the eye and feel that energy. The fans will also get to hear new songs that I've been saving up, as well as the ones they already know."



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Lichfield Fuse Festival

Beacon Park, Lichfield, Fri 12 - Sun 14 July

Founded in 2001 and now established as one of the Midlands' largest free music & arts festivals, Fuse this month returns to Lichfield's beautiful Beacon Park. The event features a tremendous line-up of music that spans genres as diverse as rock, afrobeat, RnB/soul, ska, pop, folk, jazz and reggae. Other Fuse 2019 attractions include family activities, circus skills, a steampunk ceilidh, Bhangra and salsa dance workshops, a drum circle, children's storytelling, sporting challenges, poetry readings, arts & crafts, group dance displays, close-up magic, yoga and food & drink.

Line-up includes: Agbeko (pictured), The Bethlehem Casuals, Punch The Sky, The Lagan, Y!kes, The Long Game, The Hustle, Martian Social Club, DJ Thumpa, The Lonely Mister Punch Steampunk Ceilidh, Meme Detroit, Letisha Gordon, Global Reggae Band, Ned Dylan and more.

Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul

Moseley Park, Birmingham, Fri 12 - Sun 14 July

Created by the Midlands masterminds behind Moseley Folk & Arts Festival, Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul sees world-class artists coming together with leading lights of the local jazz community for a laidback family-friendly event designed to celebrate Birmingham's musical heritage.

Celebrating its 10th year in 2019, the event is located in the picturesque surroundings of Moseley Park, a stunning woodland glade tucked away behind busy Birmingham streets - making it the ideal retreat for music-loving city-dwellers.

Line-up includes: Burt Bacharach, The Jacks, The Brand New Heavies, Khruangbin, Ibibio Sound Machine (pictured), Brian Jackson, Craig Charles, Smoove & Turrell, Renegade Brass Band, James & Black and Boca 45.



Upton Blues Festival

Upton-upon-Severn, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 July



Set in the beautiful riverside town of Upton-upon-Severn, Upton Blues Festival started in 2001 as a small event taking place in just a couple of pubs.

How times have changed... The festival now boasts two main stages, an acoustic stage, 10 pub venues and more than 130 free performances across three days.

Line-up includes: Kyla Brox, Wille and the Bandits (pictured), Dino Baptiste, Jenny Wren And Her Borrowed Wings, The Rainbreakers, Trevor Babajack Steger, Danny Bryant, Ma Polaines Great Decline and Beaux Gris Gris & the Apocalypse.

Solihull Summer Fest

Tudor Grange Park, Solihull, Sat 27 & Sun 28 July

Now in its fourth year, Solihull Summer Fest is fast becoming one of the most popular music get-togethers on the Midlands events calendar.

The festival features more than 10 hours of live music across two days, funfair rides, a food village full of street vendors, and a huge variety of bars serving everything from real ale to prosecco.

Line-up includes: The Human League, The Vamps, The Proclaimers, Ms Dynamite (pictured), Go West, Sugarmill Gang, Bad Manners, Mitchell Brunings, Mercury, Garry Pease As Rod Stewart and JK As Robbie.



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Godiva Festival

War Memorial Park, Coventry,
Fri 5 - Sun 7 July

Organisers of Coventry's Godiva Festival are anticipating another blockbuster year, with the 2019 edition of the event featuring 70 acts across five stages.

Veteran performers join emerging artists working across a dazzling array of genres. While the traditional Godiva procession continues to this day, the event has certainly come a long way since its 17th century origins as a celebration of the medieval Countess of Mercia.

Due to its popularity, this year's festival will be ticketed for the first time. Tickets cost £2 per person per day and can be purchased from godivafestival.com

Line-up includes: Levellers (pictured), Feeder, Busted, Reef, Robin S, The Twang, The Selecter and Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly.

Warwick Folk Festival

Warwick School and Warwick town centre,
Thurs 25 - Sun 28 July

Celebrating its 40th year in 2019, Warwick Folk Festival boasts the very best in contemporary and traditional folk arts from the UK and beyond.

As well as an extensive line-up of performers, the four-day camping event features ceilidhs, workshops, acoustic concerts, singarounds, an extended craft fair, a range of real ales, on-site catering and community-led recycling.

The organisers also deliver a fringe festival of events in the town centre, featuring dance displays, street theatre, music sessions and an evening concert on the Saturday.

Line-up includes: Billy Bragg (pictured), Skerryvore, Karen Casey, Calan, Will Pound & Eddy Jay, Breabach, Kabantu, O'Hooley & Tidow, Nancy Kerr, John Kirkpatrick, Melrose Quartet, Granny's Attic, Matthew Byrne and Rosie Hood



Simmer Down

Handsworth Park, Birmingham, Sun 21 July



Free-to-attend Simmer Down has become one of Birmingham's most popular and diverse festivals.

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

Line-up includes: Johnny Clarke (pictured), Horace Andy, Pato Banton & Friends, Afro-manding, JK & The Goldmind Band, Amy G, A Doubles, Rock N' Dhol, Commonwealth Drum Orchestra, Boyz Beatz Ft JBeatz, Dar-shae and Ashley Zeal.

Bromsgrove Folk Festival

Bowling Green Inn, Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire, Thurs 11 - Sun 14 July

Now in its 28th year, Bromsgrove Folk Festival offers patrons the chance to enjoy intimate concerts by UK-based folk, roots and acoustic performers.

Taking place at the town's Bowling Green Inn, the festival spreads across two marquees, with sessions and singarounds taking place inside the pub.

Storytelling, a ukulele workshop and dance demonstrations all feature in this year's line-up of entertainment.

Line-up includes: Richard Digance, The Churchfitters, The Bad Pennies, Jez Lowe, Kate Bramley, The Lost Notes, Enda Kenny, Patchwork Skies, Silvington, Mike Silver, Johnny Coppin, Fairfield, Anthony John Clarke, Tosh Ewins, Stitherum.





Pre-Fringe Comedy Night The REP, Birmingham, Mon 22 July

Just as with Midlands Arts Centre's Edinbrum events (see below), the Birmingham Rep is here hosting two comedians who're honing their acts in readiness for the Edinburgh Festival. Australian comedian and tracksuit enthusiast Daniel Muggleton (pictured above), whose promotional material includes the fact that he's apparently 'just woke enough to know he's an a*shole', has spent the last

year headlining comedy clubs in the UK and Europe... High-profile South African standup Loyiso Gola, meanwhile, has featured on shows including Live At The Apollo and Mock The Week. His latest Edinburgh-bound offering sees him taking an irreverent look at the way in which years of pop culture has shaped people's lives.

Troy Hawke & Paul Sinha

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Thurs 25 July

Yep, it's that time of year again, when all good comedians stop off at Midlands Arts Centre to try out their new material en route to the Edinburgh Festival. The venue's Thursday night line-up of mirthful merrymakers should certainly ensure a chuckle or several is never too far

away. And the comedians in question will no doubt be measuring the audience reaction to their every gag, as they frantically try to hone their material in preparation for their forthcoming trip to Bonnie Scotland. This particular Edinbrum line-up includes Paul Sinha - from ITV's The Chase - and 1930s throwback comedic investigator Troy Hawke. The pair share the billing on the last Thursday of the month.



Michelle Wolf

Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 23 July

Incendiary American funnywoman Michelle Wolf is a fast-rising star on the international comedy circuit after enjoying an extremely high-profile 2018. As well as having her very own 10-episode Netflix comedy series and debuting her first ever hour-long standup TV special, she also caused massive controversy when hosting the prestigious White House Correspondents Dinner, telling a series of gags that hacked off both Democrats and Republicans alike and led to President Trump calling her 'a filthy "comedian"'. Jokes include: "It's kind of crazy that the Trump campaign was in contact with Russia when the Hillary campaign wasn't even in contact with Michigan. It's a direct flight; it's so close."



Paul Smith

Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Sun 21 July

Affable Liverpool comedian Paul Smith has waxed lyrical on all manner of topics in his time, including such peculiar subjects as who he'd most like to be haunted by (Ghandi - Paul reckons he'd do it quite quietly) and which is the largest animal he thinks he could beat in a fight (a goose). He's also 'died' on stage in front of a Babylon 5 actress, who made matters worse for him by shaking her head in pity. Widely regarded as one of the comedy circuit's most accomplished MCs, Paul is starting to make a real name for himself on a national level, courtesy of online video clips which almost routinely go viral. He visits Birmingham this month with his second national touring show, Following.

Jimmy Carr

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."



Josh Wolf

Glee Club, Birmingham, Fri 19 July

Josh kickstarted his career as a standup comedian at the tender age of 15, when he performed a set based around the subject of his parents' flatulence.

He's since carved out a career for himself via countless television shows, multiple podcasts and a YouTube channel.

He's also a big cannabis smoker, as his routines make clear...

"I didn't smoke much in college, and for a while I was a single dad," Josh told High Times. "During that time I didn't smoke because I didn't have a backup or a partner just in case shit went down. I didn't think with me being the only parent that getting high was the right thing to do at that point. But as soon as I got together with my wife, she asked me, 'Do you always smoke so much?' because I was definitely making up for lost time."



Shrewsbury International Comedy Festival

Various venues, Shrewsbury town centre, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 July

Already a hotbed of food, flowers and folk music, Shrewsbury tossed its hat into the comedy ring a couple of years ago too, with a number of the town's venues co-hosting an inaugural weekend of laughter.

The event proved so popular that it's now an annual attraction.

Comedians contributing to the 2019 edition of the festival include, among others, Lee Nelson, Kate Mulgrew, Larry Dean, former burger van owner Angelos Epithemiou, and

Irish hip-hop improv duo Abandoman. Commenting on the event, its co-producer and one-time standup comic, Kevin Bland, said: "Shrewsbury has a great tradition of hosting festivals, including everything from street theatre to folk music, food to comics and beer to flowers. So we're delighted to be playing our part in further enhancing its reputation by bringing some great comedy to the town as well."

Olga Koch

St Mary's, Lichfield, Sat 6 July

The daughter of a former deputy prime minister of Russia who went on to become a game-show host, Olga Koch describes herself as the Taylor Swift of the comedy scene.

She visits Lichfield with a new story about 'finding love and computer programming'. "The show will teach you how to code," says Olga, "while at the same time delivering insights into what happens when our expectations of love, happiness and Michael Bubl  no longer compute."





The Color Purple

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 16 - Sat 20 July

In an era marked by conversations about abuse of women and female empowerment, *The Color Purple* has plenty to say. Initially a story of male control achieved through rape, domestic violence and servitude, Alice Walker's captivating coming-of-age tale ends on a far more triumphant, celebration-of-feminism kind of note, along the way taking a provocative look at the cycle of slavery in the

black community.

Walker's original novel was published in 1982 and won the coveted Pulitzer Prize. Three years later, Steven Spielberg brought the story to the cinema screen, teasing from Whoopi Goldberg an Oscar-nominated performance and providing Oprah Winfrey with her film debut. A 2005 musical version fared less well with the critics, but later productions - while retaining the same jazz, ragtime, gospel and blues-inspired score - have enjoyed positive reviews and made the show a definite 'one to catch'.

Boris The Musical 2: Brexit Harder

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 3 - Sun 7 July

With Boris Johnson very much back in the news of late, this revised and updated version of Blowfish Theatre's hit show couldn't have come at a better moment. At the time of going to print, the blond bombshell is knocking on the door of Number 10. If voting goes his way, Blowfish will soon be tasked with a further update of their rude and irreverent show... Expect lots of songs and plenty of fun.



Rudy Redfort

Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 15 - Wed 17 July



Children's Laureate Lauren Child is the creative force behind this quirky spy thriller featuring codebreaker, secret agent and teenage girl Ruby Redfort. Based on Lauren's internationally bestselling series of books about Ruby, the show comes complete with 'hair-raising stunts, terrifying villains and death-defying codes'.

Annie

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 23 July - Sun 11 August

West End favourite Jodie Prenger stars as the far-from-pleasant Miss Hannigan in this latest version of the oft-touring Broadway hit. The heart-warming rags-to-riches tale of a little girl who finds herself transported from a New York orphanage to the luxurious world of millionaire Oliver Warbucks, the show features plenty of memorable songs, including *It's a Hard Knock Life* and the legendary *Tomorrow*.



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Any Dream Will Do

Jaymi Hensley talks ahead of starring in *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Birmingham Hippodrome



Union J's Jaymi Hensley is taking on his first major musical role as the lead in Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, which lands in Birmingham in July. What's On chatted to him ahead of the show's Hippodrome run...

You're returning to Birmingham after a successful run as Peter Pan at Christmas. How did that rank amongst the highs in your career?

It was one of my greatest highs, that's for sure. I think people give pantos such a hard time, but I love them! It's six to eight weeks of just sheer fun. Birmingham this year was really special. I'm gutted not to be back this Christmas. It was such a lovely time working with so many amazing people, and the cast got on like a house on fire. Plus, it's a huge stage and a huge theatre; it was a West End-scale production. I loved it - it was one of my favourite things in my career.

Joseph is such a well-known musical - one that most people have probably seen at some point. How does it feel to be playing the lead, and where does Joseph stand in terms of your favourite musicals?

I hadn't seen it before! Having been in it, it's really different. I have my favourite musicals and Joseph is obviously up there now, but for different reasons, because I know first-hand as a performer how great the music is and what a joy it is to sing. It will always have a special place in my heart. I love the show, I love the cast, I love the company. Yeah, Joseph is definitely up there.

What's the biggest appeal of playing Joseph, and can you relate to the character in any way?

Yeah, I massively relate to this role. Joseph is a dreamer, he's the black sheep of the family, and I took that back to my sexuality. I was out and proud at school, I had these dreams of being a popstar, and everything I wanted to do didn't seem to fit with the norm - so I understand what Joseph goes through in that respect. I know what it's like to hit rock bottom and still stick by your convictions. I've learnt that if you work hard and don't let anyone deter you from your path, ultimately you come out on top - that's what the show's about and that's where I feel I am in my life now.

This is your first musical. How did your previous experiences on stage prepare you for the challenge?

I'd say Union J definitely prepared me in

terms of stamina. When I wanted to take on this role, the producers' main concern was whether I would be able to sing in 10 shows a week. I've done pantos which are 12 shows a week - although it's not really the same discipline - and I've been in a band for seven years. I've toured and I know how to look after my voice. What a lot of people don't know about me is that I went to stage school. I trained in musical theatre, and for the last four or five years, I've been doing off-Broadway or off-West End stuff. I've done roles for free, just to get the experience. I don't think I would be giving the performance I am now had I just walked off of X-Factor into this role because it's a completely different discipline. I think when you come out of a reality pop world, people are automatically going to give you a bit of stick or think that you're not going to be good enough. So I wanted to make sure that wasn't an option, and that I was well-trained and did have the stamina.

Away from the stage, how do you like to wind down?

I don't have any time! I go home, I sleep, I work and that's it. But I think that's the best way because you're constantly on an adrenaline rush. I went straight out of panto into this, and then hopefully I'll be going straight into the next job. I think when you don't have time, you have to commit to the role, whereas if you had weeks off here and there, you'd maybe get a bit sloppy and wouldn't feel connected to the role in quite the same way.

Back to the beginning... Was being on stage something you dreamt about when you were a child?

Definitely. I don't know any different. I never had a back-up plan. It wasn't a matter of 'if' I was going to make it, it was always a matter of 'when'. Some people might say that was delusional or a bit cocky, but it wasn't. I just had belief that I wanted it enough. I was always taught to work hard and try to be the best, because if you're the best that you can be, then no one can tell you you're not giving enough.

Were you specifically drawn to musical theatre or just performing in general?

Just performing in general. I love the expression that can come with it. I think that potentially comes from - like I said - when I was younger and was a gay child. I remember my first memories of being gay were when I was eight years old. The world wasn't as accepting back then, so I had to find a way to express

that side of me in some form or other. For me, that was dancing, acting and singing. I was always putting on shows for my family. I cottoned on from a young age that I could make people listen to me, and that I could do something special with what I'd been given. So it was important that I made it work for me.

Do you have a favourite moment or scene in Joseph?

It's definitely when I'm the prince at the end. I get to be someone else in myself. Joseph has been wronged and now he's got the upper hand, so he has a bit of a cock-sure 'look where you are, look where I am' moment. As much as that's not a great thing to portray in your everyday life, I think everyone's got the capacity to enjoy a bit of revenge.

Are there any other roles that you'd like to sink your teeth into?

I don't want to say anything because I always think I might jinx it in terms of specific roles! But I really want to do some straight acting; some screen acting. I've learnt a lot from this experience about my natural acting ability in terms of being able to bring out real emotions. I'd never been able to make myself cry until I did this show, and now in every show I cry at the end when I see my dad for the first time in 25 years. I've managed to unlock a part of me that can bring memories and emotions into my performance, so I'd be really interested to do something that isn't as camp and over-the-top as Joseph is; something that's real and gritty and nowadays. But there's definitely some other musicals that I've got my eye on at the minute, and I would love to go to the West End. That's a big bucket-list item for me - to be on stage in a West End theatre. This experience has done wonders for me. I will have done it for a year by the time I finish, so I think I've proven that I've got the stamina. Now I'm just looking forward to going out and adding different strings to my bow.

.....

Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat runs at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 2 to Saturday 13 July. For more information and to book tickets, visit birminghamhippodrome.com



Hair The Musical

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Tues 23 - Sat 27 July

Although it's set in New York in 1967, Hair The Musical nonetheless explores a number of subjects that remain relevant in the 21st century.

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

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

Dancing On Ice winner Jake Quickenden, Daisy Wood-Davis (Hollyoaks/Dreamboats & Petticoats) and Marcus Collins (X-Factor/Kinky Boots) star.

Scenes From A Brummie Iliad

The REP, Birmingham, Fri 19 & Sat 20 July

Homer's epic poem about the war between the Greeks and the Trojans is here given something of a Brummie makeover. RSC and Birmingham Rep actor Roderick Smith is the man behind the show, breathing new life into the classic story of heroes and gods whilst at the same time celebrating the local vernacular. Sounds, er, bostin'!



The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe

Lichfield Garrick, Tues 23 - Sat 27 July

This much-loved tale from the pen of CS Lewis is rightly regarded as an all-time classic of children's literature. It sees the lion-god Aslan coming to the aid of three youngsters who've accidentally stumbled

into his mystical world of Narnia. The show is the Garrick's fourth 'community musical' production.

Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 2 - Sat 13 July

Joseph was Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's first foray into the world of musical theatre, paving the way for their later offerings, Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita. Fabulously fun and frothy, the show offers great entertainment for anybody who fancies the kind of night out that lets you leave your brain at home.

Joseph sees the future in dreams, and tells his 11 brothers that he's had a vision in which he's seen them all bowing down to him. Not surprisingly, the lads are a tad annoyed with him about this - and feel even less enamoured towards their sibling when their dad gives him a coat of many colours... Union J's Jaymi Hensley stars as Joseph.

Romeo & Juliet

Brueton Park, Solihull, Wed 17 July; Walsall Arboretum, Fri 26 July; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Fri 6 September

Widely regarded as Shakespeare's fifth tragedy, this story of a forbidden and secret

love tends to fair less well critically than the rest of the playwright's high-profile works. Its popularity is nonetheless ensured by its timeless themes and its regular appearance as a study text on the National Curriculum. This outdoor version is being presented by the ever-reliable Heartbreak Productions.

Hymns For Robots

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham,
Thurs 18 July

The name Delia Derbyshire may not be all that well known, but one of her compositions most certainly is. Derbyshire was an electronic-music trailblazer who also happened to be the unsung talent behind the now globally famous theme tune to Dr Who.

This clever show from Noctium Theatre is an imaginative celebration of the Coventry-born musician and composer, blending the company's unique heightened-performance style with analogue and digital music to create 'a sonic experience your ears won't believe'.





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A WALK IN THE NIGHT GARDEN...

Lucy Tobin meets the creators behind In The Night Garden Live...



In *The Night Garden* is probably the only lullaby-filled children's TV programme that has almost caused a parental riot. Why? Because when CBeebies once moved the tots' favourite - featuring the adventures of Igglepiggle, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends - from its bedtime slot to an earlier one, it prompted parent petitions, outrage, and a swift u-turn from the BBC.

Igglepiggle and co returned to their popular evening slot, and they've remained there ever since: *In the Night Garden* is the BAFTA award-winning series that's been one of the Beeb's most-watched shows for a whopping 12 years. Only 100 episodes were ever made - so toddlers and their parents around the country will be elated that, following 2010's sell-out live touring show, *In the Night Garden Live* is coming to Birmingham Repertory Theatre with a brand-new show and a brilliant new story to tell from 31 July - 4 August.

It's part of a tour of 40 regional theatres which promises to thrill toddlers and their parents or grandparents: there's a reason celebrities including singers Adele and Robbie Williams, Rio Ferdinand, Billie Piper, Scott Mills and Amanda Holden are amongst those who have flocked to see *In the Night Garden Live*.

But it's the puppets on stage who are the stars of this show. Whilst the average grown-up might watch *In the Night Garden* and see a strange plot of cuddly characters apparently speaking gobbledegook to a soporific backdrop, it's all sophisticatedly-tailored linguistics to captivate pre-schoolers. Andrew Daventport, the show's creator, explains: "The characters speak almost entirely in play language, which is hugely important to language development. Children recognise the nursery rhyme silliness of it, they love the funny language and characters, and the attention to detail that's within them, and they love the whole fantasy of the *Night Garden* world - but I think, at the end of it, that it's the comedy that draws them in."

It might be all about having fun, but the makers of *In the Night Garden Live* took the responsibility of putting on what will be a lot of the audience's first trip to a theatre very seriously. As Oliver Seadon, producer of *In the Night Garden Live*, puts it: "It's such a heart-meltingly brilliant thing to hear the hysteria when Igglepiggle first appears on stage in front of his little fans - there's a sort of glow of happiness throughout the theatre. In their

minds he exists - he's real - and they're all so excited to see him.

"Making shows for two-year-olds is brilliant - they're so vocal when you get it right (and when you get it wrong). My favourite ever clip that one parent shared on social media after seeing *In the Night Garden Live* had her two year old repeating over and over 'Mummy, it's amazing. Wow, it's amazing. It's amazing.' I think she says it around fifteen times! As a theatre producer you can't really wish for a better review than that."

To guarantee that reaction with the latest show, the producers called in world-renowned theatrical experts to create the show, which is written by Bing Live writer Helen Eastman, with the puppets' costumes designed by Tahra Zafar. A costumier, puppet and animatronics expert whose career spans the blockbuster *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars* films, Zafar even worked with the Queen on her first (and only) acting role, as she was head of costumes at the 2012 London Olympics and Elizabeth II starred in the Opening Ceremony. Yet ask the creative whiz what character she's most proud of working on in her three-decade-long career, and the answer isn't Hermione or Obi Wan-Kenobe - it's Upsy Daisy.

The always-happy dolly with red, pink and yellow hair who Zafar helped create for the original *In the Night Garden* TV show is, she explains, "just smashing. She's a girl character who avoids the usual stereotypes - she isn't overly bossy, or stuffed with props".

Working on Upsy Daisy was Zafar's first job after maternity leave with her now 14-year-old - "so the character is a bit like my other daughter," she laughs. The designer is passionate about the importance of children's theatre under the shadow of cuts to the arts in schools. "Straitened budgets and a 1950s-style emphasis only on reading, writing and arithmetic means that creativity is being sucked out of schools," she believes. "So it's more important for us on *In the Night Garden Live*, and in children's arts in general, to make sure we do our jobs really well. We have a responsibility to get everything to right to fill that gap. Children's theatre is about being together, taking in a shared experience, escaping everyday worries, being taken somewhere different."

That somewhere different is Igglepiggle's *Busy Day*, as *In the Night Garden Live* tells the

tale of Igglepiggle's search for his friends, following their funny sounds until he finds them all. Fans will spot all of their favourites. Zafar has spent months working on the design of the characters "because, to the children in our audience, *In the Night Garden*'s characters are like friends that they know really well: they have to look exactly as they do on their screens at home." And the show's writer, Eastman says her biggest challenge was "creat[ing] something which will feel completely familiar to our young audience, who know the world of *Night Garden* and its characters intimately, but is also fresh and exciting. All our favourite characters feature in the story, as do the rituals of the *Night Garden*."

That sense of responsibility is echoed by Will Tuckett, the Royal Ballet stalwart, Olivier award-winner, and one of the Royal Opera House's top choreographers, who is director of the new *In the Night Garden Live* stage show. "It's not just the actual show that we want to be perfect for our young audience, but the whole theatre experience," Tuckett explains. "We've trained all the front-of-house staff to make sure everything runs smoothly - after all, it's not every show that sees hundreds of buggies arrive! We needed to make it clear that we can't delay the start as other shows might because of a glitch, for example, because parents may have to pick up older kids at a set time. We're making sure the show works for parents as well as their children."

Tuckett's favourite thing about *In the Night Garden Live* is that "its style is perennial - a make-believe world, all about how friends operate, how small children play, how they learn about texture, communication - it's very relaxing to watch. Parents might initially think it all looks a bit weird - but kids absolutely love it, and parents love watching their kids love something."

Like the rest of the *In the Night Garden Live* crew, Tuckett knows he has "a really precious audience for *Night Garden*. For so many this will be their first time in a theatre; we want the families to go back to see something else, for the theatre to feel like a place they all enjoy going to, to see magical shows. It's a big responsibility."

.....
In the Night Garden Live is at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from 31 July - 4 August



Amélie The Musical

The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 22 - Sat 27 July; Malvern Theatres, Mon 29 July - Sat 3 August

Danny Mac stars in this new stage adaptation of the five-time Oscar-nominated 2001 film of the same title (well, the same title minus 'the musical' bit).

A young woman who lives quietly in the world but loudly in her mind, Amélie secretly improvises small but extraordinary acts of kindness that bring happiness to those around her. But when Nino comes into her life, the introverted young woman finds herself unexpectedly contemplating a happiness of her very own...

The West End version of this show has garnered plenty of praise, and the production certainly stands out as one of a kind - where else would you find dancing gnomes, giant figs, large dildos and Elton John, for example? It's not short in length, though, and there are a *lot* of songs, so be sure that you're wearing your 'I love musical theatre' head on the night that you go along.

Fame The Musical

Malvern Theatres, Mon 8 - Sat 13 July



The original mega-hit film and its spin-off TV series are now both so old that their once-nimble dancers might soon be reaching for zimmer frames! By contrast, Fame The Musical continues to get up a sweat on a regular basis. And as high-octane, choreographed-to-the-rafters stage musicals go, it hits the Midlands this month with a reputation second to none.

Set in New York's legendary High School for the Performing Arts, the show focuses on the highs and lows of the students who're desperately seeking success, and offers a dazzling evening of foot-tapping music and breathtaking dance into the bargain. Re-envisioned songs include Let's Play A Love Scene and the title hit itself.

Treasure Island

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Wed 10 July; Powis Castle & Garden, Nr Welshpool, Fri 12 July; Haughton Hall Hotel & Leisure Club, Shropshire, Sun 14 July

Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story has delighted generation after generation of read-

ers and inspired a giant treasure chest's-worth of stage and film adaptations. When salty old seadog Billy Bones brings his papers to the Admiral Benbow Inn, he draws young Jim Hawkins into the adventure of a lifetime, one which will see him not only setting sail in search of buried treasure, but also spending time in the company of a one-legged pirate with murder in mind... Presented by the well-established and highly regarded Chapterhouse Theatre Company.



Crooked Dances

Studio Theatre, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 13 July

Award-winning playwright Robin French's new work finds journalist Katy heading to Paris to interview world famous concert pianist Silvia de Zingaro. The meetup doesn't go well, but it soon becomes apparent that Katy might yet get the scoop she's been looking for...

"From reading the first few lines in Robin's play, I was hooked," says Crooked Dances' director, Elizabeth Freestone. "He creates a funny, vivid and spellbinding atmosphere as the extraordinary story of Silvia's life un-

folds. Nothing you are told is quite as straightforward as it seems, and nothing you see is quite what you expect."

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 5 & Sat 6 July; Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Sun 7 July; 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, 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...

Offstage

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 12 July

International physical theatre company Ephemeral Ensemble combine skilled physicality, playful stage craft and original music to create original and ambitious works inspired by human stories. Focusing on the characters of Harley and Pedro, the company's latest offering takes a look 'behind the curtain to loneliness and depression' in a compassionate exploration of suicide.



In The Night Garden

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Tues 2 & Wed 3 July; The REP, Birmingham,
Wed 31 July - Sun 4 August

If your little ones are big fans of top-rated CBeebies television series *In The Night Garden*, they're certain to enjoy this live version as well.

And it's not only the kids who're in love with the stage productions...

Audience surveys at NightGardenLive.com reveal that, for nine out of 10 adults, it's a five-out-of-five theatrical experience!

This latest production sees Igglepiggle trying to find all his friends in the Night Garden by following the selection of funny sounds that they make.



Horrible Histories

The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,
Wed 3 - Sun 7 July



As *Horrible Histories'* publicity explains, 'We all want to meet people from history - the trouble is, everyone's dead!'

Which is, of course, where these hugely enjoyable and fabulously popular stage shows come in, with the *Horrible Histories* team bringing to life all manner of historical figures and events.

This particular production takes a look at the *Awful Egyptians*: 'from the fascinating Pharaohs to the power of the Pyramids, discover the foul facts of death and decay with the meanest mummies in Egypt'.

The Rainbow Fish

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Sat 27 July

Song, storytelling, percussion, interaction and innovative set design utilising recycled plastic are here brought together to present a stage version of Swiss author and illustrator Marcus Pfister's cautionary tale.

The multi-coloured Rainbow Fish doesn't want to share his scales with the other fish in

the sea - until, that is, a meeting with the wise octopus makes him realise that the act of sharing brings with it the reward of happiness and acceptance.

Elmer The Patchwork Elephant

The Core Theatre, Solihull,
Tues 23 & Wed 24 July

Suitable for children aged one-plus, this lively production tells the story of a patchwork elephant who determines to hide his 'true colours' in an effort to blend in, only to find that he feels happiest when he's simply being himself... Based on the classic children's book series by David McKee.



Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom

The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,
Wed 10 & Thurs 11 July

The team behind *Peppa Pig* here present a stage version of another of their splendid creations. Originally a BAFTA award-winning television animation, 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.



Alice In Wonderland

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Thurs 25 July

A timeless classic telling the magical and decidedly topsy-turvy story of a little girl who falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a weird world, *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* first made its way onto the stage during its author Lewis Carroll's lifetime; in 1886, to be precise. It's since been adapted for the theatre countless times and in all manner of ways, including as a ballet, a musical, an opera and a traditional pantomime.

With its cast of nonsensical and amusing characters, including the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter and the March Hare, it invariably makes for a fun family show - and experiencing it in the great outdoors should make the production all the more memorable.

Presented by Immersion Theatre.



Greased Lightning!

The first brand new touring production of Grease The Musical in 25 years comes to Birmingham next month, and it's bound to be electrifyin'...

What's On spoke to cast members Peter Andre, who stars as Teen Angel, Dan Partridge, who takes the lead as Danny Zuko, and Martha Kirby, who plays Sandy.

Gritty and glamorous, Grease is one of the most iconic shows of the 20th century. Producer Colin Ingram insists that this new production will refresh and revive the hit musical, keeping it 'fresh, relevant, vibrant and young'. What makes this version different is that it's more in keeping with the original Broadway production written by Jim Jacobs and Gordon Casey, featuring songs never before heard in any staging of Grease in the UK.

'Growing up in Australia, I remember when

the film came out and I went to see it in the cinema at least 15 times,' explains Peter Andre, who plays Teen Angel. "I loved it! Then I had it on VHS. It was such an iconic film. I always had this dream of going back to the 1950s, like when people say if you had a time machine and could go back to any era, where would you go. The '50s would always be my answer. I think there's something about that era. I loved watching Grease and was desperate to be a part of it, so when the opportunity came up to play Teen Angel, I was delighted."

So where does Peter get his inspiration for the role: "The Fonz is definitely my rebellious '50s inspiration for this part. The Fonz was a legend, and he and Danny Zuko brought about that iconic style of blue jeans, white t-shirt and leather jacket. Those rockabilly vibes are definitely something I'll be thinking about during my performance. I remember at school we all loved to dress like that."

Peter's father and children have also influenced him in preparing to play Teen Angel:

“My father was always there to give me the best advice when I was starting out in my career. When I was offered a recording deal live on television when I was 16, I was the happiest person alive, but my dad insisted I finish school first. I was upset because I thought they might change their mind if they had to wait for me. But I’m really grateful for that advice now, and it’s something that I want to pass onto my kids. My kids ask me why they have to go to school when I didn’t get where I did in my career directly from studying. But I always insist that school is the basis for everything, for all learning about life. I guess that’s also why the role of Teen Angel appeals to me so much, because he appears to Frenchy to encourage her not to drop out of school.”

The new production is blessed with the creative input of renowned choreographer Arlene Phillips. Peter explains what this means for Teen Angel: “I’ve been told that this role is Teen Angel with a twist... and I’m just about as much in the dark with that right now as the audiences will be when they arrive.

“Teen Angel is such an iconic part of the Grease film, but they definitely plan to make that scene a much bigger and better part of this production. With Arlene Phillips at the helm, I think everything will be fabulous. She’s talking about making the moves more contemporary, but also going back and looking at the original Broadway production and the dancing from the ‘50s itself. There have been rumours that I will be suspended in some way to fly in, in true Teen Angel style, but I haven’t told them yet that I’m scared of heights! I’m not into sky diving or bungee jumping or anything like that...”

Despite focusing on his extensive music career, Peter’s love of theatre really shines through: “I think theatre is the root of all performance. You look at some of the A-list Hollywood actors and they either start out in theatre or return to it later on. Theatre is where performance starts and where it ends: it’s truly the root of it all. I did *Thriller in the West End* for the Prince’s Trust, and there’s talk of me doing other stage shows as well. Unfortunately, it’s the commitment and long amount of time spent touring that makes theatre difficult for me, but I can do a few bits here and there, which is great, and I’m really looking forward to Grease.

“The show is going to be electrifyin’! The visuals, lights, costumes, acting, singing and dancing - it’s truly going to dazzle!”

Grease The Musical has a history of making stars of its actors. John Travolta himself started out in the original Broadway production before becoming a huge movie star.

Taking on the role of Danny Zuko in this latest version is Dan Partridge: “When you go into this industry as a performer, especially in times where you don’t have so much success, to make a living out of this is an absolute dream come true,” says Dan. “In terms of aspirations, I always want to go higher and further; to go into film and television. The sky’s the limit. Like Peter Andre says, you’ve got to climb that mountain and turn ‘impossible’ into ‘I’m possible’.

“What’s so exciting about this new production is that it has all the iconic songs and everything that audiences love about Grease, alongside the fact that it’s a brand new production. The script has been improved, so that we have a bit more of the historical context in there, which is what makes it grittier. There’s unbelievable casting, especially with Peter Andre, even if he does make lots of terrible dad-jokes! Then, on top of that, Arlene Phillips choreographs it. There really are some incredible household names on board with this new production.”

Starring alongside Dan is newbie Martha Kirby...

“It’s an honour to be making my professional debut as Sandy,” she says. “To fulfill this dream role at such an early stage in my career is mental - scary but also very exciting. I’m really interested to play Sandy in my own way and challenge the stereotype of what the character can be. I think I’m slightly punchier than the traditional Sandy, so I’d like to bring some of my own personality and experience to the role. With this new UK tour and production, it just seems like the right time to bring something new.”

So what are Martha’s hopes for her career?

“Gosh, I’m just happy I’ve even got this

far! My aspirations are to find fulfillment in whatever I do. Obviously there are roles I’d love to play and shows I’d love to do, like Grease, but I just want to feel like I’m applying myself creatively in anything that I put my mind to. So whether that’s going into teaching for a bit after Grease or going on to do more performing, I just want to do my best in whatever the next opportunity happens to be.”

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Grease The Musical shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 13 to Saturday 24 August, with Peter Andre playing Teen Angel from 13 to 17 and 21 to 22 August only.





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Spider-Man: Far From Home

CERT 12a (129 mins)

Starring **Tom Holland, Samuel L Jackson, Zendaya, Cobie Smulders, Jon Favreau, JB Smoove, Jacob Batalon, Marisa Tomei, Jake Gyllenhaal** Directed by **Jon Watts** (USA)

Having been killed off in *Avengers: Infinity War*, Spidey swings back into action in this, the ninth solo Spider-Man film. On a school trip to London, Prague and Venice, Peter Parker (Tom Holland) is called on by Nick Fury (Samuel L Jackson) to help combat an organisation operating from an alternative dimension. The director Jon Watts returns from his duties on the last Spidey film, *Spider-Man: Homecoming* (2017) and Jake Gyllenhaal plays the master of trickery, Quentin Beck - aka Mysterio. Interestingly, Gyllenhaal was due to play Spider-Man himself - in *Spider-Man 2* (2004) - when Tobey Maguire was injured while shooting *Seabiscuit*, but the latter then recovered in time. Available in 3D and IMAX.

Released **Tues 2 July**



EDITOR'S CHOICE

Film highlights released in July...

Anna CERT 12a (119 mins)

Starring **Sasha Luss, Luke Evans, Cillian Murphy, Helen Mirren**
Directed by **Luc Besson** (France)

Anna is played by the Russian supermodel Sasha Luss and is a beauty with a frightening secret. Well, not that secret if you are familiar with Luc Besson's other films, *Nikita*, *Lucy*, and *Valerian And The City Of A Thousand Planets*. As it happens, Anna is a kick-ass government assassin.

Released **Fri 5 July**



Midsommar CERT tbc (140 mins)

Starring **Florence Pugh, Jack Reynor, William Jackson Harper, Vilhelm Blomgren, Archie Madekwe, Will Poulter**
Directed by **Ari Aster** (USA/Sweden)



A young couple choose a remote Swedish village in which to holiday, a decision they quickly learn to regret when bizarre local traditions start to surface. From the American filmmaker who made his debut with the critically acclaimed *Hereditary* (2018). Be afraid.

Released **Fri 5 July**

Never Look Away

CERT 15 (189 mins)

Starring **Tom Schilling, Sebastian Koch, Paula Beer, Saskia Rosendahl, Oliver Masucci**
Directed by **Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck** (Germany)

From the director of the Oscar-winning *The Lives Of Others* (2006), this is the story of an artist who has escaped the constraints of East Germany but is still haunted by his childhood there under the GDR regime. Nominated for the 2019 Oscar for best foreign language film - and for best cinematography.

Released **Fri 5 July**



Vita & Virginia CERT 12a (110 mins)

Starring Gemma Arterton, Elizabeth Debicki, Rupert Penry-Jones, Peter Ferdinando, Isabella Rossellini

Directed by Chanya Button (UK/Ireland)

Adapted from the play by Eileen Atkins - who co-wrote the film with its director - this biographical romance explores the relationship between Virginia Woolf (Elizabeth Debicki) and the poet and novelist Vita Sackville-West (Gemma Arterton). Bizarrely, the last time Virginia Woolf was played on screen was by another Australian actress, Nicole Kidman.



Released Fri 5 July

Annabelle Comes Home CERT 15 (106 mins)

CERT 15 (106 mins)

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 Wed 10 July

The Dead Don't Die CERT 15 (105 mins)

CERT 15 (105 mins)

Starring Bill Murray, Adam Driver, Tilda Swinton, Chloë Sevigny, Steve Buscemi, Danny Glover, Tom Waits
Directed by Jim Jarmusch (USA/Sweden)

With Only Lovers Left Alive (2013), cult director Jim Jarmusch explored the vampire genre and cast Tilda Swinton as a centuries-old bloodsucker. Now he's cast her as a sword-wielding undertaker in his starry take on the zombie comedy.

Released Fri 12 July



Kursk: The Last Mission CERT tbc (117 mins)

CERT tbc (117 mins)

Starring Matthias Schoenaerts, Léa Seydoux, Colin Firth, Peter Simonischek, August Diehl, Max von Sydow
Directed by Thomas Vinterberg (France/Belgium/Luxembourg)

Only last year Colin Firth was having trouble at sea in the yachting drama The Mercy. Now he plays the Royal Navy commander David Russell, who attempts to save those aboard the Russian nuclear-powered submarine Kursk that sank in the Barents Sea in 2000. Based on Robert Moore's book A Time To Die (2003).

Released Fri 12 July

Stuber CERT tbc

Starring Kumail Nanjiani, Dave Bautista, Iko Uwais, Natalie Morales, Karen Gillen
Directed by Michael Dowse (USA)

Uber driver Stu (Kumail Nanjiani) really cares about his star rating. However, when he picks up a reckless detective (Dave Bautista) who involves him in a race to catch a ruthless terrorist, things turn decidedly tricky. Expect some raw language.

Released Fri 12 July



Pavarotti CERT 12a (114 mins)

Directed by Ron Howard (USA/UK)

Luciano Pavarotti was perhaps the most successful tenor in history, crossing over into popular music, being a part of The Three Tenors and even starring in a Hollywood film. Ron Howard previously directed the documentary The Beatles: Eight Days A Week (2016).

Released Mon 15 July



The Queen's Corgi CERT PG (85 mins)

CERT PG (85 mins)

With the voices of Jack Whitehall, Julie Walters, Sheridan Smith, Ray Winstone, Matt Lucas, Tom Courtenay
Directed by Ben Stassen and Vincent Kesteloot (Belgium)

The Queen's favourite Corgi, Rex (Jack

Whitehall), accidentally bites Donald Trump on his state visit and shortly afterwards goes missing. You couldn't make it up. In spite of the British voice cast - and subject matter - this cartoon actually hails from Belgium.

Released Fri 5 July

The Lion King CERT PG

With the voices of **Donald Glover, Seth Rogen, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Alfre Woodard, Billy Eichner, John Kani, John Oliver, Beyoncé Knowles-Carter, James Earl Jones**

Directed by **Jon Favreau (USA)**

A 'photorealistic' remake of Disney's 1994 cartoon classic builds on the company's growing technical acumen, with Jon Favreau back in the director's chair following his wizardry with *The Jungle Book* (2016). Elton John, of *Rocketman* fame, teams up with Tim Rice and Beyoncé to provide a brand new song, while five tunes from the original will figure, including, of course, *Circle Of Life* and the Oscar-winning *Can You Feel The Love Tonight*, the latter being performed by Beyoncé. Since the release of the first film - which was, in part, inspired by *Hamlet - The Lion King* has been made into a stage musical, becoming the highest-grossing production in Broadway history. A hard act to follow.

Released Fri 19 July



CRITIC'S CHOICE

The Chambermaid

CERT tbc (102 mins)

Starring **Gabriela Cartol, Teresa Sánchez**
Directed by **Lila Avilés (Mexico/USA)**

In the wake of the Oscar-winning *Roma*, this Mexican drama also focuses on class and privilege as it highlights the ritual of a conscientious chambermaid working for a top hotel in Mexico City. It marks the directorial debut of the actress Lila Avilés.

Released Fri 26 July



The Current War

CERT tbc (105 mins)

Starring **Benedict Cumberbatch, Michael Shannon, Nicholas Hoult, Tom Holland, Katherine Waterston, Tuppence Middleton**
Directed by **Alfonso Gomez-Rejon (USA)**



That's 'current' as in 'the flow of electricity', and this is the story of the rivalry between Thomas Edison (Cumberbatch) and George Westinghouse (Shannon) to power the world their way. Nicholas Hoult co-stars as another electrifying inventor, the physicist Nikola Tesla.

Released Fri 26 July

The Intruder CERT 15 (102 mins)

Starring **Michael Ealy, Meagan Good, Dennis Quaid, Joseph Sikora, Alvina August**
Directed by **Deon Taylor (USA)**

People really shouldn't buy houses in the movies. There's always a problem. Here, Scott and Annie Howard move into their new home in Napa Valley, but find that the previous owner still wants to keep a very close eye on it...

Released Fri 26 July

Teen Spirit CERT 12a (93 mins)

Starring **Elle Fanning, Rebecca Hall, Zlatko Buric, Agnieszka Grochowska**
Directed by **Max Minghella (UK/USA)**

Elle Fanning plays a shy teenager who tries to escape her roots by entering an international singing competition.

The film, described as a musical drama, marks the directorial debut of the actor Max Minghella, son of the acclaimed filmmaker Anthony Minghella.

Released Fri 26 July





Home Of Metal Presents Black Sabbath - 50 Years

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, until Sun 29 September

Home Of Metal, a project devoted to the Heavy Metal music that was born in and around Birmingham, is the initiative behind this sure-to-be-popular exhibition, which seeks to dissect the key ingredients that came together to create Black Sabbath.

Focusing on more than just the band and their Birmingham roots, Home Of Metal has also captured more than 3,000 portraits of Black Sabbath fans across the world, in the process illustrating the diversity of the group's fanbase. The exhibition also includes a recreation of super-fan Stephen Knowles' living room - a space that he's turned into his own mini Sabbath museum - and a number of key costumes loaned by the band. 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 Sabbath performed in front of 250,000 people.

A woman is shown in profile, holding a glass sculpture. The sculpture is a small figure of a person with arms outstretched, standing on a glass base. A thin glass tube extends from the figure's mouth, leading to a small, white, cloud-like shape. The woman is looking at the sculpture with a focused expression.

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A Tea Journey: From The Mountains To The Table

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Sat 6 July - Sun 22 September

Compton Verney's summer exhibition does exactly what it says on the, er, tea caddy - telling the story of how Britain's favourite drink became an everyday commodity. The exhibition features paintings, poetry, music, a collection of ancient and modern ceramics, a tea sensorium and a modern Japanese tea

house made of bamboo, which is appearing outside Japan for the first time. Also included is an examination of how tea physically affects the body and can help in times of shock or grief, and an intricate-but-transient wet clay installation inspired by tea and created by Staffordshire artist Phoebe Cummings.

Drawn Of The Dead: The Comic Art Of Charlie Adlard

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, until Sun 3 November

Opening last month to coincide with Comics Salopia - Shrewsbury's new comic book festival - Drawn Of The Dead features a selection of original illustrations by local artist Charlie Adlard, best known for his

work on the Walking Dead comic book. The exhibition provides visitors with the chance to take part in a 'zombie life-drawing session', during which they can create a zombie sketch to take home.



Nick Hynan: Gender Blending

Birmingham LGBT Centre, until Mon 26 August

This thought-provoking exhibition sees local photographer Nick Hynan chronicling Birmingham's gender-blending culture.

Nick's aim is to show that drag and cross-dressing is a 'living and evolving tradition', and that today's generation of drag kings and queens have developed a range of styles which allow them to challenge, with increasing confidence, society's attitudes to gender and sexuality.

An ongoing project since 2014, Gender Blending 2019 includes new images being exhibited for the very first time.



A Tale Of Two Empires: Rome And Persia

Barber Institute, Birmingham, until Sun 15 March 2020

This long-running exhibition is based around the Barber's extensive Late Roman coin collection and its historically important Sasanian cache (Sasania was the last kingdom of the Persian Empire, nowadays known as Iran).

Charting a journey from the third century through to the seventh, the display recounts a story of violence and glory, peace and tolerance, betrayal and revenge. Along the way, it plots the dynamics that existed between the ancient superpowers of Rome and Persia as they 'spun humiliating defeats and promoted bloody victories on the small pieces of art circulating in the pockets of the masses'.

The exhibition also contemplates the artistic themes and devices the two civilisations had in common.



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1940s Weekend

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sat 12 - Sun 14 July

The Black Country Living Museum is this month stepping back in time to the 1940s, to present the sights and sounds of wartime Britain.

Identity cards in hand, visitors step through

military checkpoints and back in time to explore entertainment, food and fashion 1940s-style.

Vintage vehicles and 1940s civilians and army personnel will be much in evidence, with attractions across the weekend including live music, wartime variety shows, austerity-busting make-do-and-mend workshops, fashion shows and street performers.

Picture This! Family Drawing Tour

Aston Hall, Birmingham, Tues 23 July - Tues 27 August



Families with creative flair should head to Aston Hall this summer, as the venue is holding a series of special interactive drawing tours. Alongside the opportunity to get sketching, the tour also provides visitors with the chance to find out about some of the people who've lived in or visited the venue across the centuries, and to learn some of the secrets hidden in their portraits.

The Wilder Side Of Compton Verney

Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park, Sun 7 July



Celebrate National Meadows Day by immersing yourself in nature and discovering the wildlife thriving in Compton Verney's meadows, woods and parkland. Call in at the Pollination Station to understand the importance of bees and other insects to the environment, or drop into the venue's Forest School to create some insect-inspired artwork. Visitors can also follow badger trails, settle down at the bird hide and go pond-dipping for creepy-crawlies. And be sure to join Hushwings the owl, who will take you on a remarkable flying tour of the park in a 360° virtual reality video experience.

Art & Antiques For Everyone

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 July

Bringing together more than 200 specialist dealers, this show is the largest vetted art, interiors & antiques fair outside of London.

The event attracts experts from all levels of the antiques world: from dealers with galleries in London's West End showing works with prices up to £100,000, to occasional dealers with a passion for buying and selling all kinds of unusual items, with many exhibits priced at under £20. Expert seminars and talks by well-known figures from the art and antiques world also feature.



The Big Picnic

Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon, Sat 20 July



The annual Big Picnic celebrations are back this month. Taking place in the gardens of Anne Hathaway's Cottage, the popular event sees families packing a food hamper and enjoying a day's entertainment.

There's plenty to keep youngsters entertained, with garden games, face painting, magic tricks and puppet theatre all featuring. Plus, if you're still feeling a bit peckish after chomping your way through a hamper's-worth of home-prepared tucker, there are some sizzling barbecue foods available to enjoy.

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Destination Space: The Moon

Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham, Mon 22 July - Fri 30 August

Blast off! To mark the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing, Thinktank is hosting an action-packed family show throughout the

summer holiday. Visitors can not only find out about both current and future missions, they can also discover what it takes to get to the moon and what it's like to work on the lunar landscape.

Camper Jam

Weston Park, Staffordshire, Fri 5 - Sun 7 July

Camper Jam is celebrating its 12th birthday this year by promising more family fun than ever before. Attractions include stalls to shop in, bars to cool off in and plenty of live entertainment to enjoy across the three-day weekend.

Not only can visitors check out a variety of VW vehicles, they can also sample entertainment including a tug o' war, 'cooking in a camper' and a K9 dog show.

The Friday night has a definite rock-tash-tic feel about it, with performances from Bon Jovi Forever and Supreme Queen, while the Saturday boasts a real '90s vibe, as The Spice Girlz, Pulp'd and Blur2 take to the stage.



SciFest

University of Wolverhampton, Fri 5 - Sat 6 July

Adults and children of all ages can this month get involved in an action-packed day of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). The University of Wolverhampton is hosting a whole range of free workshops, experiments and games for all the family to enjoy. Highlights include a pop-up planetarium, robotic coding and a rocket-building workshop.

Birmingham Bubble Rush

Cotton Park, Birmingham, Sat 20 July



Raising funds for Acorns Children's Hospice, the Birmingham Bubble Rush is back for 2019. Starting in a sea of bubbles, make your way round the course as the Bubble Commandos fire frothy milkshake bubbles from their foam cannons.

You'll visit different-coloured bubble stations along the route, as you run, jog, walk or dance your way to the finish line. The event is suitable for all the family, with all ages and abilities welcome to participate. The course is both wheelchair and pushchair-friendly.

Summer Of Spitfire

RAF Museum, Cosford, Mon 1 July - Sun 1 September

RAF Museum Cosford is the place to head for this summer if you're a fan of the Spitfire.

The venue's line-up of attractions includes cockpit tours of the world's oldest Spitfire Mk 1, daily storytelling sessions, and the chance to grab a Spitfire selfie with props and costumes.

New for 2019 is a virtual reality zone featuring the Spitfire VR Experience, providing visitors with the chance to enjoy the thrill of flying in a Spitfire.

The experience puts you in the cockpit and 10,000 feet in the air. Then, once you're wearing the VR goggles, you can enjoy a fully interactive panoramic view of a real Spitfire flight.

Wonderful Warwick

Discover over 1000 years of history at one of England's best-loved visitor attractions.

Spectacular shows and attractions, spellbinding storytelling and exhilarating experiences all year round make Warwick Castle one of the most exciting historic visitor attractions in Europe.

Set in the heart of Shakespeare's England, with fascinating architecture and amazing views to enjoy in 64 acres of beautifully landscaped

grounds, Warwick Castle is the ultimate backdrop for spectacular shows.

Don't miss the UK's biggest Birds of Prey Show this Summer, The Falconer's Quest - taking place in a stunning riverside location within the grounds of the castle. Search the skies overhead as free-flying birds of prey take flight in a dynamic display of aerial acro-

batics, then join the falconer on a quest for the finest birds in the land.

Plus, enjoy the critically acclaimed Wars Of The Roses Live jousting show. Experience a spectacle never before seen in the UK, complete with perilous stunt riders, fearless jousting and state-of-the-art special effects.



and there's more...

No matter what time of year, there's something for everyone at Warwick Castle.

In addition to the seasonal events taking place at the venue, there's also a selection of all-year-round attractions to enjoy.

These include:

The world's first **Horrible Histories**® **Maze**, featuring fun challenges including a chance to survive the trenches, uncover evil plots and ultimately escape the maze...

The **Castle Dungeon** * which brings together a cast of historic characters, immersive sets, special effects and live shows...

For wannabe princesses, the **Princess Tower** is the place to visit. Here, you can learn about Guy's quest to win the hand of the beautiful Felice before falling foul of an evil sorcerer. Play your part in breaking the curse and reuniting Felice with her sweetheart...

Ever fancied walking in battle alongside a medieval army? With Warwick the **King-maker**, you can do just that. Join him and his soldiers as they prepare for war - and in the process experience the sights, sounds and smells of medieval England...

Find out what a weekend at the castle would

have been like for Victorian guests by attending the venue's **Royal Weekend Party**. In 1898, Frances, Countess of Warwick - who was more affectionately known as Daisy - hosted a weekend party at which the principal guest was the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII. The party is now reenacted across 12 specially designed rooms, where visitors will come across the likes of a young Winston Churchill reading a book in the library.

For more information about events at Warwick Castle and to book tickets online, visit warwick-castle.com
*additional charges apply

Slay the Dragon!

action-packed show returns to Warwick Castle...



Entertainment of the highest calibre is always assured at Warwick Castle, but next month the venue ups the ante once again with the return of its popular Dragon Slayer evening shows.

Back for 2019 following a hugely popular run last year, the show is guaranteed to delight visitors of all ages. Performances feature displays of fearless horseback fire-jousting, perilous stunt riding and a 'dazzling' confrontation between Guy - a heroic figure likened to Robin Hood and Saint George - and

his nemesis, the fire-breathing dragon.

Unique to the Midlands, Dragon Slayer's finale features a projection canvas measuring 31 metres by 80 metres and lit with 150,000 lumens of light - the equivalent to more than 500 house lightbulbs.

For 2019, the action in the castle's main courtyard combines further fiery elements with even more light projection, pyrotechnics and live performance to create 'the ultimate thrilling finale'.

For those wishing to experience even more medieval merriment, the venue also offers a hog roast or period-themed banquet to accompany the show.

Show-only tickets start from £20 per person and include car parking.

All bookings must be made online in advance - and bear in mind that shows, particularly on Saturday evenings, tend to sell out fast.



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SUMMER OF FUN

With the school holidays once again upon us, parents across the Midlands will no doubt be looking for places to visit and things to do with their kids during the long summer break. We've taken a look at what's happening where and have come up with a few suggestions to get you started...



Have a (pre)fab time at Avoncroft Museum

Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B60 4JR

Spread over 19 acres of Worcestershire countryside, England's first open-air museum covers in excess of 700 years of Midlands history.

The site includes a wildflower meadow, period gardens and a traditional cider & perry orchard, as well as a collection of 20-plus historic buildings, ranging in date from Worcester Cathedral's 14th century Guesten Hall roof to a post-Second World War Birmingham prefab.

And if checking out all of the aforementioned attractions works up an appetite, the museum also boasts an award-winning tearoom, complete with a selection of cakes or light lunches made with fresh, local produce, some of which comes from the museum's very own period gardens.

For further information, visit avoncroft.org.uk

Go behind the scenes at BBC Birmingham

BBC Birmingham, The Mailbox, B1 1RF

Step inside BBC Birmingham for a special behind-the-scenes tour of the TV & radio studios, providing you with the not-to-be-missed opportunity to find out more about some of the Beeb's best-known output, including Midlands Today, BBC WM, Asian Network and The Archers (subject to studio availability).

Find out what it takes to put together a TV news bulletin, learn about working in radio and discover how BBC radio drama is made. You can also try making your very own radio play, which will then be sent to you as a memento of your visit.

BBC Birmingham tours run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10.30am and 1pm.

Each tour lasts approximately 90 minutes.

For further information, visit bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/tours/birmingham

Get creative at Thinktank in a child-sized city

Thinktank Science Museum, Millennium Point, Birmingham, B4 7XG

A new mini-city space where children are in charge has opened at Thinktank Science Museum.

MiniBrum is an interactive child-sized world that allows youngsters to explore and question their understanding of the STEM (science, technology, engineering & mathematics) world around them. Through play, children can gain the confidence to think like scientists in real-life scenarios, testing their ideas, solving problems and getting creative.

MiniBrum has a number of different play zones, including a home area where children can build their own dens, a burrow in which to search for hidden animals, a race track inspired by Birmingham's upcoming Commonwealth Games, a construction zone, post office and salon. There are also specially designed sensory zones for babies.

For further information, visit birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank

Brick-tastic fun at Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham

Arena Birmingham, King Edwards Rd, Birmingham, B1 2AA

Since its highly anticipated opening last summer, Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham has become a firm favourite with families.

Aimed at children aged three to 10, the centre offers plenty of highly interactive and educational fun. Attractions include a range of Lego play areas, interactive rides, masterclasses from the Lego Master Model

Builder, special party rooms for birthdays and other celebrations, a 4D cinema and the popular Miniland area, which can be found in every Legoland Discovery Centre and theme park.

This summer the popular visitor attraction is hosting a Lego City: Report For Duty event, where kids are invited to complete building challenges and become a Lego City hero.

Highlight: 'Big kids' can take advantage of adults-only nights on Wed 10 July, Wed 14 Aug and Wed 11 Sept

For further information, visit legolanddiscoverycentre.co.uk



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Old-school fun at Black Country Living Museum

Tipton Road, Dudley, DY1 4SQ.

Get stuck into some old-school fun at the Black Country Living Museum this summer. The award-winning venue boasts more than 30 period shops and houses to explore and features a host of famous characters to help bring the Black Country's fascinating history to life. Visitors can also challenge themselves to some deceptively simple old-school street games outside the back-to-backs, learn

their ABCs backwards in an authentic Edwardian school lesson and watch some 'loff out loud' vintage cartoons in a 1920s cinema.

The museum is also hosting, for a third year, its hugely popular Summer Lates. For just a fiver, visitors entering after 5pm can enjoy family-friendly entertainment until 8pm every Friday during August. This year sees each evening themed around a different decade, from the Roaring '20s to the Swinging '60s.

Highlights: 1940s Weekend, 13-14 July
For further information, visit bclm.com

Birmingham in bloom at the Botanical Gardens

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, B15 3TR

Set in 15 acres of landscaped greenery, Birmingham Botanical Gardens was established in 1829, since which time it's been one of the city's top attractions.

With four stunning glasshouses - tropical, subtropical, Mediterranean and arid - there are plenty of unusual and amazing-looking plants to discover.

The site also has its very own playground, tearoom and garden gift shop, all of which are surrounded by some of the most beautiful gardens in the UK. Plus, every Sunday afternoon until the end of September, musical performances will be taking place in the Victorian bandstand (from 2pm to 4pm).

Highlights: Outdoor theatre performances in July and open-air cinema in August

For further information, visit birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk



Gear up for a visit to the British Motor Museum

Banbury Rd, Gaydon, Warwickshire, CV35 0BJ

Featuring the world's largest collection of historic British cars, this family-friendly museum offers a colourful insight into the UK's motor industry.

From the popular Time Road to the Under The Skin interactive zone, adults and children alike will find displays and exhibits to surprise and enlighten.

The museum tells the story of the birth, decline and rebirth of the motor industry and the cars it produced, as well as celebrating the skills and creativity of the people who designed and built them.

This summer sees the venue hosting new exhibition The Car. The Future. Me, which takes a look back at the inventors of the first automobiles and assesses their visions for the future.

Highlights: Summer Science Shows every Wednesday 25 July - 29 August; Daily family activities 20 July - 2 September

For further information, visit britishmotormuseum.co.uk



Enjoy a summer of thrills at Drayton Manor Park

Tamworth, Staffordshire, B78 3TW

Home to Europe's first and only Thomas Land, Drayton Manor Theme Park is offering visitors a summer of fun.

The venue has more than 100 rides and attractions across its site, as well as a 15-acre zoo. So whether you fancy some white-knuckle rides, including Shockwave and Apocalypse, or would rather have a

calmer time checking out a host of exotic animals, the popular visitor attraction can certainly meet your summertime needs. Oh, and adrenaline junkies will also be pleased to know that the park's high-rope adventure course, VertiGo, is reopening on Saturday 20 July.

Special offer: Four tickets for £95 when you prebook online

For further information, visit draytonmanor.co.uk

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Find out more at: wmr.uk/groupsave



West
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Railway

We love it here

Delve into the deep waters of National Sea Life Centre

The Water's Edge, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HL

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

The venue's latest addition is a baby

Gentoo penguin named Flash, who hatched last month.

Following a multi-million pound investment, the popular visitor attraction is now also home to a world-class rescue facility. Visitors can check out a pair of its residents, Miley and Boo, two seals who each have medical conditions which mean that they wouldn't survive in the wild.

Highlights: *Pirates And Mermaids, until Sun 8 September*

For further information, visit visitsealife.com/birmingham



Time travel at Coventry Transport Museum

Millennium Place, Hales Street, Coventry, CV1 1JD

This popular museum not only houses the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles on the planet, it also tells the story of a city which changed the world through transport.

There are 14 fully accessible galleries to enjoy, featuring, among other attractions, pioneering bicycles, transport champions, innovative, memorable and luxurious vehicles from the last 200 years and, last but certainly not least, the world's fastest vehicle.

Visitors can also walk through The Blitz experience or check out one of three 4D simulator rides.

This summer the museum is hosting This Makes That With These, new sessions providing families with the chance to create their very own inventions using challenge kits that include mini cycles and gearboxes.

For further information about the venue, visit transport-museum.com



Compton Verney is everyone's cup of tea

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, CV35 9HZ

Discover the unique delights of Compton Verney this summer, including an award-winning art gallery and family-friendly cafe & gift shop surrounded by 120 acres of stunning parkland and lake.

Visitors can wander through the historic 'Capability' Brown landscape, marvel at world-class art exhibitions or have fun in the outdoor adventure playground.

Drop in any day during the summer holiday and take part in a range of creative and multisensory activities inspired by the gallery's latest exhibition, A Tea Journey. Participants can explore a variety of teas through their sense of smell and design their very own tea ware.

visit comptonverney.org.uk

Step into the world of William Shakespeare

Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust, various locations in Stratford-upon-Avon

Experience what life was like for the world's most famous playwright as he grew up in Stratford-upon-Avon.

From the home where Shakespeare was born, to the cottage where he courted his future bride and the site where he raised his family, visitors can walk in the footsteps of the bard to discover how his work has

shaped the world.

Highlights: *There's live theatre from resident actors at Shakespeare's Birthplace, contemporary sculptures and landscaped gardens to enjoy at Shakespeare's New Place, nine acres of gardens and orchards to explore at Anne Hathaway's Cottage, the chance to experience a real working Tudor farm at Mary Arden's Farm, and the opportunity to learn about medicinal practices of the Jacobean era at Hall's Croft.*

For further information, visit shakespeare.org.uk



SUMMER OF FUN

Visit the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution

Various locations in and around Ironbridge, Shropshire

A World Heritage Site and the beating heart of the Industrial Revolution, Ironbridge Gorge is home to 10 award-winning attractions that make for a great day out.

Discover what life was like more than 100 years ago by visiting the recreated Victorian town of Blists Hill, swot up on

your science knowledge at Enginuity, or try some tile painting at the Jackfield Tile Museum.

Other sites include the Coalport China Museum and Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron - not forgetting the magnificent Iron Bridge itself; the world's first-ever cast-iron bridge.

Pick up an Annual Passport and make great savings on visits to all sites.

For further information, visit ironbridge.org.uk



Experience 900 years of history at Tamworth Castle

Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire, B79 7NA



Step back in time through 900 years of history at Tamworth Castle. Wander the chambers and hallways and get a real sense of how the Saxons, Normans, Tudors and Victorians spent their time.

There are more than 15 fully furnished rooms to discover - and if the weather's on your side, why not venture up the castle's tower to enjoy 360° views of the surrounding grounds and the town of Tamworth.

Highlights: Castle Storytelling 23-25 July, WW2 In The Castle 30 July - 1 August, Saxons At The Castle 6-8 and 13 -15 August

For further information, visit tamworthcastle.co.uk

A summertime adventure to remember at JCA

Condover Hall Activity Centre, Shropshire, SY5 7AU



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For further information, visit jca-adventure.co.uk

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For further information, visit wmssp.co.uk



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Your week-
by-week
listings guide
July 2019

the list



Mr Stink at Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 29 - Wed 31 July

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

What's On

Mon 1 to Sun 7 July



Jack Savoretti at
Cannock Chase Forest
Sun 7 July

Mon 8 to Sun 14 July



Whaddya Know... We're In Love!
at St Mary's Church, Lichfield
Thurs 11 July

Mon 15 to Sun 21 July



Cosford Food Festival at
RAF Cosford
Sat 20 - Sun 21 July

Mon 22 to Wed 31 July



Rosalie Cunningham at the
Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
Wed 31 July

THROUGHOUT JULY

Visual Arts

New Art Gallery - Walsall

KATHLEEN RYAN Installations feature a variety of materials, from cast iron and precious stones to found objects, including bowling balls, until Sun 22 Sept

JACOB EPSTEIN - JACOB AND THE ANGEL To mark the 60th anniversary of the death of Jacob Epstein, this iconic Epstein masterpiece from the Tate collection shows in Walsall for the first time, until Sun 29 Sept

SCULPTURE IN FOCUS The trail positions a key piece of contemporary sculpture from the Permanent Collection within each of the 10 themed collection rooms, until Sun 22 Dec

Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

HIMLEY HALL & DUDLEY CASTLE EXHIBITION New exhibition about Dudley Castle & Himley Hall from 1066 to the present day, until Sun 6 Oct

Newcastle Borough Museum & Art Gallery

NEW OUT OF THIS WORLD- SPACE RACE TOYS Touring exhibition looking at toys from the '60s and '70s which were influenced by the space race, Sat 20 July - Sun 1 Sept

Potteries Museum & Art Gallery - Stoke-On-Trent

QUEEN VICTORIA: 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER BIRTH A celebration of Queen Victoria and her 63-year reign as monarch, with every aspect of her life documented in ceramics, until Sun 1 Sept

SUGAR, SPICE AND ALL THINGS NICE.... Exhibition featuring a display of toffee, sweets and chocolate packaging from the last century, until Sun 8 Sept

SETTLING; EXPLORING HUMAN MIGRATION Exhibition showcasing the pictures and stories of those who have moved to the city from around the world, from the recent past to the present day, until Sun 22 Sept

APOLLO 50: COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MANNED LUNAR LANDING Multimedia exhibition featuring models and memorabilia telling the epic story of the Apollo programme, until Sun 3 Nov

NEW ARRIVALS: 2018 Display of flora and fauna never before seen in the county, until Wed 1 Jan

NEW BRITISH PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION - ASSIGNMENTS Exhibition of work by British newspaper photographers, as chosen by the British Press Photographers Association, Sat 13 July - Sun 25 Aug

Qube Gallery, Oswestry

NEW SOMETIMES DOING NOTHING LEADS TO SOMETHING... Alec Shepley exhibition of drawings, gesso and embroidered works, Wed 3 - Wed 31 July

The Willow Art Gallery, Oswestry

NEW OPEN 2019 - EARTH, AIR, FIRE & WATER Exhibition aiming to raise awareness of environmental issues and the damage that consumer culture is causing to the natural world, Sat 6 July - Sat 24 Aug

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

PICK OF THE POPS New exhibition includes works by famous Pop artists such as Pauline Boty and Andy Warhol, alongside a selection of rarely-seen pieces, until Sun 1 Sept, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR Annual exhibition, developed & produced by the Natural History Museum, which is visiting Wolverhampton as part of a worldwide tour and for the first time showcasing the full collection of 100 images and 45 digital shots, Sat 29 June - Sun 1 Sept

Other VISUAL ARTS

VAN SUMMER EXHIBITION Selected work from members of VAN, until Tues 10 Sept, University Centre, Shrewsbury

BRITISH WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER AWARDS EXHIBITION Featuring the 2018 Awards' winners and commended entries, until Tues 10 Sept, Jackfield Tile Museum, Telford

THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD Exhibition exploring the lives of children past and present, Sat 29 June - Sun 18 Aug, Museum of Cannock Chase, Staffordshire

NEW DISORDER LIVE ART FESTIVAL Featuring work by DisORDER Live Art - a group of international artists working in response to the foreseeable difficulties in sustaining a live art practice in the current funding climate, Fri 5 - Sun 7 July, Various venues across Wolverhampton

NEW COAST & COUNTRY Landscapes and seascapes by contemporary British artists from Dorset to the Shetland Islands, Fri 19 July - Sat 10 Aug, Twenty Twenty Gallery, Ludlow

NEW THREE COUNTIES OPEN ART 2019 EXHIBITION Range of artwork by artists from Staffordshire, Cheshire and Shropshire, Sat 27 July - Thurs 29 Aug, Burslem School of Art, Stoke-on-Trent



Jack Savoretti - Cannock Chase Forest, Rugeley, Staffs

Gigs

KELLY JONES Mon 1 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE LOVE BAND FT. JOHNNY ECHOLS Tues 2 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

NATHAN GRISDALE Tues 2 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE MELVIN HANCOX BAND Wed 3 July, The Robin, Bilston

SOMEONE LIKE YOU: THE ADELE SONGBOOK Thurs 4 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MINISTRY Thurs 4 July, O2 Institute, B'ham

SHAKATAK Thurs 4 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

EVE SELIS Thurs 4 July, The Robin, Bilston

DOJA CAT Thurs 4 July, O2 Institute, B'ham

STEVE IGNORANTS Thurs 4 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

THE SEX PISTOLS EXPERIENCE Fri 5 July, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

THE CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS Fri 5 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

CATAPULT CLUB FT. AFTER MIDNIGHT Fri 5 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE SMYTHS Fri 5 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

BROKEN 3 WAYS AND THE SKALINSKIS Fri 5 July, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

VOODOO ROOM: A NIGHT OF HENDRIX, CLAPTON & CREAM Fri 5 July, Lichfield Garrick

THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Fri 5 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

CASH - PAYIN' RESPECT TO THE MAN IN BLACK Fri 5 July, The Robin, Bilston

JAMES OWSTON QUARTET Fri 5 July, Symphony Hall, B'ham

JESS GLYNNE Fri 5 July, Cannock Chase Forest, Staffordshire

A NIGHT OF SLIPKNOT Fri 5 July, Mama Roux's, Birmingham

THE ELVIS YEARS Sat 6 July, Lichfield Garrick

SOUNDS OF THE FORTUNES Sat 6 July, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

PAUL WELLER Sat 6 July, Cannock Chase Forest, Staffordshire

DUPPY DARNCE Sat 6 July, Mama Roux's Birmingham

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS Sat 6 July, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

LOVEHUNTER (WHITESNAKE TRIBUTE) Sat 6 July, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

A COUNTRY NIGHT IN NASHVILLE Sat 6 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

ONEMAN Sat 6 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE MODFATHERS Sat 6 July, The Robin, Bilston

MAETLIVE Sat 6 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

JACK SAVORETTI Sun 7 July, Cannock Chase Forest, Rugeley

SELLING LAMB BY THE POUND Sun 7 July, The Robin, Bilston



Eve Selis - The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR: SPIRITUALS TO WARM THE HEART Featuring Paul Spicer (conductor) & Martyn Rawles (pianist). Programme includes works by Moses Hogan, Rutter, Tippett, Will Todd & Paul Spicer, Sat 6 July, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

THE DIVINE BEAUTY CONCERT Presented by Birmingham Cathedral Choir. Featuring David Hardie (conductor) & Ashley Wagner (organist), Sat 6 July, Birmingham Cathedral

HALESOWEN CHORAL SOCIETY: FAVOURITE OPERA CHORUSES & SOLOS Featuring Katie Leaver (guest soloist), Stephen Davis (conductor) & Sarah Marshall (accompanist), Sat 6 July, Hasbury Methodist Church, Hasbury, Halesowen & Rowley Regis, B63

JONATHAN RADFORD IN CONCERT Programme includes music by Fauré, Milhaud, Maurice, De Falla & Albeniz, Sat 6 July, St Mary's Church, Lichfield

ALBION STRING QUARTET: VOICES IN DIALOGUE Programme includes works by J.S Bach, Haydn, Schumann & Walton, Sat 6 July, Lichfield Festival

CBSO: SO VOCAL SUMMER CONCERT Featuring Ula Webber (conductor), Sun 7 July, CBSO Centre, B'ham

ATEA QUINTET Programme includes works by Briccialdi, Bozza, Nielsen, Thea Musgrave & Doreen Carwithen, Sun 7 July, St Mary's Church, Lichfield

MICHAEL PETROV IN CONCERT Join the award-winning cellist as he performs works by J.S Bach & H. Dutilleux, Sun 7 July, Lichfield Cathedral

Comedy

JOHN HASTINGS, DANNY MCLOUGHLIN & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 4 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROB ROUSE, THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, DAVE TWENTYMAN & COMIC TBC Thurs 4 July, The George Hotel, Lichfield

FITZ FEST Thurs 4 - Sun 7 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

GARY DELANEY Fri 5 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SCOTT BENNETT, JOHN HASTINGS, HENRY PARKER & RUDI LICKWOOD Fri 5 - Sat 6 July, The Glee Club, B'ham

LOST VOICE GUY, FREDDY QUINNE, GORDON SOUTHERN & COMIC TBC Sat 6 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Theatre

THE BODYGUARD Alexandra Burke & Jennilee Shallow share the role of

Rachel Marron in this much-acclaimed romantic thriller based on the film of the same name, until Sat 6 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE Shakespeare's controversial masterpiece is transported to 1950s New York, a city where communities are divided by wealth and religion, until Sat 13 July, Stafford Castle

THE STRANGE UNDOING OF PRUDENCIA HART 'Delicious play filled with wit, spellbinding music and devilish encounters', until Sat 13 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

MEASURE FOR MEASURE Greg Doran directs a new version of Shakespeare's 'problem play', until Thurs 29 Aug, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

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, 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

SISTER ACT Presented by Wolverhampton Girls High School, Tues 2 - Wed 3 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's sparkling family musical, Tues 2 - Sat 13 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

BORIS THE MUSICAL 2: BREXIT HARDER Blowfish Theatre's revised and updated musical about Boris Johnson and Brexit, Wed 3 - Sun 7 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

PRIDE & PREJUDICE Chapterhouse Theatre Company present an outdoor staging of Jane Austen's timeless classic, Thurs 4 July, Mitton Manor, Staffordshire

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY The Pantaloons fuse live music, audience interaction, romance and heartbreak in a fast-paced outdoor staging of Jane Austen's classic novel, Thurs 4 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

FOOTLOOSE THE MUSICAL Amateur staging by SAOS Youth Theatre, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 July, Stourbridge Town Hall

BOOGIE NIGHTS Kidderminster Operatic & Dramatic Youth Section presents its version of the '70s musical, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 July, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

OLIVER! Presented by the Brit Youth Theatre Sutton Coldfield, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Odd-socks' 30th anniversary production, Fri 5 - Sat 6 July, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

STARCROSS SUMMER SHOWCASE Fri 5 - Sat 6 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

FOLLIES FESTIVAL Three days of music, comedy and storytelling, set against a woodland landscape of caves, crags & cliffs, Fri 5 - Sun 7 July, Hawkstone Park & Follies, Shrewsbury

LET'S CELEBRATE SUMMER Showcase from Telford Academy of Performing Arts, Sat 6 July, Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford

MUSICAL THEATRE YOUTH SUMMER SHOWCASE Birmingham Hippodrome's Musical Theatre Youth Company celebrate the theatre's 120th birthday, Sat 6 July, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Presented by the Crescent Theatre Company, Sat 6 - Sun 7 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

THIS HAPPY BREED The Crescent Theatre Company present its version of Noel Coward's famous play, Sat 6 - Sat 13 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SWEENEY TODD Amateur staging of the story of London's most infamous barber, Sat 6 - Sat 13 July, Oldbury Rep

DANCING IN THE AIR Music & dance extravaganza transporting audiences to the ballroom and featuring the RAF Massed Voluntary Bands, Sun 7 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2 Presented by Stage It! Academy Tweens & Seniors, Sun 7 July, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

AS YOU LIKE IT Presented by Rain Or Shine Theatre Company, Sun 7 July, Kinlet Hall, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

HMS PINAFORE Charles Court Opera presents its version of Gilbert & Sullivan's celebrated collaboration, Sun 7 July, Lichfield Guildhall

Kids Shows

IN THE NIGHT GARDEN LIVE Igglepiggle, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends are back in their brand new live show, Igglepiggle's Busy Day! Tues 2 - Wed 3 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

HORRIBLE HISTORIES - TERRIBLE TUDORS From the horrible Henries to the end of evil Elizabeth, hear the legends (and the lies!) about the tortur-

ing Tudors, Wed 3 - Sat 6 July, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

HORRIBLE HISTORIES - AWFUL EGYPTIANS From the fascinating Pharaohs to the power of the Pyramids, discover foul facts about death and decay with the meanest mummies in Egypt, Wed 3 - Sun 7 July, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Dance

TANGOMOTION Fast-paced production featuring new dances created by tango experts, Wed 3 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

ROMEO & JULIET Ballet Cymru presents its version of the Shakespeare's iconic love story, Sat 6 July, Abbots Bromley School, Lichfield

Cabaret

THE DREAMBOYS 'The UK's most famous girls night out', Fri 5 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

TRES TRES CABARET Stafford's first and only burlesque and variety show, Sat 6 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

Talks

ONCE UPON A WEDNESDAY: LIZ WEIR MBE Join one of the Brewhouse's favourite storytellers as she delivers a mix of anecdotes, personal tales & yarns... Wed 3 July, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

HIT THE ODE Performance poetry night featuring Chiedu Oraka, Jodi Ann Bickley & Bibi June, Fri 5 July, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

WHY MUMMY DOESN'T GIVE A **!** Join Gill Sims as she is interviewed about her blog, books, character and more! Sat 6 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

EDDIE THE EAGLE Eddie talks through his incredible life-journey, Sun 7 July, Lichfield Garrick

AN EVENING WITH SIMON WESTON Falklands hero Simon tells his inspirational story, Sun 7 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

ALADDIN (U) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Will Smith, Naomi Scott. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, until Thurs 4 July; Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Fri 5 - Sat 6 July

ROCKETMAN (15) Biography/Drama.

COMING SOON

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SAT 6 JULY

THE ELVIS YEARS

SUN 7 JULY

EDDIE THE EAGLE

TUES 9 JULY

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30th October, 1.30pm
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Starring Taron Egerton, Jamie Bell. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 2 & Thurs 4 July

A PRIVATE WAR (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Rosamund Pike, Jamie Doran. Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 1 July

MAMMA MIA HERE WE GO AGAIN (PG) Comedy/Musical. Starring Lily James, Amanda Seyfried. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Mon 1 July

AMAZING GRACE (U) Documentary. Starring Aretha Franklin. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Mon 1 July

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring James Purefoy, Daniel Mays. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Tues 2 July

THE HEIRESSSES (12) Drama. Starring ZaiAna Brun, Margarita Irun. Foreign language, subtitles. The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 5 July

CAPERNAUM (15) Drama. Starring Zain Al Rafeea, Yordanos Shiferaw. Foreign language, subtitles. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 5 - Sat 6 July

ALL IS TRUE (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Kenneth Branagh, Lolita Chakrabarti. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 5 - Sat 6 July

YESTERDAY (PG) Comedy/Fantasy. Starring Himesh Patel, Lily James. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 5 - Thurs 11 July

SMALLFOOT (PG) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Channing Tatum, James Corden. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sun 7 July

THE APARTMENT (PG) Comedy/Drama. Starring Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sun 7 July

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Tues 2 July, showing at selected cinemas

SPIDERMAN: FAR FROM HOME (tbc)

ANNA (15)

MIDSOMMAR (tbc)

THE QUEEN'S CORGI (PG)

VITA AND VIRGINIA (12a)

Events

LEGO CITY Explore what the city of the future would look like and build awesome creations, until Sun 1 Sept, Legoland Discovery Centre, B'ham

PIRATES AND MERMAIDS Join 'the ultimate underwater adventure' this summer, until Sun 8 Sept, National Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

LAVENDER MONTH AT BLAKESLEY HALL

Lavender-themed activities in Blakesley's gardens, Tues 2 - Wed 31 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

DUDLEY CASTLE TOUR Back by popular demand, Wed 3 July, Dudley Castle

STORE STORIES: A BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR Check out the hidden treasures in the collection stores at Attingham, Thurs 4 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

HOME OF METAL LATE Late-night access to the Home Of Metal Presents: Black Sabbath - 50 Years exhibition, Thurs 4 July, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

MESSY PLAY Creative workshop. Materials included. Under 5s, Fri 5 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury

EXPLORASAUROS EVENING Have a go at some dinosaur-themed craft activities, Fri 5 July, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

INFLATABLE 5K Featuring up to 15 mega-sized obstacles, making it the biggest Inflatables 5k obstacle event ever created, Sat 6 July, Wolverhampton Racecourse

MANDAEAN DAY Featuring music, talks and films exploring the Mandaean Faith, Sat 6 July, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

SATH CHARITY FUN DAY Featuring live music from the Ronaldos, disco bubble, Go Karting, Nerf gun arena, Exotic Zoo & 202 Field Hospital, Sat 6 July, Shropshire Conference Centre (SECC), Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK A guided walk looking at the people, places and themes that have helped to shape the district, Sat 6 July, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

STEP BACK TO THE 1940S Spend a weekend in wartime Britain, Sat 6 - Sun 7 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

SHROPSHIRE FAMILY VINTAGE SHOW Featuring vintage vehicles of every kind, Sat 6 - Sun 7 July, West Midland Showground, Shrewsbury

LARGE MODEL AIR SHOW Scale models of iconic aircraft take to the skies, Sat 6 - Sun 7 July, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME OPEN DAY Enjoy the gardens and treat yourself to afternoon tea, Sun 7 July, Mitton Manor, Staffordshire

FOLLIES FEST STORYTELLING & TROLL HUNT Fun family event featuring storytelling sessions, Troll Hunt, messy play & more... Sun 7 July, Hawkstone Park & Follies, Weston-under-Redcastle, North Shropshire

THE ORDINARY VICTORIANS Celebration of the common Victorian worker as Sarehole Mill's 19th century heyday is recreated, Sun 7 July, Hall Green, Birmingham



Timber Festival, The National Forest, Staffordshire

BEST OF HANDSWORTH Debut event aiming to promote the area's rich culture and history by giving people the opportunity to experience the tastes, sounds, artists, products and people of Handsworth, Sun 7 July, Soho House, Birmingham

Food & Drink

LONGTON BEER FESTIVAL Enjoy a wide selection of beers and ciders in the cobbled courtyard, Fri 5 - Sat 6 July, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

COLMORE FOOD FESTIVAL The Midlands' biggest free-to-enter food & drink festival, Fri 5 - Sat 6 July, Victoria Square, Birmingham

TOM KERRIDGE PRESENTS PUB IN THE PARK Laid-back celebration of 'the very best food, drink and music the country has to offer', Fri 5 - Sun 7 July, St Nicholas Park, Warwick

RAIL ALE TRAIL The Churnet Valley Railway's Rail Ale Trail features bars at each of the three stations and a pub at each station, Fri 5 - Sun 7 July, Churnet Valley Railway, Froghall

WOLVERHAMPTON FESTIVAL OF FOOD & DRINK Featuring the city's largest ever selection of independent producers, brewers and tastemakers, Sat 6 - Sun

7 July, Wulfruna Street, W'hampton

Festivals

NAPTON MUSIC FESTIVAL Line-up includes Kazabian, ABBA Chique, Clemency, Fri 5 - Sat 6 July, Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire

ALSO FESTIVAL ALSO is the renowned ideas, music and experiential festival from Salon London, Fri 5 - Sun 7 July, Park Farm, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

TIMBER FESTIVAL Line-up includes Hannah Peel & Will Burns, Sophia Thankur and Hinako Omori, Fri 5 - Sun 7 July, Feanedock, The National Forest, Staffordshire

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL Featuring major world premieres, world-leading ensembles & much-loved regulars, Fri 5 - Sun 7 July, various locations in and around Cheltenham

NOISILY FESTIVAL Line-up includes Extrawelt Live, Opium, Captain Hook and Alex Stein, Fri 5 - Sun 7 July, Coney Woods, Noseley Hall, Leicestershire

GODIVA FESTIVAL 2019 Line-up includes Levellers, Busted, Feeder, Reef, The Twang, The Selecter, Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly & Robin S, Fri 5 - Sun 7 July, War Memorial Park, Coventry



Large Model Air Show - RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton



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<p>THE MELVIN HANCOX BAND WED 3 JUL + SUPPORT THE GRANT PRITCHARD TRIO + THE ZIGGY PAUL BAND</p>	<p>FLASH FRI 12 JUL A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN + SUPPORT TRICKY BUSINESS</p>	<p>THE KILLAZ UK SUN 21 JUL TRIBUTE TO THE KILLERS + SUPPORT THE SHELTER</p>
<p>EVE SELIS THU 4 JUL + SUPPORT LETHBRIDGE OWEN SHOW</p>	<p>SUSPICIOUSLY ELVIS SAT 13 JUL ONE NIGHT IN VEGAS THE UK'S No1 ELVIS TRIBUTE</p>	<p>PETE KENT WED 24 JUL ACOUSTIC FINGERSTYLE GUITARIST + SUPPORT ALL SEATED SHOW</p>
<p>CASH FRI 5 JUL PAYIN' RESPECT TO THE MAN IN BLACK</p>	<p>THE SEX PISSED DOLLS SUN 14 JUL + SUPPORTS FIGHTING IN SOMEONES HOUSE + TBA</p>	<p>BIT OF A BLUR THU 25 JUL UK'S TRIBUTE TO BLUR + SUPPORT</p>
<p>THE MODFATHERS SAT 6 JUL THE UK'S No1 PAUL WELLER TRIBUTE + SUPPORT TROUBADOUR</p>	<p>ROCK n POP PROJECT WED 17 JUL FOREST ARTS MUSIC HE PRESENTS WALSALL'S FINEST YOUNG BANDS AND ARTISTS</p>	<p>THE TINA TURNER EXPERIENCE FRI 26 JUL TINA TURNER EXPERIENCE</p>
<p>LOS ENDOS PRESENTS ULTIMATE GENESIS SUN 7 JUL SELLING LAMB BY THE POUND</p>	<p>JONNY COLES THU 18 JUL BOSTIN NIGHT OUT! KING OF BLACK COUNTRY COMEDY</p>	<p>WHITE TYGER SAT 27 JUL TRIBUTE TO CLASSIC ROCK + SUPPORT HARDGRAFT + JULIET FALLS</p>
<p>THE STEVIE AND RAY SHOW WED 10 JUL THE ULTIMATE SHOW OF SOUL MUSIC</p>	<p>THE SUPERSKAS FRI 19 JUL THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO SKA + SUPPORT SWAKTANG</p>	<p>FRANCK CARDUCCI BAND'S ROCK 'N' ROLL CIRCUS SUN 28 JUL + SUPPORT</p>
<p>A FLOCK OF SEAGULLS THU 11 JUL THE INFLIGHT TOUR</p>	<p>JEAN GENIE SAT 20 JUL No1 TRIBUTE TO DAVID BOWIE + SUPPORT</p>	<p>PORCELAIN HILL WED 31 JUL ON TOUR FROM AMERICA + SUPPORT</p>

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<p>family</p> <p>A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM Wed 17 July @ 7.30pm</p>	<p>music</p> <p>THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW Fri 19 July @ 7.30pm</p>	<p>music</p> <p>MARY DUFF Sat 20 July @ 7.30pm</p>
<p>music</p> <p>THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA Sat 10 & Sun 11 Aug @ 11.30am and 2.30pm</p>	<p>music</p> <p>GARY MEIKLE: THE IBROW GUY Fri 20 Sept @ 8.00pm</p>	<p>family</p> <p>GO NOW! THE MUSIC OF THE MOODY BLUES Sat 21 Sept @ 7.30pm</p>
<p>music</p> <p>STARS OF IRISH COUNTRY Wed 25 Sept @ 7.30pm</p>	<p>dance</p> <p>DREAMBOYS Thurs 26 Sept @ 7.30pm</p>	<p>music</p> <p>THE QUO EXPERIENCE Fri 27 Sept @ 7.30pm</p>



Kabantu - Swinfen Hall, Lichfield

Gigs

KABANTU Mon 8 July, Swinfen Hall, Lichfield

KISS Tues 9 July, Arena Birmingham

ALL SEEING EYES Tues 9 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE STEVIE AND RAY SHOW Wed 10 July, The Robin, Bilston

KATHRYN TICKELL & THE DARKENING Wed 10 July, Lichfield Cathedral

CLEVELAND WATKISS SINGS NAT KING COLE Wed 10 July, St Mary's Church, Lichfield

ANDY BLACK Thurs 11 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

MADELEINE PEYROUX WITH EMILY BARKER Thurs 11 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

WATERMARK LIVE Thurs 11 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JOHN NEWMAN Thurs 11 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

A FLOCK OF SEAGULLS

Thurs 11 July, The Robin, Bilston

BOWIE EXPERIENCE Fri 12 July, The Alexandra Theatre, B'ham

THE SUGARHILL GANG / GRANDMASTER MELLE MEL & SCORPIO (FURIOUS 5) Fri 12 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE NEWCRANES Fri 12 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

FLASH - A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN Fri 12 July, The Robin, Bilston

BOLLYWOOD BRASS BAND Fri 12 July, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT Fri 12 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

BON GIOVI Fri 12 July, Eleven, Sandford, Stoke on Trent

PULL UP TOUR FT. BIG DOG YOGO, MDR TILLA, SOX, RTKAL, KY ORION & JAY Fri 12 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

PURE WHITNEY HOUSTON Fri 12 July, The

River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE DRIFTERS Fri 12 July, Lichfield Garrick

BLACK VOICES: CELEBRATING NINA Fri 12 July, Lichfield Cathedral

BC ALLSKAS Fri 12 July, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

CLASSIC IBIZA Sat 13 July, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal, Shropshire

ALCOHOL LICKS Sat 13 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

IN OUR LIVES & HEADSHRINKERS Sat 13 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

THE COMMANDMENTS Sat 13 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

5 O'CLOCK HERO Sat 13 July, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

JUST FLOYD Sat 13 July, Eleven, Sandford, Stoke on Trent

BLOC PARTY - SILENT ALARM Sat 13 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

VENOM Sat 13 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE JOKERS Sat 13 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

SUSPICIOUSLY ELVIS Sat 13 July, The Robin, Bilston

THE SEX PISSED DOLLS Sun 14 July, The Robin, Bilston

ENGLISH JONES BAND Sun 14 July, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

Classical Music

Laura Zhang Piano Concert Programme includes works by Beethoven, Brahms & Chopin, Mon 8 July, St Michael's Church, Lichfield

The Messiah - Come & Sing! Featuring international soloists Rebecca Bottone (soprano) & Polly Leach (mezzo), plus Robert Murray (tenor) & David Ireland (bass), Mon 8 July, Lichfield Cathedral

Daniel Lehardt Piano Concert Programme includes works by J.S Bach, Bartok & Liszt, Tues 9 July, Wade St Church, Lichfield

The Mozartists Featuring Louise Alder (soprano), Oliver Wass (harapist) & Gavin Edwards (horn), Tues 9 July, Lichfield Cathedral

Mathilde Milwidsky Violin Concert Also featuring John Reid on piano. Programme includes works by Szymanowski, H. Wieniawski & Chopin arr. Milstein, Wed 10 July, Wade St Church, Lichfield

CBSO: Cellos Head North Programme includes works by Saariaho, Pärt, Sibelius, Nielsen & Grieg, Thurs 11 July, CBSO Centre, B'ham

Chloé Piano Trio Programme includes works by Schumann & Mendelssohn, Thurs 11 July, Wade St Church, Lichfield

William Fox Organ Recital Programme includes works by J.S Bach, Mozart, Saint-Saëns & Elgar, Thurs 11 July, Lichfield Cathedral

Voces8 British vocal ensemble who perform an extensive repertoire both in a cappella concerts and in collaboration with leading orchestras, Thurs 11 July, Lichfield Cathedral

Sirius Chau Flute Recital Also featuring Kumi Matsuo on piano. Programme includes works by Poulenc, Fauré, Dutilleux, Chaminade & Jonathan Dove, Fri 12 July, St Mary's Church, Lichfield

CBSO Notelets Featuring Jane Wright (presenter) & the CBSO 'mini-orchestra', Fri 12 - Sat 13 July, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

Milos Milivojevic: Accord For Life The award-winning Serbian-born classical artist presents a programme featuring works from his debut solo CD Accord For Life, Sat 13 July, Wade St Church, Lichfield

90th Gala Celebration Concert Featuring Ian Clarke (conductor). Programme includes works by Rutter, Haydn & Lionel Bart, Sat 13 July, Wolverhampton Grammar School

Emily Sun Violin Recital Sat 13 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

BBC National Orchestra of Wales Featuring Ainars Rubikis (cellist), An-

drei Ionita (BBC New Generation Artist) & Polly Leach (Mezzo Soprano). Programme includes works by Shostakovich & Elgar, Sat 13 July, Lichfield Cathedral

Telford Orchestra Summer Concert Programme includes works by Johann Strauss, Eric Coates, Humperdinck & Arthur Sullivan, Sat 13 July, St Michael's Church, Madeley, Telford, Shropshire

Kaleidoscope Choir Featuring Rupert Feld (conductor), Sat 13 July, Alrewas Methodist Church, Alrewas, Staffordshire

Comedy

Carl Donnelly & Jo Caulfield Thurs 11 July, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

Tom Stade, The Noise Next Door & Comedy Carousel with Andy Robinson Thurs 11 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Gein's Family Gift Shop, Benedict Pope, Hannah Platt & Jack Topher Fri 12 July, Cherry Reds Cafe-Bar, Birmingham

Tom Stade, The Noise Next Door, Phil Jerrod & Comic TBC Fri 12 - Sat 13 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Geoff Boyz, Mike Cox, John Lynn & Hayley Ellis Sat 13 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Andrew Maxwell Sat 13 July, St Mary's Church, Lichfield

Theatre

Educating Rita Stephen Tompkinson and Jessica Johnson star in Willy Russell's comedy classic, Mon 8 - Sat 13 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Death Show Join Lucy Nicholls & Antonia Beck for an evening of discovery, contemplation & courage to celebrate your own mortality, Tues 9 July, St Mary's Church, Lichfield

Around the World in 80 Days Presented by Blue Orange Devising & Performance Class, Tues 9 - Wed 10 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

Godspell Amateur staging performed by Musical Youth Theatre Stafford, Wed 10 - Sat 13 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

The Disappearance of Eliza Grey Thought-provoking play about what makes people invisible and whether it's possible to change, Thurs 11 July, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Whaddya Know... We're in Love! The Foundry Group return with a new foot-tapping family show featuring live music, new songs & Radio 4



The Jokers - The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

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
MUSEUM**

regular David Mounfield (Count Arthur Strong), Thurs 11 July, St Mary's Church, Lichfield

SNOWFALL IN JULY Starbuck Theatre Company present an original acoustic musical which follows young guitarist Jack as he learns that you can't run from your problems and who you are, Thurs 11 - Sat 13 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

OFFSTAGE Ephemeral Ensemble present a compassionate exploration of suicide, Fri 12 July, Lichfield Garrick

MACBETH The Malachites present a new version of Shakespeare's bloodiest play, Fri 12 July, Lichfield Guildhall

BRAZEN Lorna Meehan's autobiographical spoken-word journey, exploring coming of age, the nature of hero worship and the difficulty of just being yourself, Fri 12 July, A.E Harris, Birmingham

FEAR AND MISERY OF THE THIRD REICH Young Rep 18 - 25s present a new production of Bertholt Brecht's classic play, Fri 12 - Sat 13 July, The REP, Birmingham

SUMMER IN SOUTHSIDE This year the popular free family festival goes intergalactic, exploring the spectacle and wonders of outer space. Expect an abundance of family fun, extraterrestrial antics, street performance, food stalls & more..., Sat 13 - Sun 14 July, Southside, Birmingham

SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK Celebrating the life and career of Rod Stewart, Sun 14 July, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

VICTORIA'S DIARIES Preview performance of Tell Tale's new play marking 200 years since the birth of Queen Victoria, Sun 14 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

Kids Shows

TREASURE ISLAND Chapterhouse Theatre Company present a brand new adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's swashbuckling tale, Wed 10 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens



Whaddya Know... We're In Love! - St Mary's Church, Lichfield

BEN AND HOLLY'S LITTLE KINGDOM Magical musical adventure for younger audiences, Wed 10 - Thurs 11 July, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Cabaret

THE DREAMBOYS 'The UK's most famous girls night out', Sat 13 July, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE OLD MAN & THE GUN (12a) Biography/Comedy. Starring Robert Redford, Casey Affleck. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, North Shropshire, Mon 8 July

THE APARTMENT (PG) Comedy/Drama. Starring Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 9 July; Mitchell Arts Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 9 July

ALADDIN (U) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Will Smith, Naomi Scott. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 9 & Thurs 11 July

ROCKETMAN (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Taron Egerton, Jamie Bell. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Fri 12 July

THREE IDENTICAL STRANGERS (12a) Documentary/Biography. Starring Robert Shafran, Michael Domnitz. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 12 July

GREEN BOOK (12a) Biography/Comedy. Starring Viggo Mortenson, Mahershala Ali. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 12 - Sun 14 July

Events

BUZZY BEATS 'Joyous sound and song' using bodies, percussion instruments and voices, Fri 12 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury



Summer In Southside - various locations in and around Birmingham Hippodrome

LUNA CINEMA Relax in the beautiful Arboretum grounds and enjoy a cinema experience with a difference, Fri 12 - Sat 13 July, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

NEWPORT SHOW Featuring 'the best of the region's food, entertainment and agricultural excellence', Sat 13 July, Chetwynd Park, Newport

ADULT JEWELLERY WORKSHOP: SILVER PENDANT Learn a variety of jewellery-making techniques from contemporary jeweller Grace Page, Sat 13 July, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

PETER RABBIT'S MUSICAL ADVENTURES Music & storytelling experience for children & families are here brought to life by a narrator & classical string quartet, Sat 13 July, St Mary's Church, Lichfield

ACOUSTIC VOICES CONCERT Enjoy an instrument-free concert in the Singing Cavern, where the acoustics are perfect for a pure vocal blend, Sat 13 July, Dudley Canal and Tunnel

KINGS BROMLEY SHOW Celebrating its 100th year, the show features more than 100 craft & trade stalls, a competitive marquee with exhibits, children's races, equestrian events, music, animals, vintage vehicles, food, drink and plenty more, Sat 13 July, Kings Bromley Showfield, Burton-upon-Trent

1940S EVENING Dress up and jitterbug and jive your way through a night of 1940s-style entertainment, Sat 13 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

1940S WEEKEND Spend the weekend in wartime Britain, Sat 13 - Sun 14 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

SUMMER OF FUN Enjoy live shows with the Fat Controller in Thomas Land or join Rory as he travels across numerous continents, Sat 13 July - Sun 1 Sept, Drayton Manor Them Park, Staffordshire

'MORRIS GANG' DANCING Traditional

dances with the Blists Hill Morris Gang, Sun 14 July, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge

SUMMER FETE Featuring a bouncy castle and inflatable slide, face painting, a Punch & Judy show, games and activity stalls, Sun 14 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

TRANSPORT RALLY 2019 Featuring live music, the famous midday cavalcade, and numerous activities for children, Sun 14 July, The British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

Food & Drink

THE RUM TRAIN An event for the serious rum connoisseur, Sat 13 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley

EDWARDIAN TEAROOMS LATE: BIRMINGHAM COCKTAIL WEEKEND The museum once again joins forces with Birmingham Cocktail Weekend, Sat 13 July, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

Festivals

2000TREES Line-up includes You Me At Six, Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls and While She Sleeps, Thurs 11 - Sat 13 July, Upcote Farm, Cheltenham

LICHFIELD ARTS' FUSE FESTIVAL 2019 Line-up includes A Different Thread, YIKES and CityLightz, Fri 12 - Sun 14 July, Beacon Park, Lichfield

THE MOSTLY JAZZ FUNK AND SOUL FESTIVAL Line-up includes Burt Bacharach, The Jacksons, The Brand New Heavies, Fri 12 - Sun 14 July, Moseley Park, Birmingham

BLACK COUNTRY MUSICOM FESTIVAL Live music from top tribute bands, chillout zone with DJ set, comedy acts, dancing & much more... Sun 14 July, Himley Hall, Dudley



Living Colour - The Mill, Digbeth, Birmingham

Gigs

BURSTERS Tues 16 July, The Mill, Digbeth, Birmingham

VIVA NEIL DIAMOND Wed 17 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

LIVING COLOUR Wed 17 July, The Mill, Digbeth, Birmingham

NECRONMODICOL Wed 17 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BOYZBAND Thurs 18 July, Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford, Shropshire

EASY STAR ALL-STARS Thurs 18 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SWINGTIME BIG BAND Thurs 18 July, Stafford Castle

JONATHAN WILSON Thurs 18 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

YR HERITAGE #4: KERMES / DANGER OF LOVE + SUPPORT Thurs 18 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DR FEELGOOD Thurs 18 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

JOHNNY CASH ROAD-SHOW Fri 19 July, Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Telford, Shropshire

SUPREME QUEEN Fri 19 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

NEUROSIIS WITH SPECIAL GUEST GODFLESH Fri 19 July, Birmingham Town Hall

CHASING AUGUST Fri 19 July, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

THE MEMBRANES + HEADSTICKS + HIGH VIZ JACKIT THEORY Fri 19 July, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

WHITE TYGER Fri 19 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

DAVID LIVE - THE DAVID BOWIE TRIBUTE SHOW Fri 19 July, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

THE SUPERSKAS Fri 19 July, The Robin, Bilston

MANCHESTER SPECIAL Fri 19 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MARY DUFF Sat 20 July, Oakengates Theatre at

The Place, Telford, Shropshire

CUSTARD CONNECTION Sat 20 July, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

THE LONG RYDERS Sat 20 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FOO FIGHTERS GB & UN-REALBLOOD Sat 20 July, Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

JAMIE TILLER Sat 20 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JOHN COGHLAN'S QUO Sat 20 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

JEAN GENIE - TRIBUTE TO DAVID BOWIE Sat 20 July, The Robin, Bilston

GURDAS MAAN Sat 20 July, Arena B'ham

THE KILLAZ UK Sun 21 July, The Robin, Bilston

IAN PARKER BAND + BUZZING HORNETS Sun 21 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

EVERLY BROTHERS & FRIENDS Sun 21 July, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

Classical Music

THOMAS TALLIS: SPERM IN ALIUM Featuring Gabriel Crouch (conductor), Fri 19 July, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

PETER DYKE ORGAN RECITAL Sat 20 July, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

PADMORE & LEWIS: SCHUMANN'S DICHTERLIEBE Featuring Mark Padmore (tenor) & Paul Lewis (piano). Programme includes works by Brahms, Mahler & Schumann, Sun 21 July, Birmingham Town Hall

NATIONAL SCHOOLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT Sun 21 July, Symphony Hall, B'ham

Comedy

SCOTT BENNETT, MRS BARBARA NICE, DAN NIGHTINGALE Thurs 18 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

STEVE WILLIAMS, LARRY DEAN, COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 18 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JIMMY CARR Fri 19 July, William Aston Hall, Wrexham

DAN NIGHTINGALE Fri 19 July (7pm), Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

TONY LAW Fri 19 July (8.15pm), Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

LATE & LIVELY Fri 19 July, Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

DANNY MCLOUGHLIN Fri 19 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

JOSH WOLF Fri 19 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

STEVE WILLIAMS, LARRY DEAN, SOL BERNSTEIN & EVELYN MOK Fri 19 - Sat 20 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JIMMY CARR Sat 20 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BOBBY MAIR Sat 20 July, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

JAMES COOK Sat 20 July, Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

TROY HAWKE Sat 20 July, Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury

PHIL NICHOL Sat 20 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

DALISO CHAPONDA Sat 20 July, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

LLOYD GRIFFITH Sat 20 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

LATE & LIVELY TOO Sat 20 July, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

RUDI LICKWOOD, JOE ROWNTREE, STEFANO PAOLINI & BARRY DODDS Sat 20 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

JOSH PUGH, CAREY MARX, ROGER MONKHOUSE & COMIC TBC Sat 20 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

CAREY MARX, STEFFAN ALUN, PIERRE HOLLINS & DAMIAN LARKIN Sat 20 July,

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

PAUL SMITH Sun 21 July, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

VIKKI STONE Sun 21 July, Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury

ROB BRODERICK AKA ABANDOMAN Sun 21 July, Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

SHREWSBURY INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL GALA Featuring Lee Nelson (MC), Katie Mulgrew, Larry Dean, Angelos Epithemiou, Abandoman, Loyiso Gola & David Doherty, Sun 21 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

ROB ROUSE Sun 21 July, Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury

GLEE FAMILY COMEDY SHOW, JARRED CHRISTMAS & HOBBIT Sun 21 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

RUBY REDFORT Lauren Child's super-spy lands on the Old Rep stage for her biggest adventure ever!, Mon 15 - Wed 17 July, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

UPDOWNSIZING Ginny Davis' one-woman play, which 'captures the essence of middle class family life', Tues 16 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

THE COLOR PURPLE Inspiring musical based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker and the classic movie of the same name, Tues 16 - Sat 20 July, Birmingham Hippodrome

ORDINARY DAYS/EDGES Off-Broadway double bill presented by Theatre 1, Tues 16 - Sat 20 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

THE NIGHTINGALES 1950s-set comedy presented by the Lichfield Players, Tues 16 - Sat 20 July, Lichfield Garrick

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE Mark Moraghan (Coronation Street) & Lucy O'Byrne (Evita) star in a brand new staging of the award-winning comedy, Tues 16 - Sat 20 July, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Odd-socks' 30th anniversary production, Wed 17 July, Oakengates Theatre @ The Place, Telford, Shropshire

PRIDE & PREJUDICE Chapterhouse Theatre Company present an outdoor staging of Jane Austen's timeless classic, Wed 17 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

HE'D MURDER ME Baby Grace Theatre Company present a Yorkshire-style coming-of-age story, Wed 17 - Thurs 18 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

ALICE IN WONDERLAND Stage 2 present a reworked version of Lewis Carroll's timeless classic, Wed 17 - Sat 20 July, Crescent Theatre, B'ham



Easy Star All Stars - O2 Institute, Birmingham

FRANKENSTEIN Blue Orange Arts fuse fast-paced storytelling and physical theatre in a 'faithful' hour-long telling of Mary Shelly's classic novel, Wed 17 - Sat 20 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

HYMNS FOR ROBOTS Production that fuses Noctium's unique, heightened performance style with analogue and digital music, Thurs 18 July, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

KEVIN, KING OF EGYPT New show from comic, poet & psychiatric nurse Rob Gee, Thurs 18 - Fri 19 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SCENES FROM A BRUMMIE ILIAD Actor Roderick Smith breathes new life into the classic story of heroes and gods whilst celebrating the local vernacular, Fri 19 - Sat 20 July, The REP, Birmingham

HMS PINAFORE Fresh take on the G&S favourite, Sat 20 July, Stafford Castle

MUSICAL THEATRE OPEN MIC NIGHT Local companies and singers showcase their talents, Sat 20 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

GO JAPESH*T Thespianage Productions present a short, improvised comedy in which the audience has the power to throw the performers a curveball, Sat 20 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

ELECTRICITY PQA Shrewsbury present a high school musical filled with classic tunes from the '80s, Sun 21 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

PRIDE & PREJUDICE Chapterhouse Theatre Company present an outdoor staging of Jane Austen's timeless classic, Sun 21 July, Hawkstone Park & Follies, Weston-under-Redcastle, North Shropshire

Kids Shows

THE PAPER MOON Gentle first theatre experience for babies and very young children, Wed 17 July, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

SEUSSICAL A 'fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza' performed by Stagedright Stafford, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

NOT JUST WILLIAM Tell Tale's family show pays tribute to Shakespeare and some of the folk tales that inspired his most famous plays, Sun 21 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

TWINKLE & TEDDY'S GRAND ADVENTURE Presented by babyballet Halesowen & Stourbridge Central, Sun 21 July, Stourbridge Town Hall

RASTAMOUSE & DA EASY CREW Join Rastamouse & Da Easy Crew for 'a boombastic 25-minute set filled with reggae riddims and lots of fun, followed by a meet-and-greet', Sun 21 July, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Dance

LIÉ PAR L'HISTOIRE Flexus Touring Company present a 'dark & eccentric visualisation of tales and folklore from 19th century Brittany', Sat 13 July, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

HERE COME THE BOYS Starring Strictly Come Dancing professional dancers Aljaž Škorjanec, Giovanni Pernice and Gorka Marquez, Tues 16 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

MADHEAD National Youth Dance Company fuse contemporary dance, physical theatre and hip-hop, Wed 17 July, The Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

HERE COME THE BOYS Starring Strictly Come Dancing professional dancers Aljaž Škorjanec, Giovanni Pernice and Gorka Marquez, Sat 20 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BEING SEEN Presented by Contact Dance Company and featuring a cast of disabled and non-disabled dancers, Sat 20 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Talks

EXPEDITION WITH STEVE BACKSHALL Behind-the-scenes stories and film clips from Steve's new 10-part TV series, Wed 17 July, Birmingham Town Hall

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

SOMETIMES ALWAYS NEVER (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Bill Nighy, Alice Lowe. Stourbridge Town Hall, Mon 15 July

THE FAVOURITE (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Olivia Colman, Emma Stone. Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 15 July

WOMAN AT WAR (12a) Adventure/Comedy. Starring Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir, Jóhann Sigurðarson. Foreign language, subtitled. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Tues 16 & Thurs 18 July

X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (12a) Action/Adventure. Starring James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Fri 19 July

JURASSIC PARK (PG) Adventure/Sci-Fi. Starring Sam Neill, Laura Dern. Stafford Castle, Fri 19 July

SUMMER HOURS (12) Drama. Starring Juliette Binoche, Charles Berling. Foreign language, subtitles. The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 19 July

THE WHITE CROW (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Oleg Ivenko, Ralph Fiennes. Ludlow As-

sembly Rooms, Shropshire, Fri 19 & Sun 21 July

VITA & VIRGINIA (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Gemma Arterton, Elizabeth Debicki. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 19 - Thurs 25 July

ON THE BASIS OF SEX (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Felicity Jones, Armie Hammer. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 20 July

FIRST MAN (12a) Biography/Drama. Starring Ryan Gosling, Claire Foy. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 20 July

Events

BRINDLEY FILM FESTIVAL Musical blockbusters on the big screen, Mon 15 - Sun 21 July, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

BMAJ BABIES Creative, interactive and sensory play with colours, textures and sounds, Wed 17 July, Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery

RDA FUN RIDE Saddle up and ride the five-mile course around 1,000 acres of stunning parkland, Thurs 18 July, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal

ART & ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE The largest vetted fair outside London featuring a wide range of antiques, art and decorative interior pieces, Thurs 18 - Sun 21 July, NEC, B'ham

BUZZY BEATS 'Joyous sound and song' using bodies, percussion instruments and voices, Fri 19 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury

MOON LANDING PARTY Special party to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first Apollo moon landing, Sat 20 July, Thinktank Science Museum, B'ham

HELP MAKE A CARTOON CARICATURE Help cartoonist Malcolm Whittall create some wild and wacky family portraits inspired by the exhibition Faces Of Change: Nature's Champions, Sat 20 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS Costumed evening tour of Attingham, Sat 20 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

PEAKY NIGHT AT THE ENGINE HOUSE Travel by train from Kidderminster to Highley for a night of live music and dancing. Roaring 20s-style! Sat 20 July, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

APOLLO A MOON ODYSSEY Andrew Lound tells the story of the Apollo project, Sat 20 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley

INTERSTELLAR: MOON LANDING 50th Anniversary of the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing. Music includes tracks from David Bowie, Coldplay, Muse, ELO, Pink Floyd, Emersson Lake & Palmer, Jamiroquai, Kraftwerk, Daft Punk, Elton John and many more,

Sat 20 July, Birmingham Cathedral
FREDDO'S TREASURE TROVE Cadbury's Freddo dons his captain's hat to teach little ones what it takes to become a pirate on the seven seas, Sat 20 July - Sun 1 Sept, Cadbury World, Birmingham

HISTORIC HEROES Uncover inspiring stories and follow in the footsteps of Black Country heroes, Sat 20 July - Sun 1 Sept, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

GET HANDS ON WITH HISTORY Uncover England's myths and legends, take part in hero sword school and junior jousting, Sat 20 July - Sun 1 Sept, Stokesay Castle, Nr Craven Arms, South Shropshire

RIVER DAY WITH THE SEVERN RIVERS TRUST Find out what lives in the river at Attingham, Sun 21 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

THE TIME TRAVELLER'S WARDROBE - FABRICS AND FASHIONS IN A FUTURISTIC WORLD To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing, costume historian Lucy Adlington and writer Angela Clare investigate how we interpret the past and visualise the future, Sun 21 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

Food & Drink

WHISKY & TWILIGHT TOURS The popular twilight guided tour returns with a whisky twist, Fri 19 July, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

THE GREAT BRITISH SUMMER TASTING WITH CHASE Enjoy a taste of summer by sampling a range of exotic gins and vodka with the Herefordshire-based Chase Distillery, Fri 19 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

COSFORD FOOD FESTIVAL Featuring a tasty line-up of 100 local producers, Sat 20 - Sun 21 July, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

Festivals

SUPERSONIC FESTIVAL Line-up includes: Neurosis, The Body and Jerusalem In My Heart, Fri 19 - Sun 21 July, Various locations throughout Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, SANDWELL & WESTSIDE JAZZ FESTIVAL Line-up includes Swing Cafe, The Hot Club, and The Great Birmingham Trombone Company, Fri 19 - Sun 28 July, various locations throughout Birmingham

CHARMINA FESTIVAL Line-up includes Kazabian, Freddie Mercury Tribute and The Halcyon Band, Sat 20 July, Clive, Shropshire



King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys - Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Gigs

SHONEN KNIFE Wed 24 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PETE KENT Wed 24 July, The Robin, Bilston

MICHAEL MESSER'S MITRA Thurs 25 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS Thurs 25 July, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

CROBOT Thurs 25 July, O2 Institute, B'ham

KRISTIAN CHAMBERS Thurs 25 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

THE GOOD LIFE Thurs

25 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

BIT OF A BLUR Thurs 25 July, The Robin, Bilston

WHITESNAKE UK Fri 26 July, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton

AC/DC UK Fri 26 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

CATAPULT CLUB FT. LAST AGONY Fri 26 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

HI-ON MAIDEN Fri 26 July, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke on Trent

#DXP19 DRAG EXPLOSION Fri 26 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

THE TINA TURNER EXPERIENCE Fri 26 July, The Robin, Bilston

TABLE SCRAPS Fri 26 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CHEMIKILL, THE UNRESOLVED, GHOST OF MACHINES Sat 27 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ROCK N ROLL PARADISE Sat 27 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

FOR THE LOVE OF BRIAN Sat 27 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ANTARTIC MONKEYS Sat 27 July, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

WHITE TYGER Sat 27 July, The Robin, Bilston

KD LANG Sat 27 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

STEVIE WONDER: THE HITS Performed live by 16-piece orchestra, Sat 27 July, Birmingham Town Hall

FRANCK CARDUCCI BAND'S ROCK N ROLL CIRCUS Sun 28 July, The Robin, Bilston

ROSALIE CUNNINGHAM BAND Tues 30 July, Eleven, Sandyford, Stoke on Trent

LIME CORDIALE Wed 31 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ROSALIE CUNNINGHAM BAND Wed 31 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

PORCELAIN HILL Wed 31 July, The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN Thurs 25 July, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA ACADEMY Featuring Michael Seal (conductor), Jamal Aliyev (cello) & the CBSO Youth Orchestra Academy. Programme includes works by Weber, Shostakovich & Dvorak, Sun 28 July, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy

DANIEL MUGGLETON & LOYISO GOLA Mon 22 July, The REP, Birmingham

MICHELLE WOLF Tues 23 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

GLENN WOOL Wed 24 July, The Patrick Kavanagh, Moseley, Birmingham

TROY HAWKE & PAUL SINHA Thurs 25 July, Midlands Arts Centre, B'ham

GLENN WOOL, FERN BRADY & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 25 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

COMEDY IN THE MET Fri 26 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

GLENN WOOL, FERN BRADY, KAI HUMPHRIES & TOM HOUGHTON Fri 26 - Sat 27 July, The Glee Club, B'ham

ALFRED KAINGA, NELSON GOMBAKOMBA JNR 11, MISSMOREAL AND MRLORRAINE Sat 27 July, The Bramall, Birmingham

CHRISTIAN REILLY, NAOMI COOPER, TOM HOUGHTON & CRAIG MURRAY Sat 27 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Company, Wed 24 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

A MATTER OF LAW Two Jens & Me Theatre Company present a courtroom drama centred around male domestic abuse, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

ROMEO & JULIET Presented by Heartbreak Productions, Fri 26 July, Walsall Arboretum

AN EVENING WITHOUT KATE BUSH Cabaret evening in which Sarah-Louise Young explores the music and mythology of one of the most influential voices of British music, Fri 26 - Sat 27 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE RAT PACK The UK's official number one Rat Pack tribute act, Fri 26 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

GREASE Amateur production presented by Seasons Theatre Company, Fri 26 - Sat 27 July, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

HANCOCK & CO James Hurn's popular 'one man many voices' celebration of Hancock's Half Hour, Sat 27 July, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

THE WINTER'S TALE REVISITED One-hour adaptation of one of Shakespeare's later plays, Sun 28 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

WE'LL BE IN TOUCH Joanna Gay's play exploring lasting friendships, Sun 28 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

Kids Shows

MISTER MAGNOLIA Folksy Theatre fuse live music, puppetry & audience interaction in an outdoor adaptation of Quentin Blake's wacky adventure, Tues 23 July, Martineau Gardens, Birmingham

A VOLATILE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY Interactive time-travelling adventure through the history of chemistry, Wed 24 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

MISTER MAGNOLIA Folksy Theatre fuse live music, puppetry & audience interaction in an outdoor adaptation of Quentin Blake's wacky adventure, Thurs 25 July, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

MR STINK Chickenshed Theatre Company present a staging of David Williams' children's story, Mon 29 - Wed 31 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Theatre

SUNDOWN Taking Chances present a moving drama about two seemingly very different people who have more in common than they think, Mon 22 - Wed 24 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

AMÉLIE Danny Mac & Audrey Brisson star in a new musical based on the much-loved film of the same name, Mon 22 - Sat 27 July, The Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

HAIR Jake Quickenden, Daisy Wood-Davis & Marcus Collins star in the 50th anniversary production of the iconic musical, Tues 23 - Sat 27 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE A Lichfield Garrick Community Musical production, Tues 23 - Sat 27 July, Lichfield Garrick

ANNIE Jodie Prenger stars as Miss Hannigan in a new version of the much-loved rags-to-riches tale, Tues 23 July - Sun 11 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Presented by Chapterhouse Theatre



Rosalie Cunningham - Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent & The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton



Monday 22 - Wednesday 31 July

IN THE NIGHT GARDEN LIVE Igglepiggle, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends are back in their brand new live show, Igglepiggle's Busy Day! Wed 31 July - Sun 4 Aug, The REP, Birmingham

Cabaret

TINA T'URNER TEA LADY'S STEAMY BINGO Laugh, dance and play to win as Tina spins her cage of balls to a high-energy '80s soundtrack, Thurs 25 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

THE GREAT DICTATOR (U) Comedy/Biography. Starring Charles Chaplin, Paulette Goddard. Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Mon 22 July

DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG) Action/Adventure. Starring Ryan Reynolds, Justice Smith. Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, North Shropshire, Mon 22 July

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (U) Animation/Comedy. With the voices of Patton Oswalt, Kevin Hart. Wem Town Hall. North Shropshire, Mon 22 - Wed 24 July

WALL-E (U) Animation/Adventure. Starring Ben Burtt, Elissa Knight. Ludlow Library, South Shropshire, Tues 23 July

THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING (PG) Action/Adventure. Starring Louis Ashbourne Serkis, Denise Gough. Mitchell Arts Centre, Stoke, Wed 24 July

A PRIVATE WAR (15) Biography/Drama. Starring Rosamund Pike, Jamie Doran. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Fri 26 July

DUMBO (PG) Adventure/Family. Starring Colin Farrell, Michael Keaton. Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire, Fri 26 July

TOY STORY 4 (U) Animation/Adventure. With the voices of Keanu Reeves, Christina Hendricks. Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Fri 26 - Tues 30 July

SOMETIMES ALWAYS NEVER (12a) Comedy/Drama. Starring Bill Nighy, Alice Lowe. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 26 - Wed 31 July

A DOG'S WAY HOME (PG) Adventure/Drama. Starring Ashley Judd, Jonah Hauer-King. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sun 28 July

HANNAH (12a) Drama. Starring Charlotte Rampling, André Wilms. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sun 28 July

AMAZING GRACE (U) Documentary.

Starring Aretha Franklin. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Sun 28 - Mon 29 July

THE IRON GIANT (PG) Animation/Action. With the voices of Eli Marienthal, Harry Connick Jr. Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 30 July

DIEGO MARADONA (12a) Documentary/Sport. Starring Diego Armando Maradona. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Tues 30 July

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released from Fri 26 May, showing at selected cinemas

THE CHAMBERMAID (tbc)

THE CURRENT WAR (tbc)

TEEN SPIRIT (tbc)

Talks

FRIDAY TWILIGHT - IMAGES OF WAR AND CONFLICT Illustrated talk covering the experiences, stories and reporting of conflict within war-torn countries, Fri 26 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

Events

NIMROD TOURS Step on board the Nimrod XV249 and learn about its intelligence-gathering role in the Royal Air Force, Mon 22 - Wed 31 July, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

DESTINATION SPACE THE MOON Family show explaining the Apollo programme, what it takes to get to the moon and what life is like working on the lunar landscape, Mon 22 July - Fri 30 Aug, Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham

ANIMAL MASK CRAFT ACTIVITY AT BLAKESLEY HALL Create your own animal mask, Tues 23 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

DEER PARK SAFARI Find out about Attingham's deer and take a seat on a tractor & trailer safari ride to see if you can spot them, Tues 23 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

STORYTELLING Help the storyteller find his lost stories and listen to their telling, Tues 23 - Thurs 25 July, Tamworth Castle

PICTURE THIS! FAMILY DRAWING TOUR Tap into your inner artist via this interactive drawing exploration of Aston Hall, Tues 23 July - Tues 27 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

FAIRY DOOR CRAFT Welcome fairies into your garden by creating your very own fairy door to take home, Wed 24 July, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

SMETHWICK ENGINE STEAMING DAY

Chance to view the Smethwick Engine, the oldest working steam engine in the world, Wed 24 July, Thinktank Science Museum, B'ham

LITTLE SKIPPERS: CANAL LIFE Boat trip followed by a 'make & do' session inspired by activities associated with the canal, Wed 24 - Thurs 25 July, Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust

ADULT POTTERY - SOAP DISHES Make and glaze a beautiful soap dish, Thurs 25 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury

SUMMER POTTERS 'GARDEN SEAGULLS' Create a seagull to display in the garden, Thurs 25 July, The Hive, Shrewsbury

JUNGLE WALKIE TALKIES ACTIVITY Make yourself a jungle walkie talkie, Thurs 25 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

KIDS JEWELLERY WORKSHOP Design and create either a bracelet or pendant, Thurs 25 July, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

TALL TALES: SLEEPING BEAUTY Interactive telling of Sleeping Beauty, Fri 26 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

THE BUREAU OF UNTOLD STORIES Help the inspectors of the Bureau of Untold Stories find all the lost stories, Fri 26 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

PLANT HUNTERS' FAIR Traditionally grown plants for every type of garden, Sat 27 July, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

WOMEN'S WORK IN THE JEWELLERY QUARTER Find out about the work undertaken by women from the late 1800s through to the 1980s, Sat 27 July, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

CANDYLAND Enter the world of the Chocolate Factory with a show inspired by the story of Willy Wonka, Sat 27 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

BRITISH DRIFT CHAMPIONSHIP The 'premier UK competitive drift series', Sat 27 - Sun 28 July, NEC, B'ham

PLANT HUNTERS' FAIR Traditionally grown plants for every type of garden, Sun 28 July, The British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

MEDIEVAL OPEN DAY Celebrate all things medieval, Sun 28 July, Weoley Castle Ruins, Birmingham

HELP MAKE A CARTOON CARICATURE Help cartoonist Malcolm Whittall create some wild and wacky family portraits inspired by the exhibition Faces Of Change: Nature's Champions, Sun

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27 Nov 19	REDDITCH Palace Theatre	01527 65203
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13 Mar 20	WORCESTER The Swan	01905 611427
2 Apr 20	LICHFIELD Garrick	01543 412121

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28 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury
SUMMER TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Create your own ceramic masterpiece, Mon 29 July - Fri 2 Aug, Jackfield Tile Museum, Telford, Shropshire



DEER PARK SAFARI Find out all about Attingham Park's deer and take a seat on a tractor & trailer safari ride to see if you can spot them, Tues 30 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

WW2 IN THE CASTLE Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings. Try your hand at firefighting, learn about wartime communications, have a go at decoding secret messages and meet the billeting officer, Tues 30 July - Thurs 1 Aug, Tamworth Castle

WATT 2019: CRAZY SCIENCE Take part

in hands-on science inspired by the experiments of James Watt and his Lunar Society friends, Wed 31 July, Soho House, Birmingham

MONSTER MASKS CRAFT Scare your friends and family by making your own 'mythical monster' mask, Wed 31 July, Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham

FAMILY WILDLIFE DAY Family day based around the popular Wildlife school programme, Wed 31 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

FALCONRY DAY Get up close and personal with falcons, owls, hawks and eagles, Wed 31 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Festivals

WARWICK FOLK FESTIVAL Line-up includes Billy Bragg, Skerryvore and Karan Casey, Thurs 25 - Sun 28 July, Warwick School

BAREFOOT FESTIVAL Line-up includes Mr B The Gentleman Rhymer, Moscow Drug Club, Josephine and The Artizans, Fri 26 - Sun 28 July, Prestwold Hall, Loughborough

INDIE TRACKS 2019 Line-up includes



Deer Park Safari - Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

The Orielles, Tracyanne & Danny and Kero Kero Bonito, Fri 26 - Sun 28 July, Butterley Station, Ripley, Derbyshire

CARFEST NORTH Line-up includes Beverley Knight, All Saints and Clean Bandit, Fri 26 - Sun 28 July, Bolesworth Castle, Tattenhall

DEERSTOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL 2019 Unknown Era, Def Goldblum and Pretty Babs, Fri 26 - Sun 28 July, Newton Cross Country Course, Nottingham

MADE FESTIVAL Line-up includes Andy

C, Chase & Status and Sub Focus b2b Dimension, Sat 27 July, Perry Park, Birmingham

SOLIHULL SUMMER FEST Line-up includes The Human League, The Vamps, and The Proclaimers, Sat 27 - Sun 28 July, Tudor Grange Park, Solihull

INNER CITY LIVE Line-up includes Doves, Johnny Marr, The Coral & The Twang, Sun 28 July, Perry Park, Birmingham

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